

HARTSBURG-EMDEN CUSD NO. 21

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Terry Wisniewski, Superintendent

There is no doubt that schools continue to face the most challenging time in the history of public education in Illinois with this pandemic. As the State continues to keep schools in Phase IV mitigation, our daily routine has not changed since August. It is nice to see some agreements made to bring back athletics to our schools. For those of you, who know me; know I am a proud veteran. I served in the United States Marine Corps as a young man enlisting over 30 years ago. That experience instilled in me a belief in following the rules. I may not agree with all the rules, but I do my best to follow them. The Administration and staff have done a terrific job following the guidelines (to be open) set forth by ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) and IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health). Now that a limited number of fans/spectators are allowed in the building (each athlete is allowed to select a few people to attend on their behalf) for athletic events, we ask that everyone coming into the building to please follow the guidelines, wear masks, and maintain 6' distancing within our buildings (a State requirement). This will help ensure that we can keep our athletic events going and that we will be able to continue allowing fans/spectators to come watch. Reminder, all our athletic events are being streamed live on Facebook thanks to John Robinson, our Business Teacher.

Throughout this pandemic, I think it is important to note the professionalism of our entire staff. Over the last ten (10) years, Hartsburg-Emden has continued to work hard to do what is best to keep our children's education the top priority while tightening our belt financially. The staff at Hartem is truly here for the right reasons . . . our students. I have continued to ask them to keep the focus on our students, not to let drama or outside negative influences determine what happens within their classrooms. Every year I ask for continual growth, positive attitudes, and high expectations. What I can tell you is, the Hartsburg-Emden staff is working through this pandemic and our students (who are doing In-Person Learning) are doing as well academically as in pre-pandemic years. Our plan was designed with a teacher preparation period and remote physical education after students leave, to maximize academic time with our students. On

average, each period is only about 7 minutes less academic time per period as compared to a regular full day. Our teachers have focused on essentials. I would like to personally thank our staff for everything they have done this school year. Our buildings look terrific as well. Thanks to our maintenance crew who have been cleaning and disinfecting daily. We did hire an additional half-time custodian to assist in this task, but everyone still needed to take on extra. As we continue our school year, the Hartsburg-Emden staff is looking forward to building skills and knowledge, reinforce values, and develop a strong sense of self-worth in our school. We must invest our time and energies in our nation's most valuable resource - our children. We look forward to meeting the many challenges our district continues to face and we continue to make Hartsburg-Emden the best place for students to be.

Earlier I mentioned, 'while tightening our belt financially.' We are now in a position where the new \$15.00 minimum wage law will begin to have financial consequences for the district. We sit at \$11.00 minimum wage now and have several employees making close to that minimum wage level. The minimum wage will increase \$1.00 a year for the next 4 years, meaning we are going to need to increase many of our support staff by \$1.00 per hour each year. Along with this, a new minimum Teacher Salary of \$40,000 per year has been established. We are about \$4,500 below \$40,000 and we have 3 years to get to there. What makes this a difficult situation is that the State has given school districts no means to increase their revenues as these two items are implemented. As with all other issues faced by the district, we will meet them head on.

Until next month, stay safe and warm. Spring is almost here.

YEARBOOK NEWS!

If you want to buy the 2021 yearbook, it is \$35 until Spring Break. After that it goes up to \$40 for the remainder of this school year and \$45 next school year. If you're looking for older yearbooks, feel free to contact me as well. We have some select years available and a waitlist if you're looking for books we don't have. (Sometimes people donate older books to the school. As long as the school already has a copy of that year, the book becomes available for the public). We'll have a few extra 2020's, if you would like one let Mrs. Folkman know via email.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Jon Leslie, Principal

The end of our third quarter is quickly approaching which signifies the beginning of the end of year activities. Hopefully the weather breaks and we stay away from the winter pattern.

Starting next month, our students will begin to take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness Tests. The testing period will last approximately 3-4 weeks. I would just like to remind parents that the IAR Tests are for students in grades 3-8. Students will be tested on their proficiency in Reading and Mathematics. I ask you to encourage your child(ren) to take full advantage of this opportunity to demonstrate all they have learned. We want all of our students to do their best! Our high school students will take part in either the PSAT or SAT during the spring. Information will come home to families. Testing can be a stressful time for students. On test days, make sure they get a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. The teachers have a lot of confidence in our students and are hoping for positive results.

We will very soon begin the process of the 5Essentials Survey. This survey is designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of your child's school. As a parent, this opportunity will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about your child's school. You will receive information explaining the process. Please take part in this very important opportunity to give feedback to our District. Some students will also be taking part in this anonymous survey. Parents of those students will also be receiving information explaining this along with opt out instructions if parents so choose to not have their child(ren) take part in the survey.

February was a very busy month here at Hartem. Our high school chess team competed in the state tournament and placed 6th in the Class A Division. We have also been competing in Jr. High and High School Basketball and Jr. High Volleyball. High School Volleyball will begin competing in a few weeks and our Spring sports will start in April. On a personal level, I am so excited to see our students competing again. It has brought a little bit of normalcy back to the school year. I appreciate everything our community has done to help keep our kids safe. I encourage you to continue to do so.

We all want our kids in school with the opportunity to take part in as many extracurricular activities as possible.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Matt Stoltzenburg, Athletic Director

March Madness is here, which means plenty of basketball and hopefully some spring weather. Coach Wright, Coach Wolpert and the boys will continue with their regular season matchups. There is no post season this year. Also, the **Annual Hartsburg-Emden Fresh/Soph Tournament** has been cancelled.

Coach Hayes and the junior high girls will be participating in postseason play. The 7th grade regional is the first week of March and the 8th grade regional will be the second week. Sectionals will follow, but no state. Coach Hayes and the high school girls will then begin their spring volleyball season. Our first home match is on 3/22 vs Greenview. We will be streaming home matches on Facebook.

Looking ahead, we will have junior high track, high school track, high school baseball, high school softball, and bass fishing to finish out the year.

SPANISH CLASSES

We have been concentrating on grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary during the year. These areas were emphasized because of the pandemic. We wanted to be sure that the classes had all the grammar and vocabulary necessary to move on to the next level. We are happy to report that the classes have progressed very well and are almost finished with the required grammar.

In all the Spanish classes, we will now be putting more emphasis on Spanish conversation and writing using what we have learned. Examples of this is in Spanish 1, the students made a google slide family tree presentation. In Spanish 2, the students wrote a 150 word story in Spanish using the preterite and imperfect tenses. In Spanish 3 and 4 we have been conversing in Spanish and writing sentences practicing each of the various tenses. Spanish 3 and 4 just finished a unit on the subjunctive which is a very important part of everyday life and is necessary in advanced Spanish classes.

HARTEM CHESS TEAMS

The Hartem High School Chess team had an extremely successful year. The team won 8 games in a very competitive league. We are the smallest school by far in IHSA chess. In league we finished ahead of Lincoln, Olympia and Central Catholic. We played remotely in the IHSA state tournament on Feb. 12 and Feb. 13. The team did very well. We beat McHenry and Bartonville Limestone and barely lost to Bismarck-Henning. We did not get shut out in any match! We had ten players competing. Violet Merz and Noah Doolin won 3 games. Will Wisniewski won 2.5 games. Grace Doolin, Faith Sanders, Dani Phillips, Ashlyn Duvall, Garrett Hopkins, Will Wright and Jonathan Wright all participated and added to our victories. We are excited for next year as we had no seniors this year and mostly had sophomore and freshmen playing varsity boards. Next year will get even stronger as they get older and the good eighth graders will be freshmen next year. The Jr. High Chess team had a good year this year. They defeated Olympia Middle School twice remotely. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, the IESA did not hold the state chess tournament for Jr. High this year. Jonah Robison, Logan Palladini, Gabby Duvall, Carson Zinser, and Micah Robison led the team.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Amanda Feltes, District Guidance Counselor

The spring semester is well underway and, though it's hard to believe, we will be entering the 4th quarter of the school year this month. It has been another challenging year for students and staff. I want to remind students that I am here to support you. I encourage any student who is struggling with a class, peers, personal issue, etc. to visit the counseling office to make an appointment with me. I'm happy to help you find solutions to your problem.

This is a busy time of year in schools. High school students will be selecting their schedules for the 21-22 school year this month. Selecting appropriate classes is an important task. If you have questions about what classes your child should be taking in the next year, please contact me. You can also view a list of classes and course descriptions on my website (hartemcounseling.weebly.com). March also marks the start of testing season for schools. Testing for the **Illinois Assessment of Readiness** (formerly PARCC) will begin on March 15th. Students in 3rd-

8th grade will be participating in IAR testing. Additionally, students in 5th grade, 8th grade, and 11th grade will take the **Illinois Science Assessment**. Students in 11th grade will also be required to take the **SAT** on April 13th. This will be administered off-site again this year at the Hartsburg Legion. Please keep an eye out for more information about the test day. Illinois has mandated that all students in 9th and 10th grade must take the PSAT in April. More details about PSAT test dates will be sent later this month. Students can prepare for the PSAT and/or SAT by accessing practice materials at <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat> or www.collegeboard.org. If you have any questions about any of the mandatory standardized tests, please don't hesitate to reach out. Finally, seniors are reminded to check the counseling webpage weekly as many new scholarship applications continue to arrive! Several local scholarships set deadlines during the spring semester. Don't miss out on an opportunity to gain some financial assistance for college. As always, if you have any questions regarding scheduling, grades, or graduation requirements, please see your counselor. Best of luck in this final stretch of the year!

LIBRARY NEWS

Nichole Folkman, District Librarian

Little Free Libraries-This spring, we will install two Little Free Libraries- one in each village. These large wooden boxes filled with books will have everything from board books to adult books. There is no check out system, these are based on the honor system. You borrow a book you want to read and then return it whenever you are finished. If you would also like to donate books to be in the Little Free Libraries, you can add them, if they are in good condition. If you want them to be stamped as belonging to the Little Free Library, you can drop them off at either school and I will stamp them and distribute them to the libraries. As this program grows, I'd like to install a second one per village (so there's one on each side of the railroad tracks/ highway) and would also really love to have two rural boxes as well. If you're interested in helping to build one, please let me know (nfolkman@hartem.org.) I do have money from a grant that can help to pay for your materials and labor.

Donations-*Let Me Hear a Rhyme* by Tiffany D. Jackson in honor of Meg Meeker and Dennis Baer *Fry Bread* by Kevin Noble Maillard in honor of Keon Rohlfs

MARCH

2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

**All events and activities are subject to change
during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.**

	1 No School	2 Class of 2022 Drive- Thru Chicken Dinner 4:00-5:30 JHBK @ IC 6:00 HSBK vs MP 6:00	3 JHVB vs MP 4:30	4 JHBK vs WLB 6:00 *8 th Grade Night* JHVB @ Kingsley 4:30	5 HSBK vs MWC 6:00 JHVB @ IC 6:00	6 Sons of the American Legion Sausage Sale @ Comm. House 1pm-5pm
7 Sons of the American Legion Sausage Sale @ Comm. House 8am-12pm	8	9 JHBK @ LJHS 4:30 HSBK @ Delavan 5:00	10	11 JHBK @ MP 6:00 HSBK @ Athens 6:00	12 <i>Qtr 3 Rpt. Cards</i> HSBK @ IC 6:00	13
14	15 <i>Board Mtg 7:00</i>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 HSVB vs Greenview 6:00	23 HSVB @ W-L 6:00	24	25	26	27
28	29 Preschool Screening @ GS 2:00-6:00 HSVB @ MP 6:00	30	31			

MARCH

2021

<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 No School	2 French toast Applesauce Apple juice	3 Peanut Butter & Jelly Jamwich Pears Apple juice	4 Yogurt parfait Apricots Apple juice	5 Assorted cereal Peaches Apple juice	6	
7	8 Frittata Applesauce Orange juice	9 Chicken slider on biscuit Mandarin oranges Orange juice	10 Cereal bar Pears Orange juice	11 Pancake & sausage on a stick Mixed fruit Orange juice	12 Warm breakfast bar Peaches Orange juice	13	
14	15 Bagel w/cream cheese Applesauce Apple juice	16 Fruit frudel Mandarin oranges Apple juice	17 Breakfast pizza Peaches Apple juice	18 Pancakes Mixed fruit Apple juice	19 Donut Pears Apple juice	20	
21	22 Egg patty Toast Pineapple Orange juice	23 Waffles Pears Orange juice	24 Pop tart Mixed fruit Orange juice	25 Muffins Peaches Orange juice	26 Nutri-grain bar Applesauce Orange juice	27	
28	29 Pancake and sausage on a stick Apricots Apple juice	30 French toast Mixed fruit Apple juice	31 Assorted cereal Pears Apple juice				

MARCH**2021***Sun**Mon**Tue**Wed**Thu**Fri**Sat***Lunch Menu**

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.

	1 No School	2 Pork tenderloin on bun Peas Applesauce Graham cracker	3 Chicken fajita Lettuce/salsa Corn Pears Cookie	4 Meatloaf Baked potato Green beans Apricots	5 Pizza Lettuce salad Peaches Pudding	6
7	8 Crispito w/cheese sauce Broccoli Bread Mixed fruit	9 BBQ chicken on bun Tater tots Peas Peaches	10 Spaghetti w/meat sauce Breadstick Green beans Pineapple	11 Deli turkey & cheese wrap Sun chips Mixed vegetables Applesauce	12 Cheesy breadstick Marinara sauce Corn Pears Rice crispy treat	13
14	15 Chicken nuggets Macaroni & cheese Green beans Applesauce	16 Pig in a blanket Baked beans Lettuce salad Mandarin oranges	17 Chicken alfredo Breadstick Green beans Pineapple	18 Nacho supreme Shredded lettuce Refried beans w/nacho chips Corn Mixed fruit	19 Fish filet on bun French fries Lettuce salad Strawberries	20
21	22 Chicken patty on bun Green beans Sun chips Pineapple	23 Chili w/crackers Carrot/celery sticks Pears Cinnamon roll	24 Cheese quesadilla pizza Salsa Corn Lettuce salad Mixed fruit	25 Chicken and noodles Mixed vegetables Bread Peaches Jello	26 Assorted sandwiches Tri tater Cooked carrots Applesauce	27
28	29 Grilled chicken wrap Lettuce salad Corn Apricots Presidential crackers	30 Country fried steak Mashed potatoes White gravy Green beans Mixed fruit Roll	31 Hot dog/Chili dog on bun Tater tots Pears Vanilla wafers			

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FFA NEWS

The Hartem FFA Chapter did their presale for strawberries in February. They will arrive at the school in the middle of March. There will be plenty extra so come buy some! Prices are \$4/ Quart, \$16.00/ 1/2 Flat, and \$28.00/ Flat. Contact an FFA member or Ms. Barton by email at sbarton@hartem.org for more information.

AMERICANISM ESSAY WINNERS

The Emden American Legion Auxiliary Unit #506 would like to thank Mr. Gardiner and his 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students for their participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's essay subject and title was "How to Promote Old Fashioned Patriotism While Recognizing Where We Have Fallen Short".

We appreciate the thoughts and essays of all 24 students who submitted essays! We would like to recognize the following winners: from 9th and 10th grades, first place, Camden Groth; second place, Evan Cross; and third place, Noah Doolin; and from 11th grade, first place, Grace Doolin; second place, Gentri Fangmeier; and third place, Avah Classen. Congratulations Writers! All winners received cash awards and the first place essays will advance to the District level contest.