HARTSBURG-EMDEN CUSD NO. 21
APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Principal's Desk

Ashley Tetter-Rowden, GS Principal

March has been a busy and exciting month at Emden Elementary, filled with meaningful events that celebrated reading, wellness, and student achievement. Our students and staff have been actively engaged in a variety of activities including Read Across America Week, Jump Rope for Heart, Family Reading Night, the Book Fair, and state testing for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. For additional photos and details about these events, please visit our school website or our Facebook page.

We kicked off the month with a wonderful celebration of reading during Read Across America Week. Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to celebrate their love of books through fun dress-up days, flashlight reading, trying new foods, and participating in a variety of engaging literacy activities. It was a joyful week filled with excitement and creativity, and it served as a great way to start the month of March.

On March 13th, we held our schoolwide kickoff for Jump Rope for Heart in the gym. This program encourages students to stay active while learning about heart health and helping others. We are looking forward to seeing the final results and celebrating how our students have worked to become more heart healthy while supporting a great cause.

Our recent Book Fair was also a tremendous success. It is always heartwarming to see the enthusiasm students have when choosing new books to read. Events like this help foster a lifelong love of reading and provide students with opportunities to grow their personal libraries.

Another highlight of the month was our Family Reading Night. A huge thank you goes out to the entire Emden Elementary staff for organizing such a wonderful event. The evening featured a cozy camping theme, with a variety of engaging literacy activities that created a welcoming and fun reading environment for students and their families. It was truly a team effort, and it was wonderful to see so many families enjoying time together while celebrating reading.

As we look ahead, Spring Break will take place from March 30th through April 6th. I hope everyone has a wonderful and restful break and has the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends.

Please stay tuned for more exciting dates and events that will be added to our calendar for April and May. Thank you for your continued support of Emden Elementary and the many opportunities we provide for our students to learn, grow, and thrive.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Elizabeth Hilgert, Student Coordinator/Guidance Counselor

The past two months, we shared the reminder that *you are enough*. This month, we want to build on that message with another important truth: being enough does not mean being perfect.

In today's world, it can feel like there is constant pressure to get everything right—good grades, strong performance, busy schedules, perfect behavior, and polished images on social media. Students may feel discouraged after a low test score, a mistake in class, or a conflict with a friend. Adults can feel the same pressure to keep up, meet expectations, and hold everything together.

But perfection isn't the goal—and it was never meant to be.

Mistakes are a normal and necessary part of learning and growing. In fact, growth rarely happens when everything goes smoothly. It happens when we try something challenging, struggle a little, learn from what didn't work, and try again. Whether it's learning to read, solving a difficult math problem, practicing for a game or performance, or working through a tough situation, progress comes through effort—not perfection.

Being "enough" means your worth doesn't change when you make a mistake. A low grade, a bad day, or a poor choice does not define who you are. What matters most is what happens next—taking responsibility, learning from the experience, and moving forward.

As a school community, we want students to know it is safe to learn, to try, and yes, even to make mistakes. We also encourage families to remind children that effort, persistence, and growth matter more than getting everything right the first time.

If you or your child is feeling discouraged after a setback, take a moment to remember:
Progress doesn't always look like success right away. Sometimes it looks like trying again.

You are enough—not because you are perfect, but because you are growing.

Let's continue to give ourselves and one another patience, grace, and encouragement along the way

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

Freshman Orientation will be held on April 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school computer lab. Current 8th grade students and a parent or guardian are strongly encouraged to attend.

During this meeting, students will have the opportunity to view their 2026–2027 course schedules. We will also provide an overview of graduation requirements, grading policies, and elective course options. In addition, a representative from Heartland Community College will be present to share information about dual credit opportunities available throughout the high school years.

26-27 CLASS SCHEDULES

High school students will have the opportunity to turn in their schedule requests for the 26-27 school year online. Students should be checking with me to determine requirements towards graduation and assistance in choosing the most challenging and appropriate classes for the upcoming year(s). As always, if you have any questions regarding scheduling, grades, state tests, or graduation requirements, please see Ms. Hilgert.

HARTEM ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Ron Spencer, Athletic Director

HS Boys Basketball

The varsity basketball team finished the season in the first round of the regional to Dee-Mack. The JV team finished 1-2 in the Hartem Fr./So. Tournament.

JH Volleyball

The 7th grade volleyball team captured the IESA 7A State Championship with an exciting three-set victory over Ottawa Marquette, 19-25, 25-22, 25-19. Congratulations to our talented players and coaching staff on an outstanding accomplishment finishing as the last team standing in 7A! Our 8th grade team also had an impressive postseason run, winning both their regional and sectional to advance to the state tournament before dropping the Elite 8 game to defending state champion Carrollton St. John. Impressive season, ladies!!

HS Baseball Coop

Games have begun for our HSBB Coop with Illini Central. Devin Aper and Hudson Hoerbert are representing Hartem as members of the coop.

HS Track Coop

We have one high school athlete, Emily
Love competing in the track coop with Illini Central.

JH Track

JH track practice started on March 16th. Their first meet is March 31 at Midwest Central.

Hartsburg-Emden Music Department

Marlee Hafley, JH/HS Music Teacher

Congratulations to the Junior Band students on a great Logan County Band Festival! I am very proud of the hard work each student put in to make this event a success. Thank you for being focused, respectful, and willing to learn. Thank you also to our parents, families, and community for your continued support of the Hartsburg-Emden Music Department. Be sure to watch for the 2027 Logan County Band Festival—we will be the hosting next school year!

The Hartem Spring Band Concert will be on Friday, May 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Hartsburg High School Gymnasium. It will include the 5th Grade Beginning Band and the 6th–12th Grade Hartem Band. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Hafley.

Incoming 5th graders: Information about Instrument Try-Out Night will be shared in April. We are planning for the week of May 11–15, so please keep those dates open

HARTEM Alumni Banquet

Ron Spencer, AD

The 97th Annual Hartsburg-Emden High School Alumni Banquet will begin at 6:30pm on June 13, 2026. This year the banquet will be held at the Community House in Emden, Illinois. The banquet will be catered by the Dovetail Inn. Invitations to the banquet will be sent out in early May. Anyone who does not receive an invitation, but would like to attend the banquet may send a request via email to Ron Spencer at coach_spencer@hotmail.com or you may call/text him at 309-838-0360. Anniversary classes being honored this year include: 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021 and the Senior Class of 2026. Any HARTEM Alumni is welcome to join us! The winner of the "Wall of Fame" award will be selected and announced at the banquet. This year's award will be represented in the category of Athletics. Please mail nomination letters to Ron Spencer, 8923 Blooming Grove Road, Bloomington, IL 61705.

Yearbook

Eric Gardiner

Seniors, and parents of seniors, if you have baby pictures and senior pictures that you would like featured in this year's yearbook, please email copies of those photos to Mr. Gardiner at egardiner@hartem.org

Hartem Lincoln High School Chess Team

Kent Hieronymus, Chess Coach

Hartem Lincoln won the MCICL Conference with a record of 7-2-3 in conference play. Overall the team had a good record of 15-14-3. The High School team consisted of Isaac Doolin, Kamden Pointer, Jacinth Kong, Kennedy McCree, and Eva Sanders.

Spanish 1, 2, 3, and 4

Kent Hieronymus, HS Spanish Teacher

All the Spanish classes will be working on a restaurant dialogue. We are planning on going to El Mazatlan and the students will order in Spanish using what they have learned from their dialogue. This is an annual Spanish Field Trip that is a lot of fun.

APRIL 2026

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thu*	*Fri*	*Sat*
Breakfast Menu			**1** **No School**	**2** **No School**	**3** **No School**	**4**
5	**6** **No School**	**7** **Egg bites** **Toast** **Fruit** **Juice**	**8** **Poptarts** **Fruit** **Juice**	**9** **Pancakes** **Sausage patty** **Fruit** **Juice**	**10** **Assorted cereal** **Toast** **Fruit** **Juice**	**11**
12	**13** **Breakfast cookie** **Fruit** **Juice**	**14** **Frittata omelet** **Toast** **Fruit** **Juice**	**15** **Assorted muffins** **Fruit** **Juice**	**16** **Sausage/egg/cheese on biscuit** **Fruit** **Juice**	**17** **Breakfast pizza bagel** **Fruit** **Juice**	**18**
19	**20** **Pancake on a stick** **Fruit** **Juice**	**21** **Coffee cake** **Fruit** **Juice**	**22** **Waffles** **Sausage patty** **Fruit** **Juice**	**23** **Scramble egg bowl** **Toast** **Fruit** **Juice**	**24** **Donuts** **Fruit** **Juice**	**25**
26	**27** **English muffins** **Fruit** **Juice**	**28** **Yogurt w/strawberries** **Toast** **Fruit** **Juice**	**29** **French toast** **Sausage links** **Fruit** **Juice**	**30** **Fruit frudle** **Fruit** **Juice**		

A variety of milk is available every day. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

APRIL 2026

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thu*	*Fri*	*Sat*
Lunch Menu			**1** **No School**	**2** **No School**	**3** **No School**	**4**
5	**6** **No School**	**7** **Hot dogs** **Bake beans** **Potato smiles** **Mandarin oranges**	**8** **Bosco sticks** **Marinara sauce** **Side salad** **Pears** **Pudding w/vanilla wafers**	**9** **Rice bowl** **Popcorn chicken** **Mixed veggies** **Different sauces** **Egg rolls** **Peaches**	**10** **Sub sandwich** **Pasta salad** **Fresh veggies** **Chips** **Frozen fruit cup** **Cookies**	**11**
12	**13** **JH/HS-Pork tenderloin on bun** **Tater tots** **Green beans** **Pears** **GS-** ***Breakfast for Lunch*** **Mini pancakes** **Sausage links** **Tri-tator** **Yogurt** **Fruit**	**14** **Country fried steaks** **Mashed potatoes w/gravy** **Corn** **Dinner roll** **Peaches**	**15** **BBQ pulled pork on bun** **Cole slaw** **Bake beans** **Corn bread** **Applesauce**	**16** **Italian meatballs w/ or w/o bun** **French fries** **Mandarin oranges** **Orange fluff**	**17** **Chicken fajita** **Lettuce/cheese** **Rice** **Refried beans** **Sour cream/salsa** **Mix fruit**	**18**
19	**20** **Corn dog** **Soft pretzels w/cheese sauce** **Corn** **Peaches**	**21** **Chicken alfredo** **Peas** **Side salad** **Bread sticks** **Pears**	**22** **Loaded mac and cheese** **Peas** **Different meat** **Mix fruit**	**23** **Chicken wings** **French fries** **Ranch/bbq** **Applesauce**	**24** **Quesadilla pizza** **Side salad** **Sour cream/salsa** **Pineapple** **Brownies**	**25**
26	**27** **JH/HS-BBQ rib on bun** **GS-Pork Tenderloin on bun** **Potato smiles** **Carrots** **Pears**	**28** **Popcorn chicken** **Mashed potatoes w/gravy** **Corn** **Peaches**	**29** **Crispitos** **Cheese sauce** **Sour cream/salsa** **Rice** **Mixed veggies** **Refried Beans** **Cake w/strawberries**	**30** **Chicken bacon wrap** **Lettuce/ cheese** **Ranch/bbq** **Chips** **Mandarin oranges**		

A variety of milk is available every day. Chef salad and side salads are available every day at the high school. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

APRIL 2026

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thu*	*Fri*	*Sat*
			1 **No School**	**2** **No School**	**3** **No School**	**4**
5	**6** **No School**	**7**	**8**	**9** **JHTRK @ Pekin Rankin 4:30**	**10**	**11**
12	**13**	**14**	**15** **School Board Meeting 7:00**	**16**	**17** **Sr. Beta Blood Drive @ HS Gym 9am-2pm**	**18** **JHTRK @ Olympia 10:00am**
19	**20** **JHTRK @ Havana 4:00**	**21**	**22** **Freshman Orientation @ HS Computer Lab 6:00**	**23** **Who We Play For Heart Screenings @ HS 9:00am**	**24**	**25** **Grand March @ HS Gym 5:00** **Prom @ Emden Community House 6:30**
26	**27** **JHTRK @ IC 4:00**	**28**	**29** **JHTRK @ LCHS 9:00am**	**30** **JHTRK @ Tremont 4:30**		

Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21
400 West Front Street
Hartsburg, IL 62643

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Hartsburg, IL 62643

*********ECRWSSEDDM****

POSTAL CUSTOMER