



WILDCAT NEWS

HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL 2016
VOLUME 20, NO. 1

hancock.stier.org



Wildcats **WELCOME BACK!**

Meeting the changing needs of our community while assuring that our children are successful and prepared to be tomorrow's leaders!

Welcome Back!

Regardless of your role—faculty or staff member, parent, or student, the first day of school is special. A culmination of preparation and anticipation are replaced with the synergy and enthusiastic feel that only a lively school bus, clamoring classroom, productive school, and busy campus full of positive students, faculty and staff can provide. Summer has resulted with some much-deserved down time and a tremendous amount of professional development for our staff. Now, we welcome all of our students and staff back to campus for the 2016-2017 school year!

The purpose of this publication is to provide information to the Hancock School District Community at the start of this school year. There are many avenues that we as a district utilize to help keep you informed such as: the district building websites, mailers, flyers, Curriculum Night, automated communications, and additional information from faculty and administration.

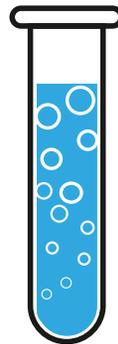
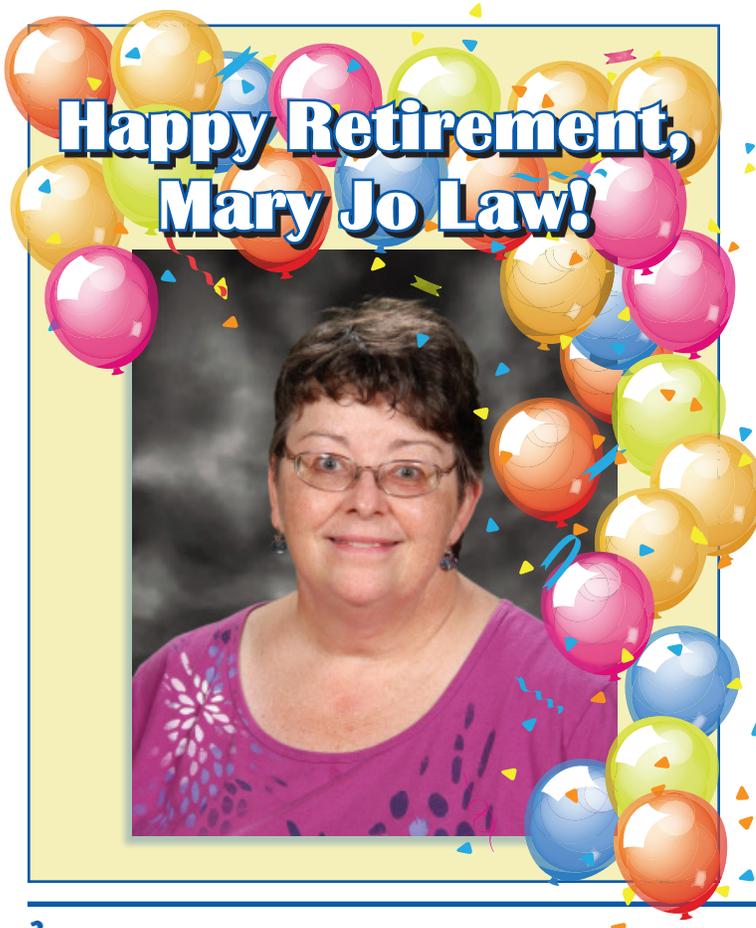
This newsletter is one more way to help provide you with updates, announce new programming and procedures, new and ongoing initiatives, and generally establish context for our upcoming school year. Communication throughout the school year occurs using all of the above mentioned formats; the primary source of information for parents and families are our faculty and the principal of the school(s) your child attends. It is always best practice to contact your child's teacher and principal with questions throughout the school year. Please note the HCS *Wildcat*



News will print seasonally starting with this fall edition, followed by the winter, and spring and summer editions.

Thank you for taking the time to review this and all information distributed and posted during the first few days of school and beyond. Most importantly, thank you for your continued support and contributions to our School District. We continue to be as successful as we are in large part due to the support of our parents, families, and the community. Finally, best wishes for a safe, productive 2016-2017 school year.

Respectfully,
Terrance P. Dougherty, Superintendent
tdougherty@hancock.stier.org
(607) 637-1301



HCS Tests Water for Lead Content

On Tuesday, September 6, Governor Cuomo signed into law a measure requiring all school districts in New York State to test for possible high levels of lead contamination in school drinking water. With high exposure to high lead levels possibly causing significant neurological damage to children, this has become a very important safety concern across the country and in New York State.

To be proactive, HCS Superintendent Terrance Dougherty recently announced that the water supply has been tested at the elementary and middle/high school buildings for the express purpose of checking for unacceptably high levels of lead contamination. According to Dougherty, “over 100 samples have been collected and sent to a certified lab for analysis. We expect to have the results of this testing back sometime in mid-October. Once the lab results have been received and confirmed, I will communicate our next steps in this process.”

Dougherty concluded by adding the “health and safety of our students and staff members are our top concerns, and we intend to react swiftly in the event there are indications of any irregularities in the water supply.”

New Faces at HCS!



Principal Brenton Taylor, Barbara Force, Sara Bulman, Devon Bedient, Superintendent Terrance Dougherty



SARA BULMAN

I am beyond excited to be joining the Hancock Central School District as the newly hired Elementary AIS Reading Specialist. I grew up in Vestal and am currently the Girls' Modified Lacrosse Coach at Union-Endicott. I received my Masters in Education from SUNY Cortland where I focused my master's project on reading intervention. I cannot wait to be a part of the Hancock

Central School District and begin this adventurous year with your children. I look forward to a wonderful journey!



BARBARA FORCE

I recently completed my undergraduate degree at Cornell University and my Masters in Science in Syracuse. I currently live in Kirkwood. I like being near the surreal city of Ithaca, booming Binghamton and beautiful Hancock. When I am not planning fun activities for my young scientists, I like to explore around town, write action-filled stories and play games.

I am so grateful for this opportunity to join the Hancock community. I have been waiting with baited breath for the chance to meet your children and start our adventure! It is my dream to have a science classroom where everyone feels included, safe, and respected. When we feel safe and respected, we work our hardest—and achieve the most.



DEVON BEDIENT

I grew up in a small town near Delhi and attended Delaware Academy at Delhi. I graduated from Sage College in Albany with a Bachelor's of Science in Physical Education. I enjoy being active and being involved with athletic programs and giving back in an area that has meant a great deal to me. I will be teaching elementary and 8th grade physical education as well as elementary computer

classes. I look forward to working with the students, parents, faculty and community as we all grow.



Service Year Awards



Hancock Central School employees, pictured with Superintendent Dr. Terrance Dougherty, are recognized for their years of service. Front row, l.-r.: Michelle Rutledge—5 years, Leticia Drumm—15 years, Rosa Kuehn—15 years, Roberta Vasconi-Smith—15 years; back row, l.-r.: Bill Christian—15 years, Shaun Gotthardt—20 years, Paul Vetrone—10 years, Missi Newman—10 years, Monica Whitt—20 years, Mary Norris—20 years, Brenda Smith—15 years; missing from photo: Scott MacDowall—25 years, Paula Thomas—30 years.

School Board Recognition Week

The New York State School Boards Association has designated the week of October 24-28 as School Board Recognition Week in New York State as a time to build awareness and understanding of the vital function an elected board of education plays in our society. The Hancock Central School District joined with other districts throughout the State to recognize the important contributions board members make to communities. "I remain deeply appreciative, as we all should, for the many cumulative years of outstanding service rendered by the members of the Hancock Central School District Board of Education. It is my sincere pleasure to work with five dedicated and committed advocates for public education and the children of our community," said HCS Superintendent Terrance Dougherty.

The men/women serving the Hancock Central School District are: Terry Whitt, President; Rebecca Smith, Vice-President; Gene Homer; Todd Jacobs and Lothar Holbert, Wayne Highlands Representative.

Special Education Services

Special Education services are available to all students in grades PK-12. Teachers and/or parents may refer students who are experiencing difficulty learning or who are thought to be gifted. Students identified as exceptional and in need of specially designed instruction will have individualized education plans developed. Parental involvement is critical throughout the duration of the student's time in the special education program. If you suspect your child may have a disability or gifted, please contact your child's teacher, building principal or Mr. Gary Williams, Director of Pupil Personnel.

More information can be found on the district website in the SPECIAL EDUCATION section.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SIX COMMON MYTHS

1. Myth: My child needs some simple accommodations in class such as extra time; therefore, she has to have an IEP.

Fact: There are numerous interventions teachers can put in place to assist all children, regardless of having an IEP. Contact your child's teacher if you feel they may need some assistance.

2. Myth: Every child who struggles or has a disability is guaranteed an IEP.

Fact: To qualify for special education services (and an IEP), a student must meet two criteria:

A. The student must be formally diagnosed as having a disability as defined under the Individuals (IDEA). This federal law covers 13 categories of disability, one of which is *specific learning disabilities*.

B. The school must determine that a student needs special education services in order to make progress in school and learn the general education curriculum. Not all students with disabilities meet both criteria.

3. Myth: Getting an IEP means that the student will have to be pulled from their general education classroom.

Fact: Special education requires that students be educated in the least restrictive environment. Children with disabilities should be educated in a classroom with their non-disabled peers to the greatest extent possible.

4. Myth: You cannot make changes to an IEP once it is signed until the next annual IEP meeting.

Fact: Parents can ask for a new IEP meeting at any time, which must be held within 30 days of the request. If changes are agreed to in the IEP meeting an amendment can be added to the IEP.

5. Myth: An IEP will provide services and supports for your child beyond high school and in college.

Fact: Many special education students go on to college. IDEA of 2004 specifically requires that students be prepared for independent living and further education to the extent possible. While the IEP ends upon graduation from high school, most colleges and universities have student support services for stu-

dents with disabilities. These services could include note taking, tape recording lectures and many others. Their growth rather than the loss of their outstanding abilities.

Similarly to special education identification, in order to receive a GIEP, the student must be found gifted and in need of specially designed instruction. Some students are gifted, but their current programming is appropriate and they are not in need of a GIEP.

6. Myth: Only gifted students can take college credit bearing courses in high school.

Fact: While college credit bearing classes offer rigorous and advanced coursework, they are not a gifted education program. These courses are offered to high school students who meet the prerequisites set by the department and listed in the course description booklets.



L.-r.: Natasha Picozzi, Louise Picozzi, Andrea Wadeson, William Wadeson, Bailey Cable, Joe D'Elia, Marissa Bevan, Michael Alderman.

Natasha Picozzi is the daughter of Louise Picozzi of Hancock. **Andrea Wadeson** is the daughter of William and Tammi Wadeson of Hancock. **Bailey Cable** is the daughter of Sara and Joe D'Elia of Lakewood and the late Dan Cable. **Marissa Bevan** is the daughter of Cindy and Michael Alderman of Hancock.



The 2016 Homecoming Queen being crowned by Dr. Terrance Dougherty is Natasha Picozzi daughter of Louise Picozzi.

What Did You Do On Your Summer Vacation?

The classic ice-breaker question, “What did you do on summer vacation?” is one we hear asked countless times in classrooms on the first days of school. Yet it also allows us to share our professional development.

While the summer months have provided some much-deserved rest and relaxation for all of our faculty and staff, we have historically taken advantage of the time to conduct professional development for our staff. All faculty participated in a minimum of 10 hours of training this summer with our administrative team serving as the facilitators for much of that training.

SUMMARY OF OUR SUMMER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The \$6.9M capital enhancement project was substantially completed.
- District safety and emergency response plans were updated.
- District administrators participated in a host of staff development activities focused on enhancing student achievement, school culture, and responsible financial management.
- A team of District administrators and teachers worked collaboratively to ensure the Annual Professional Performance Plan was completed, uploaded and approved by NYSED.
- Teachers participated in a BOCES-wide Response to Intervention in-service at the Unadilla Valley CSD.
- The maintenance staff worked extraordinarily hard to ensure all buildings and grounds are in top condition for the start of the school year.

In addition to the structured opportunities for our staff, our faculty traditionally spends additional time in their classrooms planning and preparing for the upcoming school year and we are ready!



HCS Provides Pathway to a Community College Degree

Hancock Central School District students can now earn up to 60 college credits, and possibly a community college degree, prior to graduation from high school through courses offered by Tompkins Cortland Community College via dual-credit articulations with in-house teachers, the CollegeNow™ program, and through distance learning classes offered in the District’s new distance learning lab, according to Superintendent Terrance Dougherty. District officials have spent the past two years collaborating with various providers to ensure that the programs would be up and running on the first day of school. Dougherty added, “Pulling this off was a total team effort, but a tremendous amount of credit belongs to the Board of Education, many of our high school teachers and staff, and especially to PK-12 Principal Brenton Taylor. Mr. Taylor truly was the driver behind the scenes.”

With dual-credit courses, Hancock students have the ability to earn college credits while sitting for locally offered courses taught by high school teachers. CollegeNow™ is an online, self-directed course of study, and distance learning classes are received by HCS students in a new, state-of-the-art distance learning lab located on the third floor of the middle/high school building. High school staff members provide supervision and support in the distance learning lab. Although enrollment in some of the courses carries a nominal per-student fee that will be partly subsidized by the District’s general budget fund, the majority of classes are offered to students for free. “Our vision is to offer affordable and diverse course offerings through multiple venues in an effort to meet the collective needs of our students and staff,” Dougherty said. “Accelerated students—eighth, ninth, and tenth graders—who demonstrate a strong desire and motivation to tackle college-level courses, have the best chance of accruing the full 60 hours of college credit over the span of their high school careers.”

Mr. Dougherty was quick to add that the majority of college credits earned by high school students in Hancock will be transferable to many colleges and universities throughout New York State and Pennsylvania. Said Dougherty, “In my opinion, access to affordable higher education institutions is a pressing civil rights issue for rural school children.” He added, “With what we are offering, Hancock students will now have the ability to start college having earned up to the equivalent of two full years of course credits; the potential cost savings implications are huge.” Regarding future possibilities, he noted that the District is exploring the possibility of offering adult education and retraining programs for community residents during evening hours.

Dougherty encouraged parents and caretakers to consult the District website, www.hancock.stier.org, or the High School Guidance or Main Office at 637-1306, for additional information including a comprehensive list of college course offerings.



DCMO BOCES Welcomes New District Superintendent

DCMO BOCES staff gathered this week to welcome Perry T. Dewey, III as their new District Superintendent. Linda Zaczek, Board of Education President, introduced Mr. Dewey by saying, "I am delighted to introduce our new leader. His strategic planning skills and his deep passion for improving opportunities for our students will be our asset." The search process took seven months and involved multiple recruitment and interview teams. "I would like to thank all the community leaders and volunteers who joined our team in this process," said Zaczek.



Perry Dewey welcomed his new team with a warm remark, "I would like to take time to get to know each of you and learn about what you do for our organization. My working experience with other BOCES organizations tells me that the work you do, in every department and at our schools, has a large impact on our student's opportunities." Dewey commented on his commitment to connect school to community and to mind communications as the best vehicle to achieve understanding and collaboration.

Dewey is a native of Sherman, NY, certified by the New York State Education Department in School District Administration. His wife Sue and his two children, Theresa and Danielle, welcome the new journey. Dewey holds a Bachelor's Degree in Professional Studies Agriculture Technology in Education from Empire State College and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from St. Bonaventure University. According to Zaczek, Perry's work experience as Madison School Superintendent, Principal at the Tompkins Seneca Tioga BOCES, and his management experience with Cornell University, will be a valued resource to impact our students' opportunities.

Dewey mentioned his intent to interact with community partners to enhance opportunities for our students, "Our business and legislative leaders play an important role in education. These relationships open new doors and connect our students to jobs, to careers, and to good citizenship. I am confident that we will find an endless source from these relationships," said Dewey about his passion to build new paths in what he called his new home.

DCMO BOCES serves 16 school districts in Delaware, Chenango, Madison, and Otsego County. Over 500 staff members are employed by the organization supporting instructional, management, and purchasing services. More information can be found at their website at www.dcmoboces.com.

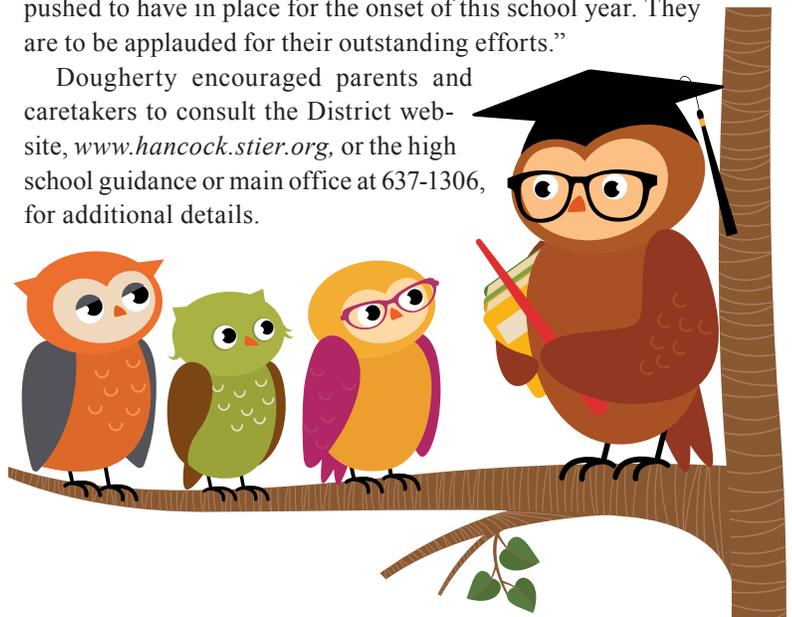
Elementary and Middle Schools Pilot Student Enrichment Programs

Beginning in October, Hancock Elementary is implementing a building-wide enrichment and intervention model to be known as WIN (What I Need). The new model will bring about new changes in the way students are academically supported in the Elementary School. According to Director of Pupil Personnel Gary Williams, "The philosophy behind the model is that ALL students deserve a chance to have extra support within the regular schedule of the school day" and "The District will support students based on their needs and current level of academic performance." The program schedule for elementary students will include two 30-minute additional support periods each week.

A similar enrichment and intervention model is also being carried out in the Middle School. Students in grades five and six will receive the support they need one period each day, while the seventh and eighth grade support for students will take place once every six days. The goal of the middle school model is to provide targeted and systematic intervention, remediation, and enrichment opportunities in response to individual student needs. "By building time into the school day, ALL students are able to receive the support and time for learning they need to reach their full potential," stated Principal, Brenton Taylor. "The purpose behind this initiative is to ensure that students have the knowledge and skills necessary to become successful adults."

It is expected that all students in grades PK-8 will benefit tremendously from this additional instructional time. Planning for provision of a similar enrichment period model for high school students is in the works and very likely will be reviewed by administration and the board of education during the current school year for possible implementation during the 2017-2018 school year. "Continuous growth and enhanced student achievement are our top priorities," stated HCS Superintendent Terrance Dougherty, "provision of systematic interventions and protected time that enrich student learning during the regular school day are critical to the success of our academic programs." He added, "academic enrichment periods are something the HCS Instructional Leadership Team and the elementary and middle school staffs really pushed to have in place for the onset of this school year. They are to be applauded for their outstanding efforts."

Dougherty encouraged parents and caretakers to consult the District website, www.hancock.stier.org, or the high school guidance or main office at 637-1306, for additional details.



Keep your kids safe. Get their flu shots every year.

The Flu: A Guide for Parents

<p>Is the flu more serious for kids?</p>	<p>Infants and young children are at greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu. That's why the New York State Department of Health recommends that all children 6 months and older get the flu vaccine.</p>
<p>Flu vaccine may save your child's life.</p>	<p>Most people with the flu are sick for about a week, and then they feel better. But, some people, especially young children, pregnant women, older people, and people with chronic health problems can get very sick. Some can even die. An annual vaccine is the best way to protect your child from the flu. The vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older every year.</p>
<p>What is the flu?</p>	<p>The flu, or influenza, is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs. The flu can spread from person to person.</p>
<p>Who needs the flu shot?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu shots can be given to children 6 months and older. • Children younger than 9 years old who get a vaccine for the first time need two doses.
<p>How else can I protect my child?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the flu vaccine for yourself. • Encourage your child's close contacts to get the flu vaccine, too. This is very important if your child is younger than 5, or if he or she has a chronic health problem such as asthma (breathing disease) or diabetes (high blood sugar levels). Because children under 6 months can't be vaccinated, they rely on those around them to get an annual flu vaccine. • Wash your hands often and cover your coughs and sneezes. It's best to use a tissue and quickly throw it away. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands. This will prevent the spread of germs. • Tell your children to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay away from people who are sick; • Clean their hands often; • Keep their hands away from their face, and • Cover coughs and sneezes to protect others.
<p>What are signs of the flu?</p>	<p>The flu comes on suddenly. Most people with the flu feel very tired and have a high fever, headache, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and sore muscles. Some people, especially children, may also have stomach problems and diarrhea. The cough can last two or more weeks.</p>

<p>How does the flu spread?</p>	<p>People who have the flu usually cough, sneeze, and have a runny nose. The droplets in a cough, sneeze or runny nose contain the flu virus. Other people can get the flu by breathing in these droplets or by getting them in their nose or mouth.</p>
<p>How long can a sick person spread the flu to others?</p>	<p>Most healthy adults may be able to spread the flu from one day before getting sick to up to 5 days after getting sick. This can be longer in children and in people who don't fight disease as well (people with weaker immune systems).</p>
<p>What should I use to clean hands?</p>	<p>Wash your children's hands with soap and water. Wash them for as long as it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice. If soap and water are not handy, use a hand sanitizer. It should be rubbed into hands until the hands are dry.</p>
<p>What can I do if my child gets sick?</p>	<p>Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks lots of fluids. Talk with your child's doctor before giving your child over-the-counter medicine. If your children or teenagers may have the flu, never give them aspirin or medicine that has aspirin in it. It could cause serious problems.</p>
<p>Can my child go to school or day care with the flu?</p>	<p>No. If your child has the flu, he or she should stay home to rest. This helps avoid giving the flu to other children.</p>
<p>When can my child go back to school or day care after having the flu?</p>	<p>Children with the flu should be isolated in the home, away from other people. They should also stay home until they have no fever without the use of fever-control medicines and they feel well for 24 hours. Remind your child to protect others by covering his or her mouth when coughing or sneezing. You may want to send your child to school with some tissues, and a hand sanitizer, if allowed by school.</p>

For more information about the flu, visit health.ny.gov/flu

Or, www.cdc.gov/flu
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Follow us on:
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Twitter/HealthNYgov

Curriculum Night



HCS Emergency Closing Procedures and FAQs 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 final decision-making process. Finally, as needed, the Superintendent of Schools and Transportation Director will drive district primary and secondary roads in order to evaluate travel safety. Variables that factor into the school closing decision-making process 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 school district parking lots, building conditions, temperature, and 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 10:00 a.m., close for the day, dismiss early at 12:30 p.m., or cancel all after-school 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 via the following media no later than 6:00 a.m.:

Television

WBNG, WNEP, WYOU, WICZ, YNN, WBRE

Radio

WAAL, WHWK, WDLA, WDNH, WNBF, WWYL, WYOS, WINR, WENE, Magic 101.7, STAR 105.7

Website

www.hancock.stier.org

Cell/Telephone

Global Connect automatic notification system, 637-8000. Decisions to dismiss school early or to cancel after-school activities will be similarly disseminated using the communications venues listed above.

FAQS

Q: When is the decision made to close or delay school?

- A:** 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 school closing or delay
 - 6:00 a.m.—School closing/delay decision is communicated to all district stakeholders
 - 10:00 a.m.—On days when school is in session and weather conditions deteriorate, the decision to dismiss early is made and communicated at this time
 - 12:30 p.m.—Early dismissal time for inclement weather
 - 1:00 p.m.—On days when school is in session and weather conditions deteriorate, the decision to cancel after-school activities is made and communicated at this time

Q: Who makes the decision to delay or close school?

- A:** The superintendent of schools makes the decision to close school in concert with the district transportation director, NYS and county officials, and Village and Town of Hancock officials. In addition, select television and computer weather forecasts weigh in the final decision-making process.

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

- A:** If the Hancock Central School District is closed due to inclement weather, then all evening activities are canceled as well. On days when school is in session but conditions deteriorate over the course of the day, a decision to continue after-school activities will be made no later than 1:00 p.m.

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

- A:** Parents/caretakers are encouraged to use their best judgment to determine what is best for their children. Parents/caretakers are expected to notify the school district of their child's excused absence.

Q: Are we going to have to make up snow days?

- A:** The school district builds additional days into the school calendar each year to account for time lost to inclement weather. However, in the event this additional time is exhausted due to extraordinary weather conditions, the Hancock Central School District 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.

Q: What are the various states of winter weather awareness that may be declared by the National Weather Service?

- A:** 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 a winter storm event (heavy sleet, heavy snow, ice storm, heavy snow and blowing snow or a combination of events) to meet or exceed local winter storm warning criteria in the next 24 to 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

A winter storm event (heavy sleet, heavy snow, ice storm, heavy snow and blowing snow or a combination of events) is expected to meet or exceed local winter storm warning criteria in the next 12 to 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

A winter storm event (sleet, snow, freezing rain, snow and blowing snow, or a combination of events) is expected to meet or exceed local winter weather advisory criteria in the next 12 to 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).

Q: What are the various states of winter weather awareness that may be declared by Delaware County?

A: Delaware County may declare the following:

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.” These orders 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

The County may also issue a travel advisory either in conjunction with the State of Emergency declaration or as a stand-alone “order.” A travel advisory is just that—an advisory to motorists to alert them that some road conditions may be deteriorated in the area and that persons traveling 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.

Annual Notifications

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

TO: Parents and Eligible Students of Hancock Central School District

You are notified that you have the following rights in relation to student records.

1. The right to inspect and review a student's education records.
2. The right of a student's parents or an eligible student to seek to correct parts of the student's education records which he or she believes to be inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's rights. These rights include the right to a hearing to present evidence that the records should be changed if the district decides not to alter it according to the parents' or an eligible student's request.
3. The right to report or file a complaint with the Department of Education if the school district violates FERPA.
4. The right to exercise a limited control over other people's access to the student's education records.
5. The right to seek and correct the student's education records, in a hearing if necessary.
6. The right to be informed about FERPA rights. You are further advised:
 - a. The school district shall limit the disclosure of information contained in the student's education records except: (a) by prior written consent of the student's parents or an eligible student, (b) directory information or (c) under certain limited circumstances, as permitted by FERPA.
 - b. If either a student's parents or an eligible student desires to obtain copies of the policy pertaining to student records, notification should be presented to Mr. Terrance Dougherty, 67 Education Lane, Hancock, NY 13783.

All rights and protections given to parents under the FERPA and this policy transfer to the student when the student reaches age 18 or enrolls in a post-secondary school. The student then becomes an "eligible student."

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The school district proposes to designate the following personally identifiable information contained in the student's education record as directory information and it will disclose this information without prior written consent:

1. The student's name;
2. The names of the student's parents;
3. The student's address;
4. The student's telephone number;
5. The student's date of birth;
6. The student's class designation (*e.g.*, first grade, tenth grade, and the like)
7. The student's participation in officially recognized activities and sports;
8. The student's achievement awards or honors;

9. The student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team;
10. The student's photograph; and
11. The most recent education institution attended before the student enrolled in the school district.

You need to advise the school district in writing, directed to the Office of the School Superintendent, of any and all items which you refuse to permit the district to designate as directory information about the student. The District may disclose directory information about former students without following the procedure specified for directory information.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

No otherwise qualified individual with a disability, as defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any programs or activity conducted by the Hancock Central School District. Furthermore, it is the intent of the District to ensure that students who are disabled within this definition are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services. For further information, contact the Building Principals.

Title IX

The Hancock Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability in the employment and educational opportunities it offers, including the vocational education opportunities available.

The District further gives notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in admission or access to its program and activities, including vocational education programs.

Inquiries regarding these policies may be referred to Gary Williams, Title IX Coordinator, at 637-1219.



Annual Notifications

Notice to Parents

You have a right to know if your child's teacher is highly qualified.

SUCH INFORMATION MUST INCLUDE:

- Whether a teacher has State certification for the grade levels and subjects he or she is teaching;
- The teacher's baccalaureate degree major and any other certifications or degrees; and
- Whether their child receives services from paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

SCHOOLS RECEIVING TITLE I FUNDS MUST ALSO GIVE PARENTS TIMELY NOTICE:

- If their child has been assigned to a teacher of a core academic subject who is not "highly qualified," or
- If their child has been taught for four or more weeks in a row by a teacher of a core academic subject who is not "highly qualified."

YOU CAN FIND OUT IF YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER IS HIGHLY QUALIFIED.

- Ask the principal in your child's school about the qualifications of your child's teachers.
- Ask your child's principal or teacher what professional development activities will be offered to help all teachers meet the highly qualified standard.

This is one of a series on New York parent information sheets about the federal education law No Child Left Behind, Section 1119 of No Child Left Behind covers teacher qualifications. For more information ask your principal or email the New York State Education Department at nclbnys@mail.nysed.gov or go to the website at www.emsc.nysed.gov. The Federal No Child Left Behind website has a page especially designed for parents at www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml.

Cell Phones

Dear Parents,

In light of recent confusion regarding the use of cell phones by students while on Hancock School District buses, please review the following guidelines for cell phone use.

DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Students and staff are not to use cell phones while on the school bus, with the exception of *an emergency**. This includes using cell phones to take pictures. In the case of an emergency, the bus driver will either make the call or designate an individual to do so.

AFTER SCHOOL HOURS – SPORTS

Students should not use cell phones on the school bus unless directed to do so by the team coach (*ex.* calling parents when nearing the school upon return from a contest). Cell phones are not to be used for normal conversational purposes or to take pictures. The decision by the coach will be made after consultation with the bus driver.

Thank you for your cooperation!

**An emergency is defined as an accident or medical emergency on the bus.*

Emergency Closing Procedures

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, news-casts, and computer simulations also factor into the final decision-making process. Finally, as needed, the Superintendent of Schools and Transportation Director will drive district primary and secondary roads in order to evaluate travel safety. Variables that factor into the school closing decision-making process 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 school district parking lots, building conditions, temperature, and 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 10:00 a.m., close for the day, dismiss early at 12:30 p.m., or cancel all after-school 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 via the following media no later than 6:00 a.m.:

Television

WBNG, WNEP, WYOU, WICZ, YNN, WBRE

Radio

WAAL, WHWK, WDLA, WDNH, WNBC, WWYL, WYOS, WINR, WENE, Magic 101.7, STAR 105.7

Website

www.hancock.stier.org

Cell/Telephone

The Global Connect automatic notification system phone number is 637-8000.

Decisions to dismiss school early or to cancel after-school activities will be similarly disseminated using the communications venues listed above.

Annual Notifications

Request for Pesticide Application Notice

Dear Parent, Guardian, and School Staff,

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Hancock Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff 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 for a continuous 72-hour following an application;
- Anti-microbial products;
- Nonvolatile rodenticides 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 octaborate tetrahydrate;
- The application of EPA designated biopesticides;
- The application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25; or
- 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.

The Hancock Central School will not allow the use of any pesticides that require notification unless an emergency exists. 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 that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the form below and return it to the school.

AHERA Notification

The Hancock Central School District has completed the inspection of its facilities to determine if asbestos is present and if any action is needed to avoid potential health hazards.

A management plan has been developed in compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Alert (AHERA) to insure that the school district continues to provide and maintain a safe environment for students, employees and visitors. The plan includes:

- Training of maintenance staff to prevent disturbance of asbestos;
- Provisions for periodic re-inspection and surveillance, provisions for abatement activities performed by trained personnel;
- Annually school districts are required to notify parent, teacher, and employee organizations of the availability of their management plans. A copy of the management plan is available for inspection at the Main Office of each school building as well as at the Business Office of the School District. Any questions regarding this matter may be directed to Frank Seely, 637-1313.

Administration of Medications

If your child anticipates or will be taking any medication for the 2015-16 school year, including over-the-counter drugs (Tylenol®, cough drops, etc.), a form must be signed by his/her physician as well as the custodial parent/guardian and returned to the school nurse. Medications should be labeled and kept in the Nurse's Office.

New York State Law prohibits us from giving any medications without this release. Forms must be renewed for each academic school year and may be obtained from the school nurses.

HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUEST FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATION NOTIFICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please return to Frank Sealey, 67 Education Lane, Hancock, NY 13783.

HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL

67 Education Lane
Hancock, NY 13783

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
P A I D
PERMIT #18
Norwich, NY
13815

DCMO BOCES Printing Service

Board Members

Terry Whitt, President
Rebecca L. Smith, Vice-President
Gene W. Homer
Todd Jacobs
Lothar Holbert, Wayne Highlands Rep.
Scott MacDowall, District Treasurer

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

ECRWSS
BOXHOLDER

MISSION STATEMENT: The Hancock Central School District believes that every child can learn and challenges all students to reach their full potential in a caring and supportive atmosphere. Our school and community partnership provides high expectations for achievement and opportunities to develop the social, emotional, physical and intellectual well-being of every student.

We are committed to excellence through ongoing assessments and revisions of programs and goals, thus continuing to meet the changing needs of our community while assuring that our children are successful and prepared to be tomorrow's leaders.

Call Me!

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

When you need clarification, additional information, have a pressing question or any commendations 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, but in most cases it is best to use when scheduling a phone call or face-to-face meeting.

The dialogue that can be established via a phone call cannot be duplicated via text or an email. The best place to start for all school related inquiries is your child's principal.

The following communications chart is a tool we hope parents will consult when attempting to contact the School District on the following issues.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT	1ST CONTACT	2ND CONTACT	3RD CONTACT	4TH CONTACT
Academics	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent
Athletics	Coach	Athletic Director	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent
Behavior	Teacher	Director of Pupil Personnel/ PK-12 Principal	Superintendent	
BOE Policies	District Clerk	Superintendent	Board of Education	
Budget	Business Administrator	Business Manager	Superintendent	Board of Ed.
Building Use	PK-12 Principal	Supt. Buildings & Grounds	Supt. Secretary	Superintendent
Cafeteria	Café Manager	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent	
Classroom Procedures	Teacher	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent	
Co-Curricular	Advisor	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent	
Facilities	Supt. Bldg. & Gr.	Superintendent		
Health Office	Building Nurse	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent	
Scheduling	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent
Special Education	Teacher	Director of Pupil Personnel	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent
Transportation	Bus Driver	Transportation Director	Superintendent	

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Elementary School Office	637-1219
Middle/High School Office	637-1305
CSE Office	637-1315
Food Service Office	637-1320
Superintendent's Office.....	637-1301
Elementary School Health Office.....	637-1220
Middle/High School Health Office.....	637-1310
Transportation Department	637-5322
Buildings and Grounds.....	637-1313