

May 2020

# Laker LIVES



## Hammondsport Central School District Newsletter

### Learning at Home:

### Words of Wisdom From the Curtiss Student Council



"This learning is important because it's like school and you learn, but it's virtual. I have worked with my teacher by having a meet (video chat) with each other once in a while. I have been learning other things on my own as well as being involved with my classroom work. I have learned that gaining knowledge does not just happen inside a classroom."

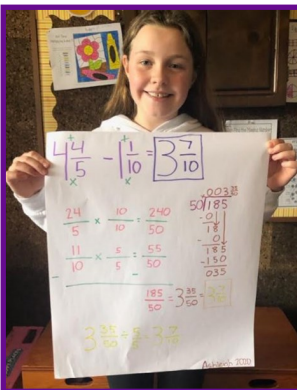
- Isla, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

"Learning at home can be challenging with all of the distractions, but learning at home is very important. Why you ask? You need to learn every day. It gets you ready for more challenging things like something new. You need to take what you know to get through and that will prepare you for higher grades. That's why learning is so important even if we're not in school. It is still just as important as if we were still in school."

- Madison, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student



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Learning is still very important for you and your education during this time period. To me learning is still very important for you and your education for a number of reasons. One of them is for you to advance to the next grade level. If you do not have enough knowledge you need to know in the grade you are in you can not go into the next grade level you will have to stay in the grade you are in now. Another reason is for your education to get into a good college. Choosing your college and what you want to be when you are older depends mostly upon your education.

I have been involved in learning during this period of time by every week having a Google meet with my teachers. I have been involved by using resources such as Google Classroom, my school email and the Remind app.

My family and I have a reasonable time each weekday to start our homework. I usually like to spend two hours doing homework each day of "school". We will all get through this together as a Glenn Curtiss Family.

- Ashleigh, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student



## Message from the Superintendent, Mr. Kyle C. Bower

While the school campus is closed, you will see from this edition of Laker Lines that teaching and learning continues! This has been a crazy time, full of emotions from students, staff, and parents. THANK YOU to our parents that are supporting education at home and our students that are working hard in this new reality.

With the official closure of campus for the rest of the school year comes the sad reality that many of the end of year celebrations we all look forward to will not be able to take place in the usual way. We are committed to finding a way to celebrate the graduation of our Seniors within the rules we now have to follow. As we schedule and plan as many end of year events as possible, we will post current information to our District Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/hammondsportschool/](http://www.facebook.com/hammondsportschool/).

This closure is a very sad event for all involved, but especially for our students and families that would be coming together to celebrate with music, art, athletic accomplishments, awards and scholarships, as well as picnics and field days. Thank you to our teachers and staff that are trying to work within the current rules to make as many of these events happen in some way possible.

The Governor's Executive Order 202.26 set the new school budget and Board candidate election date for June 9, 2020. This election will take place via absentee ballot. This will be one of the most challenging financial years in history for our school as it will be for our residents. In the coming weeks budget information will be sent out along with invitations to virtual budget hearings and Board meetings. I hope everyone will stay involved and informed.

**Go Lakers!**



From Mr. and Mrs. Ptak, "We've turned our kitchen table into a little home "office" and eat most of our meals on the couch! The trains make a guest appearance every once in a while for class as well."

### 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.

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: Dennis Carlson, President; Rick Drain, Vice President; Carre Doyle, Kevin Bennett, and Lynda Lowin.

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: [www.hammondsportcsd.org](http://www.hammondsportcsd.org)

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

As you all know, March 13th was the last day that we were able to hold traditional classes for our Hammondsport students on campus due to the Governor's orders to impose social distancing requirements to slow the spread of Covid-19. I will continue to state how proud we are of our Laker students during this time for the sacrifices that they have made for the benefit of the greater good! The bottom line is that based on the health care data, lives have been saved because of the social distancing measures that were implemented.

Prior to the school closure, and continuing every day, is the Hammondsport staff's commitment to providing a quality education. To maintain the continuity of instruction in the remote setting, our teachers have narrowed the scope of the curriculum and are creating end of year assessments that are tailored to the realities of remote learning.

Teachers are focused on covering the essential learning and crafting the final assessments to drive both the synchronous (live) and asynchronous (independent practice). The reality is that the remote learning puts both students and parents in a difficult position when independent practice is embedded into the student expectations. Parents should feel free to monitor student workload and communicate directly with the teacher if the workload becomes unmanageable. The following guidelines are thresholds for what is the expected amount of time for learning in the remote learning environment:

### **Middle School (Grades 7-8)**

- Maximum of 15 hours of synchronous (with the teacher) and asynchronous (independent practice).
- For wellness purposes, students should be engaged in physical activity for at least an hour a day, preferably outside during nice weather.

### **High School) Grades 9-12**

- Maximum of 15 hours of synchronous (with the teacher) and asynchronous (independent practice) learning weekly.
- For wellness purposes, students should be engaged in physical activity for at least an hour a day, preferably outside during nice weather.

Students and parents may contact their child's teacher directly for any issues regarding workload and difficulty with independent practice. Students who are engaged and providing work that allow teachers to provide feedback will not be penalized, and students will be assessed based upon the body of their work during this period of remote instruction and taking all individual circumstances into consideration. In addition, plans are being put in place to allow for students to be provided cohort and individual remediation as needed to ensure success in the following school year.

Thank you to all our parents for their support and your efforts to make remote learning work. We all know it is not the preferred choice!

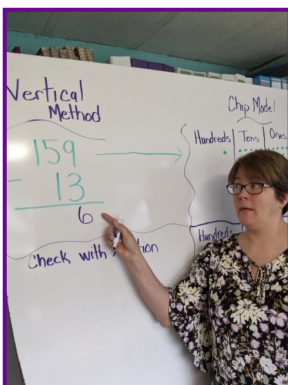


Hammondsport Junior/Senior High was once again ranked by *U.S. World News and Report* as one of the top high schools in the nation and New York State, and was ranked # 1 out of all the schools in the Corning region! This is over the sixth consecutive year that the Hammondsport Junior/Senior High has been ranked by the publication.

*"The highest ranked U.S. public schools in U.S. News & World Report's 2020 [Best High Schools](#) rankings are those whose attendees demonstrated outstanding outcomes above expectations in math and reading state assessments, passed a diverse array of college-level exams and graduated in high proportions."*

This continued recognition is a tribute to the Hammondsport students, parents and staff who make academic excellence a priority every day!

## Students and Teachers Work From Home!



Mrs. Bailey teaching the vertical method in subtraction!

“I know most staff are working out of their homes for the virtual learning, but I keep going to Sam Pennise’s dental office to attend and follow/support the 9th grade classes, which is very gracious of him. Jared and Travis are here too doing their online college courses. Some other teachers, like the Gugliottas, are literally sitting in their cars teaching classes. Just a couple examples of unique settings for virtual classes.”  
- Mrs. Raab



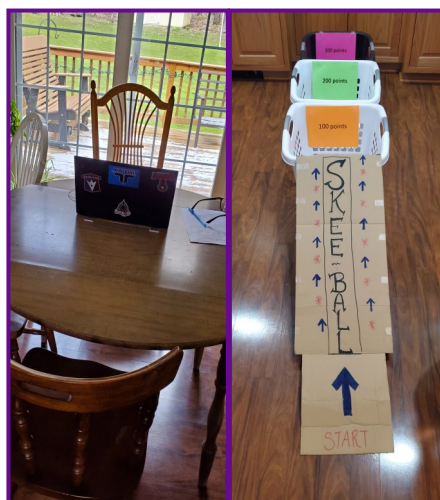
Mr. Mitchell's home office.



Mrs. Kellogg's work area!



Mrs. VanValkenburg's at home work space.



Mr. Noteware's work station and one of the at-home games he has built and shared with his students!



Mrs. Leclair's shared at home office space!



Homeschooling at the Martellos!



Mr. Wisniewski and his Spanish 3 class!

Light was not to be found,  
For the Darkness was profound;  
Creatures howling in the night;  
There was no human in sight;  
Children tucked in bed,  
Nightcaps snug on their head;  
Morning shall rise soon;  
For now the ruler was the Moon.

Poem by LaZell Locey  
8th Grade English

“I would like to say thank you to the people who have stayed inside and haven't gone out, only to get food when needed. It has been a roller coaster of learning new things, but we're all in this together. I would like to end this with giving a special thank you to the first responders and the people on the front lines.”  
- Stacey Conger  
Class of 2020

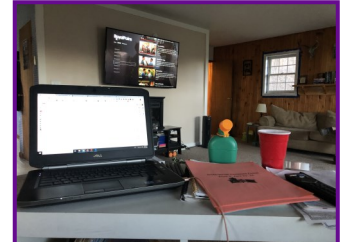
### As we PAUSE

Here I am  
 Roaming around Earth causing this pandemic;  
 Separating all life from the invisible unknown;  
 Watching people go crazy,  
 Bored out of their minds;  
 Creating the staple supplies to vanish,  
 Gone;  
 Planes to be grounded;  
 Family vacations cancelled;  
 Parents becoming teachers;  
 Refrigerated trucks becoming morgues;  
 Health Care lacking essential supplies;  
 And as deaths are rising,  
 Hope is falling.  
 I've put you on pause;  
 Now pray I go away.

*Poem by Danica Dresser  
 8th Grade English*



*Mr. Kloiber's work station, and a picture of his house decked out in purple lights to honor all of the hard working students!*

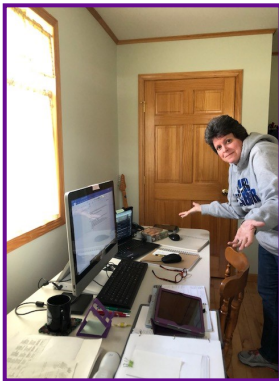


*Ms. Chapman's office space.*



*Mrs. Jaynes office space.*

*Mrs. Corell has a nice view of her bird feeders at her work station!*

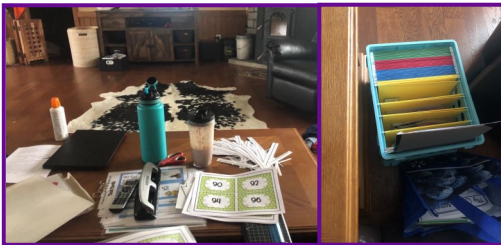


*Mrs. Burdin at home*

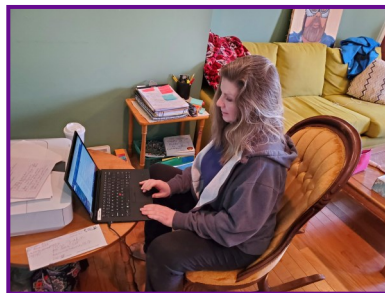


*Mrs. Katona's work space!*

“I want to say thank you to the teachers and staff of Hammondspport school for working really hard to find a way to continue teaching and making sure we are healthy! Thank you for understanding all of us! You all rock! This situation may not be easy but we all are in this together and we will work it through! We really appreciate you all!”  
 - Ashly Dumbleton, Class of 2021



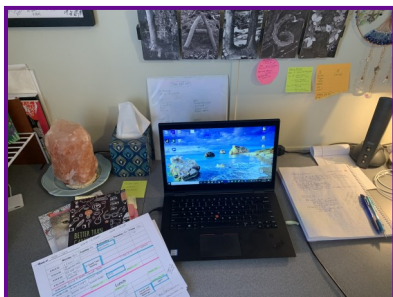
*Mrs. Davis' work space!*



*Mrs. Yahn's "new normal" classroom and work space.*



*Mr. Lowin and the Curtiss Museum's Makenzie Witter are careful to stay safe while they film a lesson for Introduction to Technology!*



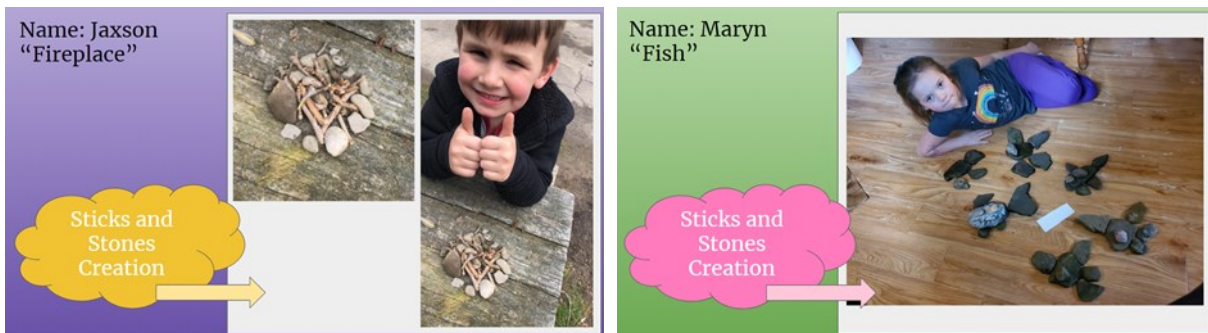
*Mrs. Studley's work station.*

“Although there were, and continue to be, many challenges we are facing, one thing I have really enjoyed is our weekly classroom chat. It is a weekly video conferencing time we have established for our class family to come together and just talk and “be together”. I usually present a talking point for the session, but we allow open floor time for all to ask questions, share, laugh, etc...”  
 - Mrs. Studley

## Miss Paas Continues to Grow Our Artists from Home!

Our school may be physically closed, but learning has not stopped. Each week, Miss Paas has continued to instruct new art skills virtually and has engaged our artists in challenges to complete and share from home to demonstrate their learning. During one of these weeks, all elementary students were challenged with an outdoor art project. The only materials they needed to use could be found outside!

Pre-K-2nd grade artists were given a project called "Sticks and Stones". In this lesson, students listened to a book called Stick and Stone by Beth Ferry. Then, students learned about different shapes and sizes of stones and sticks they might find, and how to create an image with them. The challenge was to create an image of anything they would like, but they had to go outside to make their image, using only sticks and stones. Some students got even more creative and added other natural materials like flowers, leaves, nuts, and pine cones!



3rd-6th grade artists were faced with a similar challenge; their project was called "Rock Sculptures". First, students learned about a rock sculpture artist, named Michael Grab, who uses only rocks, gravity, and other objects from nature to create beautiful and impressive sculptures. Then, students chose Elements of Art and Principles of Design to represent in their own rock sculptures! Our artists made some amazing sculptures, showing examples of shape, color (monochromatic and color families), balance (symmetrical and asymmetrical), pattern, and repetition. Great job Curtiss artists!



## Curtiss School Named New York State Recognition School

We are proud to announce that our Glenn Curtiss Elementary School has been named a Recognition School by the New York State Education Department for the second consecutive year. This is based on our performance on 3-6 assessments during the 2018-2019 school year for all students, including our school's rate of progress since the 2016-2017 school year. This recognition also is based on the progress we have made lowering the rates of chronic absenteeism among our students.

Congratulations to our Curtiss staff, students, and families on the honor of being designated a New York State Recognition School!

*Continued on next page...*

## From the Desk of Mr. Koehler, Elementary Principal

You certainly learn a great deal about your foundation as a school and as a district during times like these. Our foundation is built entirely around the concept of family – we work together in teams to ensure the success of each and every child we are fortunate to work with: academically, socially, and emotionally. It is this foundation that enables us to thrive and continue to move our students to higher and higher outcomes, and it is this same foundation that has enabled us to “weather the storm” and keep learning moving forward during a worldwide pandemic.

My one and only theme for this edition of Laker Lines is simply to say thank you to all who have played a role in making this possible. First, to our families: As we've continued to reflect on a week-by-week and often daily basis as a staff, we find ourselves continuing to come back to our appreciation for our families and how you've continued to work with us to support the education of our children during this time. I can't tell you the number of times I have heard our teachers say things like, "The families of my students have been truly amazing" and "I couldn't ask for better families to work with during this time." We know the unique challenges everyone is faced with right now, and that there is no "one size fits all" approach that is going to work best for every family. Just as we teach our kids about having a growth mindset in their own learning process, we know we'll make mistakes along the way, adapt and adjust, and be better prepared in the future for these types of situations as a result. On behalf of our staff, I thank you all from the bottom of our collective hearts for working alongside us to continue to move learning forward for all of our kids.

Second, I'd like to take this opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the hard work of our teachers, teaching assistants, and aides, who have been nothing short of superheroes during

this transition. When we received notice of our closure, our teams had to almost immediately adapt to a system where learning would need to continue virtually for students during a national and worldwide pandemic. Our relationships and personal connections with our students, families, and each other are our foundation as a school, and we immediately lost that important in-person aspect of our culture. In addition, there has been no roadmap to follow for this sort of situation. Regardless, our teachers immediately went into problem-solving mode, began prerecording instruction on what they deemed the most important remaining teaching points, learned tools like Google Meet to be able to video-conference with students, brainstormed new ways to assess student learning and provide helpful feedback, all while maintaining their own family responsibilities at home.

We know none of this is perfect, and I can tell you that our teachers reflect on a daily basis and put everything under the microscope continually - am I communicating too much or not enough? Are my lessons too long? Are there better ways to allow my students to demonstrate their understanding? I am humbled at the opportunity to work with this staff every day and they deserve all of the recognition in the world for their efforts and dedication to our children.

You will note in this edition of Laker Lines that our Curtiss School has been named a New York State Recognition School for the second consecutive year. This is an honor we can all celebrate together and is just another piece of evidence that when we combine outstanding teachers with outstanding family support, we are able to reach higher outcomes for our children.

As always, thank you for preparing your child to learn, both inside and outside of school, and I wish all of our families continued health and safety until we are back together again.

## Recognition School Continued

Some notes on this recognition are outlined below:

- 582 elementary, middle, and high schools across New York State received this recognition, including 37 charter schools
- 13% of all public schools in New York State received this recognition
- We are 1 of 4 schools in our 21-district GST BOCES region to receive this recognition, and 1 of 2 schools to receive it for two consecutive years

More information on this recognition can be found at the link below:

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2020/state-education-department-identifies-582-recognition-schools>

## Mental Health Wellness Tips for Quarantine

Adapted from Dr. Katrina Caldwell, Psy.D.

1. Stick to a routine.
2. Dress for the social life you want, not the social life you have.
3. Get out at least once a day for at least thirty minutes.
4. Find some time to move each day, again daily for at least thirty minutes.
5. Reach out to others; at least once daily for thirty minutes.
6. Stay hydrated and eat well.
7. Develop a self-care toolkit.
8. Spend extra time playing with children.
9. Give everyone the benefit of the doubt and a wide berth.
10. Everyone find their own retreat space.
11. Expect behavioral issues in children and respond gently.
12. Focus on safety and attachment.
13. Lower expectations and practice radical self-acceptance.
14. Limit social media and COVID conversation, especially around children.
15. Notice the good in the world - the helpers.
16. Help others.
17. Find something you can control and control the heck out of it.
18. Find a long-term project to dive into.
19. Engage in repetitive movements and left-right movements.
20. Find an expressive art and go for it.
21. Find lightness and humor in each day.
22. Reach out for help—your team is there for you.
23. “Chunk” your quarantine—take it moment by moment.
24. Remind yourself daily that this is temporary.
25. Find the lesson.

**For a more detailed list and more wellness resources, go to:  
<https://www.hammondspportcsd.org/>.**

### Congratulations on Your Acceptance!

<b>Hayley Copp</b>	Inducted into the National Technical Honor Society for Cosmetology
<b>Amanda O'Donnell</b>	Nazareth College, SUNY Geneseo and Fordham University
<b>Gavin Ruddy</b>	Hamilton College and for receiving the Hamilton College Scholarship

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