



HAMMONDSPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL

Laker Lines

January 2010



HCS Ranked One of America's Best

HammondSport Junior-Senior High has been listed in the *US News and World Report* annual ranking of the best high schools in the nation! Over 21,000 schools across the United States were analyzed by *Standards and Poor*, but only 1,750 were recognized. Of the 1,041 schools in New York State, only 122 met the standards to be listed as one of the top high schools in the nation.

The process used to determine the best high schools looked at how well the schools served their entire student body, using state proficiency standards as the benchmarks. For HCS, the ranking was based upon our student body scoring

statistically better than the average student in New York State on the ELA (English Language Arts) and math state exams taken during the 2007-2008 school year.

US News and World Report also derives a college readiness index based upon AP (Advanced Placement) participation and IB (International Baccalaureate) Participation. Though HCS does offer AP courses, our students are not required to take the AP exam which precluded us from consideration for the Silver Medal and Gold Medal categories.

This is the first year HCS has received this designation from *US News and World Report* which publishes the list yearly. "Mr. Rounds and the high school students, faculty and staff have worked very hard to achieve this award," said Superintendent Kyle Bower. "With a continued focus on effective instruction that meets the needs of all learners, this national recognition is only the beginning of more great things to come."



HCS students scored statistically higher than the average student in NYS earning them the distinction of one of America's best high schools. Pictured above: James Obrochta and Peter Woods.

HCS Mission

The mission of the Hammondsport Central School District, a high-performing unique learning community, is to provide a dynamic, quality education to a close-knit and diverse population, and to ensure that all students are prepared to compete in an ever changing global society by challenging each student through superior, innovative educational opportunities while promoting responsible citizenship through strong character and moral development.



District Objectives

100% of our students will meet their graduation requirements.

100% of school community members will contribute to a safe, secure, student centered environment.

100% of students will meet proficiency with the continued goal of achieving mastery.

100% of the school community will rate the internal/external communications of the district as satisfactory.

Aiming High

News from Hammondsport Central School District Superintendent Kyle Bower

January brings with it the excitement of a new year. Although we have a tradition of “resolving” to change those things that need to be fixed, we also look at the new year as an opportunity and an open door. Some years we chart a new course. Other years we feel good about where we are and continue on that path. Although 2009 was a year that brought many challenges, I am extremely proud of how HCS met those challenges and we resolve to do the same in 2010.

With the recent recognition earned by our high school students and staff as shown on the cover of this edition, it is clear that a tradition of excellence at Hammondsport is still our focus. As stated in our Strategic Plan, “students are our first priority.” We will continue on into 2010 with that clear focus.

Highlights from the December 16, 2009 Board of Education Meeting

- Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 18, 2009 and Special meeting of December 3, 2009 accepted.
- Approval of first reading of twelve separate policies.
- Approved authorization of appraisal of Curtiss School Building and Property; accepted proposal for Appraisal of Curtiss School Building and Property.
- Approved Corrective Action Plan for TST Audit of Internal Controls and Corrective Action Plan for Independent Audit by Amato, Fox & Company.
- Retirement Incentive for HESPA Unit approved.
- Approved the Continued Participation in the Southern Tier Cooperative Bidding Program
- Retirement letter from Anna Bauer accepted.

Laker Lines is the official newsletter of the Hammondsport Central School District. It is distributed to all district residents. HCS Board of Education members include: James Zimar, President; Frank Curran, Vice President; Richard Drain, Nancy Torp and Christine Kolo.

The Board meets the third Wednesday of each month in the Library of the Main Street School.

From the Desk of H.S. Principal Tad Rounds

Congratulations to the Hammondspport Junior-Senior High School for being ranked as one of the top high schools by *US News and World Report!* We are lucky to have parents, staff and students who place a premium on the value of education. Thank you to the band and choir students for their outstanding holiday concert. Please come out to support the winter sports teams. We have seen great performances by our student athletes.

Midterms are scheduled for January 26 through January 29. Students are only required to be in attendance during the times of their exams. The exam schedule will be sent home with students and posted on the school website. Students should begin reviewing for their exams, and ensure proper rest and nutrition before their exams. The Parent Liaison Group is meeting the first Monday of the month at 6:30PM in conjunction with the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). New members are always welcome. Have a great 2010!

Elementary News by Elementary Principal Michelle Sincerbox

The month of December went by fast and furious and with great achievements for Glenn Curtiss Memorial Elementary School. The concerts were a great success. The students worked hard to learn their songs. Thank you to Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Vonderlin, all the teachers and students for their assistance. Thank you Mrs. Bower, Student Council and all the students who donated pennies for the St. Judes Penny Drive. Together we were able to donate \$647.01 for the Celebration of Giving this year.

Do you ever wonder what the difference is between AIS, RTI and Special Education? Be on the lookout for a parent night that will explain these terms and what they mean for your child.

Class of 2011 *Easter Candy Sales*

February 2 - February 12

(Easter is early this year)



HCS Holiday Community Service Project

by Joanne Le Clair and Jim Derr



Members of the Class of 2010 who helped load holiday gift baskets for local families in need. From left, row 1: Bethany Leggett, Taylor Wade, Justyn Schuck. Row 2: Diana Derr, Annalee Mishrell, Mattie Catherrman. Row 3: Josh Snyder, Trevor Parke, Brandon Allen.

Every holiday season the members of the Hammondspport Community Services Organization in conjunction with the local Food Pantry of Hammondspport and other service organizations organize holiday baskets for families in need within the Hammondspport School District. As is tradition, the Hammondspport Teacher's Association heads up a coordinated effort for the teachers to contribute as well.

Large boxes were placed in each of the three faculty main offices for Primary School, Curtiss School and Jr./Sr. High School teachers, and invitations are sent out to the teachers to bring in non-food items to supplement the baskets handed out to local families during the holiday season. Each year teachers have brought in such items as personal soap, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, brushes, hand soap, shaving cream, razors, toilet paper, paper towels, dish or laundry detergents, plastic wrap, aluminum foil, or any other non-food household item. The food pantry relies on these contributions, since these are items that are not available through the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. The food bank would need to use their own funds to purchase these items.

The Teacher's Association is pleased to help out the local food pantry and support the needs of our families and community. Also, many thanks to the members of the Class of 2010 who gave their time to help load the holiday gift baskets onto Mercury Inc. trucks for distribution to locations in the Wayne and Pulteney areas. When you see these students, please be sure to thank them for their effort.

Winter Weather Advisory

Now that the winter season is upon us, please remember the following:

1. Students (including high school students) should dress appropriately with a warm jacket, mittens, boots, and hat. We do the best we can to keep the buses in good running order, but they can still break down. Wearing warm clothing keeps the students warm until another bus arrives.
2. Make sure your student is out 5 minutes before the bus arrives so we can keep the buses on schedule. Please keep your child away from large piles of snow that may restrict visibility with traffic.
3. Please be aware that students may arrive home later than usual as the drivers adjust to road conditions.
4. Please do not call the bus garage to see if school has been canceled or delayed. Listen to the following local radio and/or television stations for the latest on school cancellations.

WVIN Bath 98.3 FM

WFLR Dundee 95.9 FM or 1570 AM

WSKG Corning/Elmira 91.9 FM
Hornell 88.7 FM
Ithaca/Watkins 90.9 FM

WYLF Penn Yan 850 AM

WROC TV Rochester Channel 10
WENY TV Elmira Channel 36
WETM TV Elmira Channel 18

Formal Wear Needed

The HCS PTO is looking for gently used or new formal wear.

If you have a dress or gown from past formal dances just hanging in the closet and would like to donate it for another to wear, please contact Kim Sprague at 569-2113 or kimsprague@roadrunner.com to arrange for pick-up.

Students of the Quarter

Brooke Gordon and Bennett Preston have been selected as Students of the Quarter for the 1st marking period of the 2009-2010 school year. These students were nominated by their teachers for their outstanding contributions to HCS. To be eligible, students must be in grades 9-12, hold a Class A pass, and maintain an 85 or above average. Congratulations Brooke and Bennett!

Student of the Quarter

Full Name:
Brooke Gordon

Favorite Subject in School:
accounting

Hobbies / Activities:
basketball, soccer, track,
Student Council President

Future Plans:
Attend college and major
in business administration

Three words that best describe yourself:
determined, energetic, charismatic



Student of the Quarter

Full Name:
Bennett Preston

Favorite Subject in School:
lunch

Hobbies / Activities:
Golf, video games,
tennis

Future Plans:
Attend college and
major in engineering

Three words that best describe yourself:
Nice, smart, friendly



Banana Splits

Banana Splits is a peer support group for children whose families are in transition as a result of separation, divorce, remarriage or death. The major goal is to help children regain a feeling of stability by confronting the crisis of divorce or remarriage and learning to live with it. Through peer support of other students who also share feelings of loss and change, the children try to help each other solve the problems present in many "splits".



Through drawings, specialized projects, discussions, humor and books, children are helped to face hurts and change what they can in order to return to the full time job of being a child.

This year first through sixth grade students will meet in grade level groups every week at lunchtime. The sessions are approximately thirty to forty-five minutes long with students eating lunch and then moving into projects. Groups can range in size from four students up to a maximum of ten. Attendance is on a voluntary basis.

If your child would like to participate in Banana Splits please sign the permission slip attached or send in a written permission note and return it to your child's homeroom teacher. If you have any questions please call Mary White at 569-5200.

BANANA SPLITS PERMISSION SLIP

_____ has permission to participate
Student's Name in Banana Splits.

_____ Grade _____ Homeroom

_____ Date _____ Parent/Guardian's signature

2009 Grads Share College Experiences

Eleven members from the class of 2009 returned to HCS to talk about their first semester in college and reflect on the experiences of their high school career. This is an annual event where the past graduates give insight and advise covering a wide range of areas such as: time management, college athletics, scholarships, relationships and becoming involved in the college community. All the graduates were proud of their Hammondspport heritage and felt very prepared by their Hammondspport teachers for the academic challenges of higher education.

Graduates who attended the information session included Brian Stachnik, Kelly Walling, Anton Zyla, Arley Cornell, Micah Armstrong, Aubrey Smith, Josh Haluszczak, Stephanie Malone, Crystal Bogart, Kelsey Lanphere & Jennifer Gordon



2009 graduates returned to HCS to talk to the current senior class about their first semester of college.

We Want to Build You Something



The Construction Systems Class is looking for a project for the spring semester. We can build up to an 8' x 12' shed, playhouse, greenhouse, etc. You pick the design, buy the materials and pay for delivery to the school, and we do the

rest. Contact Jon Lowin at jlowin@hport.wnyric.org or 569-5200 (ext. 5281) if you are interested.

Spreading Musical Cheer



On December 10, members of the Sixth Grade Band performed holiday music for the Hammondsport Women's Club at their December meeting in the Hammondsport Public Library.

Regents Chemistry Class Visits CMOG

The Regents Chemistry class recently took a trip to the Corning Museum of Glass to witness science applications in the real world. During the morning session,



Junior Reagan Ball creates a glass ornament with help from a CMOG glass blower.

students had the opportunity to hand-blow their own glass ornaments and fuse glass to create a sun catcher. After lunch, the students observed the hot glass show and toured the museum.

It was a wonderful opportunity to link science and math and the students had many positive responses to the activities.

The trip was funded through GST BOCES "Arts in Education." Thank you to Mr. Arnts for his help receiving the funding for this trip and to Ms. Pfleegor and Ms. Larsen for their help chaperoning.

You've Been Accepted!

The past few months have been very busy for our seniors as they prepare for life after HCS. After countless hours researching, visiting and applying to colleges, their hard work is starting to pay off. Listed below are the names of some of our seniors along with the college to where they have been accepted.

Trevor Parke	Northeastern University St. John Fisher College
Josh Snyder	SUNY Fredonia
Paul Venema	Alfred State College
Justin Lawrence	Alfred State College
Amie Pizura	Keuka College
Diana Derr	SUNY Fredonia
Mattie Catherman	Savannah College of Art And Design
Jordan Bernd	Niagara University
Bethany Leggett	Niagara University



Members of the Regents Chemistry Class learn about fusing glass.

January/February Calendar Items

January

- 4 PTO Meeting, 6:30, Student Lounge
- 18 No School, MLK Day
- 19 Parent Advisory Meeting, 6-7 pm, Elementary Library
- 20 BOE Meeting, 7 pm
- 22 Grades 7-12 Vocal Solo festival
- 23 Grades 7-12 Vocal Solo festival
- 25 Marking period 2 ends
- 26 NYS Regents Testing
- 27 NYS Regents Testing
- 28 NYS Regents Testing
- 29 NYS Regents Testing, Hills Brothers Concert
- 30 Grades 7-12 Instrumental Solo festival

February

- 1 No School, Conference Day
- 2 Marking Period 3 Begins
- 9 Parent Advisory Meeting, 2-7 pm, Elementary Library
- 10 Hammondsport Solo/Prism Concert, 7 pm; BOE Meeting, 7 pm
- 15 No School, Winter Recess
- 16 No School, Winter Recess
- 17 No School, Winter Recess
- 18 No School, Winter Recess
- 19 No School, Winter Recess
- 23 Kindergarten Registration, 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm

Clip 'em

You can make a difference for our school every time you shop for groceries! Just clip the Box Tops coupons from hundreds of your favorite products and send them to school!



Hammondsport Central School
District
8272 Main Street
Hammondsport, NY 14840

Non-profit organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Hammondsport, NY 14840
Permit #8

Box holder

Paying For College...

Families of college-bound students should plan to attend an informational session on 2009-2010 financial aid. This informational session will be beneficial to students who plan to attend both two year and four year colleges.

Date

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Time

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location

Hammondsport Central School
Lecture Hall (Room 134)

Presenter

Anne Barton

Director of Business Development for the
National Student Loan Program
Past President of the New York State
Financial Association