

HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

215 HARRY HOWARD AVE, HUDSON, NY

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

ENERGETIC START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR!

Dear Hudson City School District Community,

What an unbelievable start to the 2023-24 school year! The support and feedback from you all has meant the world to me in my first full month as Superintendent of Schools for the Hudson City School District.

I am incredibly grateful to have shadowed classrooms, participate in faculty meetings, engage with students and staff, and attend events surrounding athletics, the arts and the community on practically every single school day in this first month. The passion and positive energy in our District are contagious.

From an administration standpoint, we are hard at work with embracing the new culture in place: #HudsonTogetherWeCan. Collaborative efforts in all three buildings and the District Office can be seen on a steady basis. Effective communication and implementation of policies and protocols are among the top priorities being focused on.

As the weather continues to cool off and the leaves begin to change, I ask that you keep an eye on the health and safety of yourself and our youth. Looking out for each other goes a long way! I am so grateful for the amazing crowd during our Homecoming weekend, the opportunity to meet even more new faces and listen to promising, creative ideas. As always, I can be reached at pennymanj@hudsoncsd.org.

Take care and thank you for your time!

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

JOIN THE SUPERINTENDENT'S ADVISORY TEAM!



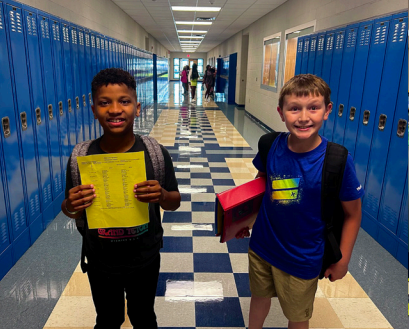
Hudson City School District students in grades 4-11 were invited to fill out an application by Wednesday, October 4, 2023 to serve on Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman's Student Advisory Team. If selected for an in-person interview with Dr. Pennyman and appointed to the Advisory Team, one student from each grade eligible will participate in a monthly meeting with Dr. Pennyman throughout the school year to discuss District happenings, events and brainstorm effective problem-solving strategies.

Interested candidates should possess the following characteristics:

- Strong communication skills - Members of the Advisory Team need to be able to articulate their thoughts and ideas clearly and concisely.
- Good listening skills - It's important for members of the Advisory Team to listen carefully to what others are saying, and to be able to consider multiple perspectives.
- Leadership potential - The Advisory Team is tasked with providing feedback and recommendations to the Superintendent, so members should have the potential to be effective leaders.
- Collaborative mindset - The Advisory Team will be working together to achieve common goals, so members should be willing to work collaboratively with others.
- Respectful and professional demeanor - Members of the Advisory Team will be representing their schools and communities, so they should conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner at all times.
- Knowledge of the school district - Applicants should have a good understanding of the school district, its goals, and its challenges.
- Dedication and commitment - Members of the Advisory Team will need to attend meetings and participate in discussions, so they should be dedicated and committed to the role.



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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL BRINGS STUDENTS AND STAFF TOGETHER

There were tons of smiles, learning and excitement at the Hudson City School District on September 6 for the first day of the 2023-24 school year! New Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman made it her objective for each student to receive a pencil with the District's new mantra: **#HudsonTogetherWeCan.**



STOPIT SOLUTIONS ANONYMOUS REPORTING TO LAUNCH NOV. 1

We are pleased to announce that the Hudson City School District has enrolled with STOPit, by STOPit Solutions.

STOPit is an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse, and other inappropriate behaviors. The tool consists of an app and a back-end incident-management system for school administrators.

Our students will have access to the STOPit mobile app, which has two simple but powerful features. Specifically, the program educates students to:

- Recognize the signs of at-risk behaviors.
- Take every sign and signal seriously.
- Report situations anonymously through the STOPit App/Web or 24/7 Incident Response Center.
- Submit a photo or video

evidence (app/web only).

- Alert designated administrators to issues and risks early, before they escalate.

No personal information is needed to use STOPit. The only way personally identifiable information will be accessible through STOPit is if a requester voluntarily includes it within the content of a request or message.

Both our school district and STOPit are committed to protecting the privacy of student data. Students have the power to help end harmful and inappropriate behavior they see online through social media and other means. They can use STOPit to reach out for help if they or a peer are facing a personal crisis or experiencing bullying, abuse, or are otherwise in need of assistance. Our goal with STOPit is to create safer, kinder, school communities both

online and off.

Please note that we will be formally launching STOPit on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. At that time, your student will be invited to download the STOPit app from the app store on their smartphone or tablet at no charge.

We encourage you to download the STOPit app and search for your student's school using the directory. You can privately ask for help for your student, family, others you care about, or even acquaintances who appear to need help.

Any further questions can be directed to Cheryl Rabinowitz at 518-828-4360, EXT. 2119 or rabinowitzc@hudsoncsd.org.

Together, we can make sure everyone in our community gets what they need to thrive.

FALL ATHLETICS SEIZING THE MOMENT



Fall sports are off to a great start this year!

"At the varsity level, we have Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Golf, Girls Volleyball, Girls Tennis and Cheerleading," said Athletic Director Shawn Briscoe. "At the Junior Varsity level, we have Girls Volleyball, and

then at the modified level we have Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer and Girls Volleyball."

"Our Varsity Soccer and Volleyball teams will be competing in the Patroon Conference tournaments within the next couple of weeks, as well," Briscoe added.

Families: Please be on the lookout for winter sports registration opening up. Messages will be sent out through Parent Square and student email accounts with more information.



BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER STRIVING

The Hudson Senior High School Boys and Girls Soccer Teams have been soaring across the Bluehawk Athletic Complex displaying great sportsmanship, heart and will to win!



Photos courtesy of Lance Wheeler and the Hudson Senior High School Photo/Video Club

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PRINCIPAL REARDON'S RECAP



Hudson Senior High School Principal Derek Reardon is energized to be back in school for the 2023-24 school year! Principal Reardon wanted to share a few notes with families and students for what's to come soon and down the road.

The Homecoming dance was on Saturday, September 30. This kicked off the Senior High School Spirit Week! Each day had a different theme (as selected by the Student Council).

- **Monday:** Dress as your Type
- **Tuesday:** Twin Day
- **Wednesday:** Class Colors: (Seniors, white; juniors, green; sophomores, red; and freshmen, pink)
- **Thursday:** Pajama Day/Relaxing Clothing Day
- **Friday:** Blue and Gold

On Wednesday, October 4, the Student Council hosted Field Day featuring volleyball, badminton, soccer, track and field events, tug of war, kickball and more! All of these activities are leading up to the different fall sports teams having home games, in addition to the modified football game under the lights on Friday, October 6.

Thursday, September 28 showcased a College Caravan at Hudson Senior High School. Over half of the senior class signed up to attend this event, featuring representatives of 26 colleges and universities to talk to our students about their post-secondary plans.

First month recap: The high school had a great opening of school! Faculty, staff, and students walked into a freshly cleaned building and were happy to see friends that they might not have seen since June. We welcomed 132 new 9th grade students to the high school side of the building. For our 106 seniors, we started the fall off with Advanced Placement courses, college level courses and a variety of senior class electives as they begin to prepare for their life outside of Hudson High School. We are excited to see what their futures may hold!

Regents update: As we start the 2023-24 academic year, there is one major change for our students from New York State. Last August was the last Regents exam that we could use the COVID-19 waiver for a passing grade of 50. Now, all students must receive a 65 on any New York State Regents exam to earn credit for graduation.



STANDOUT WRITING CENTER STUDENTS HONORED WITH GIFTS



From left: Lina Hutchings, Elyza Medina, Diego Gomez-Hernandez, Kamryn LaPage, Carlos Lopez, Neshath Khan, and Carlo-Rossi Occeno. Not pictured: Hamima Anwar and Logan Rowe.

The Hudson Senior High School Community Schools Writing Center is pleased to announce that selected Class of 2023 students were awarded baskets containing most of the supplies needed to set up their dorm rooms. They also received \$100 Walmart gift certificates. Donations came from the Mental Health Association of Columbia and Greene Counties' Children and Families Division, along with contributions from numerous donors.

Awards are based on daily participation in Writing Center activities, special projects and dedication to the art and craft of writing.

- Hamima Anwar, SUNY New Paltz
- Carlos Lopez, The College of Saint Rose
- Diego Gomez-Hernandez, University at Albany
- Kamryn LaPage, University at Albany
- Elyza Medina, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)
- Lina Hutchings, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF)
- Neshath Khan, Stony Brook University
- Carlo-Rossi Occeno, Russell Sage College
- Logan Rowe, University at Albany

Additionally, Writing Center Awards for Excellence in Writing were awarded \$500 each to:

- Diego Gomez-Hernandez
- Carlos Lopez (also won second prize in the Spencertown Academy Young Writers' Contest)

Writing Center Director Gail Wheeler and Assistant Director Omer Mufti are looking forward to working with this year's Senior Class of 2024!

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM ENJOYS INTERNSHIPS

Mrs. Schmitt's Hudson Senior High School Life Skills program participants are wasting no time getting right to work at off-campus internships! Students are developing skills for employability at the Tractor Supply store, High and Mighty Therapeutic Riding Center and the New York State Parks and Recreation site at Olana.



SUICIDE PREVENTION DOCUMENTARY BEING PRESENTED IN HUDSON FOR FREE

The Columbia County Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness is sponsoring a free documentary screening of "Our Turn to Talk," a film addressing suicide prevention, on October 24 from 6-9 p.m. at 434 Columbia St. in Hudson. To register to attend, please visit namiccny.org

From skyrocketing rates of anxiety and depression to the impacts of racism, social media, and the COVID-19 pandemic, the struggles and triumphs belonging to a group of teenagers carry a powerful message: Storytelling saves lives.

A Powerful Suicide Prevention Movie Screening of Our Turn to Talk on October 24th



See Our Turn to Talk Because Story Telling Saves Lives.

Teenagers are putting an end to mental health stigma. To do it, they're telling their own stories—unfiltered—in the documentary film and teen-hosted podcast series Our Turn to Talk. From skyrocketing rates of anxiety and depression to the impacts of racism, social media, and the pandemic, their struggles and triumphs carry a powerful message: Storytelling saves lives. That truth is what motivated high school senior Anastasia Vasquez to start a podcast. And audiences join her on her journey as she shares her story and travels across the country to give other teens a chance to share theirs. Real, raw, and life-affirming, Our Turn to Talk comes at a time when it's needed most. It's become a defining film, podcast series, and impact project to normalize conversations about mental health with young people and all those who care about them.

A powerful film about resilience and hope. October 24th, 6-9PM Time and Space Limited (TSL) 434 Columbia St. Hudson, NY REGISTER TODAY FOR THIS FREE EVENT. Discussion Guide and Handouts on the website!

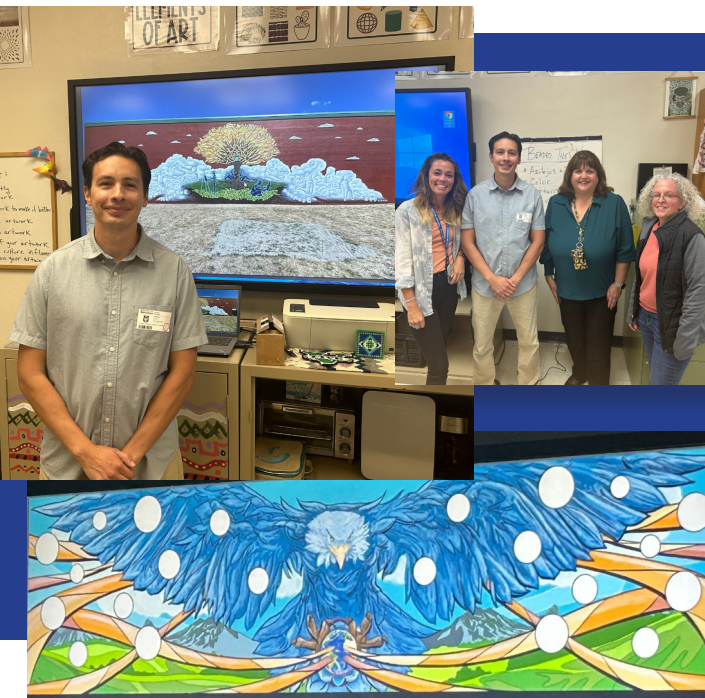
REGISTRATION: Call to register: 518-336-0246 or www.namiccny.org

Our Turn to Talk substantially elevates the perspectives of youth and young adults to influence the mental health conversation, while communicating to teens everywhere that their story matters and can save lives.
—Ramon Ramirez, Founder and Executive Director, Active Minds

Our Turn to Talk is a ground-breaking documentary for GenZ. There's more and more evidence that storytelling is connected to better mental health outcomes and that storytelling really can save lives. It's a must-watch film to help start this important conversation in our homes, classrooms, and communities.
—Jennifer Marshall, Co-Founder, This Is My Brave

518-336-0246 | info@namiccny.org | namiccny.org

NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Columbia County
New York



MURALIST JOE PIMENTEL TO COLLABORATE

The Hudson Junior/Senior High School student body will have the opportunity to learn from and work with talented muralist Joe Pimentel this December! He is known for his detailed murals at parks and school districts throughout New York State. The Bluehawk with white bubbles pictured here will be present in the Junior High School, with the students filling in the bubbles with their interpretations of diversity, respect and unity under the theme of "Rise Above."

HUDSON CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL IT PROFESSIONALS DAY

September 19 was International IT Professionals Day, and we could not pull off a school day without our amazing staff representing the District and NERIC!

Pictured from left to right are our behind-the-scenes heroes: Austin Ellsworth (Computer Services Specialist - Hudson), Dan Dwarika (Network Administrator - NERIC), Rahim Uddin (Computer Services Specialist - Hudson), Jacob Reiper (Network Administrator - NERIC), Jeff Granger (Technical Account Manager - NERIC), Leslie Coons (Administrative Assistant - Hudson) and Cheryl Rabinowitz (Instructional Technology Manger- Hudson).



HUDSON SHS SENIOR HAS WORK PUBLISHED ON NASA SERVER

It's not every day that a high school senior can tell his or her classmates that his/her research during the spring and summer ended up being published on the NASA Technical Reports server.

For Hudson Senior High School's Zach Zibella, the opportunity of a lifetime came in the form of creating numerous options to reduce plastic counts on the California coasts, along with five additional high school students and two mentors representing NASA at the Aames Research Center in California.

Zibella's group's project, titled "Cleaning up the Coasts - A

System for the Removal of Marine Microplastics Using Semi-Autonomous Vehicles," consisted of several meetings over Microsoft Teams with his team and countless hours of research on his own. NASA management was presented the research paper and a formal presentation on their findings, leading to the decision to publish the research on the Technical Reports Server.

Zibella, a National Honor Society member, Eagle Scout completed rank, student-athlete and All-County Wind Ensemble member, has dreams of going to college to pursue aeronautical engineering and

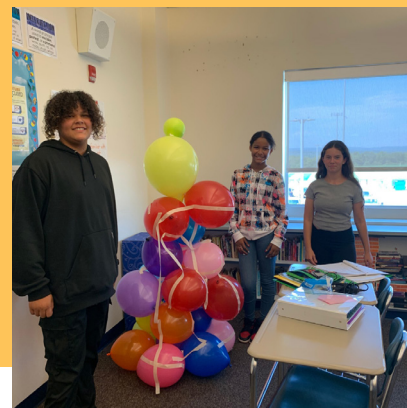
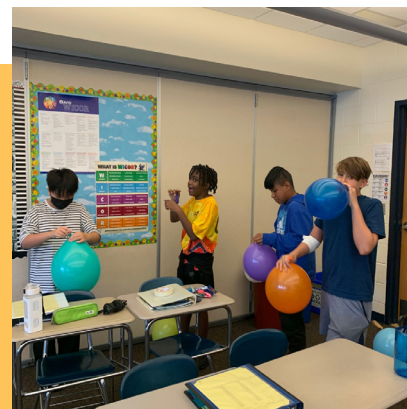


exploring the aviation industry. As of this summer, Zibella had logged 30 hours of flying time and 17 hours of work time on airplanes.

Zibella's research for NASA can be found by [clicking here](#) and downloading the PDF report.

MS. CLARK'S AVID 7 CLASS HOLDS BALLOON TOWER COMPETITION

Ms. Clark's AVID 7 class at Hudson Junior High School had its first Relational Capacity Day on Friday, September 8. Students had to work in teams, communicating and collaborating to inflate 20 balloons with the goal of creating the tallest balloon tower. The students learned the importance of strategy, that good communication goes a long way and that working together gets the job done!





PBIS STATIONS DAY AND KICKOFF HOUSE CELEBRATION

Students visited different areas of Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School to learn and discuss how to be safe, respectful, and responsible. Elementary students will earn Bluehawk Bucks this year as a result of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports system. Pictured here is Mrs. Brown's class at Stations Day, checking out the PBIS prize store.



Every student and staff member at Montgomery C. Smith is part of one of six "houses." Students in each house earn points each trimester by having good attendance, earning positive referrals, and keeping their AVID materials organized. The entire school came together at a kickoff celebration where administration announced this year's class partnerships.



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MS. CASSAZZA AND MR. TURNBULL NAMED SHS PBIS WHEEL WINNERS

The Hudson Senior High School PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) team is thrilled to announce the most recent wheel winners!

Math teacher Michelle Cassazza and Physical Education teacher Ryan Turnbull were two winners of a Hudson Bluehawk umbrella. Teachers who participate in the PBIS initiatives by using "Kindness Currency" and writing positive referrals are added to a wheel that is spun at the high school faculty meeting. Congratulations, Ms. Casazza and Mr. Turnbull!



MOOD METER

How are you feeling?

ENERGY ↑	ENRAGED	PANICKED	STRESSED	JITTERY	SHOCKED	SURPRISED	UPBEAT	FESTIVE	EXHILARATED	ECSTATIC
	LIVID	FURIOUS	FRUSTRATED	TENSE	STUNNED	HYPER	CHEERFUL	MOTIVATED	INSPIRED	ELATED
	FUMING	FRIGHTENED	ANGRY	NERVOUS	RESTLESS	ENERGIZED	LIVELY	ENTHUSIASTIC	OPTIMISTIC	EXCITED
	ANXIOUS	APPREHENSIVE	WORRIED	IRRITATED	ANNOYED	PLEASED	HAPPY	FOCUSED	PROUD	THRILLED
	REPULSED	TROUBLED	CONCERNED	UNEASY	PEEVED	PLEASANT	JOYFUL	HOPEFUL	PLAYFUL	BLISSFUL
	DISGUSTED	GLUM	DISAPPOINTED	DOWN	APATHETIC	AT EASE	EASYGOING	CONTENT	LOVING	FULFILLED
	PESSIMISTIC	MOROSE	DISCOURAGED	SAD	BORED	CALM	SECURE	SATISFIED	GRATEFUL	TOUCHED
	ALIENATED	MISERABLE	LONELY	DISHEARTENED	TIRED	RELAXED	CHILL	RESTFUL	BLESSED	BALANCED
	DESPONDENT	DEPRESSED	SULLEN	EXHAUSTED	FATIGUED	MELLOW	THOUGHTFUL	PEACEFUL	COMFY	CAREFREE
	DESPAIR	HOPELESS	DESOLATE	SPENT	DRAINED	SLEEPY	COMPLACENT	TRANQUIL	COZY	SERENE
	← PLEASANTNESS →									



MCSES MOOD METER

Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School is in its first year of utilizing "RULER," an evidence-based approach to social and emotional learning (SEL) developed at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence.

"RULER" supports entire school communities in:

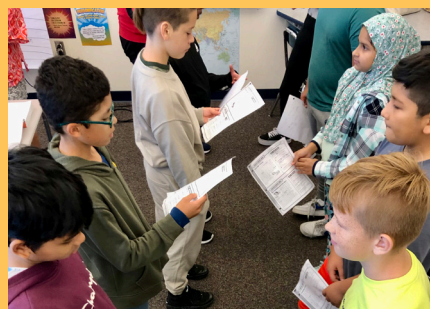
- Understanding the value of emotions.
- Building the skills of emotional intelligence.
- Creating and maintaining positive school climates.

One of the tools students will see around the building this year is the Mood Meter, created by Ms. Cox in Physical Education. You can use this at home too!

Ms. SEMANICK'S 6TH GRADE CLASSES FOCUSING ON COLLABORATION

Students in Ms. Semanick's sixth grade math class used a group activity to help create class norms for productive group work. Students were working together, on task the entire time, and helped one another find the next objective.

Meanwhile, in Ms. Semanick's sixth grade ELA Class, students practiced using the AVID strategy of "Lines of Communication" to share their work.



“SWEETHEARTS AND HEROES” SPEAKS TO HUDSON JHS

Our Hudson Junior High School students had an interactive learning experience on anti-bullying during the “Sweethearts and Heroes” assembly! For more information on the Sweethearts and Heroes program, visit sweetheartsandheroes.com.



“THE LION KING - KIDS” AUDITIONS TAKE PLACE AT MCSES

The Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School After School Drama Club held auditions for students in grades 3-5 for the upcoming performance of “Disney’s The Lion King - Kids” on Tuesday, September 19 and Thursday, September 21 in the MCSES Auditorium. We can’t wait to see our students shine on stage!

CCYT
Columbia County Youth Theatre

MCSES AFTER SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB
AUDITIONS

**DISNEY'S
THE LION KING
KIDS**

Tuesday, September 19th
or
Thursday, September 21st
(students only need to attend one audition day)

3RD, 4TH, AND 5TH GRADERS

MCSES AUDITORIUM
2:45pm - 4:15pm

Students must have transportation home and should be picked up in the front of the building



APPLE CRESCENTS IN MRS. SCHMITT'S FOOD AND NUTRITION CLASS

Mrs. Schmitt's Hudson SHS Food and Nutrition Class made apple crescents as part of their Apple Unit! Students worked as a team to follow a recipe and enjoyed a yummy treat in the end.



UPCOMING EVENTS OCTOBER 2023

- Oct. 14:** SHS Homecoming Dance
- Oct. 20:** Superintendent's Conference Day (No School)
- Oct. 23-24:** MCSES Fall Picture Day
- Oct. 24:** Board of Education Meeting at 6 p.m. (JSHS Cafeteria)
- Oct. 24-25:** SHS School Picture Day
- Oct. 26-27:** JHS School Picture Day

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHTS

Each building in the Hudson City School District held "Meet the Teacher" nights on September 21 at the Senior High School, September 27 at Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School and September 28 at the Junior High School. Our faculty and staff were primed to answer any and all questions from intrigued parents/guardians!



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