

HARTSBURG-EMDEN CUSD NO. 21

JANUARY 2022 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 and will bring the greatest sorrow/grief as well. 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). We are always available to you. I encourage everyone to be open to the idea of reaching out to our teachers/staff. Our staff is here for service. There is a strong belief in giving every student the tools necessary to be successful in life. We do our best to provide positive relationships with our kids to meet that goal. Having positive relationships are important because they help children develop independence, self-esteem, and well-being. 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. The strongest driver of low well-being is where children experience weak, uncaring (even negative) relationships. It is also important that we have high standards and high expectations for our kids. I believe we have to show students the learning targets and test them on those learning standards. When students have positive relationships and have high expectations that are shown to them, they are more capable of meeting those expectations.

I am also a firm believer that every student should have effective skills of critical thinking and problem-solving. The critical thinking skill seems to be more important today than when I was a child. The internet 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.

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. Especially as we continue to work through this pandemic which has created much social, emotional, and economic challenges for many people. 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Hartem Post Prom Trivia Night will be Saturday, February 26th at the Emden Community House 7:00. Get your teams ready and fill out the flier found in this newsletter!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Cory Brown, Principal

Hello Hartem Families!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! We have finished the first semester and are heading into the 2nd semester. If the second semester is anything like the first semester, then it will go in a hurry, too. I think that this semester was a successful one for our students and I look forward to helping make 2021-2022 another productive year.

The Junior High School Basketball team and the High School Basketball team have started their seasons. The Junior High basketball post season will start at the end of January. Junior High Volleyball looks to start competition in January. Chess and Scholastic Bowl will also be competing in January. Take a look at the calendar to check out these great activities.

For the month of December, the Students of the Month were Leah Sutton and Sadie Williams. Mr. McNeil has been very impressed by Leah's commitment to learning and said that her hard work in Math has paid off. Teachers had this to say about Sadie. "Sadie is very well prepared and does excellent work. Sadie works well with her classmates and is well respected by them. She has a great sense of humor." 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 17th, is a non-attendance day in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Day. Wednesday, January 26th, will be an 11:30 dismissal for a school improvement day.

Teachers have been taking inventory of students' needs in case we would take a remote learning day for weather. If weather conditions would cause travel to school to be dangerous, we would like to continue learning at home to prevent learning loss. I am collecting information from teachers so that we can prepare to send technology with students if the possibility of harsh weather could prevent travel to school. The long term forecast models that I have seen predict a warmer than normal winter. Hopefully, this scenario will not play out.

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.



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Matthew Stoltzenburg, Athletic Director

Happy New Year from the Hartsburg-Emden athletic department.

Coach Whitted, Coach Ferguson, and the junior high basketball teams are looking at the second half and postseason part of their schedules. Eighth grade night will be on January 11th against Limestone Walters. The boys will be in the Logan County Tournaments at Lincoln College on January 8, 13, 15, and 20. Schedules will be out soon. The 7th grade regional will start on the 22nd and the 8th grade will start on the 29th.

Coach Wright, new assistant Matthew Neaville, and the high school basketball teams are in the Decatur St. Teresa Christmas tournament on Dec 21, 22, 27, and 28. They will begin the new year at home on January 4.

Moving forward, the junior high volleyball team will begin play in January with their first home game on the 20th.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Amanda Feltes, Guidance Counselor

Under a new law – effective Jan 1, 2022 – students will be allowed to take up to 5 excused mental health days. So, what does it mean to take a mental health day? A mental health day should be used to take time to rest and recharge. But, it can be hard to determine when it is best to allow a mental health day for your child. The Child Mind Institute has a great article about when a student should and shouldn't take mental health days (childmind.org/article/should-kids-take-mental-health-days). I encourage all parents to read the full article.

It is important to ensure that mental health days are intentional. If the reason a student wants to take a mental health day is to catch up on missing assignments, delay a big test, or avoid an anxious situation, then a mental health day may not be the best decision. Students can benefit from pushing through and learning coping skills by facing those tough situations. However, if a student is drained, overwhelmed, or has had a tough week, a mental health day may be warranted. Mental health days should be used to practice self-care.

Some mental health day activities could look like:

- Taking a walk outside, or spending time in nature
- Baking, drawing, painting or other activities that your child finds calming
- Taking some time to practice mindfulness activities
- Exercising
- Listening to music or reading a book (or listening to an audiobook)

Please also remember that a mental health day is just that- one day. Set clear boundaries and limits for taking mental health days. Under the new law, if students take more than one mental health day in a row, school counselors will need to reach out to families to determine if a counseling referral is necessary. As always, if there are ongoing concerns please don't hesitate to reach out to me for resources.

NAEP Assessment

The 4th grade students will be required to take the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in February 2022. An informational letter will be sent home this month to give families more details about the assessment and the test date.

Please keep an eye out for this letter to come home with your child. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

LIBRARY NEWS

Nichole Folkman, Librarian

Little Free Libraries

Have you noticed the brightly painted boxes outside each school? These are Little Free Libraries! How they work is that they have books in them that you and anyone can borrow at any time. They are books for ALL ages. Do you need to return the book? If you love the book and want to keep it and read it over and over, feel free! Do you have a book you want to put in the library? Go ahead! I refresh the books in the libraries about once a week, so check back for new books! There is also a Little Free Library behind Prairieland Christian Church that has been there for a while. Please feel free to borrow books from any of these boxes at any time. I want everyone to be able to have access to books. The best way to help raise a child that reads is for them to have access to books and for them to see adults in their lives reading. Enjoy!

Donations

Speak Up by Jared Peters- donated by Ron Spencer
Dear Evan Hansen by Val Emmich, et al in honor of Zachariah Griffieth donated by Mrs. Folkman

Grant

Mrs. Folkman earned a \$750 grant from PNC Bank for books for the 6-12 library. There is a form on the library Google Classroom where students can request books or topics to be covered by this grant.

HARTEM CHESS FUNDRAISER 01/12/2022

The Hartem High School and Jr. High Chess teams are going to have a fundraiser at the Country Aire Restaurant in Atlanta, IL on Jan. 12, 2022 from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Ten percent of the sales that night will go to the Chess Team to help with expenses of travel and equipment. That night is All You Can Eat Chicken night! For \$8.99 you get all the chicken you can eat, salad, soup, or other side dish, choice of potato, vegetable, and ice cream! The chicken is broasted and delicious. The rest of the menu will be served also. Please come over to Atlanta and support your Hartem Stags Chess.

HARTEM TRANSPORTATION DEPT.

Hartsburg-Emden is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful environment while transporting all students to and from school. Each year, all students receive a review of the rules for riding the school bus and conduct evacuation drills so we are prepared in case of an accident. Due to some recent safety concerns, we would like to remind everyone that school bus safety is everyone's responsibility. We ask that everyone be careful around school buses, slow down, be aware, and yield the right-of-way to the school bus.

Whenever you approach a school bus from any direction, which has stopped to pick up or let off children while operating its flashing red lights, you must stop your vehicle at least 25 feet from the rear of the school bus and 20 feet from the front. The only time you do not have to stop is when you are on the other side of a divided highway. You must remain stopped at those distances until the flashing red lights are no longer operating, which is when the children are in their seats and the bus driver is confident he/she can safely begin driving again. Again, please remain stopped until all persons are clear, the lights are off, and the bus begins to move again.

On unmarked narrow roads, it is best to avoid passing a school bus. Please keep your distance when following a school bus. If you travel close, the driver will not be able to see you in the mirrors. Keep in mind that school buses often require wider turns and often take up larger portions of intersections. Our drivers attend annual refresher courses and want to provide the safest and most reliable means for your children to get to school. However, we need everyone's help to accomplish that goal.

POST PROM COUNTRY FRIED STEAK MEAL

Take Out, Dine In, or

Delivery (Hartsburg and Emden Only)

Hartem Post Prom is serving a homemade country fried steak meal at the home volleyball game scheduled for January 24, 2022. We will be serving at the high school cafeteria beginning at 4:30. The menu will consist of country fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, and a roll for \$10.00. We will serve from 4:30 - 6:30. Please contact a Junior class parent if you are interested in a ticket. We will also deliver to Hartsburg and Emden if you are interested. Call Nora Phillips at (217)871-1910 or Melodye Crabtree at (217)671-8687 if you have any questions, would like tickets, or want to set up a delivery. Thank you for supporting Post Prom!

HARTEM POST PROM QUILT RAFFLE

Hartem Post Prom will be raffling off a quilt created and designed by Kate Schmitgall to support Post Prom this year! We will be selling raffle tickets at the home junior high volleyball, junior high basketball, and high school basketball games beginning in January! The raffle tickets are \$2.50 per entry and 5 entries for \$10.00. We will draw for the winner of the quilt at the last home junior high volleyball game scheduled for February 24, 2022! If you are unable to buy any chances at a home sporting event, but would like to enter, please call Nora Phillips at (217) 871-1910 and she will help you out. Good luck and thank you for supporting Post Prom!





STATE WAIVER FOR REMOTE LEARNING ON EMERGENCY/SNOW DAYS

For the next three school years, starting with this one, Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 applied for a State Waiver that allows us to use Remote Learning in place of Emergency/Snow Days. This waiver only allows us to use up to five (5) days this way. The State began allowing this about 4 years ago. The process required a Remote Learning Plan (a.k.a. e-learning plan) to be approved by the State. Initially, I personally did not think this was a good fit for our district. I felt there were several steps that needed to happen before we could implement such a task. Preparation of students, training of staff, and technology availability were my biggest concerns. My recommendation to the Board was to continue to make up Emergency/Snow Days, not to use the e-learning days, until I felt we were prepared to do it effectively. Then the pandemic hit us 21 months ago and we had to drop everything and learn Remote Learning quickly.

Last year we received about \$45,000 in a federal Grant to assist with Remote Learning. Our staff received training, and we purchased some much needed technology. We are in a much better position now in providing learning on days we anticipate we could be out due to weather. Again, the State requires us to schedule five (5) emergency days a year. If you do not use them, you can get out five (5) days early. The use of e-learning days will

also allow the 5 scheduled emergency days not to be used. But more importantly, it allows us to have a more continuous flow of educating our students. Many times, it seems we need to use an extra day to catch up after a snow day. By using Remote Learning, we can continue to move forward with content and not miss a beat. My point is that I believe we are now in a good position to use Remote Learning on Emergency/Snow Days effectively.

At the end of last school year, I consulted with teachers and the School Board. I got direction and agreement to move forward with the application and the plan for the Remote Learning Waiver. The waiver was approved by the State. With that said, my intentions are to use Remote Learning Days in situations where I can anticipate and we are prepared for a day off. We still have several students who might need materials (books, worksheets, etc.) or technology (Chromebook/hotspot/etc.) at home to make the best of the day. I want everyone to have what he or she needs to get the most of the day. So, if I anticipate bad weather and we can send students home with needed materials (as a precaution) and teachers/students are aware we could be having a Remote Learning Day (and I believe it can be a productive day for learning), I will call a Remote Learning Day in place of a Snow Day. To the contrary, if we have an emergency day which I could not anticipate and we are not prepared for (catches us by surprise), I will call for an Emergency/Snow Day. Remote Learning Days will not happen and we will need to make up the Emergency/Snow Day at the end of the year.

I believe the best use of a Remote Learning Day for the Emergency/Snow Day is in this case we are prepared. I do not wish to sacrifice a day of education just so we do not have to make it up at the end of the school year. I do believe our teachers and students can benefit from a well prepared day of learning that allows us to keep the continuity of learning going. We are in the position to benefit from a new practice. Thanks the staff for putting in their best effort for Remote Learning last school year. I ask parents/guardians to be prepared this winter in case we call a Remote Learning Day on a closure of school. Again, it will likely be on days we are anticipating snow, ice, or extreme cold. I thank you for your support. If you have any thoughts, questions, or concerns, I am always available.

JANUARY

2022

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2	3 Teacher Institute	4 JHBK @ Greenview 6:00 HSBK vs Athens 6:00	5	6 JHBK @ WLB 5:30 Chess vs Olympia 5:00	7 HSBK @ Mt. Pulaski 6:00	8 JHBK-7 th Lo Co Tourn @ LC TBA HSBK @ Carl Sandburg Shootout TBA Chess @ TBA 9:00
9	10 JHBK vs Cornerstone Christian Acad. 6:00 JHVB-7 th Lo Co Tourn @ Delavan TBA	11 JHBK vs Limestone Walters 6:00 *8 th Grade Night* HSBK @ Havana 6:00	12 JHVB-7 th Lo Co Tourn @ Delavan TBA Chess Fundraiser @ Country Aire 6:00- 8:00	13 JHBK-7 th Lo Co Tourn @ LC TBA JHVB @ Delavan 6:00	14 HSBK vs Lewistown 6:00	15 JHBK-8 th Lo Co Tourn @ LC TBA
16	17 NO SCHOOL JHVB-Host 8 th Lo Co Tourn TBA	18	19 JHVB-Host 8 th Lo Co Tourn TBA	20 JHBK-8 th Lo Co Tourn @ LC TBA JHVB vs IC 6:00 HS Sch Bowl @ MP 5:00	21	22 JHBK-7A Reg. TBA HSBK @ Cornerstone Christian Acad. 2:00 JHVB @ IC Round Robin 8:00
23	24 <i>Board Mtg. 7:00</i> JHBK-7A Reg. TBA Post Prom Country Fried Steak Meal @ HS Café 4:30-6:30 JHVB vs Limestone Walters 6:00 HSBK @ Edinburg (JV) 6:00	25 HSBK vs W-L 6:00 JHVB @ CEL 4:00	26 11:30 Dismissal SIP Day	27 JHBK-7A Reg. TBA JHVB vs Bloomington JH 6:00 HS Sch Bowl @ Delavan 5:00	28 HSBK @ Tri-City 6:00	29 JHBK-8A Reg. TBA JHVB @ MP 8A Tourn TBA Chess-Sect TBA
30	31 JHBK-8A Reg. TBA JHVB @ Dee-Mack 4:30					

JANUARY

2022

<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
2	3 Teacher Institute	4 Nutri-grain bar Mixed fruit Orange juice	5 Pancakes Sausage patty Peaches Orange juice	6 Breakfast pizza Pineapple Orange juice	7 Assorted cereal Toast Pears Orange juice	8
9	10 Pop tart Peaches Apple juice	11 French toast sticks Sausage links Pears Apple juice	12 Biscuit with egg patty Sausage patty Pineapple Apple juice	13 Yogurt Strawberries Mixed fruit Apple juice	14 Fruit frudel Peaches Apple juice	15
16	17 NO SCHOOL	18 Pancake and sausage On a stick Pineapple Cherry juice	19 Assorted muffins Applesauce Cherry juice	20 Waffles Sausage links Pears Cherry juice	21 English muffin Peaches Cherry juice	22
23	24 Warm breakfast bar Mixed fruit Orange juice	25 Sausage patty Tri tater Toast Peaches Orange juice	26 Cheese omelet Toast Applesauce Orange juice	27 Biscuit with Sausage gravy Pears Orange juice	28 Donut Pineapple Orange juice	29
30	31 Unrustable Pears Apple juice					

JANUARY

2022

<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 every day. Chef salad and side salads are available every day at the high school. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.					1
2	3 Teacher Institute	4 Corn dog Soft pretzels Peas Peaches Italian ice	5 Chicken fajita Lettuce, cheese and salsa Lettuce Corn Pineapple	6 Tomato soup or Chicken noodle soup Toasted cheese sandwich Applesauce Cookie	7 BBQ pulled pork on bun Baked beans Cole slaw Mixed fruit	8
9	10 Nacho supreme Lettuce, cheese and salsa Corn Mandarin oranges	11 Salisbury steak Mashed potatoes Peaches Rice krispy treat	12 Cream chicken on biscuit Green beans Pineapple	13 Pork tenderloin on bun French fries Carrots Cake w/strawberries	14 Chicken strips Macaroni & cheese Peas Cottage cheese Applesauce	15
16	17 NO SCHOOL	18 Bosco stick Marinara sauce Carrots Mandarin oranges	19 Popcorn chicken bowl Mashed potatoes w/gravy Corn Mixed fruit	20 Hamburger on bun French fries Peas Pineapple	21 Goulash Breadstick Green beans Lettuce salad Peaches	22
23	24 Sloppy joe on bun Nacho chips w/cheese Carrots Pears	25 Country fried steak Mashed potatoes Gravy Corn Peaches	26 11:30 Dismissal SIP Day	27 Chicken alfredo Breadstick Peas Applesauce	28 Quesadilla pizza Lettuce salad Corn Pineapple	29
30	31 Chicken patty on bun French fries Green beans Peaches					

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