

WILDCAT

HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS

FALL 2017
VOLUME 21, NO. 1

hancock.stier.org



The Wildcat Pledge: We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.
Our Vision: Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caretakers:

Hello, friends. Welcome back to school!! We are very happy to welcome all of our students, faculty and staff members back to a new and exciting 2017-2018 school year!

The facilities have never been in better condition, thanks in large part to Paul Bartholomew and his outstanding crew in the buildings and grounds department. The vast majority of the key elements of the 2014 capital project have been completed, including a newly paved blacktop footprint for the elementary and middle/high school properties. With the installation of the new sidewalk, all walking pedestrians and students can now safely enter onto the middle/high school property without traversing onto the roadway. I encourage everyone to observe this new safety addition! Thank you!

We have a few new faces (and three veterans who will be working in a different capacity!!) that are now part of our professional family: Anthony Pascarelli is our new elementary physical education teacher; Ariel Kravetsky will start the school year as the middle school ELA teacher; Devon Bedient will be replacing Brandon Olbrys who departed to accept a position with the Windsor Central School District; Don Roney will be replacing Phil Bianchi in the tech program and Kathryn Herzog will be the middle/high school media specialist. Janine Taft has departed to accept a position with the Binghamton City School

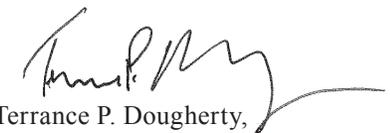
District and we are currently working to staff her vacancy. In addition, I would like to welcome Lori Asquith, our new Pre-K-12 principal as well as Amber Dennis who will permanently serve as the Director of Pupil Personnel. Finally, Ann Messenger has agreed to serve as the athletic coordinator for the 2017-2018 school year. Welcome to all!!

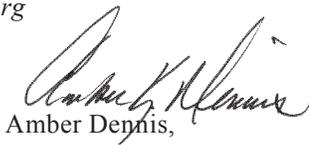
Finally, please note that parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 20. School will be dismissed at 12:30 pm. Please check with your child's teacher and or building administrator to confirm scheduling time slots. I strongly encourage you not to miss this great opportunity as these conferences present a wonderful opportunity to meet with your child's entire teaching team. Each teacher in the classroom has valuable insights to share regarding your child's experiences and progress at school. Furthermore, for parents, and caretakers of children in grades 3-8, information brochures that speak to the importance of your child's participation in New York State's 3-8 ELA and math assessment program will be distributed in the elementary and middle/high school buildings. Highlights of this information includes explanations of the revised examination formats and the importance of school districts to provide balanced educational programs, inclusive of reliable and reasonable checkpoint assessments, for all students under our care. Please feel to discuss this information with your child's educator on November 20.

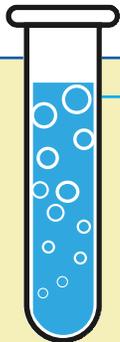
Please stay in touch!

Respectfully,


Lori Asquith,
Pre-K-12 Principal
lasquith@hancock.stier.org
(607) 637-1305


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


Amber Dennis,
Director of Pupil Personnel Services
adennis@hancock.stier.org
(607) 637-1217



HCS Tests Water for Lead Content

Pursuant to Governor Cuomo's signed legislation requiring all school districts and BOCES to test portable water systems for lead contamination, the Hancock Central School District is pleased to report that all drinking water outlets, bubbler, and faucets in the elementary and middle/high school buildings have been tested and have passed the NYS Department of Health's Environmental Laboratory Approval Program threshold for safe drinking water.

Testing results are available for review by community members, parents and guardians upon request. Simply contact Paul Bartholomew at (607) 637-1211 or by emailing pbartholomew@hancock.stier.org.

Your child's safety is our top priority. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Hancock Central School District.

Sincerely,
Terrance P. Dougherty,
Superintendent

Employee Recognition Luncheon



Hancock Central School employees are recognized for their years of service. Front row, l.-r.: Sharon Drumm—15 years, Candice Milk—10 years, Kristen Rice—10 years, Jackie Beamer—10—years, Jennifer Hunt—20 years, Kerrie Bass—15 years; back, l.-r.: Denise Dirig—10 years, Betsy Poborsky—10 years, Cindy Alderman—5 years, Chance Charles—5 years, Carolyn Rhinebeck—15 years, Melissa Karcher—20 years, Christine Casta—20 years, Paul Bartholomew—20 years

New Faces at HCS!



Kristina Dufton and Anthony Pascarelli

KRISTINA DUFTON

I am a 2003 graduate of Hancock Central School, who continued my education at Wilkes University, where I studied Elementary Education, Special Education, and Psychology.

I have been teaching in the Montrose Area School District for the past 10 years as a Special Education Teacher.

I am looking forward to working in the community that I grew up in and am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the Academic Professional Team at HCS.

I reside in Hancock with my husband Michael, and two children, Holden and Harper.

ANTHONY PASCARELLI

I am from Florida, NY and graduate of S.S. Seward Institute. I attended SUNY Orange and earned an associate of science degree in liberal arts: mathematics and natural sciences. After graduating, I attended SUNY Cortland and earned my bachelor of science in education in physical education with a concentration in adapted physical education with cum laude distinction.

Since graduating from SUNY Cortland, I have been a coach in Orange County. I was the head coach of JV Softball at S.S. Seward Institute and JV Girls' Soccer at Chester Academy. Additionally, I was the assistant Varsity Wrestling coach at Burke Catholic High School. This past summer I was co-director of the Village of Florida Summer Recreation Program in Florida, NY.

I am looking forward to working in our community and with the students here at HCS.

In my spare time, I enjoy playing soccer and baseball, swimming, hiking, reading and gardening.



Developing Positive Relationships through Conversation

A GUIDE FOR ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS

Communication among administrators, educators, parents and/or guardians is the key to student success. Having open and honest communication among school personnel and families is a top priority. So how do administrators and teachers inform parents and/or guardians that the well-being of their child is always first and foremost on their minds? The answer lies in a few key points that school leaders and educators should always consider when discussing the well-being of any student.

SCHOOL IS A SAFE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

It is our job as employees of the school to remind families that we will do everything necessary to ensure a safe and nurturing place for the kids of this community to live, work, and play.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Keeping open lines of communication between the school and home is paramount to solving problems. If something is bothersome, reach out to school personnel and discuss the situation via phone, email or in-person. If an immediate response is not possible, leave a message and it will be addressed as soon as possible.

EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING

It is very important for administrators and teachers to show support for families, rather than judgement when an issue arises concerning their child. Together, administrators and teachers can create *plans of action* when a student is struggling. Working together in a partnership is what families and schools are all about.

KNOWING THE STUDENTS

It's imperative that as school leaders we get to know our students as individuals. Every child is unique and when we learn about their individual characteristics and talents, we can make connections with them. Building positive relationships can transcend far beyond graduation.

HELPING FAMILIES

Administrators and educators are here to help. We will work together with families to create *plans of action* when a student is in need. As teachers and leaders, it is our primary responsibility to educate students and act as positive role models. Administrators and teachers are here to assist families in the raising and educating of tomorrow's leaders.

So, please remember that communication between home and school is a crucial component to the growth and well-being of all our students. As school leaders, we recognize that families need to feel that their children are being well cared for in school every day. Relationships are invaluable to creating the necessary partnership between school and home that helps our students to thrive and succeed.

Curriculum and College Night

Families and faculty gathered on September 21 to share and learn more about HCS D curriculum offerings and course details. Staff members were available to answer questions and guide parents, grandparents, and guardians through classrooms. National Honor Society members were on hand to distribute student schedules and offer building tours.

The Education Foundation organized college night in the HS cafeteria. Representatives from SUNY Brockport, SUNY Broome, Penn State and many more were available to share information regarding their program offerings and academic assistance. Students who completed a complete college tour by stopping at each table, were entered into a drawing for an Education Foundation Scholarship.



Substitute Teacher Training

People are the Hancock Central School District's greatest assets. The Human Resources mission for the district is to facilitate the selection, support, and development of employees to ensure the goal of maximizing student performance. The substitute teaching staff plays a vital role in ensuring continuous quality instruction to our students when their assigned teacher is absent. This summer administrative intern Jackie Beamer developed a substitute teacher orientation in order to prepare, support, and develop our incoming substitute teaching staff. The program was a tremendous success and we look forward to growing and refining the program for the 2018-2019 school year

HCS Play

We hope you will join us for HCSD's production of *For Better Or Worst*, by Craig Sodaro.

Our 15-member cast will present a mystery comedy in two acts. Starring Nick Noir (**Patrick Esolen**), private eye, hired to solve a case which leads him to the Wurst Mansion—home of Otto Meyer, who made his millions selling hot dogs.

The public performance will take place on December 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. This show has something for everyone in the family! Lies, secrets, a murder and a chase scene make this who-done-it comedy not to be missed. Forget your troubles and come out for a fun night of entertainment. Tickets are still just \$5.



DH Eagles Women's Field Hockey Senior Recognition



Construction Career Day

Nearly 600 students from 19 school districts around the Broome-Tioga region, including Hancock, took part in a day-long event on October 8 to learn firsthand what awaits them in the construction career field.

The Southern Tier Construction Career Day was conducted at the Broome County Highway Department facility in Chenango Bridge and featured exhibits by a variety of organizations and schools associated with the construction industry.

This free event was organized by a consortium of groups, including the New York State Department of Transportation, the Broome County Highway Department, Broome-Tioga Workforce New York, Broome-Tioga BOCES and several local companies and trade unions involved in the construction industry.

This program is directly supported by the Federal Highway Administration through the NYSDOT, which provides a grant to help fund the program around New York state.

In addition to Broome County, the program is currently run in Albany, Buffalo, Ithaca, Rochester, Syracuse, and Utica.



DH Eagles Cross-Country

The Deposit-Hancock Girls' Varsity Cross-Country Team adventured off to Chenango Valley and won 2nd Place in Small Schools and 6th Place Overall. This is the first time DH has had a complete Girls' Team in over a decade (or maybe even two decades!). Way to go Lady Eagles! Team consists of: **Kelsey Young, Lily Ogozalek, Haylee Zartman, Sierra Francisco, and Madison Dawson.**



Hancock Central School District

Emergency Response Protocols

Prepared by: Amber K. Dennis, Director of Pupil Personnel
Terrance P. Dougherty, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Shaw, DCMO BOCES Director of Health and Safety

Introduction

At Hancock Central School District, the safety of all students, and staff members is our number one priority. District and building management plans and procedures have been designed to protect students and staff during emergency situations. Our plans include means of preventing and mitigating crises, as well as preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergency events.

Responses that may be implemented in the event of an emergency:



Shelter-In-Place

Used to shelter students and staff inside the building.



Hold-In-Place

Used to limit movement of students and staff while dealing with short term emergencies.



Evacuate

Used to evacuate students and staff from the building.



Lockout

Used to secure school buildings and grounds during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside of the school.



Lockdown

Used to secure school buildings and grounds during incidents that pose an immediate threat of violence in or around the school.

Each of our schools follows emergency procedures that are much more detailed than those outlined here. Our planning is based on local, state and federal guidelines. Our goal is to help you, as parents, to gain a greater understanding of how we prepare to handle emergencies. This way, in an actual emergency situation, you will know what to expect, just as our ongoing training teaches us what to expect. As the saying goes, the way we train is the way we respond. This is why our emergency drills are so important, and why keeping you informed is such an integral part of that process.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the difference between a “lockdown” and a “lockout”?

A: In a lockdown, there is a threat inside the school. In a lockout, the threat is outside the building. While such threats may be serious, more often than not the lockdown or lockout does not involve an immediate danger to students and staff, but is implemented because of a potential threat, or the perception of one. When in doubt as to the seriousness of a threat, schools often respond out of an abundance of caution.

Q: What happens in a lockdown?

A: A school will go into lockdown when there is an actual threat, or concern about a potential threat, inside the building. The police are called immediately and take command of the building and grounds. Every interior door is locked, and everyone in the building remains in their respective place out of view of anyone who may look into a room from the hallway. No one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Staff and students are instructed to remain where they are until a law enforcement officer enters the room and gives the “all clear”. This can take some time, as police check every interior space to make sure it is safe. Sometimes, if there’s a lockdown in one building, the other building may implement a lockout as a precaution.

Q: What happens in a lockout?

A: A lockout protects students and staff from a threat outside the building. No one is permitted to enter the building. Doors and windows are locked, and everyone who is already inside avoids being visible near outside windows. A lockout is sometimes called in response to an event in the vicinity, not necessarily even on school grounds. Unlike a lockdown, which will bring a rapid and large police response, the police response to a lockout will vary according to the severity and proximity of the threat. During a lockout, normal activities take place inside the building and outside activities (P.E. and/or recess) are suspended. A lockout may involve more than one school.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the difference between shelter-in-place, and hold-in-place?

A: Shelter-in-place means to seek immediate shelter and remain there during an emergency rather than evacuate the area. Shelter-in-place is used when it is safer inside the building or in a room than outside. Certain events may necessitate the initiation of a shelter-in-place, such as severe weather, or a hazardous incident outside of the building. Hold-in-place temporarily limits the movement of students and staff when an internal incident arises, such as a medical emergency, or a maintenance issue. A hold-in-place is initiated to keep students and staff out of the affected area until the situation can be rectified.

Q: What happens during a shelter-in-place?

A: During a shelter-in-place, clear directions will be given based on the situation. Students and staff may be instructed to move away from windows and doors or relocate to an interior hallway or room, such as during a weather emergency, or to move to rooms that can be sealed or without windows, such as in the event of a chemical or biological hazard.

Q: What happens during a hold-in-place?

A: A hold-in-place is a security procedure used to temporarily limit student and staff movement. Therefore, during a hold-in-place all students and staff will be instructed to stay in their classrooms and offices. If students are in the hallways, they should go to the nearest classroom, and remain there until the hold-in-place is lifted. Instruction continues as normally as possible.

Q: How will parents be notified during an emergency?

A: In an actual emergency in which police and/or other first responders are called, parents will be sent a message as quickly as possible through the district's phone messaging system. Updates will be provided continually as information becomes available. Direct communication with the school may not be possible for a period of time, as staff members must take shelter and/or focus on managing the situation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I pick up my child from school during a lockdown or lockout?

A: Not until the incident is over. During a lockdown, a perimeter may be established around the school and no one will be allowed to enter the grounds until the campus is determined to be safe. It is imperative that the police and school staff are able to account for everyone inside the building. During a lockout, no one will be permitted to enter, and staff are trained not to open doors for anyone.

Q: What other kinds of emergency drills do the schools practice?

A: Offsite evacuation drills are held, in which the entire student body and staff move to another building. These drills were very well planned and highly effective. An actual offsite evacuation might take place in the event of a loss of heat or power, or other potentially hazardous, but not necessarily life-threatening situation. In addition to these offsite evacuations, numerous mandated evacuation drills and lockdown drills are also conducted every year.

Q: What should I do if I happen to be in school during an emergency or a drill?

A: Follow the instructions of staff and/or the police. In a lockdown or lockout, you should remain in your location along with students and staff. If the building is evacuated, you must leave the building promptly with students and staff.

Conclusion

Each of our schools follows emergency procedures that are much more detailed than those outlined here. Our planning is based on local, state and federal guidelines. Our goal is to help you, as parents, to gain a greater understanding of how we prepare to handle emergencies. This way, in an actual emergency situation, you will know what to expect, just as our ongoing training teaches us what to expect. As the saying goes, the way we train is the way we respond. This is why our emergency drills are so important, and why keeping you informed is such an integral part of that process.

Sources:

<http://www.corningareaschools.com/sites/templates/images.8/C-PPSafetyBrochure.pdf>

<http://www.minervasd.org/cms/lib7/NY01000156/Centricity/Domain/1/Minerva%20safety%20plan%202015.pdf>

<http://www.nyssba.org/news/2015/03/12/on-board-online-march-16-2015/5-kinds-of-emergency-responses/>

<http://www.oneonta.edu/security/documents/ShelterInPlace.pdf>

<http://www.roslynschools.org/Domain/30>

Homecoming and Spirit Week

Homecoming and Spirit Week kicked off with a visit from the HSCD Wildcat. The HSCD Wildcat took a tour of the elementary building to greet our littlest cubs! Both buildings participated in spirit days:

- Monday PJ day
- Tuesday Dress to impress (coupled with National Honor Society Blood Drive)
- Wednesday HCS turned Red, White, and BLUE!
- Thursday Sports and Hats were sported and our Senior parents organized an evening bonfire at Fireman's Field
- Friday WILD CAT COLORS and Pep Rally

PEP RALLY

The HCS Band and Fans were making lots of noise at the 2017-2018 Pep Rally on Friday, September 29. Balloon relays, tug-o-war, and pudding eating were all part of the fun. HES 4th graders took home the 2017 WILDCAT CUB Spirit Award and the Class of 2022 secured the 2017 Spirit Stick for demonstrating the most WILDCAT SPIRIT! Congratulations!

Many thanks to our Wildcat, HCS student council, HCS Pep band, Mrs. Gross, and Mrs. Norris for all of your planning, preparation, and hard work!

Many congratulations to the 2017 Homecoming King and Queen, **Tyler Young** and **Jocelyn D'Elia**. Tyler is the son of Scott and Ann Young of Hancock. Tyler has participated in football, basketball, and is a member of the National Honor Society. Jocelyn is the daughter of Jennifer Woodmansee and James D'Elia of Preston Park. Jocelyn has participated in volleyball, softball, chorus and the chamber choir. She plans to become a nurse.





#WildCatProud



SPIRIT WEEK 2017
PIC•COLLAGE



HOMECOMING NIGHT FOOTBALL WRAPPED UP 2017 SPIRIT WEEK WITH A WIN!

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

The Flu: A Guide for Parents

Is the flu more serious for kids?	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.
Flu vaccine may save your child's life.	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.
What is the flu?	The flu, or influenza, is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs. The flu can spread from person to person.
Who needs the flu shot?	<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.
How else can I protect my child?	<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.
What are signs of the flu?	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>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:
Facebook/NYSDOH
Twitter/HealthNYgov

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, 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, 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.
Aimee Skiff, District Treasurer

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

ECRWSS
BOXHOLDER

The Wildcat Pledge: We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.
Our Vision: Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

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