### HARTSBURG-EMDEN CUSD No. 21 JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

#### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Terry Wisniewski, Superintendent

At the beginning of each school year, I talk with our staff about the importance of relationships. In Fourth R in Education, Miriam M. Witmer (2005), discusses the significance of the teacher-student relationship and the importance of the role the teacher plays in the development of that relationship. I continue to request that the staff of Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21 Schools be committed to creating and maintaining positive, mutually beneficial relationships with our students, families, staff, and community. I have faith in the fact that relationships with other people will bring one the greatest joy in their lives. A life filled with positive relationships with others will be a life well lived. A school that has positive relationships within its walls will have the foundation for success. I do believe that our staff continues to work to develop professional and positive relationships with our students, parents, and community ensuring that we are able to support the needs of our children (and their families). Having positive relationships are important because they help children develop independence, self-esteem, and wellbeing. Children want and need positive, loving/caring relationships with the people closest to them. Students learn better from teachers who they feel have their best interest at heart. As you may expect, the opposite is also true. When students have positive relationships and have high expectations that are shown to them, they are more capable of meeting those expectations and being successful.

I am also a firm believer that every student should have effective skills of critical thinking and problemsolving. The critical thinking skill seems to be more important today than when I was a child. The internet (AI – Artificial Intelligence) and social media has allowed a lot of material to be made public immediately and to travel around quickly. Being able to analyze who said it, why did they say it, is it true; is important to the critical thinking component. The old saying about telling a lie convincingly, repeating it often, and people will come to believe it; has much validity. We should not take anything for granted when thinking critically about the information we have received and look for a multitude of sources with the same level of analysis. The problem-solving component is often associated with critical thinking. In a problem-solving situation, a student attempts to find a solution. The student needs to form a method of attacking a problem

that he/she may not exactly know how to solve but still moves forward with a strategy to find a solution. One of the important elements of problem solving skills that students should have is to choose an appropriate strategy in finding a solution of the problems, which is important in terms of achieving success in solving the issue before them. Students with effective skills of critical thinking and problem-solving will enter adulthood as independent thinkers ready to meet all the challenges of life.

On a personal note, another semester as the Superintendent of the Hartsburg-Emden School District is coming to a close and it continues to be an honor to serve in this capacity. I thank everyone (students, parents, board members, and staff) for the relationships I've developed with you over the past twelve and a half (12.5) years. All-in-all, I truly have enjoyed our students, the schools, and the community. Being an educator, is where my passion has always lied. I value the continual growth mindset that education provides. I am looking forward to the next phase as I move to interim status and begin my new position in O'Fallon. I will be in Hartem on most Monday's and Friday's second semester and in O'Fallon during the middle of the week. I am looking forward to next semester. It is likely going to be a busy one as I work two positions.

Lastly, I would like to finish by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! With the holidays here, I hope you are able to enjoy all the gifts you have been blessed with. Please do your best to assist those who are working through social, emotional, and economic challenges. Please keep in mind those who are less fortunate or may be missing someone this time of year. A heartfelt inquiry can go a long way to comfort someone. Tis the season to be generous and may God bless you!!

#### FEBRUARY BREAKFAST/LUNCH PRICES

Student Breakfast \$40.00 Student Reduced Breakfast \$6.00 Student Lunch \$56.05 Student Reduced Lunch \$7.60 Students at Hartsburg-Emden Jr./Sr. High School will need to pay for seconds. Entrées are \$1.00, vegetable/fruit/chips are \$.50, Italian Ice is \$.75 and milk is \$.50.

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Cory Brown, Principal

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! Once again, this first semester has flown by. If you read my articles, it's no secret that I'm in tune with the weather and seasons. So far, I can't really complain because I am not a cold weather person. The weather prediction this winter is above normal temperatures so I am looking forward to getting out and getting some yard chores done that I haven't been able to do. I'm currently working on my superintendent endorsement so I've missed 15 weekends for grad school this calendar year. I'm really going to enjoy a warm spell to cut the brush back and get the yard ready for spring. My kids are getting to an age where they enjoy working outside. We have brush fires and play on tractors and they earn money. I don't think they even know it's work. I hope everyone else is able to get out and enjoy the weather in their own way.

If you haven't made it to school to watch a junior High or High School basketball game, there are plenty more opportunities. The Junior High basketball post season will start at the end of January. The High School team will be competing in the St. Theresa tournament over break. Junior High Volleyball is ready to get underway in January. Chess and Scholastic Bowl are getting underway. Spectators are always welcome for these two teams. Take a look at the website calendar to see what is available to watch locally. Also, sports played in Hartsburg gym are available to watch with the NFHS network. Many of the away games are available on NFHS to watch.

For the month of December, the Students of the Month were Jaelynn Hinch and Lexi Wetherell. Mr. Zastrow says Jaelynn is always patiently willing to help other students, especially ones who are struggling to grasp a concept, need a new perspective, or just want something re-explained. Teachers had this to say about Lexi. "While quiet, she has a fun personality that helps her get along with others and takes responsibility for her work and activities. Congratulations to both!

Here are some dates of interest for January. There is a teacher institute on Monday the 3rd, so students get the day off. The first day back for students in January is the 4th. Monday, January 15th, is nonattendance day in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Day. Wednesday, January 24th, will be an 11:30 dismissal for a school improvement day.

If you are traveling over the break, I hope your journey is safe. I look forward to seeing everyone rested and ready to go in the New Year. Have a Happy Holiday!!

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.





#### **DEAN OF STUDENTS MESSAGE**

Tanya Zerbonia, Dean of Students

Happy New Year! Here we go.... Second Semester. Most of us are happy that we are on the downslide of the school year, but I know the senior parents are begging time to slow down. I encourage all of the seniors and their parents to enjoy and document all of the fun things this semester.....senior trip, spring Homecoming, senior picnic and graduation. It will come and go very quickly. Graduation will soon be here.

So what is in store for the second semester? District wide testing will be in March and April. Spring Homecoming is in February. Senior trip is in April. This will be a very busy time of the school

year. Please note all important dates on the district website.

I hope that everyone was able to relax and enjoy the winter break. I know it never feels long enough. Happy New Year 2024!

#### LIBRARY NEWS

Nichole Folkman, Librarian

#### **Donations**

Kamden Pointer- 2 books for the JH/HS library American Legion- \$250

#### **State Book Awards**

We have been reading and discussing the books from the various state book lists—Monarch, Bluestem, Rebecca Caudill, and Lincoln. In February, the students will vote for their favorite book and Mrs. Folkman will submit their votes to be tallied. We look forward to learning the winning books in March! (And getting the new lists for 2025!)

#### **GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT**

Elizabeth Hilgert, Student Coordinator/Guidance Counselor

Happy New Year! I trust everyone had a delightful holiday season and is prepared to dive into the second semester. The beginning of a new semester signifies a moment for both revisiting the past and anticipating the future. It is an opportune time for reflection on the accomplishments of the previous semester and a chance to commit to self-improvement for the upcoming term. Despite the challenges posed by the dark and cold winter weather, it is crucial that we approach the second semester with enthusiasm and a

clear sense of purpose. Hartsburg-Emden students are

encouraged to continue setting goals and establishing

effective practices to facilitate goal achievement.

Recognizing your potential is just the first step; the real work begins with goal-setting. In the New Year, this often translates into formulating New Year's Resolutions. However, adhering to these resolutions can be challenging and may result in setbacks. Students, like everyone else, face similar difficulties in setting and accomplishing goals. To enhance the likelihood of success, consider the following proven strategies:

- Concentrate on one resolution or goal at a time.
- Break down the goal into smaller, manageable steps.
- Share your goals with a supportive friend who can provide encouragement and hold you accountable

- Acknowledge and celebrate small successes and milestones along the way.
- Direct your thoughts towards the new behavior and visualize its manifestation; retraining your brain is pivotal.
- Focus on the present moment-identify the actions you can take today to progress toward your goal.
- Avoid dwelling on the past or worrying about the future; your control is limited to the present actions you take.

Above all, I wish you success in the upcoming year. May each person achieve their aspirations and dreams in 2024, allowing us to reflect with assurance in 2025 on the accomplishments we can attain through determined efforts.

#### **FAFSA**

Hartsburg-Emden High School will be hosting a **FAFSA Completion Workshop** on **Wednesday**, **January 17**<sup>th</sup>, **2024**. All seniors and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend. A representative will be providing a brief presentation about the FAFSA and will be available to provide hands-on assistance in creating a FSA ID and completing the FAFSA application on-site. This workshop will take place in the HS computer lab from **6:00 – 7:00 pm**. Please RSVP with Mrs. Hilgert (<a href="mailto:ehilgert@hartem.org">ehilgert@hartem.org</a>) for a list of important items to bring with you to the workshop.

#### **JUNIORS AND SENIORS**

This would be a great time for seniors to finish college applications and scholarships. The earlier a college receives an application, the more favorably it is generally viewed. Most colleges also practice what is known as "Rolling Admissions," meaning that they process applications as they are received, so those applying early often find out much sooner about their admissions status. This can be a big advantage later when having to make a final decision about where you will attend in the fall. The bottom line — it pays to apply to colleges early.

Winter break is a perfect time for juniors to be practicing for the SAT, researching colleges, careers, and setting goals for after high school. I suggest that students use their winter break very wisely! Mark your calendars for **April 9, 2024**, a rep from ISAC will be here to help the juniors get a jump start on college applications. More information to follow after winter break.

#### 24-25 DUAL CREDIT COURSES

It's time to start thinking about courses for the 24-25 school year. Are you interested in taking college classes while still in high school? Dual credit is an opportunity for students in grades 11-12 to receive extra high school credit AND earn college credit towards Gen. Eds. HEHS will be offering the following dual credit courses next year: LIT 111: Introduction to Literature, HUMA 101: Introduction to Humanities and BUSN 110: Introduction to Business.

#### **Qualifications:**

If you are interested in taking a Dual Credit course next year (AY 24-25), you <u>MUST</u> complete a Heartland application by <u>February 29, 2024</u>, and ACCUPLACER Assessment (or submit a qualifying score) by <u>March 29, 2024</u> in order to be eligible to enroll in the course. Students can submit qualifying ACT or PSAT/SAT scores in place of the ACCUPLACER. [Please note: There is a \$200 registration fee for each dual credit class. See Mrs. Hilgert for details.

#### ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21, is proud to announce that two students from the graduating Class of 2024 have been designated as Illinois State Scholars. Congratulations to Noah Doolin and Jace Whitted.

This prestigious recognition from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is a testament to their outstanding academic achievements. In a pool of over 16,700 honorees, Noah and Jace have truly distinguished themselves as exceptional high school students.

The dedication and hard work demonstrated by Noah and Jace are commendable, and this accomplishment reflects not only their academic prowess but also their commitment to excellence. As they join the ranks of other outstanding students recognized since 1958, they stand out as shining examples of the bright future that lies ahead.

Please join us in celebrating this remarkable achievement and expressing our sincere congratulations to Noah Doolin and Jace Whitted. Their success is a source of pride for Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21, and we look forward to

witnessing the continued accomplishments that undoubtedly await them.



#### **HARTEM ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

Matthew Stoltzenburg, Athletic Director

Happy Holidays from the Hartsburg-Emden athletic department. I hope everyone had their fill of turkey and is ready for some basketball and volleyball. The junior high and high school basketball teams are about in midseason form, while the junior high volleyball season is right around the corner.

The Jr. High basketball teams have home games on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, as well as January 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, with the latter being 8<sup>th</sup> grade night vs Cornerstone. They will be in the Logan County Tournaments on January 6, 11, 13, and 18. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade regional will start on the Jan 20 and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will start on Jan 27.

The high school basketball team has home games on December 1, 5, 9, 15, as well as on January 12 and 23. They will play in the Decatur St. Teresa xmas tourney on December 21, 22, 28, and 29.

Just as a heads up, the junior high volleyball team is getting their season started with practice during the month of December. They will begin play in January with their first home game on the 18th.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



#### **HARTEM CHESS**

Kent Hieronymus, Coach

<u>Hartem Lincoln Chess Team Fundraiser was a success! Thank you!</u>

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Chess team fundraiser at the Country Aire Restaurant in Atlanta. It was nice to see families from both Hartem and Lincoln helping out. The food was delicious!

#### Hartem Lincoln Chess Coop

The Hartem Lincoln Chess Coop did a great job the first semester of 2023-24 school year. The two schools have great participation and a lot of new friends are being made. At the meet to play Normal Community, we had a full bus! The next meet after Normal was against Notre Dame La Salette and we only had one empty seat! January is going to be a very busy month. We have 6 meets scheduled including the IHSA sectional at Champaign Central. The Hartem Jr. High program has four upcoming chess meets against Chester East Lincoln and Greenview. Then both teams have the IHSA and IESA state tournaments in February.

#### **HARTEM FFA**

Sara Bartor

The Hartem FFA Chapter had a great first semester! December was especially a great month. On December 2nd, students helped set up memorial Christmas trees at the Whistle Stop in Emden. On December 6th, Hartem FFA members participated in the Section 14 Dairy Foods CDE at New Berlin High School. The team placed 4th overall! Our very own Ellie Klokkenga placed third place individual in the whole contest! On December 9th, we had our final chapter meeting of the year and held a very competitive gingerbread house building competition.

Wednesday, January 17th - Food Science Contest at Pawnee High School

Wednesday, January 24th - Parliamentary Procedure Contest at Hartem High School \*\*\*Be on the lookout for information regarding our annual strawberry sale in the next newsletter.

#### Spanish I

Kent Hieronymus

The Spanish 1 classes will soon be making a family tree. Please share with your students any family history that you can. We practice simple conversations and pronunciation daily. The students are working very hard and are a pleasure to teach. We will soon be learning about reflexive verbs and how to talk about our daily routines.

#### Spanish II

Kent Hieronymus

The Spanish 2 class is very talented and knowledgeable. They have been working very energetically on the website <a href="www.studyspanish.com">www.studyspanish.com</a>. Some of the students will cover all Spanish grammar by the end of the year! After covering the grammar, it will be a matter of practicing what they have learned in Spanish conversation and writing.

#### Spanish III

Kent Hieronymus

Our Spanish 3 and 4 class are reviewing all they have learned in the last few years. They have covered every Spanish verb tense and advanced topics such as the subjunctive mood and passive vs. active voice sentences. Their pronunciation is excellent. We are working on Spanish conversation each day.

#### **Class of 2025 Dovetail Dinner Fundraiser**

Carter Collins, Co-Sponsor

The Dovetail in Emden will be hosting a carryout/delivery dinner to help raise funds for the Class of 2025 on Monday, January 22.

The dinner for this meal will include:

- Cheese tortellini with marinara sauce
- Breadsticks
- Tossed side salad

The Class of 2025 will be selling tickets for this dinner from January 4th – January 15th.

There will be two types of tickets:

**Carryout tickets** - \$12. Purchasers of these tickets can pick up their meal at Dovetail anytime between 4:30pm - 6:30pm. You can remain in your car, there

will be runners to bring out your food - just have your ticket ready!

Delivery tickets - \$14. Purchasers of these tickets will leave their name, address and phone number with the member of the class of 2025 whom they purchase their ticket from. Members of the class of 2025 will then deliver their meal(s) to the given address between 4:30pm - 6:30pm. A drop off time can be requested and the class of 2025 will do their best to accommodate depending on timing and availability. Otherwise, drivers will give you a call when they are on their way with your order! Delivery only available to a Hartsburg or Emden residency.

If there are any questions, please contact Eric Gardiner (egardiner@hartem.org) or Carter Collins (ccollins@hartem.org)

#### Join the 2024 Junior High Scholastic Bowl Team!

Carter Collins, History Teacher

What is Scholastic Bowl? Scholastic Bowl is an academic club. Scholastic Bowl is a competitive IHSA activity in which students participate as a team of 5 against other schools by answering trivia questions pertaining to various academic topics.

What will we do in Scholastic Bowl? Throughout the season we will practice quick trivia questions on topics that include history, geography, current events, literature, mathematics, science, music, pop culture and others. We will have meets in which we compete against other schools

Why should I do Scholastic Bowl? Scholastic Bowl exists to provide students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of various topics in a competitive format while also instilling a desire to be life-long learners.

Who can participate in Jr. High Scholastic Bowl? All Hartem students in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades. All participating students will receive a permission form at our first meeting on January 9 which will need to be filled out by their parent/guardian before our first meet.

When will we meet? Our first team meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024 from 3:30pm-4:15pm in Mr. Collins' room at Hartsburg-Emden Jr. Sr. High. From there we will have practices every Tuesday from 3:30pm-4:15pm.

**Meet dates:** TBD, but don't expect to have our first meet until February or March. A full schedule will be given to students participating when available.

# If your child is interested in joining the Junior High Scholastic Bowl team, contact Carter Collins!

Mr. Collins email: ccollins@hartem.org

Additionally, information related to Scholastic Bowl rules, regulations, requirements, etc. can be found at

https://www.iesa.org/activities/scb/index.asp?Docs=
Yes

#### **Veterans Day Follow-Up**

JoEllen Westen, 4th Grade Teacher

The following article and the Wall of Honor page were submitted on time by Ms.Westen. It was mistakenly omitted from the December Newsletter.

Emden Elementary hosted a Veterans Day program on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed local veterans and community members. We gathered to recognize and pay tribute to the men and women who have served in the military. The students honored past and present members of the five military branches and presented all guest veterans with handmade cards.

Fourth grade shared several readings and students sang patriotic songs. We were proud to hear from our current superintendent and Marine Veteran, Terry Wisniewski. Mr. Wisniewski spoke about his choice to join the military, his military training, and the life lessons he gained during his service.

Leading up to the program a "Veterans Wall of Honor" was created. Community members sent in names of veterans as well as a donation. The wall featured the names of 58 veterans, and we collected a total of \$382. This money will be sent to Danville Veterans Hospital.

Thank you to all those who contributed time and effort to making this program an important memory for our students and veterans. The students at Emden Elementary once again thank the veterans for their service and sacrifice!

### **JANUARY 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL Teacher's Institute	4 JHBK @ WLB 5:30	5 HSBK @ MP 6:00	6 JHBK- Host 7 <sup>th</sup> LoCo Tourn. @ 10:00am
7	8 JHVB@ 7 <sup>th</sup> LoCo Tourn. TBA	9 JHBK vs Limestone 6:00 HSBK @ Havana 6:00	10 JHVB @ 7 <sup>th</sup> LoCo Tourn. TBA	JHVB @ Delavan 6:00	HSBK vs Lewistown 6:00	JHBK-8 <sup>th</sup> LoCo Tourn TBA HS Chess @ Illini Classics TBA
				HS Chess @ U-High Normal		HSBK vs Deland- Weldon (Varsity only) 1:00
14	NO SCHOOL JHVB @ 8 <sup>th</sup> LoCo Tourn. TBA HSBK @ Hopedale Christian Life 7:00	JHBK vs Conerstone 6:00 *8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Night* HSBK @ Edinburg 6:00	17 JHVB @ 8 <sup>th</sup> LoCo Tourn. TBA FASFA Worksop @ 6:00	18 JHBK- 8 <sup>th</sup> LoCo Tourn TBA JHVB vs IC 5:30	19 HSBK @ MWC 6:00	JHBK- 7A Reg. TBA  JHVB @ Limestone RR TBA  HS Chess @ Greenview 10:00am
21	JHVB vs Limestone Walters 6:00 Class of '25 Dinner Fund. @ Dovetail 4:30-6:30	JHBK-7A Reg. TBA HSBK vs W-L 6:00 JHVB @ CEL 4:00	11:30 DISMISSAL FFA Parli-Pro Contest @ HS 5:00	25 JHBK-7A Reg. TBA	26 HSBK @ Tri-City 6:00	JHVB@ MP 8A Tourn. TBA  HS Chess IHSA Sectional @ Washington 8:00
28	29 JHBK-7A Sect. TBA JHVB @ Dee- Mack JH 4:30	30 JHBK-8A Reg. TBA	31 JHBK-8A Reg. TBA			

# **JANUARY 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Breakfast Menu	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	Teacher's Institute NO SCHOOL	Pop tart Fruit Juice	Pancake & sausage on a stick Fruit Juice	0
7	8 Waffles Sausage patty Fruit Juice	9 Yogurt w/strawberries Toast Fruit Juice	10 Breakfast cookie Fruit Juice	11 Frittata omelet Toast Fruit Juice	12 Assorted cereal Toast Fruit Juice	13
14	NO SCHOOL	16 English muffin Fruit Juice	17 Biscuit w/ sausage gravy Fruit Juice	18 Assorted muffins Fruit Juice	19 Breakfast pizza Fruit Juice	20
21	22 Uncrustables Fruit Juice	French toast sticks Sausage links Fruit Juice	24 Fruit frudel Fruit Juice	25 Sausage patty Tri tater Toast Fruit Juice	26 Donuts Fruit Juice	27
28	29 Mini pancake bites Fruit Juice	30 Coffee cake Fruit Juice	31 JH/HS-Cinnamon brown sugar oatmeal GS-Cereal Toast Fruit Juice			

# **JANUARY 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lunch Menu	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	Teacher's Institute NO SCHOOL	4 Pork tenderloin on bun French fries Green beans Pineapple	5 Chicken strips Mac and cheese Peas Peaches	6
7	8 BBQ pulled pork Baked beans Cole slaw Applesauce	9 Walking tacos Cheese/lettuce Sour cream/salsa Corn Pears Graham crackers w/icing	Corn dog Soft Pretzel Cheese sauce Carrots Pineapple	11 Popcorn chicken Mashed potatoes Corn Gravy Peaches	12 Bosco sticks Marinara sauce Lettuce salad Mandarin oranges	13
14	NO SCHOOL	16 Toasted cheese sandwich JH/HS-Tomato/chicken noodle soup GS-Chicken noodle soup Fresh veggies Mix fruit	17 Chicken patty on bun French fries Green beans Mandarin oranges	18 Pig in a blanket Bake beans Pasta salad Pears	19 Sloppy joe on bun Nacho chips w/ cheese Sour cream/salsa Peaches	20
21	Hamburger on bun French fries Carrots Apricots	23 Spaghetti w/ meat sauce Green beans French bread Applesauce	24 11:30 DISMISSAL	25 Chicken alfredo Peas Lettuce salad Breadsticks Peaches	26 Quesadilla pizza Lettuce salad Sour cream/salsa Cottage cheese Pineapple	27
28	29 BBQ rib on bun Potato smiles Green beans Mix fruit	30 Cream chicken on biscuit Peas Mandarin oranges	31 Loaded nachos w/meat Cheese sauce Sour cream/salsa Lettuce Peaches			

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