

DISTRICT SUMMER NEWSLETTER

HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

AUGUST 2023

THE WORK DOESN'T STOP IN THE SUMMER!

Summer is flying by, and the Hudson City School District has been busy preparing for the 2023-24 school year!

I would like to take this time to thank you all for your support in my ability to transition District operations to our new superintendent, Dr. Juliette Pennyman! We cannot wait for Dr. Pennyman to get started on September 1!

Our administrators and summer school staff have shown great dedication and passion for our District this summer. The efforts of all of our students, families, faculty, staff and Board of Education members do not go unnoticed!

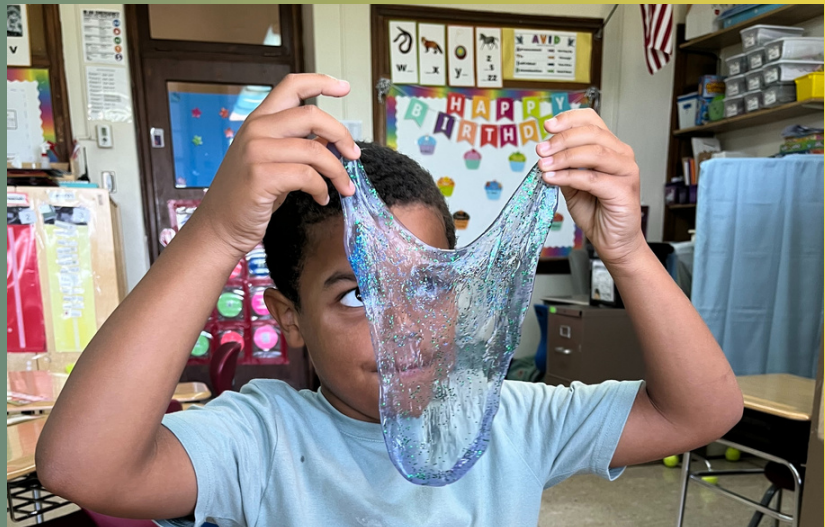
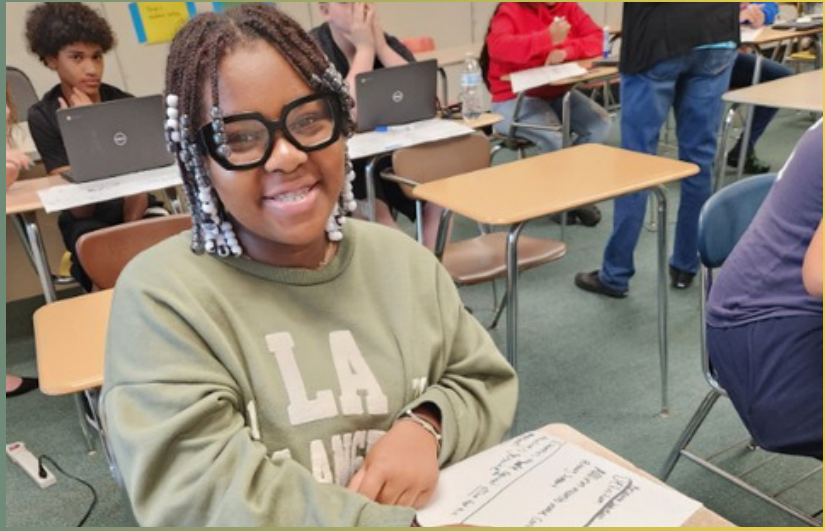
The District has seen many transitions, upgrades and additions this summer that we cannot wait to tell you about in this newsletter!

I hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer vacations and that this newsletter excites you and your student(s) for the first day of school on September 6.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Rabinowitz

Interim Superintendent of Schools



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WELCOME TO HUDSON, DR. PENNYMAN!

At the August 8 Hudson City School District Board of Education meeting, Dr. Juliette Pennyman was appointed as the next superintendent of the District.

Dr. Pennyman comes to Hudson with close to 30 years' experience in the education field, with time spent as a teacher, principal, administrator and executive. Her vast experience as an educational leader in major cities and small districts throughout several states gives her an unparalleled insight into innovations and strategies that create an exceptional education system.

Dr. Pennyman plans to meet with various stakeholder groups, and to put an emphasis on meeting with District faculty and staff to develop a strong bond with teachers, principals and others who serve the district with such devotion.

We are eager to see the knowledge, wisdom, compassion and love for children that Dr. Pennyman will bring to our Hudson schools. (Photos by Lance Wheeler)



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DR. PENNYMAN'S WELCOME LETTER TO HUDSON CSD COMMUNITY FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

August 25th, 2023

Dear Hudson City School District Community,

It is an absolute pleasure to welcome you all to the launch of the 2023-24 school year at the Hudson City School District. I am ecstatic to begin my journey in Hudson as Superintendent of Schools and have a front-row seat for the success and accomplishments bound to be achieved by our talented students, faculty and staff.

Hopefully, you were able to enjoy the sights of Upstate New York and beyond, spend some quality time with family and friends, try something new and kick back this summer!

In this time of transition, I feel it is vitally important to introduce a key quality that is deeply important to me: Togetherness. Accountability, diligence and leadership are three traits that I am certain will be personified by our amazing team of professionals. These traits will be observed and passed over to our students on their journey through this District to prepare them for their futures. [Click here](#) to view my "Welcome Video" to all school community members.

I am a firm believer that the key to success in education starts with building strong relationships, which allows for each of us to pull out the best in each other and most importantly, all of our students. By forming strong relationships in a caring and supportive environment, only then can we help guide students, faculty and staff to reaching levels they are capable of, whether they realize it or not. I encourage you to share ideas and establish a connection with me at pennymanj@hudsoncsd.org or by calling 518-828-4360 EXT. 2101.

I offer you my sincerest appreciation in advance for all of the great work you will do this upcoming school year. I look forward to seeing each of you on September 5th-6th for the start of the 2023-24 school year. Together, we can overcome obstacles. Together, we can move mountains. Together, we can do the unthinkable. This is because in Hudson, together, we can!

Sincerely,
Dr. Juliette Pennyman
Superintendent of Schools
Hudson City School District



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UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- 9/4: Labor Day
- 9/5: Superintendent's Conference Day
- 9/6: First Day of School
- 9/12: Hudson City School District Board of Education Meeting at 6 p.m.
- 9/26: Hudson City School District Board of Education Meeting at 6 p.m.
- 10/9: Columbus Day (No School)
- 10/20: Superintendent's Conference Day (No School)



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BUILDING AND GROUNDS: IMPROVEMENTS DISTRICT WIDE

The Building and Grounds crew at HCSD has been working diligently this summer on many key improvements, including:

- 12 Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School classrooms will add air conditioning (top right).
- EV chargers were added at Hudson Senior High School.
- Every classroom is deep cleaned (Mr. Kinney's classroom, bottom right).
- All carpets were shampooed along with two new installations.
- All floors were stripped and waxed (Hudson Junior High School atrium floor, middle right).
- Parking lot traffic lines were painted.
- Fall sports fields are being prepped.
- Sprinkler systems inspected.
- Fire system and extinguishers were inspected.
- All custodians are learning new cleaning tactics.
- Pool tile repairs, pool certificates for two more maintenance staff.
- Numerous painting jobs.
- All four gym floors and MCSES stage refinished (JHS gym, bottom left).
- All HVAC filter changes.
- New emergency lighting being added to MCSES.



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HUDSON SHS FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

Save the date! Hudson SHS Freshman Orientation is on August 29 from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Hudson SHS. Parents/guardians and students are invited to attend. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Hudson Senior High School



2023-24 FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

Open to Parents and Students!

August 29 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at
Hudson SHS

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HUDSON JHS SUPPLY LIST FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Reminder: Hudson SHS supplies vary by each individual class. Teachers will inform students what materials will be required for their respective classes.

Hudson Junior High School

These are the school supplies recommended for 6th, 7th, 8th grade students for the 2023-2024 school year.

Students are urged to bring these materials on the first day of school.

6th	7th	8th
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1.5 inch binder• Loose Leaf Paper• 8 Tab Dividers• Pencil pouch, 3 hole punched• #2 Pencils• Pens (black/blue)• Pink eraser• 2+ Different Color Highlighters• 2+ Dry Erase Markers• 1 Vinyl, 3 Hole Punched Folder• 2 composition books (ELA/math)• Colored Pencils• Earbuds <p>Additional Supplies Appreciated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tissues• Paper Towels• Antibacterial Wipes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 inch binder• Loose Leaf Paper• 8 Tab Dividers• Pencil pouch, 3 hole punched• #2 Pencils• Pens (black/blue)• Pink eraser• 2+ Different Color Highlighters• 1 Vinyl, 3 Hole Punched Folder• Casio fx-300ES calculator• Earbuds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 inch binder• Loose Leaf Paper• 8 Tab Dividers• Pencil pouch, 3 hole punched• #2 Pencils• Pens (black/blue)• Pink eraser• 2 - Hole Punched Folders (Mead) (ELA)• Casio fx-300ES calculator• Colored Pencils• 1.5 inch Binder for Classroom use (SS) <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1.5 inch Binder (Spanish)• 3 Tab Dividers (Spanish)• Foreign Language Dictionary (Spanish)

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MCSES KINDERGARTEN SUPPLY LIST FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Kindergarten Supply List 2023-2024

Item	Cartwright	Weinman	Pitts	Smith	Rutkey/ Baidy	Zito
Composition Book			1			1(not a spiral notebook)
Crayons	1 Box of Mini Twistables (10/12 Basic colors only)	2 boxes Crayola brand if possible	2 boxes of 24	Box of 24 (crayola brand if possible)	Box of 24 crayola brand	2 Boxes of 24
Markers		1 box	1 box-broad tip	Box of Broad Tip	Box of Broad Tip	1 Box
Glue Sticks	10 or more	10	10	10	10	10 or more
4 oz Glue Bottles						1
Colored Pencils		1 box	1 box			1 box
Hard Pencil Box	1	1 Hard Plastic Case	1	1	1	1 hard plastic case
Pocket Folder	1 plastic or sturdy folder without brackets (pockets on bottom)	3 sturdy plastic pocket folders	(3)-plastic or sturdy folder w/pockets	3 plastic or sturdy folders w/pockets		2 plastic w/horizontal pockets and 3 brackets
Pencils		2 boxes of skinny pencils	1 box of #2 pencils	2 boxes of skinny pencils		
Dry Erase Markers	1 package skinny-Expo Brand	1 package - skinny	1 package- skinny Expo brand	1 Package Skinny	1 package skinny	1 box skinny or large
Tissues	1 box	2 boxes	3 boxes	2 Boxes	2 Boxes	1 Box
1 inch Binder			1			1
Scissors	1 pair blunt	1 pair blunt	1	1 pair blunt		1 pair blunt
Ziploc Baggies		1 box gallon		1 Box small sandwich sized	1 box large gallon size	1 box small or gallon
Plastic Page Protectors			1 package		1 package	1 package
Headphones	1 (over the head)	1 (over the head)		1 (over the head)	1 headphones (over the head)	1 set of headphones

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MCSES KINDERGARTEN SUPPLY LIST FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR (CONTINUED)

Play-Doh	1 pack	1pack	1 pack	1 pack	1 pack	1 pack
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All Teachers would like an extra change of clothing in a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name in case of an accident or spill.

Wish List*

Item	Cartwright	Pitts	Weinman	Smith	Rutkey	Zito
Paper Towels		x	x	x Viva brand if possible	x	x
Clorox Wipes		x	x	X	x	x
Ziploc Bags (gallon, quart & sandwich size)	x (gallon or sandwich)	x (all 3 sizes needed)	x (quart)	X (all 3 sizes needed)	x (all 3 sizes needed)	x
Paper Plates (non-coated)		x	x	x	X	X large or small
Expo Markers (Fat)			x	X	x	
Expo Markers (Skinny)		x	x	X	x	
Baby Wipes		x	x	X	X	
White Lunch Bags		x	x	x	X	x
Plastic Silverware	forks and spoons	forks and spoons	spoons and forks		spoons and forks	spoons & forks
Band-Aids		x	x	x	X	x
Napkins		x		X	x	x
Yarn						
Snack	Box of crackers, goldfish, etc. for students who forget snack	x	x	pretzel rods, goldfish, popcorn		
Yellow Highlighters		x				

*Wish list items are things we use, on a regular basis, and are not supplied by the school district. We would be very appreciative if you would pick one or two of these items and donate them to the classroom. Thank you.

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MCSES 1ST GRADE SUPPLY LIST FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

First Grade General Supply List - 2023-2024

Below/Sweet	Brown	Konigsberg	Marotta	Moore	Muller	Parmentier
	48 pencils (Ticonderoga if possible)	48 pencils (Ticonderoga if possible)	48 pencils (Ticonderoga if possible)	48 pencils (Ticonderoga if possible)	48 pencils (Ticonderoga if possible)	48 pencils (Ticonderoga if possible)
	1 box of crayons (Crayola preferred)	2 boxes of crayons (Crayola preferred)	2 boxes of crayons	2 boxes of crayons (Crayola preferred)	2 boxes of crayons (Crayola preferred)	2 boxes of crayons (Crayola preferred)
	1 5x8" pencil box	1 5x8" pencil box	1 5x8" pencil box	1 5x8" pencil box	1 5x8" pencil box	1 5x8" pencil box
	8 (or more) glue sticks	4 (or more) glue sticks	4 (or more) glue sticks	4 (or more) glue sticks	12 (or more) glue sticks	8 (or more) glue sticks
	4 thin black dry erase markers	8 thin black dry erase markers	4 thin black dry erase markers	8 (or more) thin black dry erase markers	8 thin black dry erase markers	8 thin black dry erase markers
	1 pair of scissors	1 pair of scissors	1 pair of scissors	1 pair of scissors	1 pair of scissors	1 pair of scissors
	1 refillable water bottle	1 refillable water bottle	1 refillable water bottle	1 refillable water bottle	1 refillable water bottle	1 refillable water bottle
	1 laminated folder	1 laminated folder	2 laminated pocket folders	1 laminated folder	1 laminated folder	1 laminated folder
	1 pair of wired headphones	1 pair of wired headphones	1 pair of wired headphones	1 pair of wired headphones	1 pair of wired headphones	1 pair of wired headphones
	OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ITEMS:	OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ITEMS:	OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ITEMS:	OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ITEMS:	OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ITEMS:	OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ITEMS:
	-1 pack of baby wipes or other cleaning wipes; - 1 box of tissues; - 1 bottle of hand sanitizer - one extra 5x8 box	- 1 box of tissues - baby wipes or other cleaning wipes - 1 bottle of hand sanitizer	-box of tissues - baby wipes or -- cleaning wipes - hand sanitizer - ziploc bags	-extra 5x8" pencil box -baby wipes or other cleaning wipes -boxes of tissues -sanitizer	-1 roll or paper towels -baby wipes or other cleaning wipes; -boxes of tissues	-1 roll or paper towels -cleaning wipes -box of tissues -extra 5x8" pencil box

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MCSES 2ND GRADE SUPPLY LIST FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Reminder: MCSES Grades 3-5 supplies vary by each individual class. Teachers will inform students/families both via letter to home and in-person of what materials will be required for their respective classes.



Second Grade School Supply List MC Smith Elementary School

These are supplies ALL second graders need to start the year:

1 set of headphones / earbuds	child scissors	8 FINE TIP dry erase markers - black
2 dozen sharpened yellow #2 pencils	1 Composition book	1 box of crayons (16-32 count)
4 glue sticks	2 large pink erasers	1 hard pencil box (7 x 9)
2 boxes of tissues	1 post-it pad	

Find your child's teacher's name below to see **ADDITIONAL REQUIRED ITEMS:**

Miss Bowes & Mr. Bluma

1 box of colored pencils
1 package of baby wipes

Optional: ziploc bags
(quart or gallon)

Mrs. Buchinsky

1 box of colored pencils
1 bottle of white school glue
1 box of markers
1 red pocket folder
1 box of ziplock bags (quart
or gallon)
2 packages of baby wipes
1 hand held pencil sharpener

Ms. Marois

colored pencils

Optional:

Baby wipes
Hand sanitizer
Zip-lock bags
Band-aids

Mrs. Merwin

1 box of colored pencils
2 plastic 2 pocket folder
1 composition notebook
1 box sandwich bags
1 package baby wipes

Ms. R. Smith

1 container of baby wipes or 1 box
of Band-Aids
1 bottle of glue
1 box of colored pencils
1 hand held pencil sharpener

Mrs. Zlomek

1 box of colored pencils

Optional
Napkins
Ziploc bags - sandwich
- gallon

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MS. BETKE'S SUMMER SCHOOL CLASS

MCSES students in Ms. Betke's class have had a blast with recent interactive activities during summer school!

Pictured here are students using their senses to observe and release ladybugs, create slime and play with rice "sand"!



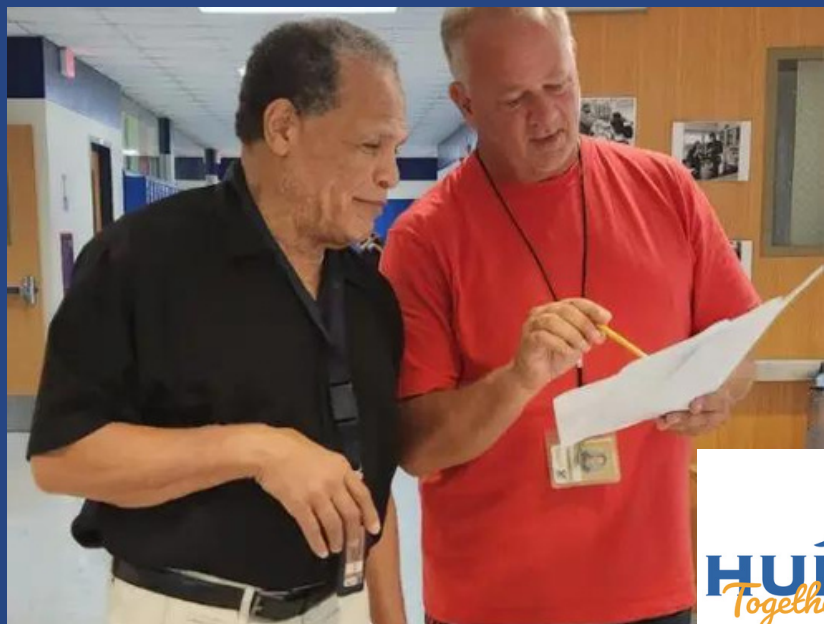
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SUMMER SCHOOL STAFF KEEPS SMOOTH FLOW OF OPERATIONS

A huge shoutout goes to our amazing staff that makes Summer School possible! Here are just a few pictures of our devoted faculty in the JSHS at work!



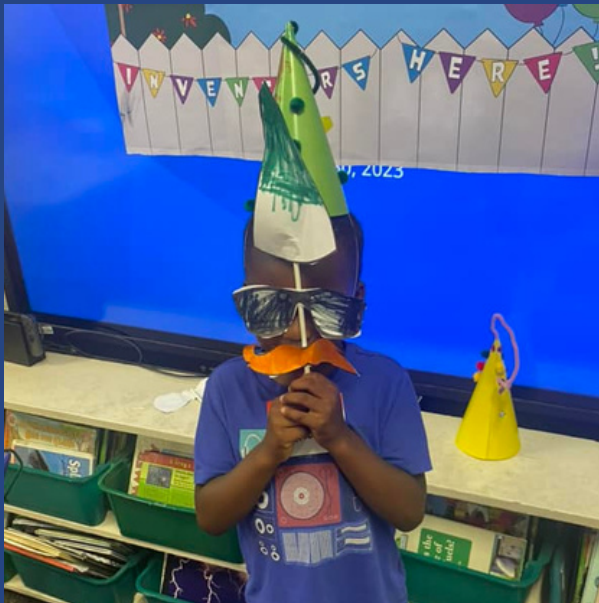
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CAMP INVENTION: A HUGE SUCCESS AT MCSES

Check out the bright smiles and tons of fun that was had at Camp Invention at MCSES from June 26-30!



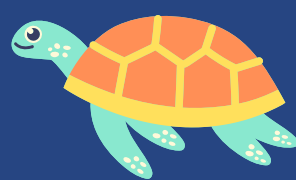
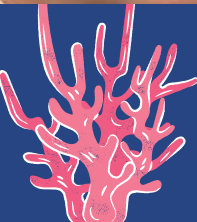
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CORAL REEF PROJECT IN SUMMER SCHOOL

Check out this awesome coral reef project from Mrs. McCagg's summer school class! This secondary Extended School Year Summer Program studies the ocean and the life that can be found there. Students explored sea turtles, sharks, shipwrecks and treasure chests, as well as the coral reef. Activities included building a coral reef with various materials, designing their own ocean themed tiles and stepping stones and working on functional academics as well.



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SWEETHEARTS AND HEROES: EMPOWERING HEARTS, PREVENTING BULLYING

One of the highlights of the August 8 Board of Education meeting was the presentation by Hudson JHS Principal Rhode Cooper and Associate Principal Carolyn Miller on the importance of creating a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment.

Sweethearts & Heroes is a team focused on promoting healthy, positive social connections and relationships while fostering a sense of community and emotional resilience. The program brings the power of HOPE and ACTION into schools and communities.

Their focus is to teach human skills, both in school and digitally, to build empathy and compassion in our youth, and develop young Sweethearts & Heroes by promoting bystander empowerment through leadership roles.

[Click here to view a video on the Sweethearts and Heroes program mission.](#)



SWEETHEARTS &
HEROES



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PANORAMA YOUTH PROGRAM AT OLANA

For the second year through District funding and private scholarship funds from the Olana State Historic Site, The Olana Partnership welcomed 14 2nd-5th graders from MCSES over the course of four weeks to learn about photography, science, art and agriculture in Olana's historic house and landscape.

The Panorama Youth Program, which welcomes three-four students a week, involves visiting the historic house at Olana, exploring the artist-designed landscape, making art, and enjoying special guest visits from educators and professionals like beekeepers, artists, and chefs!

Photos courtesy of The Olana Partnership.



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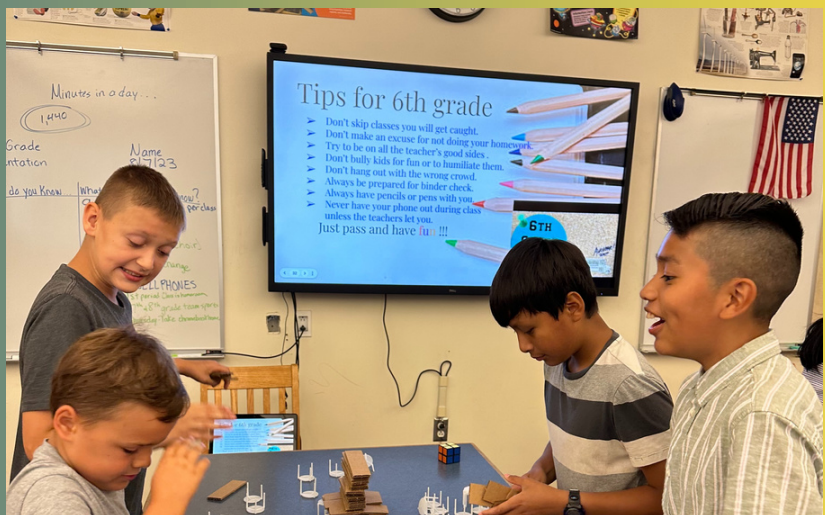
JHS BOOST-UP ACADEMY

Over the course of August 7-10, incoming 6th grade students have been given the opportunity to experience the JHS by going through several activities in order to get them ready for September.

Students have learned the layout of the JHS by going to various classes and experiencing transitions from the cafeteria, the auditorium and the library. Students have also learned about their schedules and how to open a locker.

During booster week, students developed their academic skills, as well as their community building skills through games, role playing, and more.

Students were given their Google Chromebooks in preparation for the school year. As a parting gift, students were given bags which contained a combination lock so that they can practice until school reopens in September!



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JHS FOCUSING ON POSITIVE TRAITS AND COMMUNITY

Over the course of the summer, our JHS Faculty worked with our administration staff in order to create activities that will allow our students to build community for the 2023-24 school year.

We have built a monthly birthday wall where we will celebrate our students and our staff birthdays. We will also have opportunities for students to learn more about each other and build community on a monthly basis by having events that bring togetherness. The culminating event for the first week of school will be an assembly from the program, "Sweethearts and Heroes", where students will learn more about validations and affirmations.



We have monthly themes where we will celebrate the students that exemplify these attributes at our school. We believe that when children are affirmed, they build connections with school, staff and the larger community. The themes are as follows:

September: Responsibility
October: Respect
November: Thankful/Grateful
December: Empathy
January: Perseverance
February: Kindness
March: Patience
April: Honesty/Integrity
May: Generosity
June: Optimism



The JHS will begin a peer mediation program where students will be trained to become peer mediators and will be there to assist their peers to restore and repair harm that may have been done.

We have also created a check-and-connect where our staff members will be able to connect with staff members when they are in need.

We believe that validating and affirming students will cause them to feel better about themselves and to thrive academically and socially.

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BERKSHIRE FARM CENTER & SERVICES FOR YOUTH FAMILY FUN DAY

The Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth is hosting its annual Family Fun Day on August 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Greenport Town Park in Hudson! The free event for families will include music from TJ the DJ, food, vendors, activities for children and more!



Presents its Annual...

FAMILY FUN DAY!

August 25, 2023
11AM - 2PM

Free
Family
Event

Greenport
Town Park

405 Joslen Blvd
Hudson NY 12534

Come Join Us For An Eventful Afternoon Including

Music by TJ the DJ
Food
Vendors
Children's Activities
Dunk Tank

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SUMMER CURRICULUM UPDATE FROM DR. PRESTIPINO!

At the request of various administrators/teachers, there are several specific learning opportunities taking place this summer.

- **Earth Science Boost Up Academy:** This is not summer school, but rather an opportunity for rising 8th graders enrolled in Earth Science next year to get a head start on becoming familiar with, and mastering the use of, some of the required tools and materials they will be using frequently during their Earth Science labs throughout the school year.
- **Bluehawk Academy Planning:** The Bluehawk staff plan to meet several times throughout the summer to accomplish a variety of tasks before next school year and plan on examining and tightening up some of the BHA program structures as well as developing their own PBIS system. The team will be meeting with the high school administrators to align better to their bell schedule and transportation schedule and will be familiarizing themselves with some of the new software they will be using. Endeavors to local businesses and home visits of students are also planned for this summer.
- **MCSES SEL Committee:** The elementary school would like to streamline their PBIS System, Character Education System, House System and SEL programs so that they are not disconnected from each other or repetitive, improving the overall impact on students. In addition, MCSES is fully adopting the RULER SEL model, so they need time to determine where the other programs fit into the RULER structure.
- **JHS/SHS Restorative Practices Committee:** This is a small group of teachers that participated in a multi-phase professional development on restorative practices starting last summer. They are working together this summer to create some RP structures for next school year. These include re-entry meeting protocols for students returning from a long-term suspension, hospitalization, or extended absence, planning for facilitating staff circles starting in September and teaching them the process to use with their own students on a regular basis and establishing procedures and curriculum options for leading student mediation groups.
- **Eureka Math² Training for PK-6:** Teachers will be participating in a one-day training to prepare to implement the new math program in September.

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STUDENT TECH CREW ASSISTS INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY THIS SUMMER

This summer, the District Instructional Technology Department had SHS students assisting the IT staff with getting equipment ready for the new school year.

SHS students who were hired either attended the Student Tech Crew this past school year and received their Dell Computer Repair Certification or will be getting their certification this upcoming school year. Students worked on cleaning, repairing and labeling student Google Chromebooks and put new cases on their Chromebooks.

Additionally, students helped with various day-to-day tasks in the Technology Department. A special thank you to Mrs. Bender, Ms. Rabinowitz, Mr. Ellsworth, Ms. Wheeler, Mrs. Coons, Mr. Uddin and Mr. Dwarika for their collaborative efforts.



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BLUEHAWK ACADEMY UPDATE

Bluehawk Academy staff were hard at work this summer creating new and exciting opportunities for the incoming students!

Ms. Megan Amendola, Mrs. Michelle Donnelly and Mr. Larry Walker are excited for the students to enter their new classroom spaces and see the innovative changes that have taken place.

Bluehawk Academy students will be introduced to a revised program structure that begins with a change in the hours of their school day! Students will utilize a new online educational platform and have the support of teachers working with them in person. Staff has developed college and career opportunities, interesting field trips - not to mention community involvement opportunities.

Our Bluehawk Academy staff is looking forward to the first full school year!



Meet the Bluehawk Academy Staff!



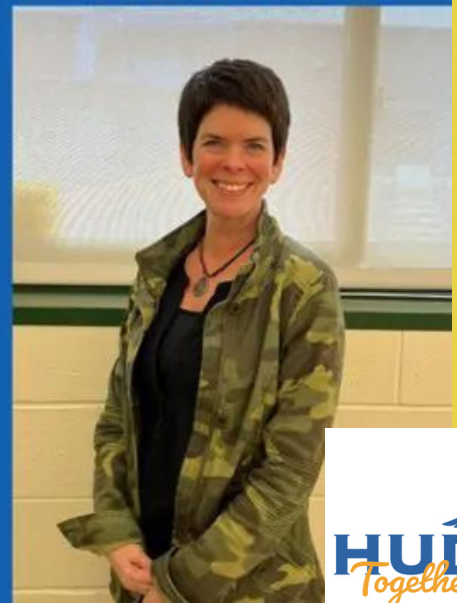
Megan Amendola
Career
Guidance Counselor



Larry Walker
Restorative Justice
Specialist



Michelle Donnelly
Experienced
Social Worker



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SPECIAL EDUCATION/PUPIL SERVICES UPDATE

Secondary Extended School Year Summer Program: Classes worked in themes with one class focusing on camping and National Parks and the other focusing on the ocean (page 7). Activities included working on academics through this theme as well as making s'mores, trail mix, and exploring national parks through literature and technology.

Elementary Extended School Year Summer Program: Classes placed a central focus on maintaining their reading, writing and math skills through themed study of insects, camping and wildlife, space, the ocean and so much more!



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MURALIST JOE PIMENTEL WORKING WITH HUDSON STUDENTS AND STAFF

This school year, the District looks forward to working with muralist Joe Pimentel. His work can be viewed below, by clicking [here](#) or at his [YouTube channel](#).

Mr. Pimentel will be working with JSHS students and staff designing a mural for both buildings. Mr. Pimentel is a renowned muralist who works through schools in New York State. We are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to showcasing the hard work in the fall.

The project will begin in the fall with students and staff designing the mural and will culminate in December with the finished products.

