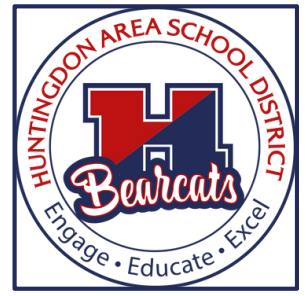


Huntingdon Area Middle School

Bearcat News



December

**Hello Bearcat Families,
December is here and we are
proud of the effort students
are showing each day. Please
encourage students to stay
focused, complete
assignments, and ask for help
when needed as we head
toward the end of the
semester.**



Important Dates

Dec.16 - Holiday Concert 7 PM
Dec. 23 - Early Dismissal 11:15
Dec. 24 - Jan. 2, 2026- Winter Holiday
Jan. 12 - End of Marking Period 2
Jan. 19- MLK Day- No School for
Students

Flexible Instruction Days (FID)

On Flexible Instruction Days, students will follow the [remote learning schedule](#) that is posted on the HAMS webpage.

Attendance will be taken during first period, and students are expected to log in and participate in all scheduled classes throughout the day. If a student is ill/absent on an FID, families should send in a note for an excused absence to the middle school office when the student returns to school.

Students should check their email and Google Classroom regularly for teacher messages, live session information, and daily expectations. Staying up to date with assignments is especially important on remote learning days.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



8th Grade - Gavin Oser



7th Grade - Alexandra Lang



6th Grade - Kaitlyn Sholly

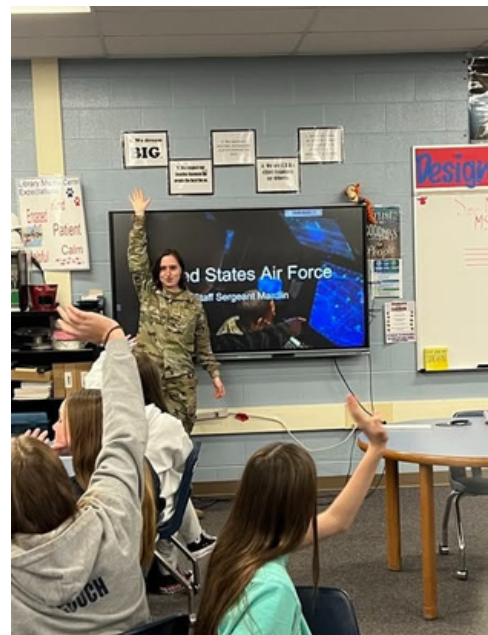
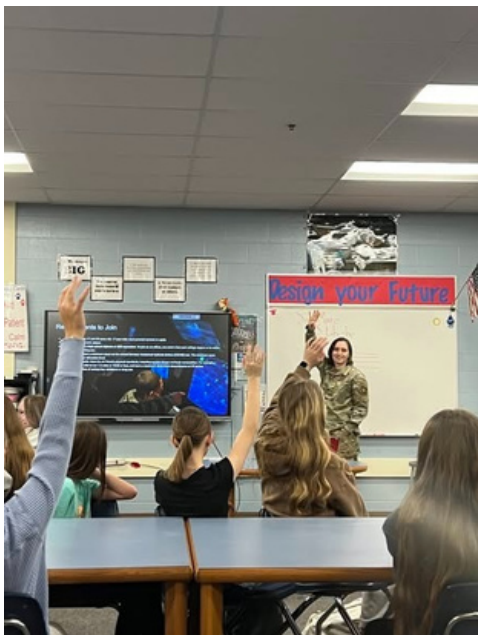
Language In Motion

Students in Mr. Anders' and Mr. Grubb's morning Social Studies classes had the opportunity to learn from Hui Tian, a Language in Motion student from Juniata College. Hui, who is from China, shared an engaging presentation on the traditions and formal aspects of the Chinese Spring Festival (Chinese New Year). The students were able to compare and contrast the festival to how they celebrate New Years in the United States.



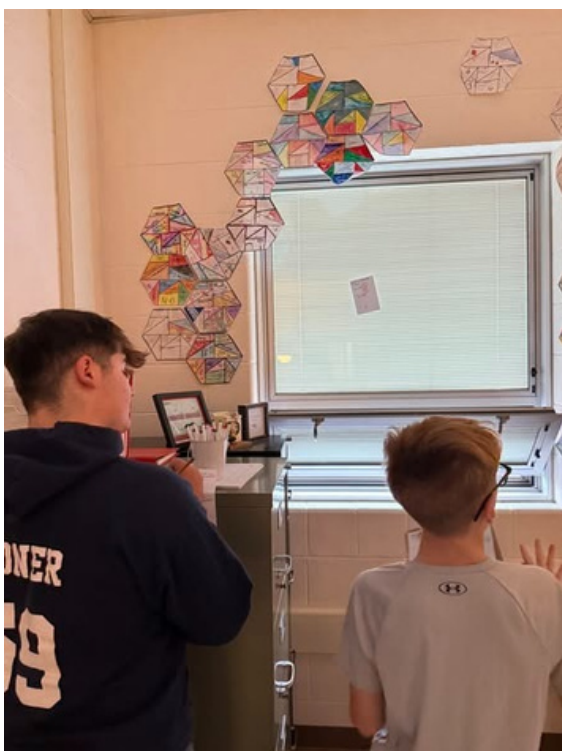
Military Knowledge

Staff Sgt. Mardlin spoke to Mrs. Carowick's classes at HAMS about general military knowledge and her personal experiences. She also showed them some of her personal awards and patches. She currently serves at McConnell Air Force Base as an air traffic controller



Spaced Learning Over Time

Mrs. Sarra's Math students at HAMS have been putting into practice the Spaced Learning Over Time strategy introduced by Dr. Riccomini from Penn State University. After completing a targeted review lesson, students reinforce their skills by participating in an interactive scavenger hunt around the classroom, applying what they've learned in a fun and engaging way.



December 15th - 19th Spirit Week

We're excited to celebrate school spirit all week long, and we encourage every student to join in if they can. Each day has a fun theme:

- PJ Day on Monday (12/15)
- Jersey Day on Tuesday (12/16),
- Wacky Wednesday (12/17)
- Flannel Day on Thursday (12/18).
- Grade Color Day on Friday (12/19) 6th grade wears green, 7th grade wears white, 8th grade wears blue, and teachers/staff wear red.

12 Days of Attendance

We're kicking off The 12 Days of Good Attendance! Over the next 12 school days, we'll be celebrating students who show up, arrive on time, and come ready to learn. Every day you're here truly matters; each day helps students build skills, strengthen friendships, and stay on track for success. As a bonus, students who are present each day will have a chance to win a prize.



Bearcat Resources

Homework Help

Homework Help is available after school on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:50-3:50 PM in the library. Teachers are there to support students as they complete assignments or strengthen skills. Families provide transportation home.

Grade Level Work Logs

Work Logs are posted on the [HAMS webpage](#) and updated weekly. It is a quick way for families to check homework and see what students are working on in each grade.

Skyward/Family Access

[Family Access](#) is an excellent resource to keep up to date on your student's academic progress, and we encourage you to access it regularly.

What I Need (WIN)

WIN is a built-in support period that gives students time for extra help, skill practice, or structured study hall, depending on their needs. WIN is Period 1 for 6th grade and Period 6 for 7th and 8th grade.

Student Assistance Program (SAP)

SAP is a confidential team that helps students who may be struggling with social, emotional, behavioral, or academic concerns that affect school success. Referrals can be made by students, families, or staff, and services are free. If you have concerns, please contact your child's counselor, nurse, or administrator.

Bearcat Resources

Guidance

Ms. Gabrielle Brown is the school counselor for students in grades 6th-8th.

Please contact her at gbrown@huntsd.org if you have any concerns throughout the school year.

HAMS Contact Info

Mrs. Norma OBrien,
Principal
nobrien@huntsd.org

Mr. Matthew Baer,
Assistant Principal
mbaer@huntsd.org