

September 2019

Laker LIVES



Hammondspport Central School District Newsletter

Welcome Back!

A Message from Emery L Cummings Jr.,
Transportation Supervisor



To the Students:

1. Never cross close to the front of the bus. Always make sure the driver can see you.
2. Never pick up anything you drop close to or under the bus – ask the driver what to do.
3. Never run after a bus or bang on the side.
4. If you must cross the street in front of the bus, follow the driver's directions, and stop and look before you cross.
5. Never run across a street. It is better to miss the bus than to rush and risk being hit by a car.
6. Stay away from the rear and sides of the bus. Always be in a safe place where the driver can see you.
7. At your bus stop, stay on the side walk and away from the road until the driver signals for you.

To the Motoring Public:

1. When you see the **yellow lights** come on and flash, **slow down**. The bus is going to stop.
2. Never pass a school bus when its **RED STOP LIGHTS** are flashing.
3. Be extra vigilant around school hours – children are unpredictable. Assume a child might run out at any moment.
4. Be courteous to school buses, give them room and let them change lanes when they need to.
5. Never pass a school bus on the right.

**Transporting your children safely is our job.
Driving your car safely is your job.
Working together, we will make sure everyone gets home safely.**

See the back page for Roads Traveled by Hammondspport Buses.



Message from the Board of Education and the Superintendent

We are ready and excited to welcome our students back on campus Thursday, September 5th! Although 2018-2019 was a very successful year for our students and staff, we are thrilled to see what the 2019-2020 school year brings. Hammondspport Central School District is the **ONLY** District out of twenty-one in the GST BOCES region with an elementary school recognized as a Recognition School by the NYS State Education Department and a jr/sr high school recognized by US News and World Report. These recognitions highlight the hard work and dedication of both our students and staff!

This year we will start and complete the first phase of our capital project. By February we will have a renovated auditorium, a renovated elementary gymnasium, and a new STEAM science room, technology room, and fitness center. Work will continue next summer with new boilers, new lighting, and additional heating, cooling, and classroom upgrades. The main school entrance into the 'fishbowl' will be closed from October 1st through December 1st for renovation and upgrades. Construction is always a challenging time but the results will be worth it.

Our teachers have again been working hard all summer preparing curriculum for another rigorous year of learning. We have made great strides in our technology department to streamline and standardize what technology is used by both students and staff. This year all students in grades K-12 will have access to Chromebooks with students in grades 3-12 being assigned a device individually. Teachers will be working to use their new laptops and teacher center equipment to maximize the new interactive flat panel Promethean Boards that have been installed. But no matter the tools, the key element in all successful school districts is great teachers working with engaged students. We continue to be blessed with both here at HCS! I look forward to another great year and as always, feel free to contact me for any reason.

Go Lakers!

HCS Mission

The mission of the Hammondspport 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.

Attendance Fact:

Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.

© 2014 Attendance Works

Laker Lines is the official newsletter of the Hammondspport Central School District. It is distributed to all District residents. HCS Board of Education members include: Dennis Carlson, President; Richard Drain, Vice President; Kevin Bennett, Lynda Lowin, and Carre Doyle.

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

For more school information, visit our school website at: hammondspportcsd.org

Superintendent of Schools: Kyle Bower

Newsletter Editor: Makenzie Witter

Changes in Equalization Rates Will Impact School Tax Bills

There are six townships that make up the tax base of Hammondsport Central School. For the coming school tax year, the equalization rates in the District towns of Urbana, Pulteney, Wayne and Wheeler have dropped below 100% where the other District towns of Tyrone and Bath have not. This change in equalization rates will cause the school tax rate to appear higher in the towns where the rates have dropped below 100% than what was communicated during school budget development. It will also cause the school tax rate to be much lower in the towns that maintained 100% equalization. During budget development, it was communicated to District residents that the proposed budget would carry with it a projected tax rate of \$10.29 per \$1000 of assessed value. This assumed all towns would maintain their 18-19 equalization rate of 100%. As an example, the current change in equalization rate from 100% to 94% in the town of Urbana will cause the school tax rate to increase from the projected

\$10.29 to \$10.46. If the assessed value of your home did not decrease along with the decrease in equalization, you are going to see a higher overall tax increase on your property. This higher individual tax increase is NOT caused by the school district budget but by the towns' changes in equalization rates. Questions on equalization rate changes or assessed values on your school tax bill should be directed to officials in the township in which your property is located.

Hammondsport Central School did propose and pass a school budget with a tax increase that fell within our local property tax cap. Due to the fact our 19-20 school tax levy increase was within our tax cap limit, all District residents will receive their 19-20 Property Tax Relief Credit check if eligible. Should you have any questions feel free to contact Superintendent Bower at #569-5200 ext 5240 or kbower@hport.wnyric.org.

Attention Taxpayers:

School taxes will no longer be collected by the District at the Main Street School. If you wish to pay your school taxes in person, payment should be brought to the Five Star Bank located on Shethar Street in Hammondsport. For taxpayers paying by mail, payments should be sent to:
Five Star Bank, PO Box 14, Warsaw, NY 14569.

School tax payment information and receipts can be printed through the School Tax Search portal on the District website at www.hammondsportcsd.org, found under the Site Shortcuts section.

GST BOCES has been designated as The District Tax Collector. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kim Dykes at 607-795-1333 or 607-795-5333.

2017 Capital Project Update

The District had hoped to spend the summer of 2019 'under construction'. However, after construction bids were opened in May for the current project, the submitted bids far exceeded the construction budget of the base project. Due to that fact, the School Board made the decision to throw out all bids and adjust the construction schedule in an attempt to maximize the construction funds available.

While we have been able to get smaller parts of the 2017 capital project complete, such as the resurfacing of the track and minor asbestos abatement, the majority of the project remains on hold. The District will be publically advertising for construction bids again in August and opening bids in September with hopes of getting construction started in early October 2019. Our goal remains to do the necessary work to maintain a state of the art, safe learning facility while maximizing the funds available. Stay tuned.....

From the Desk of Mr. Rounds, 7-12 Principal

Hammondsport Junior/Senior High is proud to announce that we were once again ranked by U.S. News and World Report as a top performing high school in the nation and state. This is the fourth consecutive year that the school was ranked based upon student success on state assessments and AP exams.



More important than the academic performance of our students is the character of the students that enter our building. Summer brings increased opportunities to network with other administrators in the area, and it is these conversations that reinforce what incredible students we have at Hammondsport. This is a reflection of the amazing families and community that support our students.

To keep improving as a school and district, Hammondsport Central School has applied and been accepted into the National Center for Rural Education Research Network (NCERN), an initiative of the Center for Educational Policy at Harvard University. The focus of the network is to produce strategies and tools to identify, and course correct students most at risk of chronic absenteeism and those unprepared for college. Hammondsport is one of thirty schools in New

York state that were accepted into the network. *"Applicants were chosen based upon alignment between the districts strategic goals and the work of the center, capacity to utilize data for decision making, commitment to continuous improvement practices, and geographic distribution."*



Center for Education Policy Research
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Hammondsport Junior/Senior high is proud to introduce Mrs. Robin Robarge as the new PreK-12 Library Media Specialist. Mrs. Robarge comes with a wealth of experience from the Corning-Painted Post School District. Mrs. Robarge will be an amazing asset to the students and faculty at Hammondsport promoting a love of reading, inquiry based learning and teaching effective research skills.

Parents and students are reminded that the time between 2:20p.m. and 3:20p.m. is reserved for students for academic support on Monday, Wednesdays and Thursday's with few exceptions. Students are only to remain on campus during these times with an assigned teacher or in sports study hall. No supervision is available after 3:20 for student athletes.

Don't Forget Laker Kids!

After School Child Care for Hammondsport Central School Students

Laker Kids child care is right on the HCS campus and students transition to child care immediately at dismissal. Laker Kids offers flexible days and hours to help families juggle their work and family activities. Some children attend for just an hour and ride the second bus to their homes at 3:30. We have a great group of kids and keep them all busy with fun projects, active play and individualized care. The mixed age group creates a special opportunity for social interaction and cooperation.

Laker Kids is a part of the Kinship Family and Youth services provided by Catholic Charities of Steuben. Our sister child development program is the Bath Community Child Day Care Center. Parents may be interested in dually enrolling their children in this program for times when Laker Kids is closed.

For information on Laker Kids, please contact the Director, Darcy Cherry, at 607-776- 7387.

From the Desk of Mr. Koehler, Elementary Principal

The Curtiss School closed out a successful 2018-2019 school year by being one of two schools in our 21-district GST BOCES region that was named a Recognition School by the New York State Department of Education. This recognition is based on student performance data on our state assessments, the rate at which our students are making progress academically stemming from 2016-2017 baseline data, and the rate at which we are decreasing levels of chronic absenteeism among our students.

Our teachers and staff have spent several hours over the summer engaged in professional learning and curriculum work that we believe will continue to lift our instruction and student learning to higher levels. We are truly fortunate to have professionals with this level of commitment and dedication within our school family.

The partnerships we hold with our families greatly enhance all of our efforts at school. There are two areas I would like to highlight for us to work on together as we start the year. The first involves promoting consistent school attendance. We continue to seek out ways to support our families when patterns of absenteeism present. Research is very clear – chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of the school year) has a dramatic impact on a child's learning. If there are obstacles that are creating challenges to consistent attendance, we encourage you to please contact our office so that we can work toward solutions together.

A second area I would like to highlight for our school to home partnership involves the common language we can capitalize on around our four Leading Laker expectations of respect, responsibility, safety, and growth mindset. Our children benefit from clear routines and consistent expectations throughout all locations and all parts of their day, both at school and at home. Our first two months of the school year will focus on the expectation of respect and what it looks like in all areas of our building. With this comes a tremendous opportunity to reinforce these same expectations at home. Further information on how to do so is provided in this issue.

In addition to working with our families, we can't be more excited about our continued partnership with the Curtiss Museum. Our teacher leaders continue to seek out ways to educate our students and families about Glenn Curtiss and embrace our identity and our brand as the Curtiss School. We will have a number of exciting ways that we continue to build on this foundation in the year ahead as we dream big, work hard, and fly high in our learning... stay tuned!

Included in this issue are a number of important updates and reminders for the start of the year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions you may have. Enjoy those last few days of summer – we'll be ready to welcome our kids back with open arms on September 5th as we kick off another great year of learning!

FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR ALL STUDENTS

Believe it or not, only 50% of our students took advantage of free breakfast during the 2018-2019 school year! Only 70% of our students took advantage of free lunch throughout the year! With at least FIVE options available for both breakfast and lunch, there is certainly something for everyone. From pizza, to salads, to yogurt, to main dishes such as spaghetti and pulled pork, we try and offer something that works for every student. We encourage every parent to tour the cafeteria during a meal time and see what options exist and what is available AT NO COST to every student. Let's see if we can get to 100% participation in 19-20!

Respect – Common Language for Our First Leading Laker Expectation

At the Curtiss School, all students and adults work to demonstrate our four Leading Laker Expectations for positive behavior: respect, responsibility, safety, and growth mindset. We explicitly teach behaviors that demonstrate these expectations in all locations throughout our school. All adults provide acknowledgement to students when they observe behaviors that demonstrate our four expectations throughout the school day, and work to correct behavior that does not.

Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, we will be focusing on one expectation at a time to teach and celebrate Leading Laker behavior throughout our school. For the months of September and October, our focus will be on the expectation of respect. Below is an example of how we define respect in two areas of our school: the hallway and the cafeteria.

LEADING LAKERS SHOW...		LEADING LAKERS SHOW...	
Respect	Responsibility	Respect	Responsibility
Safety	Growth Mindset	Safety	Growth Mindset
	HALLWAY		CAFETERIA
Respect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice Level 0-2 • Follow Directions • Allow others to learn • Silent greeting while in line 	Respect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice Level 0-2 • Follow Directions • Use positive words, tone and manners • Keep space clean for others

Children benefit from consistency in expectations. All adults throughout our school will use the same common language in teaching what respect looks like throughout our school, celebrating when we see it in action, and correcting behaviors not aligned with this expectation.

You might be wondering, what are the voice levels that are referenced within the behaviors that demonstrate respect? Our school has established five common voice levels that are used as common language by all staff in all locations throughout our school.

What Can Families Do?

We encourage all of our families to use this same common language as you emphasize ways your child can demonstrate our expectation of respect as a part of your own routines and structures at home. When students see how our four expectations apply across all settings, the learning truly sticks!



Reminder for Families of 10:30am Deadline for Changes at Dismissal

We cannot say *thank you* enough to our families for your timely communication with our Elementary Office throughout the 2018-2019 school year regarding changes in your child's regular dismissal routine. ***If your child requires a change in their usual routine, our office will continue to require families to send in a written note or to notify our office by phone no later than 10:30 AM that same day.*** We recognize that sometimes last minute situations can arise that don't adhere to a 10:30 AM deadline. If this is the case, please contact our office to speak with Mr. Koehler for administrative approval beyond our 10:30 AM deadline.

School Supplies Provided for All Students

Our district is providing all school supplies that will be required for learning for our students for the upcoming school year. Thanks to a generous donation from Kan Pak, we will also have free backpacks available on the first day of school for all students in grades PreK-5.

Please feel free to contact our Elementary Office with any questions at 569-5200.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Our Elementary Open House will be held on the evening of Thursday, September 26th. Teachers will be available in classrooms from 6:00-7:00 pm. Our PTO Book Fair will start at 5:30 pm, and our PTO will once again be sponsoring a dinner for our families on this evening. We'll have lots more in store for this evening to share as the date gets closer – for now, mark your calendars!

Elementary Morning Routine 2019-2020

We are thrilled to once again provide the opportunity for all students to have a free breakfast to start their day in the 2019-2020 school year. To begin the year, our doors will once again open at 7:20 AM for students that would like to arrive early and eat breakfast. Students will report to the following locations upon arriving each morning:

- Pre-Kindergarten: PreK students will enter through the Elementary entrance and report to the music room. Students will enjoy read alouds and other activities before heading to their classroom at 7:45. PreK students will have a family style breakfast built into their regular instructional day later in the morning.
- Students in Grades K-4: Students in grades K-4 will enter through the Elementary entrance and report to the Elementary gym. Students will be seated at tables assigned by grade level. Students will have the option to receive a free breakfast at this time. All students will still report to these locations even if they do not choose to eat breakfast for structured time for social interactions with peers to start their day.
- Students in Grades 5-6: Students in grades 5-6 will enter through the fishbowl and report to the cafeteria where they will be seated at tables assigned by grade level. Students will have the option to receive a free breakfast at this time. All students will report to these locations even if they do not choose to eat breakfast for structured time for social interactions with peers to start their day.

**When capital project work begins at the end of September, we will have a portion of the year that will require temporary changes to the above routine. We will be evaluating different solutions throughout the month of September to determine what will best provide a safe and positive morning experience for our children while preserving our instructional minutes to start the day.

Roads Traveled by Hammondsport Buses

Chuck French - #128 – Winding Stairs, All roads off of Cty Rte. 113 (Hutches, Lockwood, Van Amburg, Boot Jack Velie), North Urbana Road, Fleet to Ridge, Cty Rte. 87 from North Urbana to Rte. 54.

Jim McNulty - #135– Reservoir Hill, Van Ness, Two Rod, Glenbrook, Cty Rte. 77, Briglin, Middle Road, Upper Gallagher and Greyton Taylor Drive, Longwell Cross.

Bill Fries - #133 – West side Waneta Lake, Sylvan Beach area, Lake Shore, Shorewood, Back Street, Coryell Rd., Breezy Knob (County Route 114) area and County Route 87.

Guy Fitzpatrick - #132 – Cty Rte. 76, Cty Rte. 74, South Pulteney, Armstrong, Brown Rd., Cty Rte. 78, Stone Rd, Thomas Rd, Tobey.

Dick Rice - #127 – East Lake Rd., Grove Springs Rd., Hyatt Hill, Silsbee Rd., SR 230, East Waneta Lake, Olde Bath Rd, Cty Rte. 95.

Scott Korzon - #131 – West Lake Rd., Chitsey Hill, Coryell, Roff Hill, Cross Street, Pulteney Library area, Orsino's Day Care, 54A and Village Park area, Cty Rte. 76

Gordy Lanphere - #134 – Most of Hammondsport Village (Liberty, Lake Streets, Wheeler Ave and Davis Ave), Pleasant Valley and Mitchellsville Hill, County Route 88 and 89, Two Rod Rd., Germania Hill, and South Valley Road, State Route 54

If you have any questions regarding transportation, please stop in at the Bus Garage or give us a call. Thank You!
Emery Cummings, 607-569-5200 X 6

Calendar of Events

9/5	WELCOME BACK First Day of School
9/13	Fall Picture Day
9/17	Bring your Child to Breakfast Day, 7:30 AM
9/18	BoE Regular Meeting, 6 PM
9/26	Elementary Open House, 6 PM

Notice of Non-Discrimination/ Equal Opportunity

Hammondsport Central School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Kyle C. Bower, Superintendent

**8272 Main Street, Hammondsport, NY 14840
#607-569-5200 ext 5291**

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, for an address and phone number of the office that serves your area, please call 1-800-421-3481 or visit: <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm>.

Hammondsport Central School District

8272 Main Street

Hammondsport, NY 14840

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