

Nov 2020

Laker LIVES



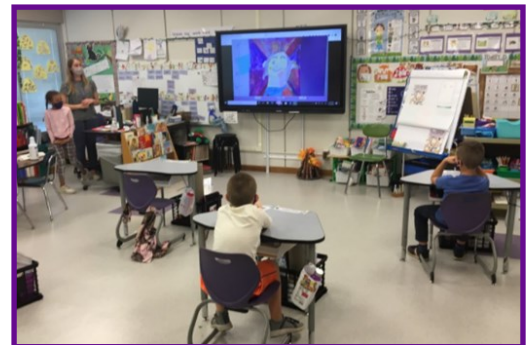
Hammondsport Central School District Newsletter

From Our Elementary Special Area Teachers



"Can you hear the carts rolling? Who is coming to our room for our special today?" No matter which teacher rolls into our K-6 classrooms, the kids are so excited to see a smiling face and experience a fresh lesson as a part of our special area classes in our Curtiss School. Seeing students in person has been the most positive response when the special area teachers were surveyed about how the beginning of the year is going. Mrs. Robarge speaks for all of the teachers when she emphasizes how great it is to have our students back in school together. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that it is easier to give the kids

personal attention with the smaller class sizes, and all agreed that they are getting to know the kids even better this year! Miss Paas has had great experiences as well! "Teachers and students welcomed me into their classroom with open arms! From the first day of school, it really felt like the moment I walked into any classroom, pushing my 'Art Cart', that room became my art room. The kids also really like the sound of, 'Art on a Cart'. I have really enjoyed pushing into classrooms so far!"



Our second-grade artists display their self-portraits and receive feedback from their peers under the guidance of Miss Paas.



Mr. Mitchell works with our first graders on the bell sets.

All of the special area teachers have created lessons that work in the classroom. Mr. Mitchell has been working on the development of hand and eye coordination with bell sets, as well as reading notation. Mrs. Robarge has been focusing on getting the kids logged into and familiar with the eBook and audio book app, called SORA. Miss Paas has begun the year with a unit on self-portraits.

The spirit of our Glenn Curtiss Elementary specials is running high and flowing with energy! If you see them rolling along – give them a wave!



From the Desk of Mr. Bower, Superintendent of Schools

As I write this article one week before Thanksgiving I am reminded of how much I have to be thankful for. Although the last year has presented many, many challenges to those in education, I am thankful to be facing these challenges in such a supportive school community.

As the economic realities of this pandemic continue to unfold, the Hammondsport school community is going to face even greater challenges together. Governor Coumo continues to tell school districts to prepare for up to a 20% reduction in State Aid in the current year, with reductions continuing into the next several fiscal years. So the community is aware, if our District has State Aid funding reduced by 20% we would have three options to consider: reduce expenses by eliminating programs and positions, increase revenue by increasing our local tax levy by the reduced State Aid amount, or a combination of both approaches. **A reduction of 20% in State Aid in the current year represents approximately \$990,000 in lost revenue.** That amount is significant and will require tough decisions that will impact students, staff and tax payers.

Unfortunately, the model our Governor uses to inform schools of his decisions is to simply announce through a press conference with no prior notification to Superintendents or Board of Education members. Based on that understanding, the Board and I are preparing now for difficult decisions we may need to make later. As a part of this process I continue to want to hear from the school community on what is most important. **I will be holding my monthly Virtual Town Hall meeting for interested community members on Thursday, December 10th at 6pm.** The focus of this meeting will be discussions of where we are in the budget development process for the coming school year and listening to our communities priorities at this point in time. I hope everything continues to move forward in a positive way until that time! I hope everyone has a healthy and happy holiday season!

Go Lakers!

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: hammondsportcsd.org

Superintendent of Schools: Kyle Bower

Newsletter Editor: Makenzie Witter

Federal Laws Regarding Online Data Privacy and Security

As schools work to deal with the many issues related to remote instruction and working with students online, the District would like to highlight some protections that are in place that parents should be aware of.

COPPA- Children's Online Privacy Protection Act

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), gives parents control over the information collected from young children online. COPPA ensures that children under 13 years of age DO NOT share personal information on the internet without the express approval of their parents.

Reality Check: It should be noted that social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat require users to be at least 13 years of age to create accounts in order to stay compliant with COPPA. However, many students under the age of 13 have misrepresented their ages to create their social media accounts. *Copyright 2020, GST BOCES All Rights Reserved*

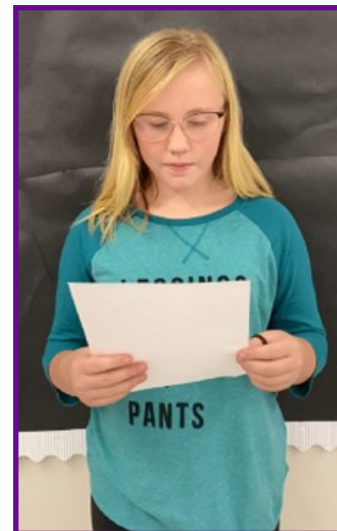
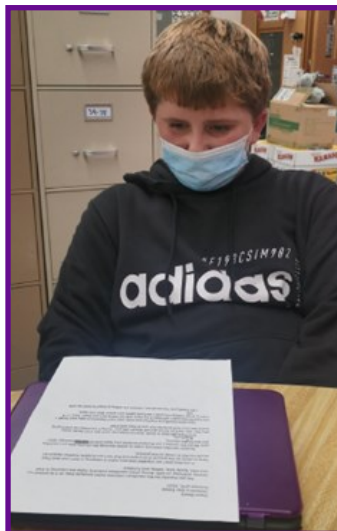
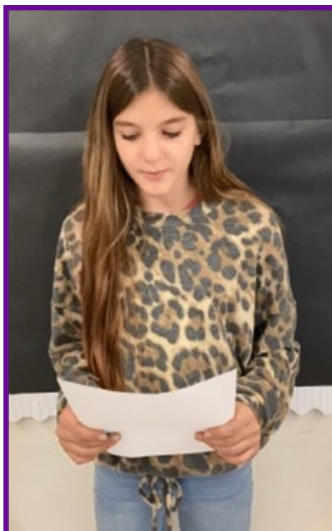
Remembering Our Military at Christmas

Hammondsport Community Services is updating its Christmas Card list for alumni of Hammondsport Central School who are serving our country in the military here and abroad, including the National Guard. We need their current addresses and the name of a family contact member here locally.

If you know of someone, please contact Donna Sue Kerrick at dkerrick@hammondsportcsd.org or Donna Colvin at docolvin1@gmail.com. Please help and send them by December 4, 2020.

Virtual Veterans Day Assembly

The Glenn Curtiss Elementary School held a virtual school wide assembly on November 10th to celebrate Veterans Day and honor the veterans in our lives. Thank you to Genevieve, Owen, and Destyni for sharing your writing with us on why you are thankful for the sacrifices our veterans have made to protect the freedoms we enjoy in our lives. A special thank you to all of the veterans here in our Hammondsport community – you are our heroes!



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

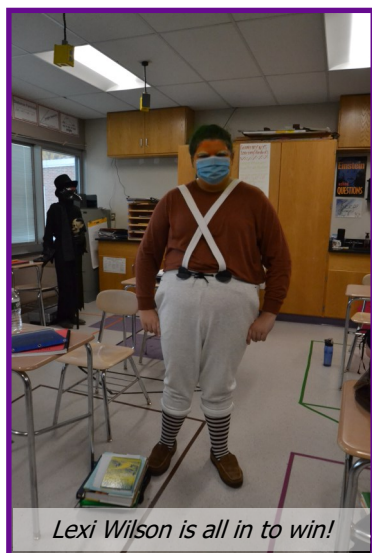
Our first quarter of the 2020/2021 school year is complete! The faculty and staff at Hammondspport Junior/Senior High want to thank our students and families for everything they have done to maintain a safe and operational school environment. We have had minimal disruptions to our system because of the care and caution of our students and families. Our established four day in-person, one day remote instructional model with socially distanced classroom allows us to serve fully remote students, students in the hybrid model and students who are temporarily required to quarantine based upon Department of Health requirements. At the conclusion of our first 10 weeks of school, our system translated into **thirty-six days** of direct in-person instruction. The more common hybrid model, employed in other districts, typically consists of two days of in-person instruction and three days of remote instruction. Based upon the same time frame this model would equate to **eighteen days** of instruction. Our system has doubled the in-person contact time for our students, and the responsible behavior of our students and parents has allowed us to run this system with minimal disruptions.

Hammondspport Junior/Senior High is committed to providing safe opportunities to our students to engage in extracurricular activities. As fall athletes and parents know, traditional activities may not always be permitted or they may look significantly different than during normal times. As of today, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association has only authorized low and moderate risk winter sports (bowling, gymnastics, indoor track, skiing, and swimming). In the absence of our traditional winter sports, the faculty and staff are crafting intramural activities that comply with New York State Public Health guidelines. Physical and social activities are a vital component of a high school experience, and I applaud our staff for making opportunities available in a safe fashion.



Lydia Druzak Competing in Socially Distanced Activity

During Halloween week our Student Council hosted its annual costume competition with categories for funniest, most original, and best group.



Lexi Wilson is all in to win!



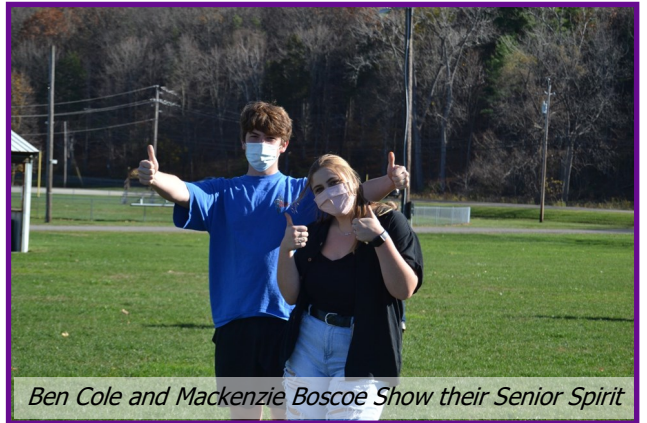
Junior High Students in the Spirit!



Nick Serdula playing to win!

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Traditionally our seniors would depart for their Senior Trip on Columbus Day Weekend. With COVID restriction on travel and group activities limited, the trip was postponed until the spring. However, our senior advisors Mrs. Katona, Mrs. Ullrich and our Senior Activities Coordinator Mr. Conley organized a Senior Picnic with food and outdoor activities to allow our seniors to bond as a class. We have a great group of seniors who have acted as leaders and role models for our student body during this time.



Ben Cole and Mackenzie Boscoe Show their Senior Spirit

With social distancing requirements in place, traditional parent teacher conferences will be held via Zoom and phone for the current time period. Grade level teachers have met and contacted parents and guardians for necessary meetings to be held in the afternoon of November 23rd and November 24th. Because of the restrictions in place, we are reserving Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:30p.m.-3:20p.m. for the remainder of the semester for any necessary or requested conferences. Parents can contact the Main Office at 569-5287 with any requests for team or individual teacher conferences throughout this semester.

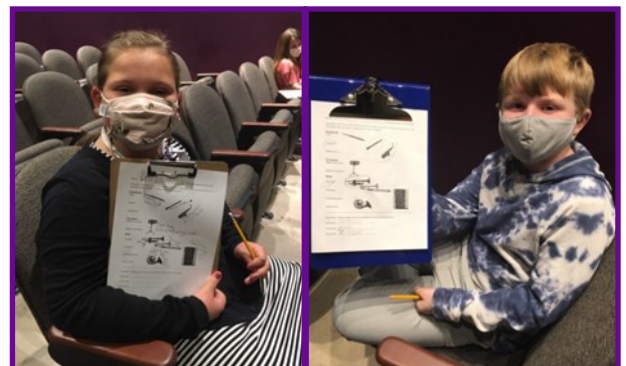
Fourth Grade Beginner Band Assembly

Thank you to Mr. Will Jenney for organizing a safe and socially distanced assembly for our fourth-grade students to learn about the opportunity to join Beginner Band. Mr. Jenney and a number of high school students safely demonstrated instruments while 12 feet apart on the stage. Our fourth graders were able to take notes and ask questions to help them determine what instruments they might be interested in playing as a part of the Beginner Band.

Welcome to the family, Mr. Jenney!



Mr. Jenney and members of the Jr./Sr. High Band introduce and play instruments for our fourth graders.



Darbi and Saxen share their notes and have a tough decision to make on instrument selection!

From the Desk of Mr. Koehler, Elementary Principal



Event + Response = Outcome. Prior to the start of the school year and as we have progressed throughout the first marking period, this is an equation our staff has reflected on together. The COVID-19 pandemic is an event that all schools and communities have been faced with and are working through and certainly is an event no one chose to take on. While we cannot control the onset of this pandemic, we remind ourselves that we can choose our response to it. It is easy to take the mindset of "*we've always done it this way, and now it isn't possible.*" Some might call this a fixed mindset. I am so proud of the way our entire school community has instead modeled the exact growth mindset we teach our students, as instead we've collectively said, "*why not do it this way instead?*"

In taking this approach responding to the pandemic, we've been able to impact the outcome for our students. We've held onto many of the important traditions within our school.

When we could not hold our traditional Halloween parade for our community, we instead held a safe and socially distanced trick-or-treat trail for our students made possible by donations from our staff, provided individually packaged cookies and juice thanks to our PTO and cafeteria, and provided mini-pumpkins for all students to decorate and take home thanks to a donation from a community member. This is one example of the countless ways we've creatively problem-solved to "*do things differently*" to continue to provide these experiences for our children.

Another "event" brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic was the need to socially distance our classrooms and cohort students to minimize the amount of contact across grade levels and individual classrooms. As a result, many of the best instructional practices our teachers use were no longer possible. ***Again, our teachers and staff have chosen to respond for our kids.*** While the instructional practices seen in our classrooms may look different in many ways for now, the rigor, instructional excellence, and positive learning environment you can trust and expect within a Hammondsport education no doubt remain.

The one reality that continues to be a challenge for us is the limitations we are faced with that prevent us from having our families in the building as we navigate the 2020-2021 school year together. As such, we are working to pack as many pictures of the learning experiences our children are engaged in into this issue of Laker Lines to provide our families with a window into the learning taking place daily.

We are excited for our upcoming parent teacher conferences on November 23rd and 24th. As with other events, these too will have to look different - they will occur via phone or Zoom only.

However, we'll continue to control our response in Hammondsport as we communicate and work together as always with the common goal of providing the best **outcomes** possible for our children, regardless of the circumstances we are faced with. I wish all of our families a safe and healthy upcoming holiday season – we all have much to be thankful for!

Attention Parents of Future HCS D Pre-K and Kindergarten Students

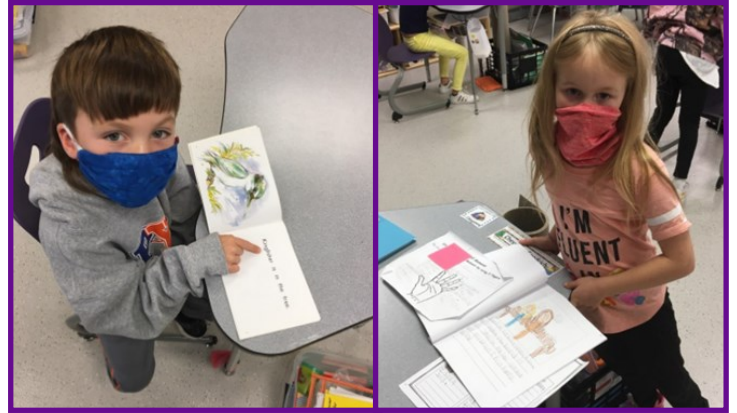
We at the Glenn Curtiss Elementary School are excited to welcome new Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students to our school family! As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, we are working to determine an accurate count of students who qualify for Pre-Kindergarten in the fall of 2021, as well as any new Kindergarteners that will be joining us.

If you are a parent living in the Hammondsport Central School District and have a child who will be **4 years old by December 1, 2021** for Pre-K and/or **5 years old by December 1, 2021** for Kindergarten (that is not currently enrolled in our Pre-K program), please call the Elementary Office at (607) 569-5200 ext. 5233 or e-mail us at dhaynes@hport.wnyric.org. **Please** provide us with your child's name, date of birth, your name and contact information.

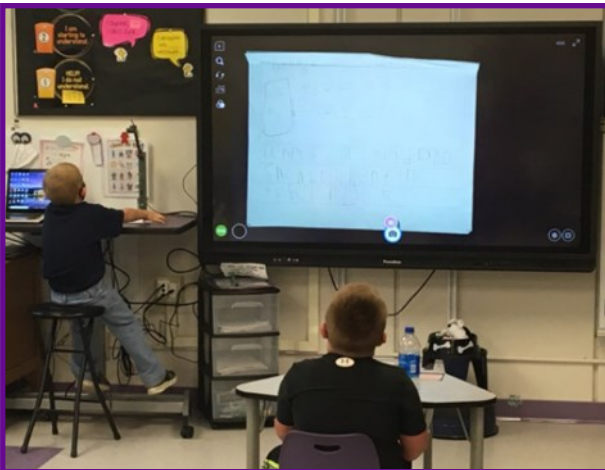
A Peek Into Our Classrooms...



Paxton and Giuseppe practice their number identification skills through play as they build pepperoni pizzas in Kindergarten math!



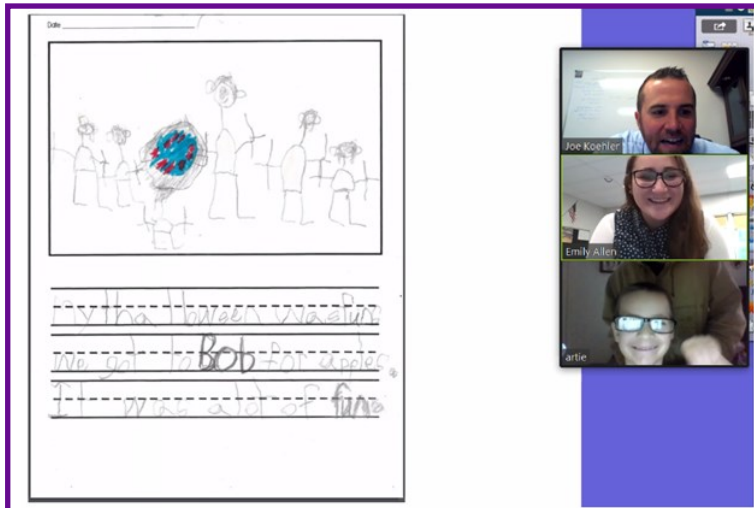
Wyatt and Cheyenne growing their early literacy skills in readers and writers workshop!



Dennis shares his small moment writing piece with his classmates during writers workshop.



Ms. Buckley's Kindergarten shoots their arrows nine times to celebrate reaching their learning target of building and identifying the number 9!



Miss Allen and Artie invited Mr. Koehler to join them on Zoom to share and celebrate Artie's growth as a writer!

Hammondsport Central School - Anticipated Openings



HELP WANTED!

HCS is accepting applications for substitutes in the following areas:

Instructional: Teacher and Teacher Assistant

Non-instructional: Teacher Aide, Cleaner, Maintenance, Bus Driver, Bus Monitor, and Food Service

The District is also anticipating Part and Full time openings in the following probationary positions: Teacher Aide, Cleaner, Bus Driver, and Bus Monitor

Please contact Nancy Clark, District Clerk, if you are interested in applying for any of the substitute or probationary positions listed above at #569-5200 or nclark@hport.wnyric.org. Thank you!

Hammondsport Central School District is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, or handicapping conditions.

Hammondsport Central School District
8272 Main Street
Hammondsport, NY 14840

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

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