



WILDCAT NEWS

HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

WILDCAT PLEDGE

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

WINTER 2024
Volume 28, No. 2

CELEBRATING HCS STUDENTS



INTO THE NEW YEAR!



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members of the Hancock School Community,

We are excited to announce the launch of our new strategic planning process, a pivotal initiative that will shape the future of our district. As we begin this journey, we want to emphasize the importance of your involvement in this endeavor.

The updated Strategic Plan will aim to create a roadmap that not only reflects the aspects of our school that are already working well but also addresses areas in which we can make improvements. We are committed to considering your perspectives and opinions on the direction we should take.

We genuinely value your input in making our updated Strategic Plan the best it can be. We encourage you to share your insights on what we are excelling at and where there's room for growth. Additionally, we are eager to hear your thoughts on what we should prioritize for the future.

To participate and share your valuable feedback, please

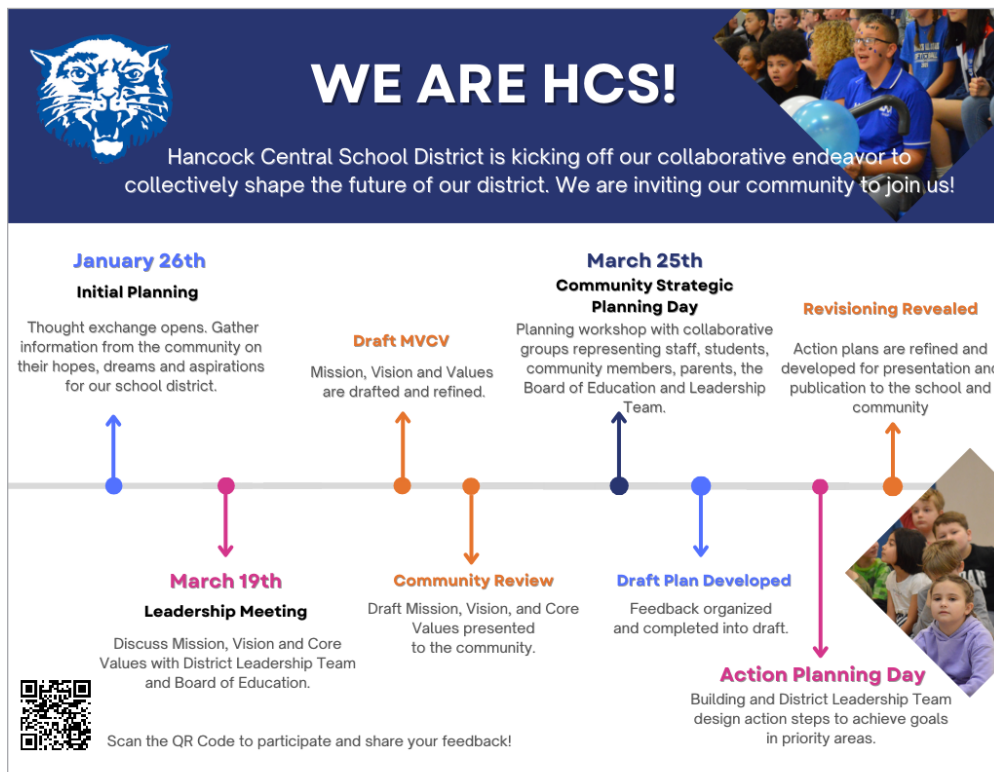
enter this exchange by scanning the QR code on the infographic below.

The survey platform allows you to contribute your thoughts anonymously, and you can also view and rate the feedback provided by other community members. We encourage an open and ongoing dialogue, so feel free to revisit the platform often and keep the conversation alive.

Your feedback will be instrumental in guiding our future plans, so we urge you to make your voice heard. The survey will remain accessible until 3/8.

For any questions, please contact the District Office at (607) 637-1301. Thank you for your engagement and support as we work together to shape the future of the Hancock Central School District.

Sincerely,
Lori Asquith
 Superintendent of Schools
 Hancock Central School District



Board of Education Meetings

All meetings start at 7 p.m. in the District Office, unless otherwise indicated.

2/12 Regular Meeting	4/16 Special Meeting DCMO	5/21 Annual School Budget Vote &
2/26 Regular Meeting	BOCES Admin	Board Election 2:00-8:00 p.m.
3/11 Regular Meeting	4/22 Regular Meeting	5/28 Regular Meeting
3/25 Regular Meeting	5/13 Regular Meeting—	6/10 Regular Meeting
4/08 Regular Meeting	Annual District Meeting	6/24 Regular Meeting

VISIT US ONLINE!

Website: www.hancock.stier.org/ • **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/HancockCSD/

Twitter: [@HCSDWildcats](https://twitter.com/HCSDWildcats) • **Youtube:** <https://www.youtube.com/@hancockcentralschooldistrict>

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTIONS

The Hancock Chapter of the National Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony of new members on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. New inductees this year include *Ava Francisco, Sarah Gross, Kai Yip "Leo" Lo, Addison Makowski* and *Kailey Petersen*. They are joined by previous inductees: *Kelsie Newman, Isabella Petriella, Zaida Whitaker, Lola White, and Chiara Wormuth*.

The National Honor Society is the leading organization when it comes to recognizing high school students for their achievements. Since its inception in 1921 until now, the National Honor Society formally recognizes the academic excellence its members bring to the organization and requires them to be engaged for the duration of their high school careers.

To be inducted in the National Honor Society at HCS, a student must, at minimum, have a cumulative GPA of 90, A, or equivalent standard of excellence throughout high school.

The new members signed the scroll, which members have signed since 1951! Congratulations to everyone on this wonderful achievement!



NTHS INDUCTION CEREMONY

Several students from HCS were inducted in the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS), with the ceremony held at the DCMO BOCES Robert W. Harrold Campus.

We would like to recognize the following students on this wonderful achievement: *Evan Persbacker* (Visual Communications), *Hazel Bennett* (Cosmetology), *Alexis Mead* (Early Childhood Education), *Kaelyn Dawson* (Security & Law Enforcement), *Audree Harris* (Early Childhood Education) and *Davis Herzog* (Security & Law Enforcement).

The National Technical Honor Society exists to honor, recognize, and empower students in Career & Technical Education. As the honor society for Career & Technical Education, NTHS serves over 100,000 active members annually in both secondary and post-secondary chapters across the country.

Since its founding in 1984, nearly 1 million students have become NTHS alumni. NTHS honors the achievements of top CTE students, provides close to \$300,000 in scholarships



annually, and strives to help connect education and industry to build a highly skilled workforce.

The NTHS Member Standards of Conduct indicates: "Students must maintain the highest standard of personal and professional conduct at all times." Inductees must maintain a minimum 85 average for CTE and a minimum 80 average in ELA and Math. Inductees should also exhibit good character, leadership, and dependability, among other characteristics.

ELEMENTARY WINTER CONCERT



MS-HS WINTER CONCERT



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK



JARED CAMPBELL RETURNS TO HANCOCK

Independent national recording singer-songwriter and inspirational presenter Jared Campbell recently visited Hancock Central Schools to share his messages of kindness, perseverance, and accountability to students in all grade levels.

The District hosted Campbell on Monday, January 8, 2024 for three hour-long sets tailored to suit audiences in Pre-Kindergarten through 4th grades, 5th grade through 8th, and grades 9-12.

Campbell's performances engage students with an energetic mix of humor and humility; sharing thoughtfully narrated personal stories that ring clear to our up-and-coming generations. A master of audience participation, Campbell easily draws out the hero in all of us—even the most obvious of underdogs—through his performances: an amalgam of visual imagery, slapstick tempo, and honed musicianship.

A far cry from archetypal “school assembly,” Campbell's lyrics are laden with the authenticity and hard-workmanship of the singer-songwriter persona. Decades of performance have perfected his art in storytelling; grounding relatable themes of positivity with anecdotal pop culture references, quick-witted asides, and generous homage paid to his co-star: a sturdy well-groomed beard.

Ever the traveling troubadour and no stranger to hundreds of upstate New York school audiences, Campbell, alongside his trusty guitar, regularly tour the region to meet the challenge of inspiring and encouraging students of all ages one story at a time. There truly is a message that resonates with anyone who chooses to listen, and as catchy as his songs are, there's no way to come up empty handed.

Jared Campbell's discography can be found on all major streaming platforms. For more information, visit jaredcampbell.com.





WHEN SEVERE WINTER WEATHER STRIKES



Introduction

Winter weather in the Catskill Mountain Region and Northeastern Pennsylvania can be very unpredictable. When severe weather strikes our area, our number one concern is the safety of all Hancock Central School District students. Specific plans and protocols are in place to ensure that all students and staff members arrive at school safely.

Decision-Making Process

The decision to close school is made by the Superintendent of Schools working in consultation with the District Transportation Supervisor and representatives from New York State, Delaware County, DCMO BOCES, and the Town and Village of Hancock. Information provided by various weather-service reports, newscasts, and computer simulations also factor into the decision making process. The Superintendent of Schools and Transportation Supervisor will drive on primary and secondary roads in the District to evaluate travel safety as needed. Variables that factor into the decision include, but are not limited to, amount and type of snow or freezing rain, timing of first snowfall and anticipated end, ability to clear primary and secondary roads and District parking lots, building conditions, temperature, wind and wind chill. Depending on a host of circumstances and factors, the District may elect to delay the start of school by two hours (until 10 a.m.); close for the day; dismiss early; or cancel all afterschool events at the end of the day.

Communications Plan

In general, the decision to delay the start of school or to close for the day is made no later than 5:30 a.m. and is subsequently communicated to all stakeholders no later than 6:00 a.m. using the following communication methods:

Cell phone/telephone: Global Connect Call from 607-637-8000

HCSD website: www.hancock.stier.org

HCSD Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HancockCSD>

HCSD Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HCSDWildcats>

Radio: WAAL, WDNH, WENE, WHWK, WINR, WBNF, WWYL, Magic 101.7, STAR 105.7

Television: WBNG, WBRE, WICZ, WNEP, WYOU, YNN

The same methods will be used to communicate early dismissals and afterschool cancellations.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is the decision made to close or delay school?

In general, the following timeline is used to frame school closing and delay decisions:

- 5:30 a.m.—Preliminary decision is made to close or delay school
- 5:45 a.m.—Media outlets are notified of closing/delay
- 6:00 a.m.—Decision to close/delay is communicated to all district stakeholders
- 10:00 a.m.—If school has started and weather conditions deteriorate, the decision to dismiss early is communicated at this time
- 1:00 p.m.—If school has started and weather conditions deteriorate, the decision to cancel afterschool activities is communicated at this time

Who makes the decision to delay or close school?

The Superintendent of Schools makes the decision to close school in concert with the District Transportation Supervisor, NYS and county officials, and Village and Town of Hancock officials. In addition, select television and weather forecasts factor into the decision-making process.

If school is closed, are evening and weekend activities canceled?

If HCSD is closed due to inclement weather, all evening activities are also canceled. If school has started and weather conditions deteriorate, a decision to continue afterschool activities will be made no later than 1 p.m.

As a parent/caretaker, can I keep my child home on inclement weather days?

Parents/caretakers are encouraged to use their best judgment to determine what is best for their children. Parents/caretakers must notify the District when their children will be absent.

Are we going to have to make up snow days?

HCSD builds additional days into the school calendar each year to account for time lost to inclement weather. In the event this additional time is exhausted due to extraordinary weather conditions, HCSD's Board of Education retains the right to extend the school year by scheduling school during vacation holidays (such as the mid-winter break in February or the annual spring recess).

What are some states of winter weather declared by the National Weather Service?

The National Weather Service may make the following declarations when severe winter weather is forecast to present a potential risk to travelers:

- **Winter Storm Watch:** Conditions are favorable for heavy sleet, heavy snow, ice storm, heavy snow and blowing snow, or any combination to meet or exceed local winter storm warning criteria in the next 24-72 hours. Criteria for snow is 7 inches or more in 12 hours or less; or 9 inches or more in 24 hours covering at least 50 percent of the zone or encompassing most of the population. Use "mid-point" of snowfall range to trigger a watch (i.e., 5-8 inches of snow = watch).
- **Winter Storm Warning:** Heavy sleet, heavy snow, ice storm, heavy snow and blowing snow, or any combination is expected to meet or exceed local winter storm warning criteria in the next 12-36 hours. Criteria for snow is 7 inches or more in 12 hours or less; or 9 inches or more in 24 hours covering at least 50 percent of the zone or encompassing most of the population. Use "mid-point" of snowfall range to trigger warning (i.e., 5-8 inches of snow = warning).
- **Winter Weather Advisory:** Sleet, snow, freezing rain, snow and blowing snow, or any combination is expected to meet or exceed local winter weather advisory criteria in the next 12-36 hours but stay below warning criteria. Criteria for snow is 4 inches or more in 12 hours or less covering at least 50 percent of the zone or encompassing most of the population. Use "mid-point" of snowfall range to trigger advisory (i.e., 2-5 inches of snow = advisory).

What are some states of winter weather declared by Delaware County?

Delaware County may make the following declarations when severe winter weather is forecast:

- **State of Emergency:** This declaration may be made by the County Chief Executive in the event that conditions are so severe as to require additional resources by the county. Included in the declaration of a state of emergency may be various "orders," which could include road closures for the entire county or for specific roads within the county. Road-closure orders are meant to keep non-essential persons off the roads and to help keep the roads clear of motorists so that highway departments can more effectively clear them. The Superintendent of Schools is charged with determining which district personnel are considered essential and thus authorized to travel on roads that have been ordered closed.
- **Travel Advisory:** Delaware County also may issue a travel advisory in conjunction with the State of Emergency declaration or as a standalone "order." A travel advisory is just that – an advisory to motorists to alert them that road conditions may be deteriorated and that travelers should use caution. Unless otherwise stated by Delaware County, the decision to delay or close school remains at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools.

For More Information

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Lori Asquith

Hancock Central School District Superintendent of Schools

lasquith@hancock.stier.org | 607-637-1301

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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

ECRWSS

BOXHOLDER

CALL ME!

With Facebook, Twitter, texting and countless other communication tools at our fingertips, we certainly have embraced all of the advantages of new technology. Nonetheless, the best way to communicate within the Hancock Central School District is to call us.

When you need clarification, additional information, an answer to a pressing question, etc., or have any recommendations or concerns, the best practice is to call the Main Office of your child's school. Classroom or course-specific questions can

be directed to your child's teacher via a call to the Main Office.

Email can be effective when reaching out to school officials. In most cases, though, it is best to use email to schedule a phone call or a face-to-face meeting. The dialogue that can be established with a phone call cannot be duplicated via text or email.

Parents should consult and follow this Communications Chart when attempting to contact the District about the following issues.

For Questions About	1st Contact	2nd Contact	3rd Contact	4th Contact
Academics	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	Building Principal	Superintendent
Athletics	Coach	Athletic Director	Building Principal	Superintendent
Behavior	Teacher	Building Principal	Superintendent	
BOE Policies	District Clerk	Superintendent	Board of Education	
Budget	Business Administrator	Business Manager	Superintendent	Board of Ed.
Building Use	Building Principal	Supt. Buildings & Grounds	Supt. Secretary	Superintendent
Cafeteria	Café Manager	Building Principal	Superintendent	
Classroom Procedures	Teacher	Building Principal	Superintendent	
Co-Curricular	Advisor	Building Principal	Superintendent	
Facilities	Supt. Bldg. & Gr.	Superintendent		
Health Office	Building Nurse	Building Principal	Superintendent	
Scheduling	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	Building Principal	Superintendent
Special Education	Teacher	CSE Chairperson	Building Principal	Superintendent
Transportation	Bus Driver	Transportation Director	Superintendent	

Contact Information

Elementary School Office.....	607-637-1219	Elementary School Health Office	607-637-1220
Middle/High School Office	607-637-1305	Middle/High School Health Office.....	607-637-1310
CSE Office.....	607-637-1374	Transportation Department	607-637-5322
Food Service Office	607-637-1320	Buildings and Grounds	607-637-1313
Superintendent's Office.....	607-637-1301		