

Oct 2020

Laker LIVES



Hammondsport Central School District Newsletter

Students Respond to Being Back in School

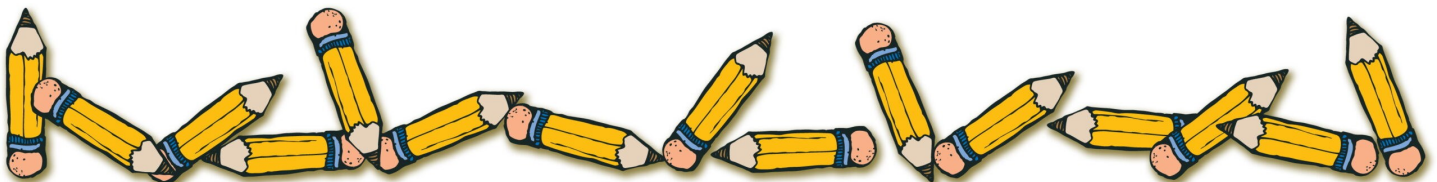
“The first two weeks of school have been amazing and I've been able to see my friends again. The things that I have missed most are being able to get away from family, work without younger siblings bugging you every minute of the day when I work. Also I finally get to be in school again and I'm really excited.”
- **Colin White, grade 7**

“My first two weeks of school have been good. I enjoy seeing all of my friends in science and math. I also like that the day seems like it goes by way quicker when you're changing to different classes.”
- **Kaylee Mack, grade 7**

“My first two weeks at school have been a very different experience than my previous experiences. Although all of the new regulations are not the easiest things to live with, I am very thankful for those who put in the work to allow us to return to campus. I have enjoyed being able to see all of our lovely Hammondsport students, teachers, and staff back and it is truly a pleasure to be part of this community.”
- **Maeve Frost, grade 12**

“My first two weeks of being back to school have been good. What I have enjoyed the most is being able to have contact with my teachers again not through a screen and having some sense of normality back, even if we have to follow certain guidelines.”
- **Hanna Hagadone, grade 12**

“My first two weeks have been pretty good. The thing that I have enjoyed the most is seeing friends I have not seen in six months.”
- **Tyler Eaves-Hopkins, grade 12**





Message from Desk of Mr. Bower, Superintendent

As I write this piece on October 6th, we are open, our students are doing great, and I couldn't be more proud of how our faculty, staff and students have handled a very challenging start to the 20-21 school year! The current situation changes daily and we are always thankful when our students are on campus, in their classrooms and learning!

Thank you to the parents and families that have been very supportive of the safety protocols we have in place! We know it is challenging to have to seek out Dr. appointments and Covid testing centers simply to keep your children coming to school. However, with everyone's cooperation and effort we will all continue to be safe!

As you read this Laker Lines there is one usual feature missing, the upcoming events and calendar. With so many changes taking place and new rules to follow, we continue to work on special ways to celebrate special events with our students and both principals will reach out directly to parents when those events are finalized.

In early November the first marking period will wrap up and traditionally parent/teacher conferences are held to discuss the first report card in person. This year parent/teacher conferences will be held either by phone or using technology such as Zoom or Google Meets. Teachers will begin reaching out in October to set up these meetings as well as to see if there is any technology support needed for them to take place.

Also in November I will begin reaching out to the community and asking for input on the current District budget situation as well as the development of the upcoming 21-22 school year budget. If the Governor continues to take revenue from school districts to address the state budget shortfall, there will be some very difficult discussions ahead and the community must be a part of those discussions. Stay tuned...

Thank you all for an excellent start to a crazy school year!

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

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

The October Laker Lines is typically reserved to recap and preview traditional fall school events, including Homecoming Weekend, our senior trip, field trips and Halloween events. Obviously, due to the public health care crisis and the corresponding restrictions, this year is different. However, contingencies plans have been put in place to hold as many of these events in the future as possible. Mr. Conley and the advisors are identifying locations in upstate New York for our senior trip in the spring that will be in compliance with all travel and safety guidelines at that time. In addition, due to the social distancing restrictions currently in place, Homecoming Weekend will be scheduled during the spring sports season in the anticipation of being able to hold our traditional parade and dance. Congratulations and thank you to our senior athletes and parents for their dedication to their sport and team in advance of our spring Homecoming!

Congratulations to Emily Sofio for being accepted into this year's conference all state mixed choir. This year's conference all-state ensembles will be done virtually. Emily was one of approximately 6000 high school musicians that auditioned last year for a place in this year's conference ensembles. Former HCS Conference All State Choir members include: Josiah Armstrong, Kelly Perz, Matthew Bussman, Alexis Russo, Matthew Cole, Gavin Ruddy and Natalie Lowin. Emily has joined an elite group of talented musicians from Hammondsport!



I want to take the opportunity to thank our students for their adherence to our safety guidelines that we have put in place to maximize our ability to deliver in-person instruction during this time. I also want to commend our full remote students and temporary remote students for their dedication and responsibility engaging in instruction in the virtual environment.

Because of the flexibility and innovation of our staff in designing socially distanced instruction, we have been able to double the amount of in-person student teacher contact days, as opposed to the more common model being employed in other districts, which calls for two days of in-person instruction and three days of remote instruction. Also, our system allows for students to maintain the continuity of instruction in a virtual environment in the event of any school closure with minimal disruption to their daily schedule of courses. We are thankful to be back teaching our students, both in person and remotely!

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.

Welcome New Staff to the HCSD Family!



Miss Stephanie Brown
6th Grade Teacher



Miss Megan Howell
PE Teacher



Miss Emily Allen
Special Ed. Teacher



Mr. Will Jenney
Music Teacher



Mrs. Rebecca Welch
HS Business Teacher



Miss Megan O'Dell
3rd Grade Teacher

How Will We Maintain Upcoming Traditional School Events?

The next two months brings traditional events in our school such as our Open House, Halloween parade, and parent-teacher conferences. Due to current health and safety regulations, these events will not be able to happen in their usual format. Please know that our team is hard at work brainstorming how to still have each happen in some form, and we will communicate out to our families as soon as we can. Stay tuned!

From the Desk of Mr. Koehler, Elementary Principal

It takes a village to raise a child. We've all heard this phrase at some point in our lives, and it is perhaps more true than ever as we transition our students back for the 2020-2021 school year. In our abbreviated Laker Lines at the start of September, I mentioned that gratitude was a theme for the month of September. The team effort that has made our reopening such a success has been nothing short of remarkable, and I'd like to focus this issue on recognizing the stakeholders that have made this possible.

To our teachers and staff: Thank you for finding a way to maintain and build on our positive, supportive, family-like learning environment that is the hallmark of our school while fully implementing all safety guidelines for our students and staff. Thank you for your growth mindset and teamwork as you've taken on the unprecedented task of providing in-person and remote instruction simultaneously with the best interest of our students and families in mind.

To our families: Thank you for all you have done proactively to prepare your students for the transition back to school – our students have exceeded expectations in adjusting to the wearing of masks and social distancing protocols and that is no doubt a credit to you! Thank you for communicating and problem-solving in partnership with us as we prepare for the different scenarios we know are in play this year, including our hybrid and full remote models of learning.

To our maintenance department: Thank you for working with us as we readjusted our entire district floor plan to make socially distanced classrooms possible. The countless hours and creative problem-solving it took to relocate equipment and materials made our in person reopening possible. Simply put, we would not have been able to reopen in person without you.

To our transportation department: Thank you for readjusting routes and staggering bus runs between the Elementary and High School in order to bring our students to and from school each day in a safe, socially distanced manner.

To our cafeteria staff: Thank you for providing a free breakfast to our students at our entrances each morning, taking orders and packing individual lunches for all K-6 students each day, and delivering these lunches to classrooms, while still hosting lunch in the cafeteria for high schoolers throughout the day. Our students are able to eat safely each day because of you.



Thank you to our maintenance team for your hard work rearranging our floor plan to make our reopening possible!



Thank you to our bus drivers and aides for getting our students to and from school safely each and every day! We are on time and ready to learn each morning thanks to you!



Our cafeteria staff takes daily lunch orders, packs individual student lunches labeled by name, and delivers them to K-6 classrooms every day. Thank you for feeding us safely!

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To our Board of Education and Community: Thank you for your continued support and trust in our team as we have worked together to provide our children with the education they deserve in the safest manner possible within the midst of an ongoing pandemic.

To our Parent Teacher Organization: Thank you for continually working with us to provide our children with the supports they need to be successful. All of our children received a HammondSport reusable water bottle and a Curtiss Family t-shirt free of charge thanks to our partnership. Thank you for making this possible!

To our administrative team: Thank you to our team for the countless hours of creative problem-solving and teamwork we continue to engage in together to ensure we use our resources across both buildings to best position all of our K-12 students for success.

To our students: You have absolutely blown us away with how well you have transitioned back to school after being away for nearly six months. You have shown us all what it means to have a growth mindset and have energized us all for what we can accomplish together this school year. We are so proud of you!

We refer to ourselves as our “**Curtiss Family**” for a reason – I think all of the above speaks for itself. We will no doubt have more curveballs thrown our way in the weeks ahead, but I cannot be more confident that by communicating, working together, and always keeping what is best for our students at the forefront, we will continue to work through each scenario we are faced with and ensure a successful 2020-2021 school year for all of our children. Once again, we are in it together!

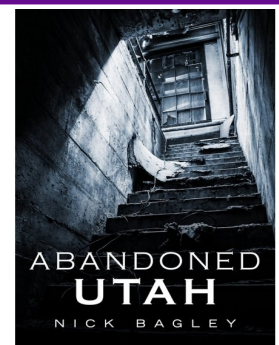
Glenn Curtiss Elementary Library Receives Grant for Audio Playaway Books

Our Glenn Curtiss library is proud to announce that we will be the recipient of a Dollar General Literacy Foundation grant in the amount of \$3,000. This grant will be spent entirely on audio Playaway books that are targeted at our students in grades 2-6. Playaway books are hand-held listening devices with books loaded in digital format. Students can simply plug in their headphones or earbuds to listen to the book or story being read aloud to them. Students can adjust the volume of the reader, and they can also adjust the speed of the reader (if they are following along with a print copy of the book).

Our students are very excited about the arrival of the Playaway order. Seventy-three new Playaways will be available to be checked out! ***A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Robarge who took the initiative to pursue this grant for our school – we can't wait to receive our new Playaway books!***

Alumni Spotlight: Nicholas Bagley, Class of 2011

In 2020, Nicholas Bagley published the book **Abandoned Utah**. Per his book, Nick is a “full time scientific photographer who loves to spend time researching and photographing places that seem to have been lost in time”. The book is filled with amazing pictures of amazing places taken by an amazing photographer! Great Job Nick! We are proud of you!



Respect, Responsibility, Safety, and Growth Mindset:

Transitioning Back to School with Our Four Leading Laker Expectations in Mind

Our teacher leaders on our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team spent time this summer preparing explicit lessons and accompanying materials to ensure our Curtiss staff had a consistent approach and common language around teaching our students how and why we wear masks and socially distance, as well as ensuring common language and expectations around handwashing. Our team was intentional in connecting these behaviors to our four Leading Laker expectations of respect, responsibility, safety, and growth mindset within these lessons. All teachers dedicated time at the start of the year to teaching these lessons for all students. A few examples are highlighted below.



Mask Wearing: Students learned that we wear our masks to show respect for others around us as we focus on keeping both others and ourselves safe. We all share the responsibility of remembering to have our mask with us at all times.



Social Distancing: Students learned that that six feet is about the length of one of our picnic tables, and the important responsibility of wearing a mask then we can't maintain that distance to keep others and ourselves safe.



Handwashing: Students learned explicit steps for proper handwashing and when it is important throughout our day. "Clean hands in 20" reminds us to wash our hands for a full 20 seconds.



The Overall Message

In addition to learning the how and the why behind these safety protocols, we focused intently on our responsibility to all work together to take care of our entire school family, and to show a growth mindset as we work through learning these routines together. The visuals you see are displayed throughout our classrooms and hallways as reminders of that commitment we all share together!



Steuben County Athletic Association Fall Season Statement

The Steuben County Athletic Association is excited for the start of the fall season. To make this season as safe as possible, the districts that make up the league have agreed to follow protocols when competing against each other.

- **All athletes will wear masks during contests.**
 - The recent uptick in COVID-19 cases in Steuben County is a good reminder that districts must stay vigilant in protecting students and ensuring their respective education programs can continue. The wearing of masks during contests will extend a best practice used in all school buildings to the field.
- **Only home team spectators will be allowed at contests.**
 - New York State is still under a 50-person limit for non-essential gatherings. With many teams having close to 20 athletes, the 50-person limit will quickly be reached with two spectators per home team athlete. With no mechanism to quickly communicate capacity at a given location, limiting spectators to home teams will hopefully limit confusion and disappointment for all our fans.

If any restrictions imposed by New York State change, allowing for a change in league protocols, every district will quickly communicate information to their athletes and communities.

Steuben County Athletic Association Members:

Addison	Avoca	Canisteo-Greenwood	Prattsburgh
Alfred-Almond	Campbell-Savona	Hammondsport	
Arkport	Canaseraga	Jasper-Troupsburgh	

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