



# WILDCAT NEWS

HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL 2023  
Volume 28, No. 1

## WILDCAT PLEDGE

We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity  
to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

# *Wildcats are Back to School!*



**LOOK FOR MORE FIRST DAY PHOTOS INSIDE!**



# *Homecoming Photos on Page 6!*

## Superintendent's Message

Greetings Hancock School Community,

The 2023-2024 School year is in full swing, and we are making moves to build a culture of collaboration and clarity. At the start of the school year the entire faculty and staff embarked upon a collective journey to reflect on what we do and who we are. Through collaborative and individual cycles of reflection, assessment, and problem solving we are beginning to create clarity and focus; we are beginning to "Find our Roar". Finding our roar is defining what we are passionate about, what we committed to, and doing whatever it takes to live our Wildcat Pledge.

We are building and fostering a sense of togetherness, and working collaboratively to support each other, our students and our families.

On behalf of the caring team of faculty and staff who serve the students and families of Hancock Central Schools, it is an honor and privilege to support this exceptional school district where children (and adults) can learn, grow, and thrive. We look forward to working in partnership with you to not only make this school year memorable for all students but help us define our commitments to students and families.

I hope you will consider joining me in collaborative conversations over the next few months. I will be offering a series of community conversations on the topic of living the Wildcat Pledge. Please stop by one of the sessions to share your thoughts and experiences with our team.

With Wildcat Pride,  
*Lori Asquith*,  
Superintendent

## Come Join Us!

### Coffee & Community

Conversations with Superintendent Lori Asquith

Greetings Hancock Community, we invite you to join Superintendent Lori Asquith for a collaborative conversation. Over the next few months, we will be offering a series of community conversations on the topic of living the Wildcat Pledge. We hope you will be able to join us for one or more of the sessions to share your thoughts and experiences with our team.

Wednesday, November 1st- 11:00am-12:00pm  
Location: Circle E Diner

Monday, November 6th- 6:00pm-7:00pm  
Location: Hancock Fire Station

Thursday, November 9th- 8:30am-9:30am  
Location: Circle E Diner

Wednesday, November 15th-12:00pm-1:00pm  
Location: Hancock House Hotel

Tuesday, December 5th- 3:00pm-4:00pm  
Location: Robert Nichol Nature Preserve

Thursday, December 7th 3:00pm-4:00pm  
Location: Louise Adelia Library

Friday, December 15th- 8:30am-9:30am  
Location: The Old Bat Factory

Monday, December 18th- 6:30pm-7:30pm  
Location: Little Italy II

### VISIT US ONLINE!

Website: [www.hancock.stier.org](http://www.hancock.stier.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HancockCSD](http://www.facebook.com/HancockCSD)

Twitter: [@HCSDDWildcats](https://twitter.com/HCSDDWildcats)

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@hancockcentralschooldistrict>

## THANK YOU, BOARD MEMBERS!

We would like to acknowledge and honor our BOE members here at the Hancock Central School District for their commitment to education and our community. We would also like to promote understanding and awareness to the important work that they perform. Countless hours are devoted to keeping our students safe, as well as educational and financial situations where the desired goal is to give students the best opportunities possible.

### Hancock Central School District Board of Education:

- President, Mr. Cliff Johnston
- Vice President, Mr. Jake Geer
- Mr. Nick Hazen
- Mrs. Vicky Bogart
- Mr. Lothar Holbert,  
Wayne Highlands Representative

*Thank You!*

## Children need healthy meals to learn!

All Hancock Central School District students are eligible to receive one breakfast and one lunch at no cost to families every regular school day during the 2023-2024 school year.

No-cost meals are possible this school year as HCSD participates in the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's National School Lunch and Breakfast programs. Additional meals and a la carte food items (milk, snacks, etc.) must be purchased on site or through online prepayments via MySchoolBucks.com.

Although no fees or forms are required for students to receive one no-cost breakfast and one no-cost lunch per school day, parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to complete and return a Community Eligibility Provision Household Income application (found on the school website) to help determine the amounts of other funds that benefit HCSD students.

If you have questions or would like more information, please call 607-637-1320.

# Welcome Back!



## Audit Notification

Periodically, the district receives audit reports from the External (Independent) Auditor and/or the Office of the New York State (NYS) Comptroller. The HCS Board of Education will review all audit recommendations in consultation with the audit committee and respond appropriately.

Independent and comptroller audit reports, and the accompanying management letters, will be made available for public inspection. Notice of the availability of independent and comptroller audit reports will be published in the district's official newspaper or one having general circulation in the district. If there is no newspaper, notice must be placed in ten (10) public places within the district. Additionally, final audit reports from the Office of the NYS Comptroller will be posted on the district website, if one is available, for a period of five (5) years.

If you have any questions, please contact the Business Office at: (607) 637-1302

## AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM HELPING HOUSEHOLDS CONNECT

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

The Affordable Connectivity Program provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for broadband service
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider if the household contributes more than \$10 but less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?



A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year
- Participates in the Free and reduced-Price School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program
- Participates in one of these assistance programs:
  - SNAP
  - Medicaid
  - Federal Public Housing Assistance
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - WIC
  - Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits
  - or Lifeline;
- Participates in one of these assistance programs and lives on Qualifying Tribal lands:
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
  - Tribal TANF
  - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
  - Tribal Head Start (income based)



Check out [fcc.gov/acp](https://www.fcc.gov/acp) for a Consumer FAQ and other program resources.

### TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

- Step 1:** Go to [AffordableConnectivity.gov](https://www.AffordableConnectivity.gov) to submit an application or print out a mail-in application.
- Step 2:** Contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete. Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.



Call 877-384-2575 or find more information about the Affordable Connectivity Program at:

[FCC.GOV/ACP](https://www.FCC.GOV/ACP)

WE ARE NY

## Pesticide Use Notification

All schools are required to provide annual written notification to all staff and persons in parental relation regarding the potential use of pesticides throughout the school year. As a reminder, the Hancock Central School District is required to maintain a list of faculty, staff and persons in parental relation who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- A school remains unoccupied continuously for 72 hours following an application
- Anti-microbial products
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper-resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children
- Nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper-resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children
- Silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams or gels in areas inaccessible to children
- Boric acid and disodium octa borate tetrahydrate
- The application of EPA-designated biopesticides
- The application of EPA-designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25
- The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects, including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list. If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications in your school, or if you would like more information about the products being used, please contact:

Hancock Central School District Office  
67 Education Lane  
Hancock, NY 13783  
Phone: 607-637-2511 Fax: 607-637-1380

## Fire Inspection Completed

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for the 2023-2024 school year of the school buildings of the Hancock Central School District for fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, employees therein, has been completed and the report is available at the District Office, located at 67 Education Lane, Hancock, NY 13783, for inspection by all interested persons.



## New Staff at Hancock CSD

### Sage Evanitsky



My name is Sage Evanitsky, and I am thrilled to be back at Hancock now as a teacher. I obtained my associate degree from Broome Community College in Early Childhood Education. After, I transferred to Grand Canyon University online and obtained my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. While working towards my bachelor's degree I worked at the Hancock Community Preschool for two years and the ARC of Delaware in the summer. In my free time I like to spend time with my cousins, play with my dogs, and play golf with my dad each week. I enjoy helping students learn and cannot wait to see what this year has in store for us as a class!

### Heather Schoonmaker



Heather Schoonmaker is a 1993 graduate of Hancock Central School and a 2001 graduate of Broome Community College, in Office Administration. Heather has spent most of her adult career in the insurance field. She is excited to take her detail-oriented skills and compassion into the next phase where she hopes that her work is meaningful and impactful.

Aside from many professional accomplishments, her greatest joy is family and friends who have become family. On any given Sunday after church Heather can be laughing with her husband and children, chasing her grandson Dean, or on a three-hour phone call with a friend. Essentially, ministry of presence is important to Heather, as well as finding a low sodium baking recipe that will satisfy her sweet tooth.

Heather's favorite place is on a beach, with a great devotional, and soaking up the sun. She is grateful and excited to be a part of the HCS family this year!

### Lauren Mobile



My name is Lauren Mobile, I am a mother of two boys. I have been working in schools for the past five years. I started my journey at the school my children attended as a School Monitor at Lakeland Central School District. Last year I worked at Hancock School District as a substitute teacher. When I am not working, I can be found at a hockey rink watching both my boys play or fishing with them. I also enjoy traveling, reading, and hiking.

I just moved to the area a year ago and really love the sense of community here. I grew up in a small town and appreciate how welcoming your community has been. I am thrilled to be a part of the team here and I look forward to a great school year!

### Molly Sherman



Hello Hancock community! My name is Molly Sherman and I'm very excited to be the new Family and Consumer Sciences teacher. I grew up in Delaware county and earned an AAS from Paul Smith's College in baking & pastry and hospitality. I am a 2023 graduate from SUNY Oneonta earning my BS in FCS Education. I am currently working on my educational technology specialist MS also at SUNY Oneonta.

In my free time I enjoy riding horses, judging at horse shows, doing activities with my kennel club, attending concerts and baking.

I am also very fortunate to be able to give back to one of my favorite organizations, FCCLA. I am the trainer for their junior leader group. This allows me to help middle schoolers find their voice as leaders and introduce FCCLA to them.

### Kelly Cammer



I am looking forward to teaching at HCS for the 2023-2024 school year! I graduated from Hancock in 2013. I attended SUNY Oneonta from 2013-2017 and graduated with my bachelor's in 7th-12th Grade English Education. I later pursued my master's degree in special education from Binghamton University. This will be my 6th year teaching, and my first-year teaching at my alma mater! I am excited to be back at Hancock, as this school and community are close-knit and welcoming.

Outside of school, I love to spend time with my husband, and our son, Case! We enjoy spending time outdoors fishing, kayaking, and hiking with our goldendoodle, Wesley. I enjoy running, and watching football, especially the NY Giants. I am excited to bring my son Case to all the DH Eagle sporting events this school year!



# Homecoming 2023!



**Homecoming Princess: Kadyn Appley**  
**Homecoming Prince: Steven Saul**

**Homecoming Queen: Valarie Dobromirescu**

**Homecoming King: Weston Layman**

# School Safety Day



## HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL

67 Education Lane  
Hancock, NY 13783

### Board Members

Mr. Cliff A. Johnston, President  
Mr. Christopher "Jake" Geer Sr., Vice President  
Mr. Nick Hazen  
Mrs. Vicky Bogart  
Mr. Lothar Holbert, Wayne Highlands Rep.

### Visit Us

Website: [www.hancock.stier.org](http://www.hancock.stier.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HancockCSD](http://www.facebook.com/HancockCSD)  
Twitter: [@HCSDWildcats](https://twitter.com/HCSDWildcats)

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## HCS Presents Headin' For A Weddin'

**Date:** Friday, November 17—7:00 p.m.

**Location:** MS-HS Auditorium

**Admission:** Free

Labeled as "a hillbilly farce in three acts," Headin' For A Weddin' follows Homer Hollowbone, who falls in love with a big city debutante named Melissa Dugan (after finding her picture in a newspaper wrapped around some fish). Pretending to be a well-educated, rich man who lives in mansion, Homer begins to write letters to Melissa. Trouble brews when Melissa arrives to marry the well-off young man of the letters and discovers he's really a hillbilly, living in an old shack with the rest of his family. Homer's efforts to keep his identity from Melissa backfire hilariously, while Melissa's revenge is pure, down-home fun.

Expect a lot of fun and laughs as our Hancock Central School students present Headin' For A Weddin'! The play will begin at 7:00 pm. There will be no cost of admission.

### Headin' For A Weddin' Cast List

Homer Hollowbone—**Logan Westbrook**  
Maw—**Emrehe Ellis**  
Paw—**Weston Layman**  
Sarah Jo—**Zaida Whitaker**  
Gracie May—**Stasia Todd**  
Fannie Jane—**Valarie Dobromirescu**  
Piper—**Daegan McDowell**  
Sis—**Katie Croisette**  
Grandpappy—**Joe Cerrone**  
Widow—**Emily Bolster**  
Bertha—**Vanessa Horton**  
Slim—**Alexzander Mosher**  
Melissa—**Chiara Wormuth**  
Hortense—**Grace Evanitsky**  
Isabel—**Olivia Esolen**

## TEACH ME



THE HANCOCK COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

*The mission of The Hancock Community Education Foundation is to provide educational support from birth to post graduation and to encourage a greater percentage of students to go on to higher education.*

## Thanksgiving Break Schedule

**Monday, November 20**

Parent-Teacher Conferences (12:30 Dismissal)

**Wednesday, November 22-Friday, November 24**

No School—Thanksgiving Recess

