

HARTSBURG-EMDEN CUSD NO. 21

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Terry Wisniewski, Superintendent

It is with excitement in the air and the promise of another terrific year, I warmly welcome everyone back to what I'm sure will be another fantastic school year at Hartsburg-Emden!! It is with great joy that we open our doors once again to embark on a continuous educational journey filled with growth, discovery, and endless possibilities. We have missed the smiles, laughter, and the energy students bring to our halls. As we gather together, let us anticipate the adventure that awaits another remarkable year filled with growth.

Hartem remains committed to providing an exceptional education that equips students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in an ever-changing world. Our dedicated team of educators is prepared to challenge and inspire, ensuring that each student reaches their full potential. Together, let us embrace the joy of learning and encourage curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. As Stags, we strive to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and supported. We believe in the power of diversity and the strength it brings to our community. With open hearts and open minds, we encourage kindness, respect, and empathy for one another. Together, we will build a safe and welcoming space that celebrates our unique strengths and differences. Each year a wealth of exciting opportunities awaits our students! From the classroom to extracurricular activities, there is something for every student to explore and broaden their horizons. We will never forget that parents play an integral role in the education of their child, and we value our partnership immensely. Whether through parent-teacher conferences, volunteering in school or extra-curricular activities, or joining our vibrant Hartem Community Club (Parent Teacher Association), your involvement is instrumental in creating a thriving educational community. The health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff are of utmost importance. We have implemented rigorous safety measures and protocols to ensure a secure learning environment. Our committed staff members are trained to address the physical, social, and emotional needs of our students. We believe that a nurturing and supportive environment is essential for academic success, and we are dedicated to providing just that.

We do have a few changes in our staff that I believe will be terrific additions. Mr. David Zastrow is moving from 4th Grade to 5th. Miss JoEllen Westen is returning to the Hartem staff in the 4th Grade position. Mr. Jon Hodel will be our new high school mathematics teacher. Miss Jacy Goodnight will be taking on the role of the Jr./Sr. High School Special Education Teacher with Mr. Wiat Miller as the Jr./Sr. High School Special Education Teacher Aide. Mr. Shane Westen will be the Jr./Sr. High School Physical Education Teacher. Miss Tanya Zerbonia, in addition to teaching Science, will be an Assistant Principal. In the coaching arena, we have Coach John Bell and Coach Jay McAfee working to re-establish our Junior High Baseball Team. Coach Steve Awe will be coaching Junior High Softball with Assistant Coaches Matt Ballance and Josh Riggs. Coach Rase Sherwood will be heading our Varsity Boys' Basketball Team. Assistant Coach Alec Hayes will be helping out with Volleyball. Miss Jacy Goodnight will be taking over our Varsity Girls' Cheerleading with experience in both side cheer and competitive cheer at the college level. I believe these changes/additions will only add to the mission of Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21. "Hartsburg-Emden Community Unit School District provides an empowering and collaborative environment allowing students to reach their full potential."

As we embark on this new school year together, let us embrace the spirit of collaboration, positivity, and growth. We extend a warm welcome to all students and parents, old and new, as we embark on an incredible journey of discovery, friendships, and achievements. We believe that this year will be a remarkable one, filled with endless opportunities for each and every student. After 28 years, I can still say that each and every school year brings a renewed excitement for me. I can't help but look forward to another school year. Welcome back, and let us make this a year to remember!! GO STAGS!!



WELCOME
BACK!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Cory Brown, Principal

It's been quite the summer! Mother Nature really knows how to keep us on our toes with an early drought, Canadian smoke, and lots of storms. I went from not mowing my yard for a month to back to mowing every week. Since I'm writing this, it can only mean one thing: School must be around the corner. As a parent, that is bittersweet because that means my kids will also be back to school. They can get back to the school structure that they do so well in. For me, that means it is time to start getting back into thinking like a Principal. So, with that, we are getting ready for all of our students to return!

I would like to welcome Ms. Tanya Zerbonia to the administrative team. My wife has some health concerns so I'm very grateful for her experience and assistance. I look forward to working with her to make this a great school year! She knows the district very well and brings a strong background for education.

We have a couple weeks before school starts but it's about the right time to get into that frame of mind. If you plan on playing sports this year, summer is a great time to get your sports physicals. They are valid for 1 calendar year so you will only need to get it done once for the entire school year. I always recommend having students start getting into their daily school habits a week or two before school starts. I do this every year because I really think it's that important. It helps the student's circadian sleep patterns and helps the family navigate changes. If your children are taking naps, perhaps consider that change before school. With these longer days, it definitely is a task to get children to sleep before dark so a good dark room will help. Last, if your students may have taken a break from medications, it might be beneficial to start them back before school. Some medications need a week or two to see results so now is a great time to get back into the habit. Don't forget to schedule those doctor appointments now to get the medications started early.

We have a few new teachers with us that I'm excited to have you meet. Our new math teacher is Mr. Jon Hodel. Mr. Hodel will be teaching math and a new science class that we haven't offered before! Our new 4th grade teacher is a familiar face to Hartem. We are excited to have Ms. JoEllen Westen back at Emden Elementary!

Another name you may know is Hartem's very own Shane Westen. He is going to be teaching PE at the High School and Junior High. He looks forward to revamping the curriculum and developing the Strength and Conditioning class. Please welcome Jacy Goodnight to our special education program. She is a recent Monmouth College graduate. She will be bringing her experience as a cheerleader at Monmouth to coach our high school cheerleading team! Assisting her in the classroom is Wiat Miller. He will be the new paraprofessional assisting Ms. Goodnight. Please welcome all our new teaching staff when you see them!

In sports, we have some new coaches, as well. Rase Sherwood will move up from assistant coach to head basketball coach. He brings with him many years of experience and some energy for the team. Coach Awe will be heading up the girls softball team along with Matt Ballance and Josh Riggs as assistant coaches. They are really excited to build both the junior high and high school programs. Last, Coach Bell and Coach McAfee are pumped to bring back junior high baseball. We look forward to seeing the boys of summer grace the fields, again, this year.

Here are some important dates to mark your calendar. August 14th will be Locker decoration night at the Jr/Sr High School. The doors will be open for locker decorating from 4:30 to 6pm. The Grade School Open House will be on 8/15 starting at 5:30. First Day of School is 8/16 with both schools starting at 8:15. 8/16-8/18 will be 2:00 dismissal dates. Junior High Baseball is making its return to Hartem this year. Season opener for baseball is August 9th at the baseball field at 4:30. Softball's first home game will be August 17th at Luther Field at 4:30 against Mount Pulaski. Volleyball's first home game will be September 5th at 6:00 against Lewistown.

I look forward to this year being a great one. This community has a lot of support in many different areas. I thank everyone for their support and enthusiasm for the upcoming year. If you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to me.

WELCOME BACK!

Tanya Zerbonia, Assistant Principal/Dean of Students

Welcome back to a new school year! I always get excited for a new school year and this year is no exception, even after 30 years. I will be taking on more responsibilities here at Hartsburg Emden this year as the Assistant Principal / Dean of Students. As this is a new position, I am determined to figure out the best way to assist Mr. Brown, promote Hartem as well as serve the students. I will still be teaching science classes for the high school and junior high but look forward to spending more time in the elementary classrooms. My goals are to help with executing curriculum and finding a niche for every student. I do hope that everybody has found some time to relax this summer and do some fun things. The start of the school year will be here before you know it, so enjoy the last few days of summer.

LIBRARY NEWS

Nichole Folkman, Librarian

Mrs. Folkman is gearing up for another great year of Illinois Readers' Choice Awards! We are signed up for all age groups and have the books in stock. (Monarch k-2, Bluestem 3-5, Rebecca Caudill 4-8, and Lincoln for teens.) Mrs. Folkman is also proud to announce that **Ashlyn Duvall** was selected to serve on the Teen Reader Panel for the 2025 Lincoln Teen Readers Choice Award! She gets early access to the books that are nominated for the award and will read and discuss them with teens, librarians, and teachers from around the state to narrow the list of 75 down to the final 20 for the list of finalists.

Little Free Libraries in Hartsburg and Emden are now officially registered and appear on the official map. Do you want to find a Little Free Library wherever you are? Check out the website at <https://littlefreelibrary.org/> or download the app. If you want to donate books to the Little Free Libraries or the school libraries, feel free to drop them off at any school during open hours. Just let the office know what they're for and I will get them taken care of!

As has been the tradition the past few years, **free books** will be available at the Jr/ Sr High School Locker Decorating Night and the Grade School Open House. Come and get some great books to start the year off right!

Don't forget that you can sign up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for any child in the district from birth through age 5. Your child gets a free book each month, delivered to your home. If you have a PO box, please make sure to include that address when you sign up. If you live in the district and don't have a Hartsburg or Emden zip code, please simply email Mrs. Folkman. She can manually add you to override. (nfolkman@hartem.org)

Yearbook News

The 2022-2023 yearbook has officially been sent to the printer and is expected to arrive in early September. We also still have vintage yearbooks available for sale. We have limited quantities and limited years, but feel free to email Mrs. Folkman if there is any year you're searching for.

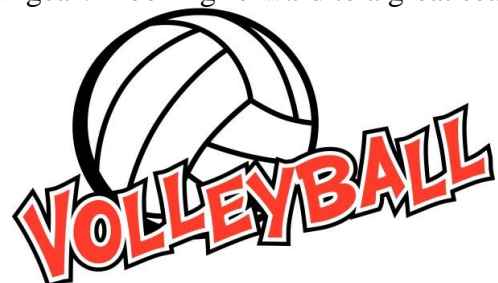
nfolkman@hartem.org

HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Hartsburg-Emden is touched by an extraordinary act of generosity of the family of Bob Detmers who will be dearly missed. Bob Detmers was a retired long-time maintenance person for Hartem School District and his family made a heartfelt donation to honor his memory to Hartsburg-Emden FFA program in which the funds will be used to help provide new classroom furniture to our remodeled FFA classroom. The significant contribution, made in the wake of profound loss, is a testament to the family's unwavering dedication to agricultural education and the Hartsburg-Emden School District. This selfless gesture is a terrific legacy for Bob and will provide enhanced educational opportunities for future generations. With sincere gratitude, Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21 would like to thank the family for their continued support of our District. We wish you comfort in your loss.

HARTEM VOLLEYBALL

Hartem Volleyball will once again be selling gear for all of the wonderful supporters of our program. Be on the lookout for more information and how to get your gear! Looking forward to a great season!



GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Elizabeth Hilgert, Student Coordinator/Guidance Counselor

Welcome back students, faculty, staff, and parents to another school year full of potential. It is hard to believe, but students will return to school in a few weeks.

The beginning of the school year brings out much anxiety for many students. Our students experience so many different transitions. They might be making the big jump from kindergarten to first grade or from fifth grade to middle school. Students might just be transitioning from one grade to the next or even moving around the block to a new house. No matter the transition, we want to make it as smooth as possible, so each child has a successful school experience.

Here are some tips to try to ease the anxieties that come along with some transitions:

- Focus on the Positives: new friends, teachers, and opportunities.
- Make a list. If your student is anxious about moving up, create a two-sided list with your child. On one side, you can include things your child is looking forward to. On the other side, brainstorm things he or she may be anxious about. These lists can start a good conversation and possibly even give your child a chance to reflect on past challenges he or she has overcome.
- Begin preparations early. Help your child phase in adjustments ahead of time. For example, at the beginning of August, start setting bedtime routines earlier to help prepare for the transition back to school.
- Inform the school and consider any situations or special circumstances that might make it more difficult for your child to transition. Don't forget; the school staff wants to help make next year great!

Seniors

It is never too early for seniors to start looking at post-secondary plans. Students can start applying now, depending on the college. College costs are always a big concern, and it is important to start planning now as FAFSA (college financial aid) forms need to be completed as soon as possible—you can begin completing the forms as early as October 1.

Scholarship deadlines will be here before you know it. Some scholarships require considerable information and writing essays, so planning is a good idea. If you want to do the best job, you can; do not wait until the deadline.

HARTEM ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Matthew Stoltzenburg, Athletic Director

This is a reminder to all those who are interested in going out for any sports teams next year that you will need an **updated physical** before participating. PLEASE try to remember to get this taken care of before your season begins. I would highly recommend doing this during the summer months so you'll be good for all of next year.

Enjoy the rest of your summer break!!!



MESSAGE FROM ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The St. Peter's Lutheran Church Brotherhood will be hosting a Pork Chop Supper on Tuesday, August 29th at 6:30 at the church. The cost is donation. Earl and LaDonna Gass will be discussing the Emden Historical Society and Whistlestop Library. We hope to see you there!

AUGUST BREAKFAST/LUNCH PRICES

Student Breakfast \$24.00

Student Reduced Breakfast \$3.60

Student Lunch \$35.40

Student Reduced Lunch \$4.80

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.

AUGUST 2023

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 JHSB @ MWC 4:30	9 JHBB vs CC 4:30	10	11 JHBB @ WLB 4:30	12 Volleyball Car Wash @ 4 Corners 8:30-12:00
13	14 Teacher Institute Locker Decorating Night @ JH/HS 4:30-6:00	15 Teacher Institute JHSB @ St. Agnes 4:30 Open House @ GS 5:30	16 2:00 Dismissal Faculty Mtg JHBB @ Delavan 4:30	17 2:00 Dismissal Faculty Mtg JHSB vs Tri- City 4:30 JHBB @ Decatur Lab School 4:30	18 2:00 Dismissal Faculty Mtg JHBB @ LJHS 4:30	19
20	21 JHSB vs Dee-Mack 4:30	22 JHBB vs CEL 4:30 HSVB-Meet the Stags @ HS Gym 6:00	23	24 JHSB @ Havana 4:30 JHBB @ MWC 4:30 HSVB @ Dee-Mack 5:30	25 JHSB vs Georgetowne 4:30 HSVB @ Spfld Luth Tourn TBA	26 JHBB @ Dee-Mack 10:00 HSVB @ Spfld Luth Tourn TBA
27	28 JHBB @ South Pekin 4:30	29 JHSB vs IC 4:30 *8th Grade Night* JHBB @ Greenview 4:30 HSVB @ Delavan 5:30	30	31 Picture Day @ GS JHSB @ Delavan 4:30 JHBB @ LoCo Tour TBA HSVB @ Princeville 6:00		

AUGUST 2023

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Breakfast Menu		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Pop tart Fruit Juice	17 Assorted cereal Toast Fruit Juice	18 Pancake and Sausage on a stick Fruit Juice	19
20	21 Nutri grain bar Fruit Juice	22 Breakfast cookie Fruit Juice	23 Mini pancake bites Fruit Juice	24 Biscuit w/ Ham Fruit Juice	25 Waffles Sausage patty Fruit Juice	26
27	28 Fruit frudel Fruit Juice	29 Frittata or cheese omelet Toast Fruit Juice	30 English muffin Fruit Juice	31 French toast sticks Sausage link Fruit Juice		

AUGUST 2023

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Lunch Menu		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Quesadilla pizza Lettuce salad Corn Pineapple	17 Sub sandwich Fresh veggies Chips Cottage cheese Applesauce	18 Hot dog on bun Baked beans Pasta salad Mandarin oranges	19
20	21 Bosco sticks Marinara sauce Carrots Mixed fruit	22 Fair Day! Corn dog Vinegar fries Funnel cake Lemonade Frozen Ice	23 Chicken strips Macaroni & cheese Peas Applesauce	24 Pork tenderloin on bun French fries Green beans Pears	25 Chicken fajita Cheese/lettuce/salsa Corn Peaches	26
27	28 BBQ rib on bun Potato smiles Green beans Apricots	29 Chicken patty on bun French fries Carrots Mandarin oranges	30 Toasted ham & cheese Tater tots Cottage cheese Peas Applesauce	31 Loaded nachos w/cheese Sour cream/salsa Corn Pineapple		

Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21
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ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

This is to inform all parents and staff of the status of our schools' asbestos management plan. As required, our buildings were initially inspected for asbestos. Our inspection was conducted on October 16, 1988. The AHERA law requires that a visual surveillance of asbestos containing areas be completed every six months, and a re-inspection conducted every three years. The inspection and management plan is available for public review in the Hartsburg High School office. Please contact Terry Wisniewski with any questions.