

HARTSBURG-EMDEN CUSD NO. 21

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S DESK

Terry Wisniewski, Superintendent

The school budget includes several funds: education, maintenance, transportation, working cash, debt service, capital project, social security/municipal retirement, tort, and health life safety are the funds for school districts. The Superintendent assumes responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of this budget. The budget is the primary vehicle for financial planning and the result of operational costs for Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21.

District Background

First, I would like to show you where we have been from 1998 through 2023 (the past 25 years). Some years were deficit spending and others were surplus. We had several years of deficit spending causing our fund balances to drop to closer to \$1 million in reserves. FY13 is a little misleading, as about 3 years of withheld windmill farm money were given to the district all at once that year. The Education Fund is the largest of all funds with about two-thirds of all expenditures coming from that fund (about \$2 million). In FY13, we ran about a \$450,000 deficit in that fund reducing it to a critical point. We have since recovered and now have over 80% of the expenditures in reserves, and anything over 60% is considered good standing.

	FY98	FY03	FY08	FY13	FY18	FY23
Revenues	\$2,195,006	\$2,593,516	\$2,579,391	\$3,318,581	\$2,961,789	\$3,247,338
Expenditures	\$2,555,555	\$2,669,702	\$2,989,795	\$3,393,677	\$2,681,099	\$3,186,466
Deficit/Surplus	-\$360,549	-\$76,186	-\$410,404	-\$75,096	\$280,690	\$60,872
Education Fund Balances	\$1,052,665	\$1,175,057	\$501,416	\$67,742	\$659,642	\$1,769,808
Total Fund Balances	\$1,884,275	\$2,186,161	\$1,205,519	\$1,121,108	\$2,469,603	\$3,859,075
Tax Rate	5.40%	5.32%	5.57%	5.31%	4.98%	4.99%

Several notes:

We have the largest fund balances in over 25 years. We are doing it with the lowest tax rates in over 25 years. We are running the longest stretch without a deficit in over 25 years (9 years now). Expenditures have been held in check for the past 10 years while revenues had some time to catch up with those expenditures. We did this while improving our academic ranking compared to other area schools.

However, we have begun the process of transitioning to the new minimum wage (\$15 per hour) and minimum teachers’ salary (\$40,000 per year). We have been able to maintain our expenditures by

using additional dollars we received from the ARP (America Rescue Plan) also known as ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) Grant. In addition, we purchased some air purification filtering systems to put in classrooms in the lower levels at the grade school and the rooms at the Jr/Sr. High School that don’t have windows to improve the air quality. We have used these funds very wisely, however, it is important to note that these additional funds will run out in FY24. In addition, School Social Workers and School Resource Officers can now be paid from the 1% sales tax dollars, because they address health life safety and voters of Logan County passed a referendum allowing it.

Speaking of the 1% sales tax dollars, the district has used these funds over the past several years to complete tuck-pointing (about 85% of both buildings). We have replaced close to 1,000 bricks, fixed cracked or missing mortar joints, and sealed it so it will last a long time. About 85% of both buildings have roofs redone and are now under warranty. We also did a complete renovation of the Jr./Sr. High School boiler which was over 50 years old and not functioning correctly. We did this work a little at the time over the past 10 years. We have saved about \$400 thousand in the capital projects fund while taking care of some of our needs. The district has decided to use these funds for a couple of upgrades to our school facilities. The first is our Agricultural Shop. We are going to do a remodel and add an addition specifically for our welding and small engine repair classes. This will modernize space and allow us to bring our Ag curriculum up to modern standards. The second project is going to be our playground at the grade school. Again, we are going to remove some old pieces of equipment, refinish some of the other pieces of equipment that has paint chipped off, and add a few new pieces of equipment. The goal is to have a fun/safe area for our students to play and exercise. The aim is to perform these upgrades using the funds we have been saving for the past several years through the 1% sales tax. We believe we have enough money to accomplish our goals while maintaining our strong financial position for educational purposes, thus, not increasing our tax rate.

We have steadily increased our technology. With the help of recent grants, Hartsburg-Emden will officially be “one-to-one”. This means we will have more than one (1) technology device for every

student in the district. We will soon be checking out to every Freshman through Senior a Chromebook, which was a requirement of the grant I received to get the Chromebooks. These Chromebooks will be just like textbooks, they will be checked out to students and returned at the end of the school year. Students will be responsible for caring for them and making sure they are charged. The rest of the grade levels will have devices here at the school for their use. Kindergarten and 1st Grade will have new iPad 4 slims and applications to support reading and math. All other grade levels will have use of Chromebooks in the rooms. In addition, we have a classroom set of Dell Laptop Computers at the Jr./Sr. High School in case students need access to Windows or Microsoft documents. Each building will still have a computer lab with desktop computers, monitors, and keyboards. This past year, we began transitioning from Smart Boards/Promethean Boards (older technology that has projectors) to Frontline Boards that use high definition screens (60"- 70") with a built in computer. The Grade School has all classrooms with Frontline Boards and the Jr./Sr. High School has about half the rooms with them. 95% of this was possible with the use of grant dollars.

In summary, Hartsburg-Emden is in a strong position both financially and educationally (with up-to-date technology). We remain committed to working within our means while transforming our school into a great learning center focused on the values of the Hartsburg-Emden community. Working collaboratively in the spirit of "WE", staff, administration, parents, and Board of Education have a commitment to the systemic student-centered focus of continuous, academic excellence for all students. We serve as an accessible resource for our students, enabling them to reach their full potential in a caring and safe environment. Hartsburg-Emden is currently in the best financial position with the lowest tax rate in 25 years. We have been planning for some challenges we see coming forward, the increase in costs for the \$15 minimum wage and \$40,000 minimum teacher salary. The ESSER money will be gone after next year. Now, we have the extra concern of inflation. Although we are in a strong financial position, you can see that we have some concerns moving forward. We continue to do our best to continually increase our educational opportunities while remaining financially responsible.

I hope everyone enjoys the four (4) **F**'s of Thanksgiving (Friends, Family, Food, & Football). I would be remiss if I did not thank all the individuals who help make our school district a great place!! The local churches (clocks, breakfast/lunches, etc), alumni (Legacy Fund), Village of Emden (non-athletic activities), and community members (Todd Schmitgall - \$300 donation to FFA) have given donations to our school. The amount of support shown is wonderful. In the current financial climate (rising inflation), I am aware that these donations may not necessarily be easy. Several of our community members do this annually and request not to be recognized (wish it to be confidential). So, I will simply give a general . . . **Thank You** to everyone who has helped us out with their donations. In addition, the Hartem Community Club (HCC) is doing a terrific job providing us with activities and resources. The support we receive from our community cannot be understated. Being a Hartsburg-Emden Stag is a powerful thing; and your support is critical in the development of the next generation. I am truly grateful to be a small part of that. Thanks again!!

GIRLS ON THE RUN

Our season has been going well! Girls have not only increased their physical endurance but also working on their self-love. Our practice-5k in town was on October 27th. The girls did amazing! Thank you to everyone who came and cheered us on or even joined in on the fun. We are traveling to Springfield on November 5th for our 5k with all the communities close by that also have Girls on the Run. You are welcome to come cheer our girls on. The run begins at 10 am at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. You can register to run/walk with the girls at <https://www.gotrcentralillinois.org/> and just click on 5k. It does cost to participate in the 5k. It is free to come and cheer the girls on. The girls will have one practice after the 5k on November 10th. The November 8th practice is cancelled due to no school that day. Go Stags!

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

The Freshmen Class will be hosting a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Saturday, December 3rd at the High School Cafeteria. Breakfast will be served from 7:00am – 10:00am. Cost is DONATION! Mark your calendars!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Cory Brown, Principal

The weather sure has been entertaining to say the least. 20's and 80's in the same week is always interesting. It's not very often we have all four seasons in the matter of days. Hopefully everyone is doing well and if you are harvesting, things have been going your way. As we near November, I look forward to the hunting season getting underway. The cool weather is always good for that.

The Girls Volleyball Team is making a run at the post season. As I'm writing this article, they are in the Regional Championship Game. With any luck, we'll be going next week on the Interstate to Brimfield. Please see our website for more information concerning times and dates. If we do have a good run, we will have a student fan bus for the Sectional Championship games and beyond. Boys basketball for both the High School and Junior High start this month as well. Good luck to Coach Neaville and Coach Spencer! Good Luck to Coach Heironymus and the chess team. The look to follow up the State run they had last year with another successful season. Meet the Stags for Basketball will be November 18th.

I'd like to give a special thanks to Ron Spencer for inviting Hartem alum, Bill Sampen, to speak to the Jr/Sr High School about his experiences in Hartem sports. He also spoke about the importance of Character and Humility. It was a great message for the students to hear.

Thank you very much to the Hartem Community Club for sponsoring a field trip for the entire Emden Grade School to Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site. The students had a great time and the weather was perfect.

This month, the Students of the Month for October were Micah Robison and Jonathan Long. They were nominated and voted for by the Junior High/ High School Staff. This is what a teacher had to say about Micah, "Micah is a very pleasant young man. He has a great sense of humor and adds a lot to the chess team." Here are some words about Jonathan from a teacher that nominated him, "Johnathan always participates and takes an interest in class discussion. He can be relied upon to help keep the conversation going and dig deep into topics." Congratulations to both boys!

Please note that we will have a few days off in November. First, there is no school on Election Day, November 8th. Next is Veteran's Day on November 11th to make a nice three day weekend. Thanksgiving break's first day off will be Wednesday, November 23rd. School will resume on Monday, the 28th. Lastly, there is a 2:00 dismissal on November 30th.

The first quarter is over so you should have received report cards. If you did not, please reach out to the school and we will send one in the mail.

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

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PRICES FOR NOVEMBER

Student Breakfast \$34.00

Student Reduced Breakfast \$5.10

Student Lunch \$48.45

Student Reduced Lunch \$6.80

Adult Breakfast \$2.50 each meal

Adult Lunch \$3.25 each meal

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.



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Matthew Stoltzenburg, Athletic Director

Harvest season means basketball is here. The junior high basketball teams have begun to practice and will tip off their season in the Midwest Central tournament on Oct 29, 31, and Nov 5. They will have home games on November 17, 22, 29. Good luck to Coach Spencer in his first season back at Hartem!

The high school girls' volleyball team is ready to begin its post-season run. Coach Hayes, Coach, Wetherell, Coach Detmers, and the girls begin regional play at Illini Bluffs.

Coach Neville will begin his first season as head coach with practice on November 7. He and the high school boys head to Beardstown for their Thanksgiving tournament on Nov 21- 26. We would also like to welcome Coach Sherwood to our staff in his first year as assistant coach.

A couple of reminders: we will have the fall sports awards on November 15th at 6:00 in the high school gym. We will be recognizing junior high softball, high school golf, and volleyball. Also, we will have our Meet the Stags Night coming up in the middle of November to kick off the basketball seasons.

FFA HAPPENINGS

The Hartem FFA Chapter has had a very productive month of October! On October 6th, seven FFA members competed in the Section 14 Land Use CDE. We placed 4th out of 9 teams! On October 12th, six freshmen/sophomores attended the Greenhand Conference at LLCC. On October 19th, we had our chapter meeting at the school and enjoyed chili, hot dogs, and smores! Additionally, 7 FFA members attended the National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana from October 26th-28th. These students attended sessions in Lucas Oil Stadium, strolled through the agriculture career expo, and toured agriculture businesses during their time in Indiana. Be sure to check out the flier in this month's newsletter to reserve your Memorial Christmas Tree.

Upcoming Dates for November:

11/2 - Agronomy CDE

TBD - Raking leaves in Hartsburg and Emden

Please email Ms. Barton at sbarton@hartem.org if you would like your leaves raked

LIBRARY NEWS

Nichole Folkman, Librarian

Book Fair

Thank you so much for an amazing book fair! We're looking forward to the spring book fair, happening March 6-10. You will be able to shop in-school both before and after school AND at our Family Reading Night with author visit from David Biedrzycki, author of *SumoKitty* and *SumoPuppy*! He will meet with us at the grade school during the day and return in the evening for our Family Reading Night event. Watch for more details as we get closer to the event.

Little Free Libraries

Thank you to Chris Coers who replaced the leaking Emden Little Free Library with a brand new one! Books are now available in four locations– the office lobby during school hours, and the three outdoor Little Free Libraries 24 hours a day! The three outdoor Little Free Libraries are located in Emden by the grade school playground, in Hartsburg in front of the jr high/ high school, and in Hartsburg behind Prairieland Christian Church by their playground. Remember that there are books for ALL ages in these libraries. You may borrow and return or trade as you please. I try to refresh the books in each of these locations about once a week.



Stags Read To...

There is a new section of books at the high school– picture books! These books are in the high school library for students to check out for reading to younger siblings, cousins, friends, kids they babysit, etc. For now, it's just books, but as the section grows, many books will come with activities or fun items for students to check out.

EDUCATORS RISING

Mrs. Folkman and the Educators Rising group went to Bradley University to visit their campus and learn about the process of becoming a teacher in the state of IL. While in town, we also contributed books to area Little Free Libraries! Students who are interested in becoming teachers for any subject or age group should contact Mrs. Folkman to participate in these trips and other volunteer opportunities.



Scholarships and Contests

Mrs. Folkman is posting scholarships, contests, and other such information on the 6-12 Library Google Classroom. All 6-12 students have been invited to join the classroom and guardians may get updates of the information posted there through their guardian settings. A wide variety of items are posted, not only just for upperclassmen.

FRIENDS OF HARTEM JH BASKETBALL CLUB

Calling all HARTEM Alumni, former jr. high basketball players and fans of HARTEM jr high basketball to become members of the Friends of HARTEM Jr. High Basketball Club by making an investment in our program. You can make your investment in honor of someone (friend, coach, teacher, parents, grandparents, a particular team (I.E. 1993 State Championship team), etc.) or you can make it in memory of someone. This will be our only annual team community fundraiser. Your investment will help pay for team meals, camps, summer shootouts, etc. Please consider investing in our program to help us move basketball forward at Hartsburg-Emden. We will officially run this fundraiser from November 13 – November 26. All donors and donations made in memory or honor of someone will be displayed on our team Facebook page as well as on a handout at all home games (unless you ask to remain anonymous). We will also have a special section for grandparents, aunts, uncles etc. to recognize a current jr. high basketball team member with a donation in their honor.

**Coach Spencer will personally match the first \$500 in donations. No donation is too small or too large 😊. All donations will go to only school related jr high basketball activities.

If honoring or memorializing someone, please include a note with the following:

In Memory of:

or

In Honor of:

Mail or drop off your donation (Check payable to HARTEM Jr. High Basketball) between November 13 - November 26.

Hartsburg-Emden High School

400 West Front St.

Hartsburg, IL 62643

ATTN: Ron Spencer



GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Elizabeth Hilgert, Student Coordinator/Guidance Counselor

Hello! My name is Elizabeth Hilgert and I am the new student coordinator/guidance counselor here at Hartem. For those of you who do not know me, I previously worked at the high school, but for the past ten years I have been in the banking industry working for the Farmer State Bank of Emden. I was given this exciting opportunity to come back to the field of Education and I look forward to meeting each of you. I will officially start in January, but would like to kick things off with a FAFSA night for the seniors.

FAFSA

- The FAFSA opened for 2023-2024 applications on October 1st, 2022. FAFSA completion is now a MANDATORY graduation requirement. All seniors should submit their applications as soon as possible in order for the best opportunity for federal assistance. Many schools are asking students to have their FAFSA applications submitted by a priority deadline of November 15th.
- Hartsburg-Emden High School will be hosting a FAFSA Completion Workshop on Wednesday, November 9th, 2022 and again on Wednesday, November 30th, 2022. All seniors and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend. A representative from the Illinois Student Commission (ISAC) will be providing a brief presentation about the FAFSA and will be available to provide hands-on assistance in creating a FSA ID and completing the FAFSA application on-site. This workshop will take place in the HS computer lab from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Please RSVP with Mrs. Hilgert (ehilgert@hartem.org) for a list of important items to bring with you to the workshop.
- If you cannot attend this workshop and need assistance with completing the FAFSA, please contact Melissa Van at Melissa.Van@Illinois.gov or (309) 434-0175 to set up an appointment.

Campus Visits

- Now is the time! Visit any college/university/technical school that you may be interested in. Remember- Juniors are allowed up to 2 excused absences and Seniors are allowed up to 3 excused absences for campus visits. Fill out a pre-arrangement form in the office as soon as you know the date you will be absent.

ANGEL TREE 2022

The children of our area need our help again this holiday season. The Angel tree will be at Coers Diesel by Monday November 21st. Coers Diesel is located at 508 Franklin street Emden Illinois. Hours are 8am-5pm. Any questions please contact Mike at 217-737-5509 and Laura at 217-737-7924.

We hope you all have a wonderful and safe holiday season!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

The Emden Park Board will be hosting a Family Movie Night on Saturday, December 17 at the Emden Community House. Watch for more information with movie time and what movie will be shown!!!!

FIRE SAFETY WEEK

Emden Elementary recognized Fire Safety Week with posters, essays, and a Fire Safety Assembly. A big THANK YOU goes out to the Emden Fire Department for coming in to talk to our students about the importance of fire safety. The students in kindergarten, first, second, and third grades entered a poster coloring contest. Winners received ribbons. Fourth and fifth graders wrote fire safety essays. 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners were recognized with ribbons also. To end the assembly, all students' names were put in a random drawing separated by class. Lucky winners in each class received carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors, and fire extinguishers, and all students received candy bars and water bottles!

Thank you Emden Fire for a
GREAT ASSEMBLY!



CLASS OF 2026 FUNDRAISER

HOG RAFFLE DRAWING-November 14th

The Freshman Class of 2026 will be selling chances for ½ a hog for your freezer. Pork Chops, Bacon, Hams, Loins, Roasts!

Tickets are \$5.00 each or (3) for \$10.00.

All freshmen will be selling tickets October 30th – November 13th. We will pick (2) winners – each winner will receive ½ hog ready for pick-up at the Atlanta Locker. Please support the Class of 2026! Fill your freezer for the holidays!

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!



November 2022

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 GOTR 3:15-4:30	2 HSV-B-Sect. TBA	3 GOTR 3:15-4:30 HS Chess vs Greenview 4:15	4 HSV-B-Supersect. TBA	5 HS Chess @ Morton Invitational 9:00 JHBK @ MWC Tip Off Tourn 9:30 GOTR 5K @ Lincoln Land Comm. College 10:00
6	7 HS Chess vs Franklin 5:30	8 No School JHBK @ IC 6:00	9 FAFSA Workshop @ HS Comp Lab 5:30- 7:30	10 GOTR 3:15-4:30 JHBK @ Carroll Catholic 6:00	11 No School HSV-B-State TBA	12 HSV-B-State TBA
13	14 Class of 2023 Carryout Dinner @ Dovetail Inn 5:00-7:00 JHBK @ Mt. Pulaski 6:00	15 Sr. Beta Club Blood Drive @ HS Gym 9-2 Fall Sports Awards @ HS Gym 6:00 JHVB-Meeting @ HS Cafe after awards	16 JH Chess vs LaSalette 4:30	17 JHBK vs Delavan 6:00	18 <i>Qtr 2 Progress Rpt</i> Meet The Stags @ HS Gym 5:30	19
20	21 <i>Board Mtg 7:00</i> JHBK @ Athens 6:00 HSBK @ Beardstown Tourn 8:00	22 JHBK vs Havana 6:00 HSBK @ Beardstown Tourn 6:30	23 No School	24 No School	25 No School HSBK @ Beardstown Tourn 6:30	26 HSBK @ Beardstown Tourn TBA
27	28 JHBK @ MWC 6:00	29 JHBK vs Tremont 6:00 HSBK @ Springfield Lutheran 6:00	30 2:00 Dismissal Faculty Mtg. FAFSA Workshop @ HS Comp Lab 5:30- 7:30			

November 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 Apple fritter Fruit Orange juice	2 Cinnamon sugar oatmeal Toast Fruit Orange juice	3 French toast sticks Sausage links Fruit Orange juice	4 Coffee cake Fruit Orange juice	5
6	7 Pop tart Fruit Apple juice	No School	9 Waffles Sausage patty Fruit Apple juice	10 Cinnamon breakfast cookie Fruit Apple juice	No School	12
13	14 Uncrustable Fruit Cherry star juice	15 Breakfast apple square Fruit Cherry star juice	16 Mini pancake bites Fruit Cherry star juice	17 Nutri-grain bar Fruit Cherry star juice	18 Fruit frudel Fruit Cherry star juice	19
20	21 Assorted cereal Toast Fruit Orange juice	22 Danish Apple Claw Fruit Orange juice	No School	No School	No School	26
27	28 English muffin Fruit Apple juice	29 Pancake/sausage on a stick Fruit Apple juice	30 Bagel w/cream cheese Fruit Apple juice			

November 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 peanut butter sandwiches are available every day at the high school. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.					
		1 Popcorn chicken Mashed potatoes/gravy Corn Peaches	2 Loaded nachos Sour cream/salsa Pineapple	3 GS-pulled pork nachos JH/HS-BBQ pulled pork on bun JH/HS-Baked beans Cole slaw Applesauce	4 GS-Tomato soup JH/HS-Tomato soup/chicken noodle soup Toasted cheese sandwich Strawberries Red jello	5
6	7 Hamburger on bun French fries Green beans Mandarin oranges	No School	9 GS-Popcorn chicken JH/HS-Sweet and sour chicken Rice Egg roll Peaches	10 Corn dog Soft pretzel Corn Cottage Cheese Applesauce Cookie	No School	12
13	14 BBQ rib on bun Potato smiles Green beans Pears	15 GS-Chili JH/HS-Chili or chicken noodle soup Fresh veggies Mandarin oranges Cinnamon roll	16 Pork tenderloin on bun French fries Peas Mixed fruit	17 Turkey Mashed potatoes/corn JH/HS- Stuffing Dinner roll Peaches Pumpkin bar	18 Chili dog on bun Chips Carrots Pineapple	19
20	21 Bosco sticks Marinara sauce Carrots Mandarin oranges Pudding	22 Chicken strips Macaroni & cheese Peas Frozen fruit cup Cookie	No School	No School	No School	26
27	28 Chicken patty on bun French fries Carrots Cottage cheese Applesauce	29 Crispito with cheese sauce JH/HS-Mixed vegetables Rice Refried beans Mandarin oranges	30 Toasted ham and Cheese sandwich Tater tots Green beans Peaches			

Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21
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Hartsburg, IL 62643

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

MANDATORY JH VOLLEYBALL MEETING

TUESDAY NOV. 15th @ HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA After the Fall Awards Night

There will be a MANDATORY Jr. High Volleyball meeting for any girl 5th-8th grade wanting to try-out for Jr. High Volleyball. A parent/guardian MUST be present for your daughter to be able to try-out. If a parent/guardian is unable to be at the meeting due to a prior commitment, he/she must contact me at school or home PRIOR to the meeting. If you do not contact me prior to the meeting, your child will be unable to try-out for the team. Try-outs will be the week Nov. 28th – Dec. 2nd.