

HUNTINGDON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 1 Huntingdon, PA 16652

Phone: (814)643-1080 Fax: (814)643-3800 Website: <http://huntsd.org>

Mr. Travis R. Lee,
Secondary Principal

Mr. Brent A. Stoltzfus,
Assistant Principal

"ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES"

To: Parents and Guardians
From: Mr. Travis R. Lee, High School Principal
Re: February Parent Update
Date: February 25, 2020

Greetings Parents and Guardians,

We are now approximately half-way through the third quarter grading period for the 2019-2020 school year at HAHS. We hope that learners have settled into the second semester, and will continue to be focused on their academics and overall school experience as we progress through the second half of the year. Please speak with your learners about their progress in school, and you can always monitor their performance via Skyward Family Access. Reach out to their teachers or school counselor with any questions or concerns.

The end of every school year is always busy, so please speak with your learners about the activities and happenings within the school. Being aware of coming events helps to be prepared and to get the most out of the school experience.

Please review the items listed below for academic and extracurricular updates. If you have questions about any of the information presented, please contact the school office. The school looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to enhance the learning environment and to work towards providing more, and better, opportunities for our children. It's a pleasure to work with your children during this important and influential time in their lives. There's a lot of great things happening at HAHS, so let's all be proud to be a Bearcat!

Academic and School Information

- **20-21 Course Scheduling:** The scheduling process for the 2020-2021 school year is going to begin within the next two weeks. There will be an additional message sent to learners and families with the Course Selection Guide and scheduling timeline. This year, HAHS will be using an online format in Skyward for the scheduling process. The Course Selection Guide, and online scheduling procedure, will be shared with learners during a grade-level meeting. Then, learners will schedule their classes on a designated day in a classroom setting with school counselors.
- **Climate Survey:** HAHS, along with all district schools, will be participating in the PA School Climate Survey during the month of March. Additional information about the survey is attached to this parent message and posted on the school website. We will be scheduling a time for learners to complete the survey, and we value everyone's input. However, the survey is voluntary, so if you would not want your learner to participate, please complete the attached form and return to the HS Office by Friday, February 28, 2020.
- **Chain Reaction Event:** On January 22nd and 23rd, HAHS was fortunate to have guests with us from the Rachel's Challenge program to facilitate a day-long event called Chain Reaction. Over the course of two days, approximately 80 learners and 30 staff and community members got to experience an emotional, yet meaningful day as we continue to look for ways to better enhance the school environment, in a kind and caring manner, and in alignment to our Positive School-Wide expectations. Words cannot express the impact that this day had on the participants, and we look forward to putting in action the plans that learners generated during this event.

- **Kinnect Presentation:** Five learners from Kinnect, Isiah Reed, Andrew Miller, Olivia Grissinger, Jasmine Lender, and Kaitlynn Kester, and one of their instructors, Mr. Chris Patrick, presented at the SouthCentral Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (PASCSD) regional meeting in Bedford, PA on Friday, February 21. They discussed the projects that they have been working on through Kinnect, as well as how they meet and are graded upon curriculum expectations. They represented HAHS well, and those from other schools were impressed!
- **Achieve Health Literacy at HAHS:** Mrs. Bucynski's Medical I classes, with assistance from Madison Hearn, the VISTA AmeriCorps liaison for Juniata College, in partnership with Penn Highlands Huntingdon hospital, are completing health literacy modules. The learners in this class will be using this information in conjunction with their Med Fair projects, which will be presented in late April. We hope that this is the start of enhancing health literacy knowledge and practices for all learners in the future.
- **Gordmans Donation:** HAHS would like to thank Gordmans, the business formerly known as Peebles, for their \$1,000 donation to the school. This donation will be used toward providing additional flexible seating in various learning environments, which should benefit all learners.

Extracurriculars and Athletics

- **CHAMP:** HAHS is the host site for this year's CHAMP dance marathon on Friday, February 28. The format this year is different - the time for the event is 12:00 pm to 10:00 pm. With the event beginning during the school day, HAHS will operate on the half-day early release schedule, though there is a full school day. All classes and lunch will be scheduled during the morning. During the afternoon, learners that are not participating in CHAMP will have brief homeroom activities that connect to the Rachel's Challenge program. Then, these learners will have a school-wide movie in the auditorium while the CHAMP participants, including learners from other County schools, begin the event in the HS Gymnasium. HCCTC learners will follow their regular schedule for the day, unless they are participating in CHAMP. ***We hope that this is an exciting event for our County, and that we're able to meet the \$70,000 goal in order to benefit local families!***
- Spring athletics begin on Monday, March 2nd. We wish the best for our baseball, softball, boys volleyball, boys tennis, and track teams!
- We've had several athletes recently reach individual milestones in their respective sports. Congratulations to Roland Mills for recording his 100th pin on the mat. We want to cheer on him and Miles Baney as they move on to the state wrestling tournament. Congratulations to Jackson Ritchey and Nicholas Gearhart for scoring over 1,000 points!
- Congratulations to both the boys and girls basketball teams for earning bids in the district championship and state tournament. The boys won their championship game in an exciting fashion, earning a 3-peat of the district title!
- Our swimmers compete in the district swim meet beginning this Friday, February 28. Good luck to the teams and individual swimmers!
- Three gymnasts from the Huntingdon Gainers, Jerzee Clark, Kathryn Einodshofer, and Gwenyth Simpson, represented HAHS at the PA Classic HS Gymnastics Championship in Moon Township, PA. These gymnasts competed at the Gold Level and represented the school and community well!
- Haylee Riley, Standing Stone FFA President, participated in the Pennsylvania Fair Queen competition in Hershey, PA in January. Haylee was representing the Williamsburg Community Farm Show.
- Tickets for this year's production of ***Shrek The Musical*** will be on sale to the public beginning Sunday, March 1st. Tickets for this year's event can be secured online by going to www.showtix4u.com, typing "Huntingdon" in the search box, and then selecting the show. There will be four showings of the musical this year, from Thursday, April 30 through Saturday, May 2nd.
- We have had many learners demonstrate their musical talents and earned the privilege to perform at the district and regional levels. Please see below for a complete listing of these accomplishments!

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| <p><u>District Chorus</u> Caroline Sliver Kieran Wright Taylor Peterson Elizabeth Speck Alex Robbins Barend Werner Michael Cantrell Adam Campbell Taran Pelkey</p> | <p><u>Region Chorus</u> Kieran Wright Taylor Peterson Elizabeth Speck Alex Robbins Barend Werner Michael Cantrell Adam Campbell Taran Pelkey</p> |
| <p><u>District Orchestra</u> Lillian Guyer-Wright Iris Seguin Merritt Leidy</p> | <p><u>Region Orchestra</u> Merritt Leidy</p> |
| <p><u>District Band</u> Iris Seguin Taran Pelkey Alison Hemcher Adam Campbell Michael Cantrell Alex Robbins Taylor Peterson Merritt Leidy</p> | <p><u>Region Band</u> Taran Pelkey Alison Hemcher Adam Campbell Alex Robbins Taylor Peterson Merritt Leidy</p> |
| <p><u>District Jazz Band</u> Adam Campbell Alex Robbins Elizabeth Speck Merritt Leidy</p> | |