

# HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

215 HARRY HOWARD AVE., HUDSON, NY

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



## Dear Hudson City School District Community,

We are off to a fantastic start to the 2023-24 school year! The support and feedback from you all have meant the world to me as Superintendent of Schools for the Hudson City School District. I look forward to continuing and beginning conversations with all community members with the goal of supporting our students and staff.

I am incredibly grateful to have shadowed classrooms, participated in faculty meetings, engaged with students and staff, and attended events surrounding athletics, the arts and the community. The passion and positive energy in our District are contagious and I'm so excited to build upon it.

From an administration standpoint, we are truly embracing the new culture in place: #HudsonTogetherWeCan. Collaborative efforts in Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School, Hudson Junior High School, Hudson Senior High School and the District Office can be seen on a steady basis. Effective communication and implementation of policies and protocols are among the top priorities we are focused on, as well as strategic planning in programs such as the Bluehawk Academy.

As you will read in this newsletter, I'm excited to launch "Pennyman's Pen," a bi-weekly one-page document describing happenings and events in our progressive district. Additionally, I will be holding "Conversations with the Superintendent," a monthly forum for the public to bring ideas, comments and concerns to me in-person, at the Hudson City Department of Youth starting Nov. 16 at 6 p.m.

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, not just in the wake of "Mental Health Awareness Month," but every day and month! 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**

## PENNYMAN'S PEN WRITING TO HUDSON COMMUNITY

**ISSUE 1 | 10/23/2023**

Welcome to Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman's bi-weekly update for the community: Pennyman's Pen!

**NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH**

October 2023 is National Principals Month and we at Hudson CSD are so proud to call these individuals our principals and thank them for their dedication to our students, staff and community:

Derek Reardon, Rhode Cooper, Mark Brennenman, Phillip Campbell, Carolyn Miller, Carrie Patch and Kristen Strothmann.

**SMALL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT DEBT LIMITATION VOTE**

On November 7, New York State voters will have the opportunity to remove the special constitutional debt limitation now placed on small city school districts (5%), so they will be treated the same as all other school districts (10%). This ultimately would allow small city school districts like Hudson to conduct building planning and projects at the scale and scope necessary to efficiently and effectively make critically needed building upgrades and improvements in a timely and cost-effective manner. Should this amendment in November pass, it would not have any impact on non-city school districts and it would not raise taxes.

**BLUEHAWK ACADEMY EXPLORING VARIOUS INNOVATIVE LEARNING PROGRAMS**

As part of the District's research visiting Innovative Learning Programs, 20 students in grades 8-11 from the Bluehawk Academy, several administrators, teachers and I toured Newburgh Free Academy West School on Monday, October 23. This visit and several more planned in the near future are helping the strategic development of the Bluehawk Academy.

Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman is excited to bring a new bi-weekly feature to the Hudson City School District community: "Pennyman's Pen"! Dr. Pennyman will regularly be updating the community with district happenings and events.

In the [first edition](#), Dr. Pennyman addresses National Principals Month, the Small City School District Debt Limitation Vote and the strategic planning of the Bluehawk Academy!



[www.hudsoncsd.org](http://www.hudsoncsd.org)

**Conversations with the Superintendent!**



**HAVE A QUESTION OR CONCERN TO SHARE WITH DR. PENNYMAN?**

Dr. Pennyman wants to hear from YOU about where the District can improve!

Come join her from 6-7 p.m. every third Thursday of each month at the Hudson City Department of Youth located at 18 South 3rd Street, Hudson, NY 12534.

Next meetings: 11/16/23, 12/21/23, 1/18/24, 2/15/24, 3/21/24, 4/18/24, 5/16/24 and 6/20/24.

## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

### Have a question or concern to share with Dr. Pennyman?

Dr. Pennyman wants to hear from YOU about where the district can improve!

Come join her for "Conversations with the Superintendent" 6-7 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Hudson City Department of Youth located at 18 South 3rd St., Hudson, N.Y. 12534.

Next meetings: Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 18, 2024, Feb. 15, 2024, March 21, 2024, April 18, 2024, May 16, 2024 and June 20, 2024.



The Hudson City School District is proud to announce that 10 Hudson Senior High School students will attend the 2024 Harvard Model United Nations Conference in Boston with Ms. Sullivan from Jan. 25-28, 2024!

## HARVARD MODEL UN CONFERENCE TO FEATURE 10 HUDSON SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Model UN is an extracurricular activity in which members assume the roles of delegates representing different countries in an educational simulated United Nations conference. The goal of Model UN is to encourage participants to develop their understanding of international diplomacy, global issues and the workings of the United Nations. Hudson has previously attended Model UN conferences at host locations of The Dalton School, The Horace Mann School and Bard and Vassar Colleges.

The 10 students representing Hudson Senior High School were selected for the opportunity because each had attended at least one New York City conference and submitted a position paper.





## HUDSON READS “LITERACY AT LUNCH” RETURNS

Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School students are thrilled to have the Hudson Reads “Literacy at Lunch” program back this school year! Thank you to our amazing community members for taking time out of their day to build connections and read with our youth!

The mission of the Hudson Reads “Literacy at Lunch” program is to promote children’s literacy and a love of learning through paired reading experiences with caring individuals. By becoming one of our Reading Mentors, you as a community member can help promote the literacy of our students, an ongoing goal.

### Interested in being a reading mentor?

Contact MCSES Associate Principal Carrie Patch at 518-828-4360, ext. 1126 or [HUDSONREADS@HUDSONCSD.ORG](mailto:HUDSONREADS@HUDSONCSD.ORG)



[www.hudsoncsd.org](http://www.hudsoncsd.org)





## NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER ELECTED

The Hudson City School District elected Lauren Jones as a member of the Board of Education on Oct. 10, 2023. She succeeds Lucinda Segar, who stepped down to spend more time with her family.

Jones will fill the remainder of Segar's term, which expires on June 30, 2024. Segar had served on the Board of Education since Dec. 18, 2017.

Jones, a mother of two Hudson City School District students, is a farmer/small business owner with a decade of ties to the community. In her application letter to the Board of Education, Jones said she wants to learn more about how Hudson children's needs are being met and use that knowledge to serve Hudson's children and families.

"I am genuinely rooted in the community and schools, and I have a desire to learn more and to contribute," Jones said.

## "HOMECOMING COURT" CORONATION

The "Homecoming Court" coronation took place at halftime of the Modified Football game on Oct. 6! Congratulations to those who were selected!



Photo courtesy of the Hudson Senior High School Photo/Video Club

## SENIOR STUDENT-ATHLETES RECOGNIZED FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Senior members of the Hudson Varsity Football, Soccer, Girls Volleyball and Boys Golf teams were recognized for their accomplishments and dedication to their sport. Congratulations and best of luck!





# HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOTBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

Our community has raised questions regarding Hudson City School District efforts to sustain a varsity football program. The letter is designed to provide an update.

First, the District values the importance of the school spirit, discipline, teamwork and time management that scholastic sports promote for our young athletes. A football program also certainly provides a vital point of pride. That's why the District is exploring all potential options. Athletic Director Shawn Briscoe has been analyzing the number of returning players for each level of play, as well as the possibility of merging the football program with another school district to ensure enough eligible players to field a team.

For the 2024 football season, many community members have suggested a potential merger with another school district. That option

is being evaluated, but requires the other district to have a similar need and desire to do so. It is not a simple process, but it is being explored.

If a merger were to be approved by the joining school districts' Boards of Education, all paperwork would need to be submitted and approved by the Section II Office for Athletics by Feb. 1, 2024.

In addition, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Juliette Pennyman recently met with representatives of Hudson Pop Warner to learn more about that program and determine the potential of a feeder program leading to the Modified, Junior Varsity and Varsity Football programs.

Please know that the Hudson City School District is committed to providing athletic opportunities for all students throughout the entire

school year and that the District will exhaust all options in this search for a solution. We will continue to provide updates as warranted.

The Hudson City School District invites you to visit [www.hudsoncsd.org/departments-programs/athletics/](http://www.hudsoncsd.org/departments-programs/athletics/) to view the upcoming schedule of winter athletics, along with past stories and important links for coaching requirements, livestreams and more.

Thank you for your ongoing support of all of our athletes and teams.

Sincerely,

Dr. Juliette Pennyman,  
Superintendent  
Shawn Briscoe, Athletic Director

**BROOKS BBQ NOVEMBER 16TH, 2023**

SPONSORED BY THE CLASS OF 2025  
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM A CLASS OFFICER (OLIVIA MANN, MORIAH WALKER, UMMUY CHOWDHURY, HALIMA HOTBANI) OR ANY JUNIOR SELLING TICKETS  
PICK UP WILL BE AT THE EVENT CONCESSIONS STAND BETWEEN 3PM-7PM  
COMPLETE CHICKEN DINNER- \$15.00  
CHICKEN HALF- \$9.00  
COMPLETE CHICKEN DINNER INCLUDES: CHICKEN HALF, BAKED POTATO, COLESLAW, ROLL AND DESSERT.



## CLASS OF 2025 BROOKS BBQ FUNDRAISER

Save the date! The Class of 2025 will host a Brooks BBQ fundraiser with pickups taking place Nov. 16 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the event concession stand. Tickets can be purchased from a class officer (Olivia Mann, Moriah Walker, Ummuy Chowdhury, Halima Hotbani) or any junior selling tickets.

Complete chicken dinner: \$15 (chicken half, baked potato, coleslaw, roll and dessert) chicken half dinner: \$9

For more information, please contact Joe Mazzone at [mazzonej@hudsoncsd.org](mailto:mazzonej@hudsoncsd.org).

## BAGELS & COFFEE A BIG HIT WITH STUDENTS AND VETERANS



The Hudson Senior High School Kindness Club and the Joseph P. Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Project collaborated once again to present "Bagels and Coffee at the Barn" with veterans on Thursday, Nov. 9 from 9-10 a.m. at High & Mighty Therapeutic Riding and Driving Center in Ghent.

(Photos courtesy of Lance Wheeler and the Hudson Senior High School Audio/Video Club)

[www.hudsoncsd.org](http://www.hudsoncsd.org)

## MARK DAVID PULLEN HOSTS CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Hudson City School District Building Maintenance Worker and local author Mark David Pullen offered a free Creative Writing Workshop at the Claverack Library on Nov. 4 at 11 a.m. Kids and adults were welcome!



**Children's Author Series**  
**Mark David Pullen**  
To register: 518-851-7120 or email: [info@claveracklibrary.org](mailto:info@claveracklibrary.org)

**CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**  
Saturday, November 4th, 2023  
11:00 AM



Join local author of *The Oasis King*, Mark David Pullen, for a workshop on creative writing. Kids and adults alike will love this fun and informative writing workshop!

**CLAVERACK FREE LIBRARY**  
9 Route 911  
PO Box 417, Claverack, New York 12513 | 518.851.7120

## 2023 GHOSTLY GALLOP KICKED OFF AT HUDSON JSHS

The Hudson Area Library hosted the 23rd annual Ghostly Gallop 5K Race/Walk & Kids Fun Run on Sunday, Oct. 29! The race started at the Hudson Junior/Senior High School with a kids' run at 10 a.m. and a 5K at 10:30 a.m.



## MONTGOMERY C. SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES SPOOKY SEASON

The annual Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School Trunk-or-Treat took place in the front parking lot of the elementary school from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29. Check out the photos below!







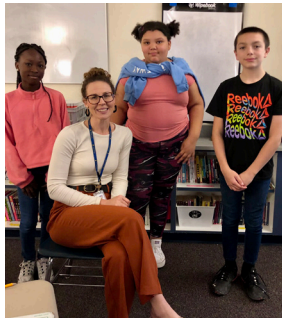


## OCTOBER SHS STAFF PBIS WINNERS

A huge shoutout to our monthly Hudson Senior High School PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) winners Ms. Rom and Mr. Millar (pictured)! Ms. Rom and Mr. Millar each received chicken dinners that will support the Class of 2025.

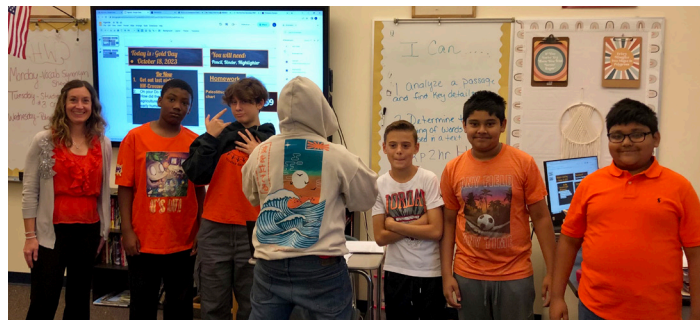
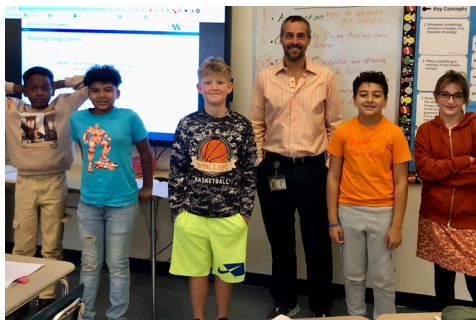
Winners were chosen randomly on the Wheel of Winners during the Senior High School faculty meeting. Names of faculty who support PBIS initiatives by writing positive referrals and using Kindness Currency are added to the wheel.

Thank you to all of our faculty for recognizing students who are following the pillars of being **RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE** and **SAFE**.



## “WEAR ORANGE FOR UNITY” DAY AT HCSD

Oct. 18 was “Wear Orange for Unity” Day in the Hudson City School District! The district was proud to see so many students and staff representing our mantra #HudsonTogetherWeCan.





## BUILDING TENTS FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION UNIT IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students in Mrs. Zucker's sixth grade physical education class were excited to soak in the warm air outside during their Outdoor Education unit!



## “OUR TURN TO TALK” MOVIE SHOWING

“Our Turn to Talk,” a film about resilience and hope during Suicide Prevention Month, was shown in Hudson on Oct. 24, sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Columbia County.

An important discussion followed with guest speakers Marie Rabideau (board member for American Foundation for Suicide Prevention), Matthew Shapiro (NAMI New York State, Senior Director, Government Affairs) and Kate Sprague LCSW (Columbia County Mental Health Clinic, Deputy Director/Director of Clinical Services).

## HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TAKES A #BIGAPPLECRUNCH

Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman and our students will tell you firsthand, there's nothing like a fresh apple in Upstate New York during the fall! Dr. Pennyman and the Hudson City School District are taking a #BigAppleCrunch during the #CrunchChallenge as a friendly reminder to eat local and support farm-to-school connections!





## MULTICULTURAL CLUB HOSTS HISPANIC HERITAGE DINNER NOV. 2

The Hudson Senior High School Multicultural Club hosted a Hispanic Heritage Dinner on Nov. 2!  
The night featured authentic Hispanic cuisine, music, plenty of games and activities.

BROUGHT TO YOU  
BY THE HUDSON SHS  
MULTICULTURAL CLUB



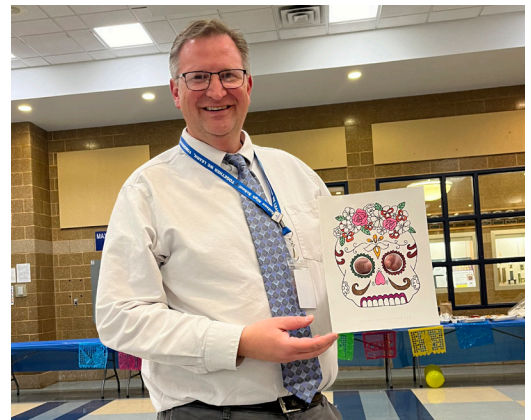
### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH DINNER

NOVEMBER 2, 2023  
FROM 6 P.M. - 8 P.M.  
HUDSON JSHS  
CAFETERIA

DELICIOUS HISPANIC FOOD	TRADITIONAL HISPANIC MUSIC
GAMES AND ACTIVITIES	FACE DECORATING
COLORING	DANCING

FREE ADMISSION!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
JAMIE WEISS (WEISSJ@HUDSONCSD.ORG)  
KAYANI ILSE (ILSEK@HUDSONCSD.ORG)



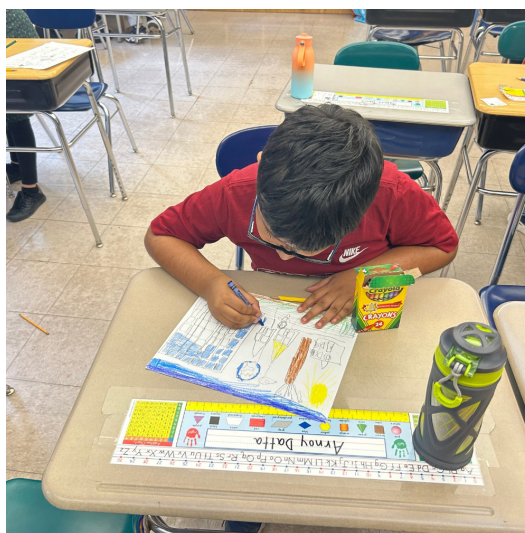
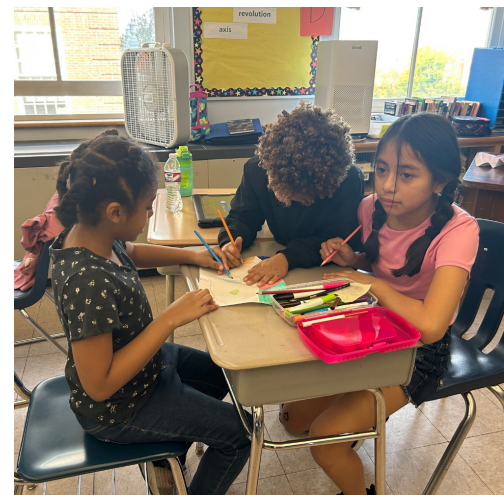


# MCSES HOUSE COMMUNITY DAY FOCUSES ON CHARACTER TRAITS

The first House Community Day at Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School took place on Oct. 27!

Students met with their partner classes and worked on activities that focused on the school's four trimester focus words: Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Citizenship.

The purpose was to build community within the "Houses" and to provide mentorship opportunities to older students.





# SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY “YOUNG CONCERT ARTISTS”



Hudson Junior/Senior High  
School students received a special  
performance by the “Young Concert  
Artists” on Oct. 16!

The performance was sponsored by  
the Clarion Concert. Following the  
performance, the musicians answered  
questions from our students.



[www.hudsoncsd.org](http://www.hudsoncsd.org)





# THE A.B. SHAW FIRE COMPANY HOLIDAY FUN FEST

The A.B. Shaw Fire Company will be hosting  
its Holiday Fun Fest with events taking place  
Nov. 16-18!



## A.B. SHAW FIRE COMPANY HOLIDAY FUN FEST

**Saturday, 11/18/2023**  
**10:00am – 6:00pm**

- ❄️ **Decorated Xmas Tree &**
- ❄️ **Door Wreath Raffle**
- ❄️ **Gift Basket Raffle**
- ❄️ **Bake Sale**
- ❄️ **Santa Visit**
- ❄️ **Tree Lighting at Dusk**

**Friday, 11/17/2023**  
**4:00pm – 7:00pm**

- ❄️ **Public Tree & Wreath Viewing**
- ❄️ **Raffle Ticket Sales**

❄️ **Questions? Call 518-821-9599**

❄️ **Email: [ABShawFDAuxiliary@gmail.com](mailto:ABShawFDAuxiliary@gmail.com)**

❄️ **Address: 67 NY-23, Claverack, NY 12513**

### AUXILIARY

of the

**A. B. SHAW FIRE COMPANY**

**67 State Route 23 Claverack, NY 12513**

Greetings!

On Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> 2023, the Auxiliary of the A. B. Shaw Fire Company is hosting our second annual Holiday Fun Fest & Community Event... a fundraiser for our organization. We are respectfully requesting local businesses and community members to donate a decorated themed Tree or Door Wreath and/or gift basket items to be raffled off during our main event.

You may select a theme for your tree or wreath to decorate with your Team or drop of items to have the Auxiliary Team assemble. Requested Trees sizes: tabletop or larger and Door Wreath size: 18 - 24 inches in circumference. Gift basket items may include, gift cards and/or other items for either an adult or child. Items will be arranged into gift baskets accordingly.

Alternatively, if you would like to make a monetary donation that would also be greatly appreciated, our mailing address is below.

#### Holiday Fun Fest 2023

**Location: A.B. Shaw Fire Company**

- ❄️ **November 16<sup>th</sup>:** Tree and Wreath Set-up: 12:00pm - 7:00pm
- ❄️ **November 17<sup>th</sup>:** Public Tree & Wreath Viewing, Raffle Ticket Sales: 4:00-7:00p
- ❄️ **November 18<sup>th</sup>:** Main Event: 10:00am - 6:00pm
  - ❄️ **Main Event Details:** Public Tree & Wreath Viewing, Raffle Ticket Sales, visit from Santa, Bake Sale, and free hot beverages, then at dusk raffle drawing and an outdoor tree lighting.

Please note: We are actively recruiting new Fire Company and Auxiliary volunteers. All are welcome to sign-up and needed to continue ensuring the safety of our community.

#### 1x Month Meetings:

**Fire Company:** 2nd Tuesday at 7:00pm - 8:00pm

**Auxiliary:** 2nd Wednesdays at 7:00pm - 8:00pm

For more information or participation, please contact:

Jennifer Jutkowsky-Pine: 518.250.9217

Denise Keeler: 620.464.5626

Dawn Slater: 518.821.9599

Ellie Esselstyn: 518.708.0083

Email: [ABShawFDAuxiliary@gmail.com](mailto:ABShawFDAuxiliary@gmail.com)

**We look forward to your participation, seeing you at our event and spreading the word!**

Respectfully,

*Jennifer Jutkowsky-Pine*

Jennifer Jutkowsky-Pine

Auxiliary of the A.B. Shaw Fire Company, President

#### Mailing address:

A.B. Shaw Fire Company Auxiliary  
PO Box Drawer A  
Claverack, NY 12513

The Auxiliary of the A.B. Shaw Fire Company was founded  
March 9, 1944.  
Our Mission: To Promote the Welfare of A.B. Shaw Fire Company,  
the Civic Welfare of the Community, and Sociability among the  
Members of the Auxiliary.



## HUDSON SHS LIFE SKILLS CLASS MEETS DEI MANAGER DR. PRESSEY

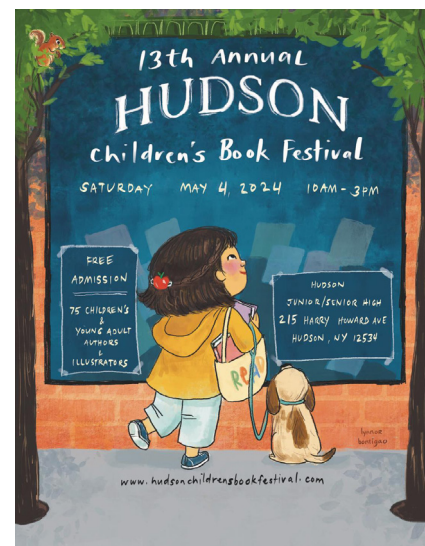
Hudson City School District Diversity Equity and Inclusion Manager Dr. Tia Pressey had the opportunity to meet Hudson Senior High School Life Skills class students on Friday, Oct. 13 during their "Fried Dough Friday."

Each student shook hands with and introduced themselves to Dr. Pressey to welcome her to the district!



## 13TH ANNUAL HUDSON CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL COMING BACK IN SPRING

Save the date! The ever-popular Hudson Children's Book Festival will return to Hudson Junior/Senior High School on May 4, 2024! Come meet aspiring and inspirational authors from near and far at this amazing event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



[www.hudsoncsd.org](http://www.hudsoncsd.org)



MONTGOMERY C. SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HELD ITS FALL SPIRIT WEEK FROM OCT. 30-NOV. 3. CHECK OUT THE THEME DAYS STUDENTS AND STAFF CELEBRATED WITH!

# MCSES FALL SPIRIT Week

October 30 - November 3

**TODAY WE WEAR PINK**

**OCTOBER 30th**



Put on some pink and bring in \$1 to donate to Breast Cancer Awareness

**STORYBOOK CHARACTER DAY**

**OCTOBER 31st**



Dress up as your favorite storybook character today! (no face masks please)

**COMFY DAY**

**NOVEMBER 1st**



Come to school in your comfiest clothes (pajamas, sweats, flannel, etc.)!

**COLOR BLOCK DAY**

**NOVEMBER 2nd**



Wear some festive fall colors (brown, orange, yellow, red, etc.)

**SPECTACULAR SPORTS DAY**

**NOVEMBER 3rd**




Sport your favorite college or pro team!

## OCTOBER WAS NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH!


October was National Principals Month! At Hudson City School District, we are so proud to call these wonderful educational leaders our principals and we thank them for their dedication to our students, staff and community!

**HAPPY NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH**


OCTOBER 2023 IS NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH AND WE AT HUDSON CSD ARE SO PROUD TO CALL THESE INDIVIDUALS OUR PRINCIPALS!




Hudson SHS  
Principal  
Derek Reardon



Hudson JHS  
Principal  
Rhode Cooper



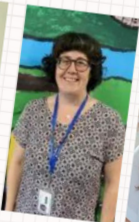
MCSES Principal  
Mark Brenneman



Hudson SHS  
Associate Principal  
Phillip Campbell



Hudson JHS  
Associate Principal  
Carolyn Miller



MCSES Associate  
Principal  
Carrie Patch



MCSES Associate  
Principal  
Kristen Strothmann



# SPIRIT WEEK AT HUDSON JSHS TO RING IN HOMECOMING



Thank you to our amazing staff and students for sending in photos and participating in "Decade Day," "Comfy Cozy Day," "Twin Day," "Field Day-Class Colors Day," "Dress as Your Type Day" and "Blue and Gold Day"!





HUDSON HIGH VARSITY CLUB  
AND NHS

# VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

**SUNDAY, NOV 19 2023**

**PRIZES FOR EACH LEVEL!**

**LOCATION: HUDSON JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL**

**DEADLINE: NOV 12**

**SIGN UP WITH QR CODE!**



## **3 LEVELS:**

**COMPETITIVE - REVERSE CO-ED (WOMEN'S HEIGHT)- \$25 PER PLAYER**  
**COMPETITIVE CO-ED MEN'S HEIGHT)- \$25 PER PLAYER**  
**COMPETITIVE REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:30 AM, GAMES START AT 9:30**

**RECREATIONAL- \$5 ADULTS, \$1 STUDENTS**  
**RECREATIONAL REGISTRATION STARTS AT 12:30, GAMES START AT 12:30**





[www.hudsoncsd.org](http://www.hudsoncsd.org)

