

HARTSBURG-EMDEN CUSD NO. 21

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Terry Wisniewski, Superintendent

As I approach the end of my career at Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21, I have spent a lot of time reflecting. I will be retiring from being the Superintendent of Hartsburg-Emden at the end of the 2023-2024 school year after 13 years in the District. I often hesitate to discuss my childhood with people because many people have challenges to face or maybe have had a unique childhood and I was no different. People often seem surprised when I tell them of my childhood as it reveals a piece of my past that many do not expect.

I was born in early 1969 in Chicago, Illinois to Anna and Mike Havener (who were from Missouri and Arkansas respectively). My mother was 22 years old and I was her 4th child (no twins), she was pregnant with her first at 15 years of age. On Christmas Eve, about 2.5 months before my 7th Birthday, the Chicago Police Department responded to a domestic battery case in our small apartment on the southwest side. Myself, along with my 6 siblings (4 brothers and 2 sisters), were all taken into custody by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) due to neglect and abuse. We were all placed in an emergency shelter through the holiday season. After which, they (DCFS) came and took us (one-by-one) to place us in the foster care system. Over the next 20 months, I bounced from foster home to foster home (13 different homes). I never attended Kindergarten or 1st Grade and was in-and-out of several different schools for 2nd Grade (missing much of that year as well). At 8.5 years old, I landed with Leonard and Joan Wisniewski on a small rural farm in Martinton, Illinois (Iroquois County). I was very far behind academically and socially.

Leonard and Joan Wisniewski were unable to have children of their own. Over 30+ years as foster parents, they cared for 98 different children, of which they adopted 5 of them. We had several different races of children in our house often (Black, White, Hispanic, etc.) and many special needs children. One of the adopted children was Puerto Rican. We were a diverse home. There were anywhere from 7-10 children in the house at one time. I like to describe it as somewhat of a zoo, filled with love. It was a wonderful place to grow up.

We had cows, pigs, chickens and a pony. We farmed a modest 75 acres. Over the years, I was the only foster child that stayed with the Wisniewski's permanently. All the way up until my summer before I entered High School, DCFS kept telling me that my biological parents were working to get me back and that they loved me. Then that summer, I was told that my parents were separated and they did not want me back. I had a bit of a struggle my Freshman year of High School as I retaliated from such news. The following summer my Dad (Leonard Wisniewski) and I spent a lot of time together. I finally realized that I had been focusing on people who did not care about me when I had a family that did. I made a commitment to be the son my parents deserved. I also committed to doing well in school and working hard. My grades went to the top of the class and I realized that I actually enjoyed learning/schooling.

Every once in a while, DCFS would host a meeting with all my biological brothers and sisters (the Havener group). The foster care system can be a rough place for children. I was the only Havener to graduate High School. My two oldest brothers never made it past the 8th Grade, while my other two brothers and two sisters all dropped out of High School. Over the years, I have still kept in touch with them and see them occasionally. It is not difficult to see that I had been given a wonderful family with the Wisniewski's and when I turned 21 years old, I legally changed my name to Wisniewski as they were my true family. They gave me support and encouragement for my love of mathematics and learning. All the Wisniewski children have at least one college degree and half of us have multiple degrees. I often thank God for all the blessings that I have received. From being the only Havener to graduate High School, to being given the opportunity to be the Superintendent of Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 for the past 8 years has really humbled me. My Mom never had the opportunity to see me become a Superintendent, but I believe she knows. I have worked hard and had a terrific set of parents who instilled faith, family, hard work, and personal responsibility. I was determined not to let my early childhood affect my future. Actually, that past is in part what has made me persistent with my goals both personally and professionally.

Again, it has truly been an honor to serve Hartem for all these years. To be at Hartem long enough to see

the first Kindergarten class graduate from High School, is something I'll always remember. I look forward to serving during my last year and wish the District the best of luck in the future. Go Hartem!!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Cory Brown, Principal

Hello Hartem Families!

Winter has been fairly mild this year. The farmers almanac says that we are supposed to be colder and have more precipitation than in past years. I think it's fair to say that some precipitation would be welcome after the dry spell last year. This is the weird time of year for outdoorsmen like myself. Hunting is slowing down and unless there is some ice on the water, I'm definitely not fishing. Luckily, there are plenty of indoor sports to watch!

Good luck to Coach Spencer and the Junior High Basketball team as they are entering into the postseason. The High School basketball team is getting towards the end of their season and hope to be hot for a postseason run in February. Good Luck to Coach Neaville and the team the rest of the season. Coach Hayes and the Junior High Volleyball team have had a good start. 7th Grade won 1st place in the county tournament and 8th grade finished 2nd. We look forward to seeing how this year's season plays out.

The Hartem Chess team has been playing well and has beaten some larger schools in the area. Coach Heironymus has seen the sectional seeding and feels optimistic that they can make it to the State tournament again this year. Unfortunately, IHSA only has one class for chess for all the schools in the State. They are currently 3rd in the conference. We will continue to encourage IHSA to reconsider this stance so we can play schools that are closer in size to us. Coach Folkman and the scholastic bowl team have been doing well this season. William Wisniewski is in a good position to lead the conference in toss-up questions.

For the month of January, the Students of the Month were William Wisniewski and Owen Whitted. Here are some comments from the staff members that nominated them. "Owen has been doing his best day in and day out." "William is always in a great mood and provides positive feedback to his classmates." Congratulations to both deserving students!! Here are some dates of interest for February. February 17th will be a SIP day and 11:30 dismissal

for students. There will not be any school on February 20th for Presidents Day.

The 5 Essential Surveys are now available for parents to fill out. This is your chance to give us feedback about the education at Hartsburg-Emden. We would like every family to fill out the survey. Here is a the link for the survey: <http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/>. Open your phone camera and use this QR code if you would like, too.



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

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PRICES FOR FEBRUARY

Student Breakfast \$38.00

Student Reduced Breakfast \$5.70

Student Lunch \$51.30

Student Reduced Lunch \$7.20

Students at Hartsburg-Emden Jr./Sr. High School will need to pay for seconds. Entrées are \$.90, vegetable/fruit/chips are \$.50, Italian Ice are \$.75 and milk is \$.40.



LIBRARY NEWS

Nichole Folkman, Librarian

Donations

What About Worms- Nina Huddleston
Warrior Cat Books- Juliet Sisk

Benefits of Reading With Your Child

I bet you know the benefits of reading to small children. They hear more words and therefore increase their vocabulary, they see and understand how books work (pre-literacy skills), link books and stories with happiness, bond with you, and so much more. This is why it is recommended that kids read 1000 books before kindergarten. Does that seem like a lot? If you read just one book a day (all repeats count!) between birth and kindergarten, you already have about 1,800 books read! And think of how many nights they need/ want more than one story or to hear the same story over and over! It's totally doable! As we're looking at pre-school screenings coming up, this exposure to books and vocabulary is a huge boost to a child's kindergarten readiness!

Need help getting books to read with your child? Sign up for **Dolly Parton Imagination Library** at imaginationlibrary.com. Everyone in Logan County is eligible now! (If you live in the Hartsburg-Emden district, but have a zip code that is not in Logan County, simply email Mrs. Folkman nfoklman@hartem.org. She can enter you manually.) **If you have a PO box, please make sure to enroll with the PO box.**

Did you also know that you don't need to stop reading with your child just because they can read on their own? Reading can remain a bonding experience, even if you do not read together. Maybe you read the same book and discuss it. Or you read books on a similar topic or by the same author and talk about them. Or maybe you just make sure that everyone in the house has a habit of reading and you talk about your goals and your reading life. Or maybe you share audiobooks in the car on long rides. There are so many ways to continue to make reading "with" your child happen, even if you don't sit down to read together. It's a new year, so put new habits into place. There is no better time to start than today!

Book Fair and Author Visit

In March we will have the Book Fair at the grade school AND an author visit! Watch for more details on social media!

Yearbooks

We still have 2021-2022 yearbooks for sale. Make sure you get yours before they are gone. They are \$45 each. We also have a number of vintage yearbooks for sale. Let me know if you have a specific year you're looking for. I also keep a wait list for those I do not have in case some are donated to the school.

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!



GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Elizabeth Hilgert, Student Coordinator/Guidance Counselor

Random Acts of Kindness

February 12-18, 2023

Teaching and encouraging kindness is related to many of the following positive outcomes:

- Happy children! There is a natural good feeling that results when we do an act of kindness, even if it's small. Happy and compassionate children do not have a need to bully others.
- Higher self-esteem. The "helper's high" that comes from endorphins in our brains when we do something kind increases our sense of belonging. Children will feel like they can have a true impact on their environment.
- More friends. Feeling like they are accepted and liked by peers is usually very important to children of all ages. Kindness increases our connections with other people on a deeper level.

· Improved academic success. The feel good effects of being kind help increase children's concentration and memory, which greatly impacts learning.

· Better mental health. Acts of kindness increase serotonin levels, the natural brain chemical that improves mood. Have a consistently unhappy child? Encourage them to look outside themselves and be kind to someone else.

23-24 DUAL-CREDIT COURSES

Are you interested in taking college classes while still in high school? Dual credit is an opportunity for students in grades 11-12 to take classes in high school and one or more college level classes on an online university. Dual credit courses are a great opportunity to receive extra high school credit AND earn college credit towards Gen. Eds. The courses that will be offered next year are: **ENGL 101: Critical Reading and Writing** and **ENGL 102: Multimodal Composition.**

Qualifications:

If you are interested in taking a Dual Credit course next year (AY 23-24), you **MUST** complete a Heartland application by **April 1st** and ACCUPLACER Assessment (or submit a qualifying score) by **April 30th** in order to be eligible to enroll in the course. Students can submit qualifying ACT or PSAT/SAT scores in place of the ACCUPLACER. See Mrs. H for details. [Please note: There is a \$200 registration fee for each dual credit class.]

SENIORS

If you haven't completed the FAFSA yet, now is the time. Remember, this is now an IL state graduation requirement. If you need help completing the application or if you would like an opt-out form, please contact Mrs. H (ehilgert@hartem.org)

Scholarships

The spring semester is a busy time for scholarship applications. Many local organizations announce scholarships during the spring semester. I encourage all 12th grade students to check for scholarships to determine if there are any scholarships that meet their needs. See Mrs. Hilgert if you need help finding and/or applying to scholarships. Listed below are several scholarships with a February/March deadline that any student can apply for:

- Illinois Special Education Teacher Waiver priority deadline March 1st
- Kiwanis Club of Lincoln Vocational or Trade School due March 20th
- Township Officials of Illinois Scholarship due March 1st
- Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship due March 1st
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship for ALA Junior Members due March 1st
- ALA Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship due March 1st
- ALA Children and Youth Scholarship degree in Education due March 15th
- ALA Past Presidents Parley Nurses Scholarship due April 10th
- ALA Illinois Scholarship for Junior Members due March 15th
- Ada Mucklestone Scholarship due March 15th
- Mildred R. Knoles Scholarship due March 15th
- Farm Credit Services Scholarship degree in Agriculture due February 28th
- CBAI Foundations for Community Banking due March 3rd
- Illinois Scottish Rite Scholarship Fund due April 1st
- Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation due March 1st
- Lincoln Women's Club Scholarship due March 1st
- Scott Brown Memorial Scholarship due April 1st

Upcoming Testing Dates

- IAR (Illinois Assessment Readiness) will begin the week of March 13th for all students in grades 3rd-5th
- IAR (Illinois Assessment Readiness) will begin the week of March 20th for all students in grades 6rd-8th March 30th will be the ISA (Illinois Science Assessment) for 11th grade
- SAT will be held April 12th
- April 13th will be the ISA (Illinois Science Assessment) for 5th & 8th grades
- PSAT for 10th grade will be April 19th
- PSAT for 9th grade will be April 20th

FFA NEWS

Sara Barton, FFA Advisor

The Hartem FFA Chapter is preparing for the busy month of February! From January 29th through February 11th, we will have our annual strawberry sales. Strawberries are \$5/ Quart, \$20.00/ 1/2 Flat, and \$35.00/ Flat. Contact an FFA member or Ms. Barton for more information.

Upcoming dates for February:

*Strawberry Sales: January 29-February 11th

*Chapter Meeting: February 6th in Ms. Barton's room-time to be announced later

*National FFA Week: February 18-25th



JH VOLLEYBALL FUNDRAISER

The Junior High Volleyball Team is hosting a FAT BOYS BBQ supper on Thursday, February 9th from 4:30-6:00. Meal tickets are \$8.00 and include PULLED PORK SANDWICH, BAKED BEANS, COLE SLAW, PEGGY'S PLACE HOMEMADE COOKIE, AND DRINK. Tickets will be sold by all the JHVB players. Tickets can be bought in advance or at the door, carry-outs are available. Thank you for your continued support!

Matthew Stoltzenburg, Athletic Director

The first month of 2023 has seen a lot of basketball and the start of volleyball!

The 7th grade boys' basketball team just finished participating in the Logan County Tournament. Both 7th and 8th grade teams will begin regionals at the end of January / start of February. Coach Spencer and Coach Ferguson are looking for a solid postseason run.

The high school basketball teams are in the second half of their seasons. The boys will have home games on Feb 3, 10, and their Senior Night on the 14th against Midwest Central. Coach Neaville and the varsity team will then start regionals on February 18th. The fr/so team will be in our 70th Annual Frosh Tourney starting on February 25th.

The junior high volleyball teams have begun their season in the Logan County Tournament and hope to continue their success in the month of February. They will have home matches on February 7, 9, 16 and their eighth grade night on the 21st against WLB. They will also have a 7th grade round robin on the 11th and go to the 8th grade tournament in Effingham on the 18th.

Good luck to all our coaches and players. Hopefully all our fans will try to get out and support their hard work!



February 2023

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2 JHVB @ Greenview 6:00 HS Sch Bowl @ MP 5:00	3 <i>Qtr 3 Progress Rpts</i> HSBK vs Illini Bluffs 6:00	4 HSBK @ Greenview 5:00
5	6 JH Chess vs Olympia 4:00 FFA-Chapter Meeting @ Ms. Barton's room- TBA	7 HSBK @ Tremont 5:30 JHVB vs MP 6:00	8 Academic Challenge @ LincolnLand Comm. College	9 JHVB-BBQ Fundraiser Supper @ HS Cafe 4:30- 6:00 JHVB vs Little Flower 6:00 HS Sch Bowl @ Greenview 5:00	10 HSBK vs Ridgeview 6:00 HS Chess-State @ Peoria Civic Center 6:30	11 JHVB @ Plains 7th Grade Round Robin HS Chess-State @ Peoria Civic Center 7:00
12	13 JHVB @ Lutheran 6:00	14 HSBK vs MWC 6:00 *Senior Night* JHVB @ Chiddix 4:30	15	16 HS Sch Bowl @ IC 5:00 JHVB vs Kingsley 6:00	17 11:30 Dismissal SIP Day Parents Night Out @ HS Gym 5:00-8:00	18 JHVB @ Effingham Tourn TBA HSBK-Reg. TBA
19 Nat'l FFA Week!	20 No School JHVB @ Rankin 6:00	21 JHVB vs WLB 6:00 *8th Grade Night*	22 HSBK-Reg. TBA	23 JHVB @ Olympia 5:00 HS Sch Bowl @ Athens 5:00	24 HSBK-Reg. TBA JH Chess-State @ Peoria Civic Center 9:00 Class of 2025 Spaghetti Supper @ HS Cafe 5:00- 7:00	25 HSBK-Host Fresh/Soph Tourn JHVB-7A Reg. TBA JH Chess-State @ Peoria Civic Center 9:00
26	27 <i>Board Mtg. 7:00</i> HSBK-Fresh/Soph Tourn TBA JHVB-7A State TBA	28 HSBK-Sectional TBA JHVB-7A State TBA				

February 2023

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
BREAKFAST MENU	A variety of milk is available every day. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.					
			1 Biscuit w/egg patty Sausage Fruit Apple juice	2 Cinnamon coffee cake Fruit Apple juice	3 Breakfast pizza Fruit Apple juice	4
5	6 Pop tart Fruit Cherry juice	7 GS-Cereal Danish apple claw Fruit Cherry juice	8 Pancakes Sausage patty Fruit Cherry juice	9 Assorted muffins Fruit Cherry juice	10 French toast sticks Sausage links Fruit Cherry juice	11
12	13 Peanut butter and Jelly uncrustable Fruit Orange juice	14 Pancake and sausage on a stick Fruit Orange juice	15 Scrambled eggs Sausage patty Toast Fruit Orange juice	16 GS-Fruit frudel Cinnamon brown sugar oatmeal Toast Fruit Orange juice	17 Mini pancake bites Fruit Orange juice	18
19	20 No School	21 Nutri-grain bar Fruit Apple juice	22 Biscuit with Sausage gravy Fruit Apple juice	23 Assorted cereal Toast Fruit Apple juice	24 Donut Fruit Apple juice	25
26	27 English muffin Fruit Cherry juice	28 Yogurt w/ fruit Toast Cherry juice				

February 2023

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
LUNCH MENU	A variety of milk is available everyday. Chef salad and peanut butter sandwiches are available every day at the high school. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.		1 Hamburger on bun French fries & Carrots Peaches GS-Pumpkin pie/bars JH/HS-Brownie	2 Creamed chicken on biscuit Green beans Pineapple	3 Loaded nachos Cheese sauce Sour cream/salsa Corn Mixed fruit	4
5	6 GS-PB & J Uncrustable Macaroni and cheese JH/HS-Ham horseshoe Carrots Pears	7 Country fried steak Mashed potatoes/gravy Corn Dinner roll Mixed fruit	8 Pig in a blanket Baked beans Cottage cheese Applesauce	9 Sweet & sour popcorn chicken Rice Mixed vegetables Egg roll Mandarin oranges	10 BBQ rib on bun Potato smiles Green beans Peaches	11
12	13 Chicken patty on bun Tater tots Peas Frozen fruit cup	14 Goulash Green beans Breadstick Lettuce salad Peaches	15 Tomato soup or JH/HS-Chicken noodle soup Toasted cheese Fresh veggie Apricots JH/HS-Cookie	16 Sloppy joe on bun Nacho chips/cheese sauce Carrots Pineapple	17 11:30 Dismissal SIP Day	18
19	20 No School	21 Bosco sticks Marinara sauce Peas Peaches Pudding w/ vanilla wafers	22 Pork tenderloin on bun French fries Carrots Pears	23 Chili or JH/HS-Chicken noodle soup Fresh veggies Pineapple Cinnamon roll	24 Chicken tetrazzini Lettuce salad Breadstick Mandarin oranges	25
26	27 Crispito w/cheese sauce Rice Mixed vegetables JH/HS-Refried beans Pineapple	28 Tater tot casserole Green beans Apricots				

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

CLASS OF 2025 SPAGHETTI DINNER

Join the class of 2025 Friday February 24, 2023 for a spaghetti dinner. The dinner will be held at the Jr. High/High School cafeteria from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM with a dine-in or to-go option. The dinner will include spaghetti, garlic bread, and a salad. Students will also be selling baked dessert items for an additional donation. Those wishing to dine in can also enjoy a glass of lemonade or Iced tea with their dinner. Tickets will go on sale for \$10 each February 6, 2023- February 20, 2023. Please see a member of the class of 2025 for more information or to purchase your tickets.

