

HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

215 HARRY HOWARD AVE., HUDSON, NY

MARCH-APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



Dear Hudson City School District Community,

We have made it to April! I'd say luck has been on the Hudson City School District's side with the recent weather, as the sun shines down on our school community! I would like to take a moment to acknowledge some of the amazing things happening in our District.

I am extremely grateful for the work of our Bluehawk community and District faculty and staff in supporting the efforts of the District to sustain a friendly, healthy and safe learning environment that is engaged in the community. Learn-a-Thon at Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School, Relational Capacity Day at Hudson Junior High School and Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS) recognition of 198 Hudson Senior High School students attest to this!

It is with great excitement that I announce the Hudson City School District's partnership with Verizon Innovative Learning and Digital Promise, which provides devices, enhanced internet and Technology Coaches to the Hudson Junior and Senior High Schools, beginning in September 2024. This collaboration will supplement classroom initiatives for the next two school years, revolutionizing how we approach our daily instructional delivery and enable every student to access high-quality learning experiences, irrespective of their learning styles or socio-economic status. (Please see the full story below in this Newsletter.)

From an administration standpoint, we continue to strategize and implement the #HudsonTogetherWeCan culture. Chief Financial Officer Tabatha Biggane, Central Office staff, building leaders and I have been diligently working on fine-tuning the 2024-25 Hudson City School District Budget for the Public Hearing on May 7, 2024. I invite you to click here to view the timeline for 2024-25 Budget presentations and attend or view the livestream of a Board of Education meeting, held bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in the Hudson Senior High School Library. The next Board meeting and Budget Workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

Collaborative efforts in Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School, Hudson Junior High School, Hudson Senior High School and the District Office continue to be seen on a steady basis. Teamwork, community integration and effective strategies being applied are among the top priorities we are sustaining.

As always, I appreciate each of you and welcome your continued support of our students and staff at District programs, activities and events. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at pennymanj@hudsoncsd.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Juliette Pennyman
Superintendent of Schools
Hudson City School District

FUTURE "CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT" TO FEATURE 2024-25 BUDGET PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT!

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



Join her from **6-7 p.m.** on the dates and at the locations listed below! April and May 2024 sessions will feature updated presentations of the proposed 2024-25 budget.

Next meetings

April 18, 2024: A.B. Shaw Fire Company
67 State Route 23, Claverack.

May 6, 2024: Greenport Community Center
500 Town Hall Drive, Hudson.

May 16 and June 20, 2024: Hudson City
Department of Youth.

HUDSON

Have a question or concern to share with Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman? Dr. Pennyman wants to hear from YOU about where the District can improve! Join her from 6-7 p.m. on the dates and at the locations listed below! April and May 2024 sessions will feature updated presentations of the Hudson City School District's proposed 2024-25 budget.

APRIL 18, 2024

A.B. Shaw Fire Company,
67 State Route 23, Claverack

MAY 6, 2024

Greenport Community Center,
500 Town Hall Drive, Hudson

MAY 16 and JUNE 20, 2024

Hudson City Department of Youth,
18 South 3rd St., Hudson

JOIN THE HUDSON CSD BOARD OF EDUCATION - NOMINATING PETITIONS DUE MAY 7

The Hudson City School District School District Board of Education will have two non-paid seats up for election on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. There will be two three-year terms ending in June 2027 as follows:

- Incumbent: Selha Graham (term from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024)
- Incumbent: Lauren Jones (completing an unexpired term from Oct. 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

Nominating petitions are available to be picked up at the Central Office, at 215 Harry Howard Avenue, Hudson, NY, 12145, and are due May 7, 2024.

If you're interested in joining the Hudson City School District Board of Education, please contact the Board Clerk to get a nominating petition (518-828-4360, ext. 2101). Prospective candidates must have a primary residence in the Hudson City School District, be at least 18 years old and be a registered voter. Prospective school board candidates must obtain at least 100 signatures on the nominating petition (supporters who sign the petition must also be residents in the school district).

School board candidates should be committed to public education and the advancement of the school district. Responsibilities of school board members include:

- Creating a shared vision for the future of education at the Hudson City School District.
- Setting the direction of the school district to achieve high student performance.
- Creating strategic partnerships with community stakeholders.
- Budget development and adoption.
- Policy development and adoption.

Learn more about what school board members do by [clicking here](#). Check out the upcoming Board of Education meeting schedule by [clicking here](#). Meet current board members by [clicking here](#).

For further information, please contact Tracy Gaffney, Superintendent's Secretary and Board of Education Clerk, at 518-828-4360, ext. 2101, or gaffneyt@hudsoncsd.org.



PROGRESS REPORT FROM DR. JULIETTE PENNYMAN: MY FIRST 125 DAYS



On Feb. 27, 2024, Hudson City School District Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman presented a progress report to the Hudson City School District Board of Education on her first 125 days as Superintendent. Dr. Pennyman has described the past few months as “incredibly inspiring” after listening to and learning from students, staff, families and the community.

On Tuesday night (Feb. 27, 2024), I presented a progress report to our Board of Education on my first 125 days as your Superintendent. The past few months have been incredibly inspiring as I’ve listened and learned. I’m proud of the work our dedicated district team has done, as well as the partnerships we continue to nurture with our community. Please [click here](#) to view the 125-Day Progress Report presentation.

Every step has been powered by one priority: optimizing education for our students. When I joined our district in July 2023, I outlined three proposed outcomes in my Entry Plan:

- An engaged district and community that understands the focus and direction of our school district with a renewed commitment that “we are all responsible for the success of our schools.”
- A comprehensive summary of findings, observations and insights from my community engagement activities.
- An outline of a strategic planning process to review our school district’s current strategic plan and stages of implementation.

How do we get there? I have identified Six Keys for School Improvement, which I believe can dramatically improve schools and instruction across each school and our district.

1. Strengthen the Instructional Core

Opportunities include:

- **Adopt and implement a high-quality curriculum** and continue the rollout of the Eureka Math Squared approach through Algebra I to create consistency in math experience and develop students’ critical-thinking skills.
- **Improve 21st century learning** through technology embedded in daily instruction. This can be done by improving technology integration in classroom instruction; supporting teachers with cutting-edge curricular resources; and continuing to build partnerships to bring STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) opportunities to students.

Progress:

- **Audit and review district curriculum:** We have reviewed the quality and alignment of the current curriculum and identified gaps where curricular resources and supports may be necessary.
- **Continued curriculum and instruction support, resources and partnerships:** The Eureka Math2 curriculum rollout continues at the elementary school level, with some early exploration of secondary curriculum. We are looking into supplemental curricular resources to add rigor and relevance across core subject areas. We are partnering with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to supplement students’

experiences with STEM both in the classroom and through off-campus opportunities.

- **Verizon Innovative Learning Grant application submitted:** If approved, the grant will provide funding for technology devices for all secondary students, instructional coaches and additional support to embed technology into the teaching and learning experience.

2. Strengthen Instructional Leadership Capacity

Opportunities include:

- **Drive instruction through Professional Learning Communities and peer-coaching models,** including investing in and leveraging the expertise of teaching staff and coaches, and providing structures for collaboration and peer observation that result in more alignment horizontally among grade-level teams and vertically across subject-matter teams.
- **Revamp our staffing recruitment and retention plan,** including attracting and retaining diverse, highly qualified teaching staff, and strategically invest in a “grow-your-own” program to create a pipeline for employment within the district.

Progress:

- **Instructional Coaching in English Language Arts and Math:** Instructional coaches work with teachers when invited, to support curriculum implementation and instructional-capacity building.
- **Empowering principals to take on more responsibility related to instructional leadership:** This includes freeing time in their schedules, in collaboration with assistant principals, to increase time for classroom visits and observation. Principals have started to create and lead professional development targeted at teachers’ needs.
- **District and school leadership teams drafting frameworks for highly-effective schools:** Utilizing the six keys to ground the strategic planning process and target specific needs within our district.

3. Improve Data-Driven Practices

Opportunities include:

- **Reset the strategic planning process:** This will provide opportunities to build structures and systems that support data-driven decision-making.
- **Revise the Kindergarten screening process:** Include

stronger data collection and communication among team members to provide early intervention and prepare for incoming kindergarten classes.

Progress:

- **Building capacity for data-driven decision-making among the leadership team:** Leadership coaching and leadership retreats are being utilized to build shared mission, vision, values and goals; reviewing and updating the strategic planning process; analyzing how grant money is spent to ensure equity and alignment with the strategic plan; and seeking stakeholder input through surveys and additional outreach.
- **Implementing a data-informed approach to develop new initiatives and prioritizing next steps:** The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Team has drafted diversity, equity and inclusivity goals based on stakeholder engagement and student-learning data. We also have begun gathering information from teachers on grade-level standards alignment in daily instruction.

4. Tiered Approach to School Support & Intervention

Opportunities include:

- **Build on our data-driven Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) process:** Create consistent practices to build student success teams, involving clear communication among team members, and utilize New York State Education Department and Stronger Connections grant funding to target individual student academic and social-emotional needs.
- **Creatively address individualized students support:** Maximize inclusion for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs); differentiation support for teachers; investigate flexible scheduling solutions to address credit deficiencies; and expand graduation pathways.

Progress:

- **Building a comprehensive Multi-Tiered Systems of Support framework for Kindergarten through Grade 12:** Working across building leadership teams and district leadership, the MTSS framework will address age-appropriate interventions to improve student outcomes with cohesion and transparency.

- **Bluehawk Academy as a model for a team-approach to successful program leadership intervention strategies:** District leadership is developing a new proposal for the innovative school model at Bluehawk Academy to embed internship opportunities into students' school days; Mollie Zucker joined the leadership team as the Bluehawk Academy's Associate Principal in November 2023.
- **Crisis plan developed to address student mental health support needs:** The district leadership team worked with counselors, social workers and school staff to develop a thorough intervention plan.

5. Promote a Positive, Inclusive School Environment for all Stakeholders

Opportunities include:

- **Student advisory team:** Involve students in conversations about how to improve sense of community and belonging in classrooms; collaboratively rebuild a sense of pride to be a Hudson City School District student.
- **Build district-wide strategy to prevent and respond to harmful behavior:** Build on the foundations of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) work; offer robust training to staff and students around restorative practices to enhance conflict prevention and positive resolution tools; draw from Bluehawk Academy successes re: restorative practices.

Progress:

- **Investments in safety, leading to fewer student altercations in schools:** The STOPit online reporting tool was adopted to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse and other inappropriate behaviors; additional school safety officers were hired in secondary schools.
- **Diversity, equity and inclusivity initiatives and leadership in place to propel change:** DEI Manager Dr. Tia Pressey joined the staff in October 2023 to lead the district in building a more supportive learning environment for all; for staff, book study and professional development using "Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain" by Dr. Zaretta Hammond.
- **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) implementation:** Implementation at Hudson Senior High School: 110 students were recognized for being respectful, responsible and safe in December 2023.

6. Increase Monitoring & Accountability

Opportunities include:

- **Improve teacher observation and feedback protocols to facilitate opportunities for professional growth:** Align observation and feedback protocols with district-wide Initiatives; provide targeted professional development based on needs identified through evaluations.
- **Continue to update technology in facilities and technology use practices and protocols:** Assess cybersecurity protocols and develop incident response plans; update the student technology handbook and use policies; update the district website to ease users' experience.

Progress:

- **Community members express excitement around increase in transparency and communication, leading to more meaningful engagement:** Superintendent Pennyman engages stakeholder groups once per month to collect feedback and gather input for decision-making from community members, school staff and students; Family Fun Nights bring community members into schools to connect with staff and each another; the Pennyman's Pen newsletter to keep stakeholders informed every other week; the district leadership team developing an end-of-year community feedback survey.
- **Significant progress made to increase student access to technology and improve district-wide technology systems and processes:** Cybersecurity risk is significantly diminished; technology infrastructure exists and plans are focused on embedding technology into everyday instruction.

Strategic Planning Next Steps

The Hudson City School District's strategic plan sets priorities, focuses energy and resources, strengthens operations and ensures that employees and other stakeholders work toward common goals. Here is our approach to review and update the district's current plan and stages of implementation:

- **Community Engagement** (Focus groups, community events, survey): April - June, September - October 2024



- **Plan Revision and Rewriting** (Board of Education and staff strategy revision): July - August 2024
- **Plan Review and Finalization** (Final Board of Education review and revision): September - October 2024

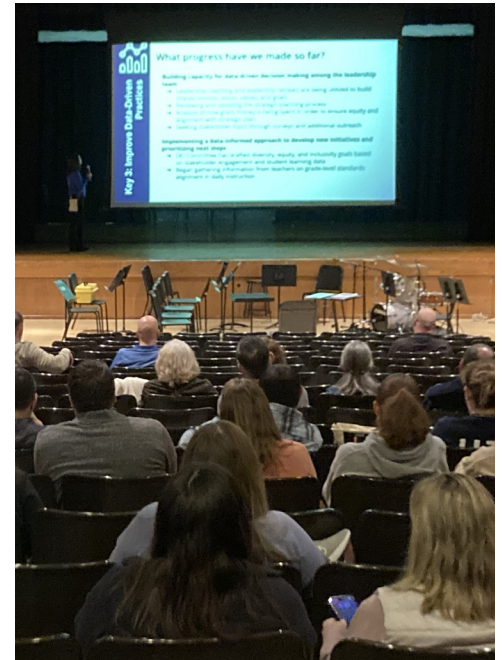
I extend my deep gratitude to the Board of Education and our schools' leadership teams, teachers, staff, students, families and community members for partnering with me and investing their valuable time and efforts to support our students' success. Our school district team is comprised of committed, dedicated, skilled and compassionate professionals who care about

the education, success and well-being of our students and families.

Together, I know we will accomplish great things. I'm excited for the future because our students deserve the very best, every single day. Thank you, as always, for your investment in our students' lives.

Sincerely,
Dr. Juliette Pennyman
Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY UPDATES STAFF ON INITIATIVES, STRATEGIES, BUDGET



Faculty members who attended Dr. Juliette Pennyman's Superintendent's Conference Day on March 15 received vital updates on a range of initiatives.

First, Dr. Pennyman outlined her [125-Day Plan](#), explaining six components of her strategic vision for the school district's future success: Strengthening the Instructional Core; Strengthening Instructional Leadership Capacity; Improving Data-Driven Practices; A Tiered Approach to School Support & Intervention; Promoting a Positive, Inclusive School Environment for all Stakeholders; and Increasing Monitoring & Accountability. She told faculty members, "You have what it takes to move our district to greater heights." Other components of the program:

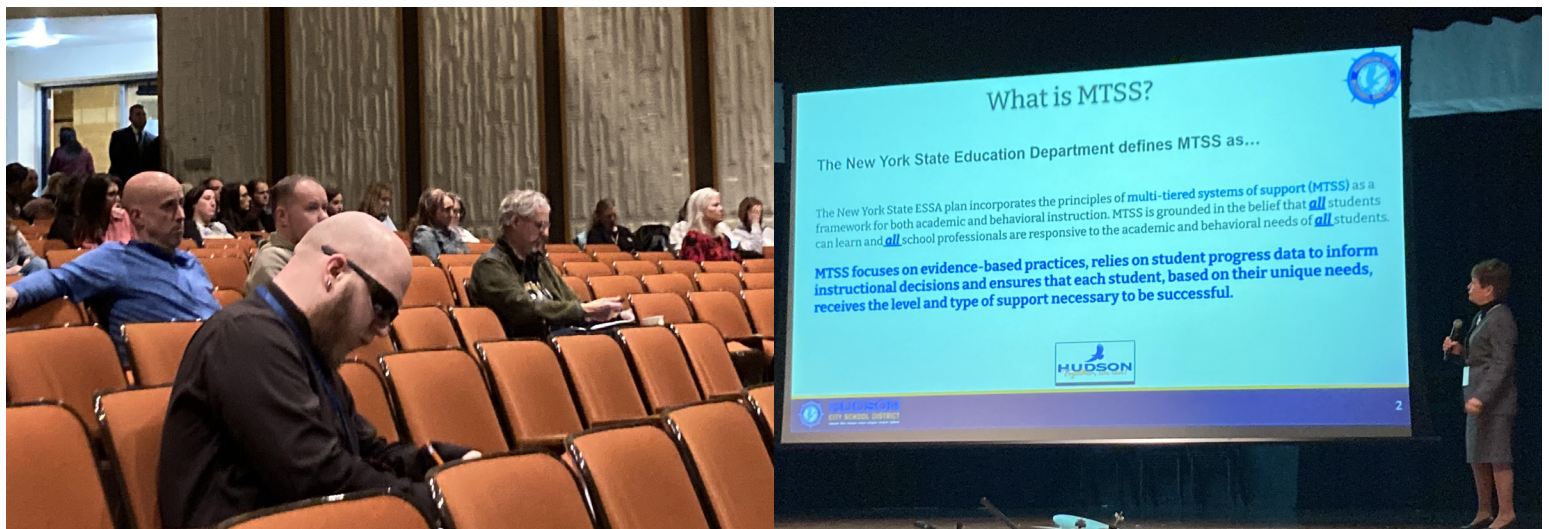
- **Support for Students:** Attendees were updated on Hudson's rollout of a New York State education initiative, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and its Branching Mind program. MTSS is a program designed to advance students' success, encompassing social-emotional learning, academics, supporting linguistic diversity, behavioral support, and ensuring a culturally responsive and sustaining education. Branching Minds is data-driven software designed to build a path for every learner to receive a customized educational approach to improve student success. Branching Minds' software is now being installed; it will first be implemented for grades kindergarten through eight.

- **Survey:** District employees took the Panorama Survey, designed to identify positives and areas of potential within the district. “We value you; your voice matters,” said Dr. Tia Pressey, district Manager of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (photo at right). “This survey helps identify strengths and opportunities so our teachers can be supported.”
- **Bluehawk Academy:** Mollie Zucker, Associate Principal of Bluehawk Academy, outlined the strategic redesign in progress at the Academy. The program is for high school students who benefit from individualized attention that emphasizes their strengths and interests, all to prepare them for the real world. Initiatives include mentoring ninth and 10th graders to provide them with a strong start within the program, as well as long-term success through strong attendance, participation in community activities and college readiness and career exploration.
- **Budget Status:** Chief Financial Officer Tabatha Biggane provided highlights of the district’s preliminary budget for 2024-2025. She said she was optimistic the school district would have approximately \$2.9 million in state funding restored. That reduction was specified in the district’s initial aid



notification from the State Education Department. The district will learn its final state aid amount in April as the state budget is finalized. Overall, the school district is proposing a 2% tax levy increase. The budget will be more comprehensively outlined at the March 26 and April 9 Board of Education meetings. The public votes on the budget on May 21.

- **Technology:** A technology update from Manager of Instructional Technology and Data Protection Officer Cheryl Rabinowitz outlined numerous initiatives from cybersecurity to infrastructure improvements to the debut of a Student Technology Crew at Hudson High School. The presentation also included details about Hudson’s recent approval to participate in Verizon Innovative Learning. As part of its Digital Promise program, Hudson Senior High School and Hudson Junior High School students and faculty will receive free Chromebooks, and the district will benefit from enhanced internet access, funding to hire instructional technology coaches, and innovative science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning programs that advance students’ education and opportunities. “This is very much about access for all; there’s so much more we can do with the integration of this technology,” Dr. Pennyman said.



HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT JOINS VERIZON INNOVATIVE LEARNING, WHICH PROVIDES DEVICES, ENHANCED INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY COACHES TO HUDSON JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS



Hudson Senior High School and Hudson Junior High School students and faculty will receive free Chromebooks, and the Hudson City School District will benefit from enhanced internet access, funding to hire instructional technology coaches, and innovative science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning programs that advance students' education and opportunities. The initiatives are being provided through a partnership with nonprofit Digital Promise to participate in the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program for up to four years.

The partnership covers the next two school years, starting in September 2024 and concluding June 30, 2026. Hudson was selected for participation by Digital Promise after a rigorous, competitive process. Overall, the program provides extensive training, support and opportunities to engage in powerful teaching and learning that leverages technology inside and outside of classrooms.

The program, which addresses barriers to digital inclusion, will provide at no cost to the school district:

- Approximately 993 Google Chromebooks and additional Chromebook chargers.
- Faster high-speed internet access data plans of at least 30 gigabytes per month for every student and teacher at Hudson Senior and Junior High Schools, a benefit that will increase efficiency and load capacity and strengthen opportunities for 24/7 learning.
- Funding for each of the two school years to equip each school with a technology coach and provide robust professional development support for teachers to effectively integrate technology into the classroom. The District has active job postings for two instructional technology coach positions, one at each building.

- Stipends each year to provide a school-based point of contact that will serve as a lead for technology support and device management at the school level.

"By leveraging technology innovations through the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program," said Hudson City School District Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman, "we can revolutionize how we approach our daily instructional delivery and enable every student to access high-quality learning experiences, irrespective of their learning styles or socio-economic status."

"We are deeply appreciative of Digital Promise and the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program's generous investment in our students' academic success," said Board of Education President Willette Jones. "Technology, along with the Hudson City School District's dedicated teachers and staff, are vital to our students' life and career goals, and we thank and commend Digital Promise and Verizon for their foresight in creating and implementing such a supportive program in Hudson and nationwide."

Hudson Senior and Junior High Schools are among the 34 new schools joining the 11th cohort of Verizon Innovative Learning Schools, bringing the program to 626 middle and high schools nationwide. 82% of teachers in school districts where the program has been implemented have said that Verizon Innovative Learning enhanced their ability to differentiate instruction, and 77% said the program enhanced student engagement.

"At Verizon, we all know how critical access to technology and skills development are in today's digital world," said Mario Acosta-Velez, Regional Director, Verizon Local Engagement and Corporate Social Responsibility. "That's why we are proud to work with Digital Promise to bring

Verizon Innovative Learning Schools to the Hudson City School District and enable students to develop the skills, knowledge and capabilities to be successful and become the next generation of STEM leaders.”

To prepare for implementation of the partnership, the Hudson City School District Instructional Technology (IT) Department is working with Digital Promise by attending weekly planning meetings every Friday, and attended the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools Spring Virtual Conference March 5-6. Hudson IT staff will learn from and alongside fellow Verizon Innovative Learning community members from the 10 nationwide cohorts in the network. At the conference, unique experiences, strategies and research-based practices for meaningful leveraging of technology will be shared to establish and sustain a culture of powerful learning in classrooms, campuses and districts.

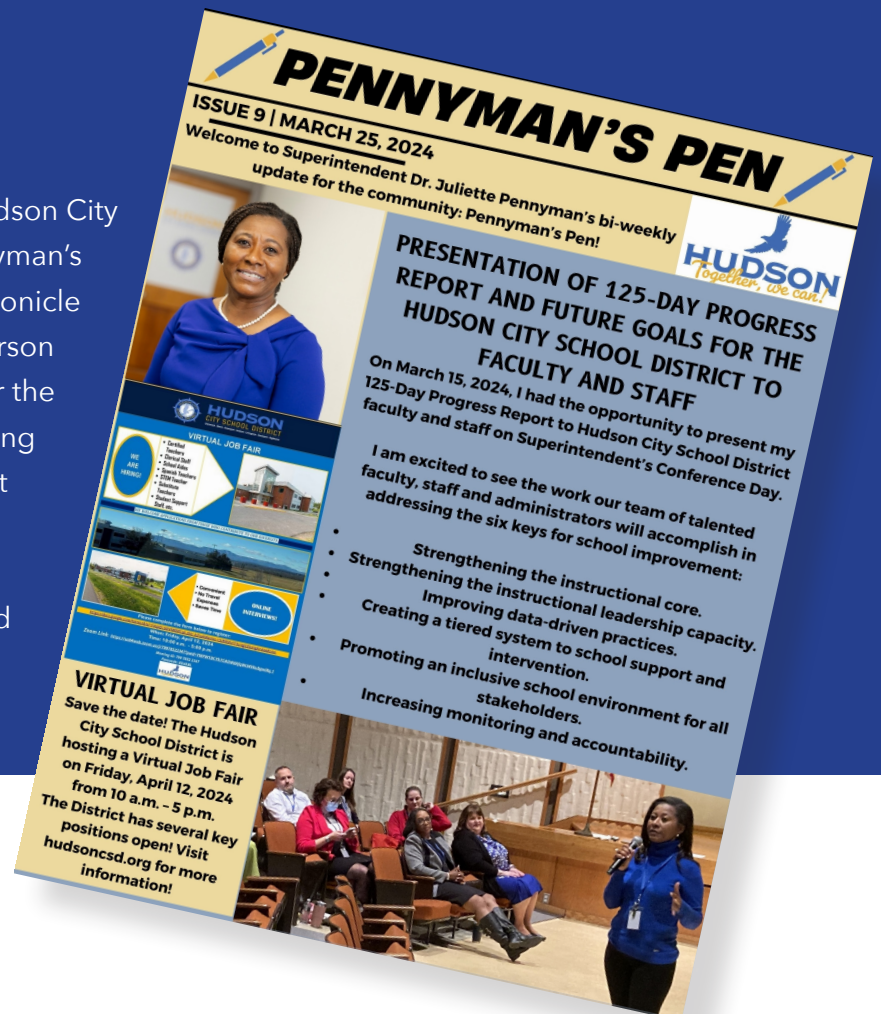
Hudson’s IT Department will continue working with building and district leaders to make recommendations for updating District technology policies, regulations and exhibits, and also develop a Student Handbook. Using funds provided by the partnership, Dr. Pennyman, Instructional Technology Manager Cheryl Rabinowitz, Hudson Senior High School Principal Derek Reardon and Junior High School Principal Rhode Cooper will attend the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools Leader Summit alongside other leaders from the program’s 11th cohort in Kansas City, Missouri, May 14-17.

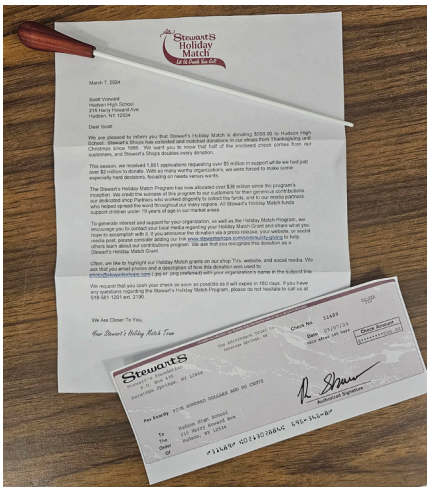
Verizon Innovative Learning, which addresses barriers to digital inclusion, is part of Citizen Verizon, Verizon’s business plan to move the world forward for all. Learn more about the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program and how to apply at [verizon.digitalpromise.org](https://www.verizon.digitalpromise.org).

PENNYMAN’S PEN NOW AVAILABLE

The March 8 and March 25, 2024 editions of Hudson City School District Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman’s update to the community, “Pennyman’s Pen,” chronicle a conversation with New York State Assemblyperson Didi Barrett in regard to State Aid projections for the 2024-25 Hudson school district budget, discussing her “Six Keys for School Improvement” to District faculty and staff and more!

Click here to read the March 8, 2024 edition and **click here** to read the March 29, 2024 edition.





HUDSON SCHOOLS' MUSIC DEPARTMENT RECEIVES \$500 STEWART'S SHOPS GRANT

Under the leadership of Hudson City School District Music Department Head Scott Vorwald, the department received \$500 from Stewart's Shops after being selected as a recipient of Stewart's "Holiday Grant" program! The funding will be used to sponsor a field trip to the Music In The Parks Festival at Six Flags this year!

Thank you, Stewart's Shops and Mr. Vorwald!

2024-2025 KINDERGARTEN SCREENINGS APRIL 2-3

2024-2025 Kindergarten Screenings will take place on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 and Wednesday, April 3, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School. To get on the mailing list and schedule a screening, please call April Carrasco at 518-828-4360, ext. 1113

Reminder: Please bring the COMPLETED registration packet with all the supporting documentation to the Registrar in the District Office located at Hudson High School PRIOR to your screening appointment. Questions: Please contact the registration office at 518-828-4360, ext. 2100, or email registration@hudsoncsd.org.



HUDSON'S MUSIC STARS STEAL THE SHOW AT ALL-COUNTY FESTIVAL

On March 1 and March 3, 2024, nine Hudson Junior Senior High School students performed at the All-County Festival at Taconic Hills! Our students represented the sixth-grade Band, Junior High School Choir and Senior High School Band. **Way to go, Bluehawks!**

More photos on next page »







HCS D Student Art Show
 Opening Reception
 Wednesday, March 13th, 2024 | 4:00 to 5:30
 A retrospective of students work from the art classes of:

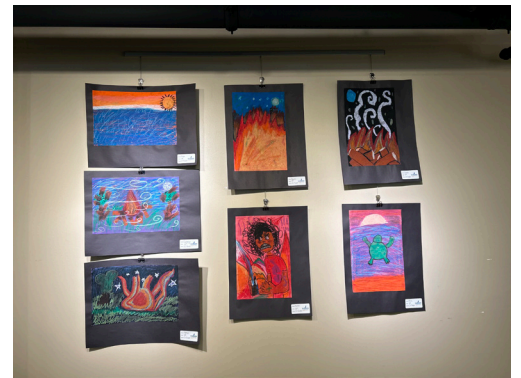
- Samantha Anderson - Montgomery C. Smith
- Javier Winnik - Montgomery C. Smith & Hudson Junior High School
- Catie Rogers - Hudson Junior High School
- Malene Rubin - Hudson Senior High School
- Christine Flood - Hudson Senior High School
- Liz Albino - Hudson Senior High School



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claveracklibrary.org

AMAZING DISPLAYS AT HUDSON CSD STUDENT ART SHOW AT CLAVERRACK FREE LIBRARY



A special shoutout to our amazing students in all three buildings who have artwork showcased for the Hudson City School District Student Art Show at the Claverack Free Library! District leadership and staff were excited to view the masterpieces at an opening reception on March 13, 2024!



HUDSON CSD STUDENT ART SHOW AT COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Columbia-Greene Community College will host a Hudson City School District Student Art Show from April 8 to April 30, 2024 with the opening reception taking place from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2024! Come support our amazing Bluehawks and their inspiring creations!

CLASS OF 2024 HUDSON SENIOR HIGH EVENT SCHEDULE

Hudson Senior High School Class of 2024 Families:

Save the dates below for the following important events pertaining to the Class of 2024!

HUDSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024 EVENT SCHEDULE

PROM WALK AND PROM SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024

Prom Walk: 4-6 p.m. at Hudson Firemen's Home (rain location is Hudson Senior High School Gym).
Prom: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at The Falls in Hudson. Price TBA.

SENIOR TRIP MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024

2024 Senior Trip is to Rocking Horse Ranch Resort in Highland from 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. First 50 seniors to submit their \$100 fee will be reserved to attend, following submissions will be placed on a waiting list.



For more information, please contact Class of 2024 Advisor Andy Millar: millara@hudsoncsd.org

SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

Class of 2024 Senior Awards Night will be in the Hudson Junior/Senior High School Auditorium from 7- 9 p.m.

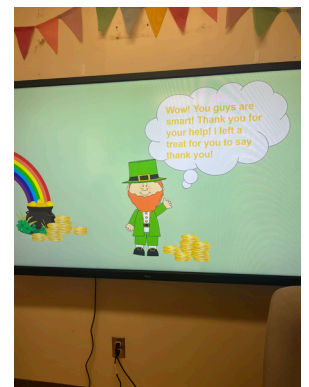
GRADUATION REHEARSAL AND BACCALAUREATE CEREMONY TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024

Graduation Rehearsal: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Hudson Junior/Senior High School Auditorium. Graduation will be on Friday, June 28, 2024 in the same location.

Baccalaureate Ceremony: 6 p.m. at St. Mary's Church in Hudson

MS. ALLEN'S MCSES STUDENTS HELP LUCKY THE LEPRECHAUN FIND GOLD

Ms. Allen's first, second and third grade Right to Intervention (RTI) classes at Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School celebrated St. Patrick's Day by completing a math quest to help Lucky the Leprechaun find gold.



PRE-KINDERGARTEN APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED UNTIL MAY 3; DISTRICT LAUNCHES LOTTERY FOR SLOTS

The Hudson City School District is offering residents pre-kindergarten options for the 2024-2025 school year. Due to updates in New York State regulations, pre-kindergarten registration can no longer be a first-come, first-served basis. As a result, a lottery will be used to select eligible children. If there are sufficient pre-kindergarten slots to serve all applicants, the lottery will not be held and all completed applications will be offered a pre-kindergarten spot.

Pre-kindergarten immerses students into a learning-focused community that nurtures individual growth and provides a strong foundation for lifelong education. Children in quality early childhood programs learn socialization skills through group activities; experience reading- and writing-readiness activities; are better prepared for school success; and are more likely to attain higher levels of education. All pre-kindergarten options require attendance in person; a virtual option is not available. The pre-kindergarten calendar generally follows the Hudson City School District calendar.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten is a full-day program; Targeted Pre-Kindergarten is an income-based full-day program. The district uses income criteria to determine a child's placement.

The district has several pre-kindergarten classrooms on site at Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School as well as spots at community-based organizations such as [Head Start](#), [The Starting Place](#) and [Bright Tykes Early Learning Center](#). Other organizations may be considered as well. Transportation is not provided to pre-kindergarten programs.

Eligibility

In February, applications are sent as requested for eligible children. An eligible child:

- Turns 4-years-old on or before Dec. 1 of the school year when the student would attend.

2024-2025

PRE-K



APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

March 5, 2024 - May 3, 2024

Complete applications submitted by May 3 are assigned a number in the order received by the district. This tracks the applications submitted; it does not suggest that the child automatically has a spot.

The numbers are then entered into a blind lottery drawing conducted by the Hudson City School District's Registrar and Director of Student Services. Numbers are drawn until all applications are accepted or waitlisted. If one sibling is drawn during the lottery, any other siblings are automatically accepted pending availability.

Hudson City School District policy allows district employees' children living outside the district to enroll in Hudson. However, for pre-kindergarten programs, children residing in the school district will be placed before non-resident children are considered, regardless of the date of the submitted packet.

For more information:

<https://www.hudsoncsd.org/departments-programs/registration/pre-kindergarten-registration/>

Email: registration@hudsoncsd.org

Phone: 518-828-4360, Ext. 2100

- Cannot turn 5-years-old before Dec. 1 of the school year when the student would attend.
- Resides within the Hudson City School District.

Key Dates

- Now through May 3: Applications will be accepted.
- May 6: Lottery drawing, if the number of applications exceeds the slots available.
- May 10: Parents will be notified regarding a child's placement or addition to the waiting list by phone or mail. This will include notification about next steps, including navigating the registration process.
- May 31: Deadline for parents to notify the district of their intent to accept the slot by emailing registration@hudsoncsd.org.

Applications

Parents are asked to complete the following forms, provide the requested verification documents and rank their preferences for programs and locations. Every effort will be made to accommodate families' choices.

Forms are available [at the link here](#) or by picking them up in the District Administrative Office from the Registrar. They include:

- The application.
- Evidence of a medical physical within one year.
- Current immunization record.
- Copy of parent or guardian photo identification.
- Proof of residency.
- Language questionnaire.
- Copy of your child's birth certificate or passport.
- Income verification form, which must be completed whether or not a family qualifies for an income-based program. An application is incomplete without this form.
- McKinney/Vento form, regarding housing status.

To submit an application, email registration@hudsoncsd.org or drop off at the Registration Office. The submitted packet is reviewed by district personnel. If an application is incomplete, parents will be notified. The district, while attempting to honor placement requests for locations and programs, maintains all final decisions. Applications will be accepted beyond the application period for open slots or the waiting list.

Lottery Procedures

Complete applications submitted by May 3 are assigned a number in the order received by the district. This tracks the applications submitted; it does not suggest that the child automatically has a spot. The numbers are then entered into the blind drawing conducted by the Hudson City School District's Registrar and Director of Student Services. Numbers are drawn until all applications are accepted or waitlisted. If one sibling is drawn during the lottery, any other siblings are automatically accepted pending availability.

Hudson City School District policy allows district employees' children living outside the district to enroll in Hudson. However, for pre-kindergarten programs, children residing in the school district will be placed before non-resident children are considered, regardless of the date of the submitted packet.

To learn more, please contact the registration office at **(518) 828-4360, ext. 2100**, or email registration@hudsoncsd.org. Thank you! We look forward to your child's educational journey starting with Hudson City School District pre-kindergarten!

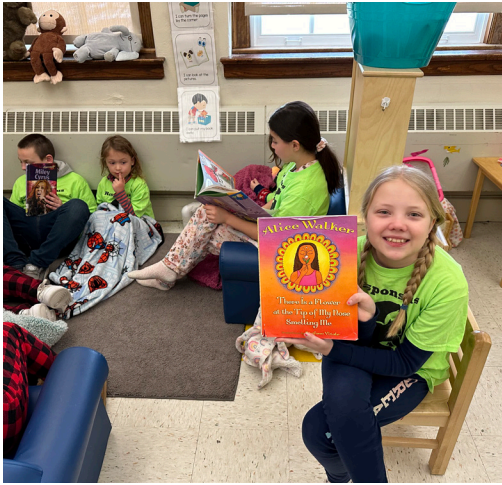


PRE-KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS COLLABORATE ON ART MURAL AT MCSES

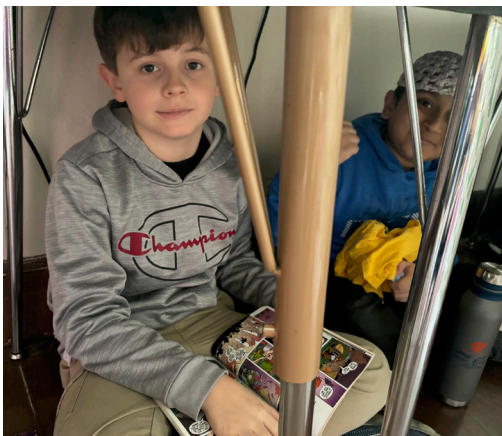
Ms. McDonald's pre-kindergarten class painted a collaborative mural for the halls of Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School in Ms. Anderson's art class!



LEARN-A-THON 2024 AT MCSES



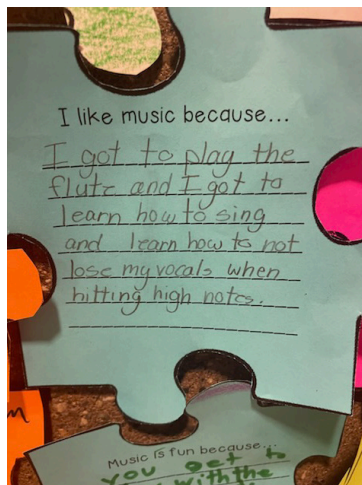
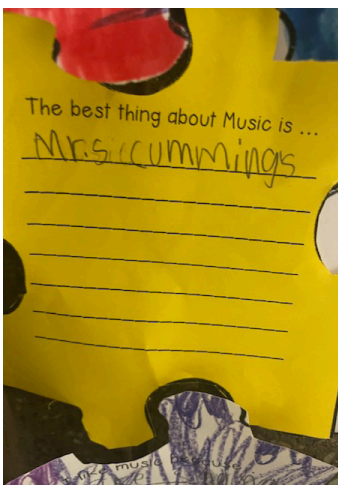
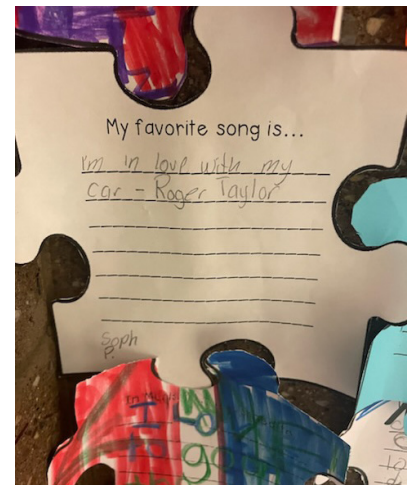
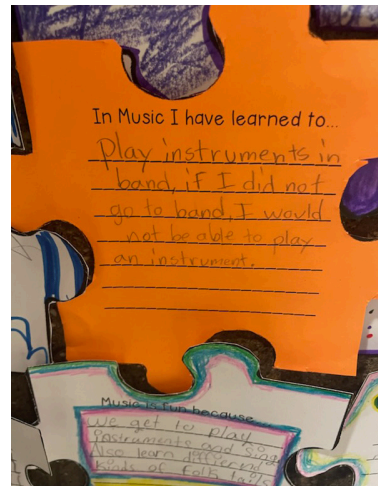
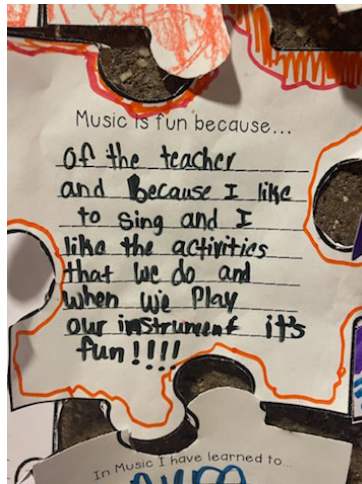
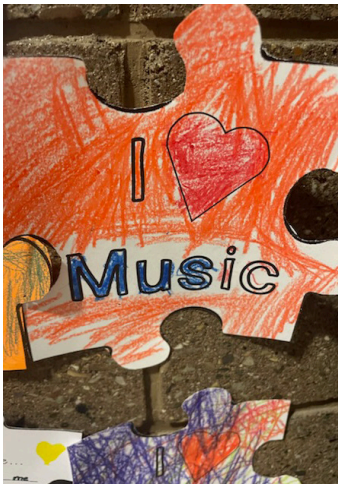
Learn-a-Thon 2024 on Feb. 18, 2024 at Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School featured campfire stories, classroom tents, cookie decorating and tons of fun!





MCSES CELEBRATES “MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH”

Did you know that March is “Music in Our Schools” month? Students in Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Cummings and Mr. Carroll’s Music and Band classes at Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School have learned amazing new things about music and how important it is in our lives. The three teachers and their students created a giant puzzle in the music wing to share some of their favorite things about music. Each student had the opportunity to fill out a puzzle piece and add it to the wall.



VARSITY TEAM TO RETURN



Photo courtesy of Hudson Senior High School Audio/Video Club

Over the course of the last several months, the Hudson City School District, Athletic Director Shawn Briscoe and the current staff of coaches for the football program have been thoroughly engaged in analyzing and determining the interest level of returning and potential new student-athletes.

For the 2024 football season, Hudson will have a varsity football team. Participating in Section 2 Class C, the Bluehawks will be matched with school districts with similar roster numbers. The decision was made to provide the best opportunity for the team to complete a full season while being involved in great competition on Friday nights.

It is imperative to note that while participating in Section 2 Class C, Hudson will be ineligible for postseason play due to not competing in its New York State Public High School Athletic Association designated class based on student enrollment (Class B). This short-term solution provides an opportunity for Hudson Senior High School student-athletes to play

football while the program aims to rebuild for the future.

The District's leadership continues to explore future options for the football program, which had to cease its varsity seasons prematurely the last two years because it could not sustain the minimum number of required players. Merging the football program with another school district has been and will continue to be considered, as it would provide opportunities for student-athletes at the varsity, junior varsity and modified levels. A community presentation led by Mr. Briscoe was held on Jan. 11, 2024 to provide insight into the current state of the program and goals going forward. Additionally, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Juliette Pennyman met with representatives of Hudson Pop Warner to learn more about their program and determine the potential of a feeder program leading to the Junior and Senior High school programs.

The District values the importance of the school spirit, discipline, teamwork and time management

that scholastic sports promote for our young athletes. The District maintains its stance on holding the health and safety of its students, faculty and staff as its top priority. A football program certainly provides a vital point of pride for the District and community.

Please know that the Hudson City School District is committed to providing athletic opportunities for all students throughout the entire school year. We will continue to provide updates as warranted.

The District invites you to [click here](#) to view the athletics page to learn about all of the athletic programs Hudson provides, along with an upcoming schedule of events, 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



HUDSON JUNIOR HIGH 2023-24 YEARBOOK ONLINE SALE

Hudson Junior High families: Don't forget to purchase your yearbooks! Students/parents can pay online with the link below or students can bring in cash or check (made out to Hudson Junior High Yearbook). Yearbooks cost \$30. [Click here](#) to purchase your Hudson JHS yearbook today! Use code **HJHS24**.



“THE ADDAMS FAMILY: SCHOOL EDITION” MUSICAL AT HUDSON HIGH

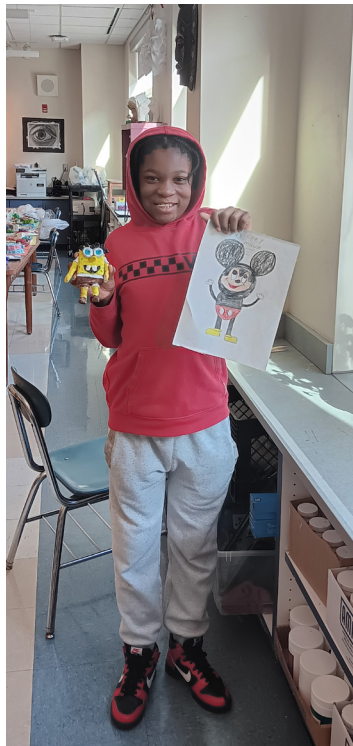
The Hudson Junior Senior High School Drama Club's musical production of "The Addams Family: School Edition" took place March 22-24, 2024 in the Hudson Junior/Senior High School Auditorium!

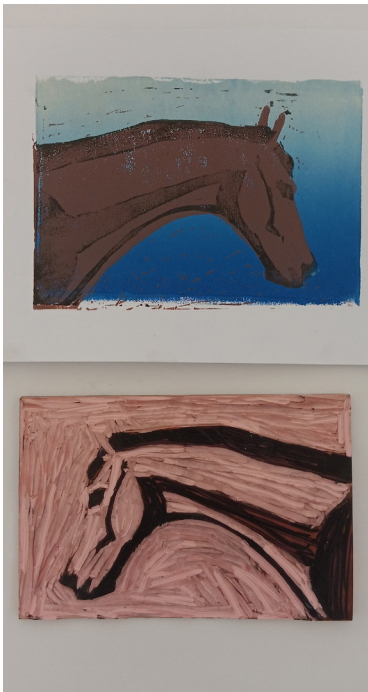
HUDSON JHS AVID 7 Hosts “SCHOOLWIDE RELATIONAL CAPACITY DAY”

Students in Mrs. Nixon’s Hudson Junior High School AVID 7 class organized a “Schoolwide Relational Capacity Day” on Feb. 16, 2024, where teachers and students teamed up to have fun and engage in team-building activities and games throughout their day. Activities included a blind puzzle challenge, catapult launchers, flip-cup, tic-tac-toe, index card towers and more.

HUDSON JUNIOR HIGH ARTWORK WITH MS. ROGERS

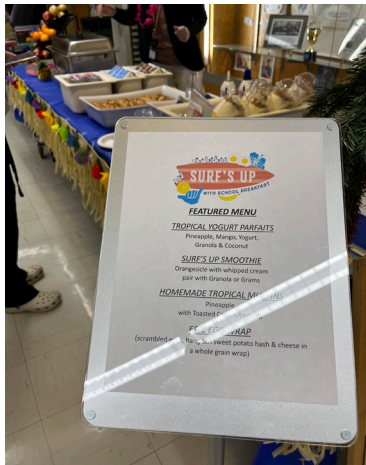
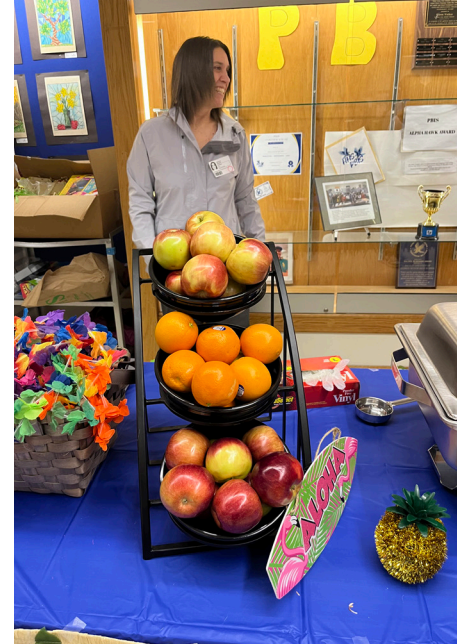
Check out the amazing artwork our Hudson Junior High School students have been creating with Ms. Rogers!





“SURF’S UP” BREAKFAST A BIG HIT ON MARCH 5 AT HUDSON JUNIOR HIGH

Students at Hudson Junior Senior High School were treated to delicious and nutritious items such as yogurt parfaits, smoothies and more as a part of a special “Surf’s Up” themed breakfast on March 5, 2024 to acknowledge “National School Breakfast Week” March 4-8, 2024.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY APPROACH APPLIED WITH HUDSON JUNIOR HIGH LIFE SKILLS CLASS

Ms. Setera's weekly occupational therapy group session with Mrs. McCagg's Hudson Junior High School Life Skills students involved making leprechaun traps and decorating cookies for St. Patrick's Day. After the class decorated cookies, students went right to work cleaning up by washing dishes, cleaning the tables and sweeping the floor. The class always takes a team approach for the clean-up portion of completing tasks. These great skills are designed to carry into everyday lives. The group sessions Ms. Setera runs help expand life skills students are learning in class with an occupational therapy approach.





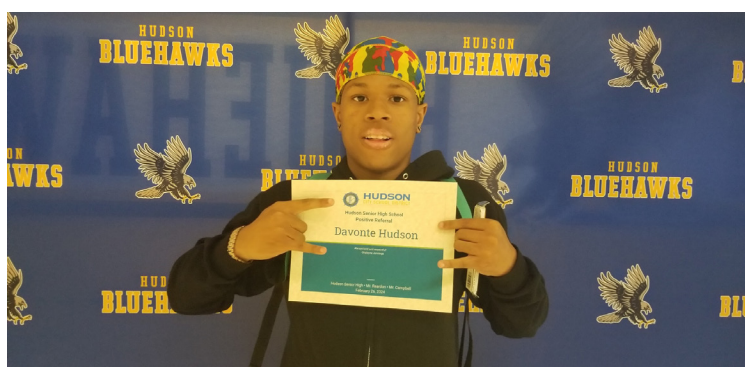
MUD CREEK ELC TALKS FROGS WITH JHS LIFE SKILLS CLASS

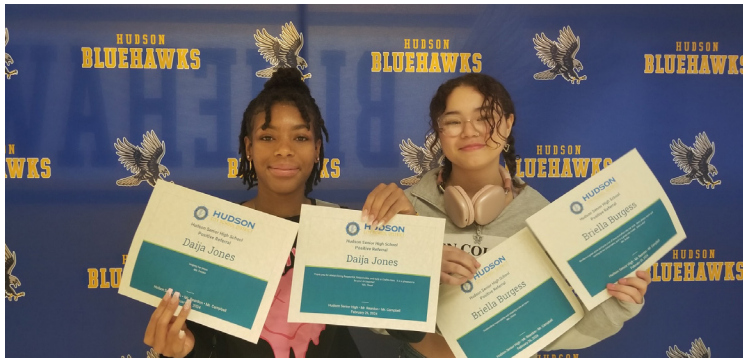
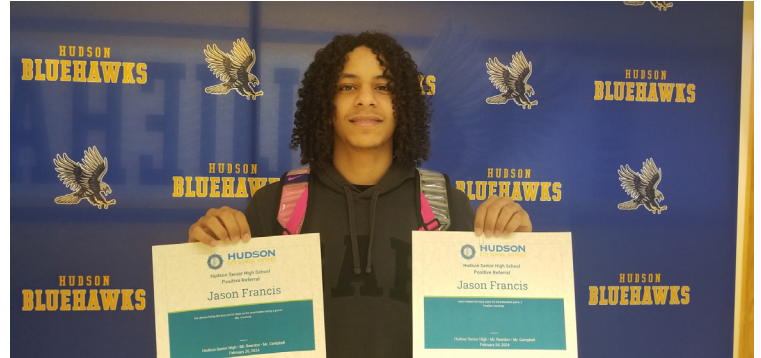
Mud Creek Environmental Learning Center visited Mrs. McCagg's Hudson Junior High School Life Skills class on Leap Day to talk about frogs and toads in Columbia County. Students learned about the life cycle of a frog, completed a frog life cycle puzzle and crafted their own frogs!



HUDSON SHS PBIS TEAM RECOGNIZES 198 STUDENTS

On March 8, 2024, the Hudson Senior High School PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) Team proudly recognized 198 students for meeting the behavioral expectations of being RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE and SAFE. Students received a certificate and a chocolate treat!





MARCH 2024 HUDSON SHS PBIS WHEEL WINNERS

A special shout out to our monthly Hudson Senior High School PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) "Wheel Winners," Mr. Briscoe, Ms. Craft and Ms. Genito (not pictured). Winners were chosen randomly on the "Wheel of Winners" during the Senior High School faculty meeting.

Names of faculty supporting 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 following the pillars of being RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE and SAFE. They each received a free soup gift certificate.



HUDSON HIGH BAND PERFORMS WITH TRUMPETER SEAN JONES



On March 2, 2024, members of the Hudson Senior High School Band were presented the opportunity to attend a concert for free, learn from and perform with famous trumpeter Sean Jones at Hudson Hall!



HUDSON HIGH LIFE SKILLS STUDENT WELCOMED IN TRACK AND FIELD

In the Hudson City School District, interscholastic sports, arts, music, activities and clubs provide amazing opportunities for our students to learn and expand their skill sets. The inclusive nature of all of our programs is truly something we are proud of!

Pictured here is Hudson Senior High School Life Skills student Alberto Marquillo trying out for the Spring Track and Field team. Alberto is learning directly from his teammates and Coach Qua how to throw the shot put and other track and field events. A huge shout-out to the entire team of coaches and student-athletes who are helping Alberto to be a welcome part of the team!



Spring Nothing Bundt Cake Fundraiser

- Chocolate Chocolate Chip
- White Chocolate Raspberry
- Lemon
- Confetti
- Carrot
- Lemon Blueberry
- Classic Vanilla
- Red Velvet

Sale begins: Tuesday, March 5
Deadline to order: April 17
Pick up: April 29

Multiple Flavors
\$7 per Bundt Cake



THE MULTICULTURAL CLUB

HUDSON HIGH MULTICULTURAL CLUB “NOTHING BUNDT CAKES” FUNDRAISER

The Hudson Senior High School Multicultural Club is hosting a “Nothing Bundt Cakes” Spring fundraiser! Sales end on April 17, 2024 with pick up on April 29, 2024. Please contact a Multicultural Club Executive with any questions: Marissa Lopez, Alvira Sarker, Halimah Hotbani, Tessa Goldstien or club advisor Kayani Ilse (ilsek@hudsoncsd.org). Use this link to order: <https://forms.gle/XUYsy4XxgclHkp2j7>

BUS MONITORS SURPRISE SENIOR HIGH'S KINDNESS CLUB WITH SWEETS



Pulcher Transportation bus monitors for the Hudson City School District, Penny and Peter Schertel, surprised the Hudson Senior High School Kindness Club students with homemade brownies and ice cream!



FREE TICKETS TO SEE SHANGHAI QUARTET AT HUDSON HALL

On Saturday, April 6, 2024, Clarion Concerts is showcasing the Shanghai Quartet at Hudson Hall and sponsoring free tickets for Hudson City School District music students and their families!

To get tickets, email Hudson City School District Music Director Scott Vorwald at vorwalds@hudsoncsd.org or see Mr. Vorwald in school! For more information on the concert, please [click here](#).



Photo credit: Sophie Zhai

HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

The Hudson City School District will be hosting a Virtual Job Fair on Friday, April 12, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Key positions the District has openings for:

- Certified Teachers
- Clerical Staff
- School Aides
- Spanish Teachers
- STEM Teacher
- Substitute Teachers
- Student Support Staff, etc.

The Hudson City School District welcomes applications from those who contribute to our diversity. Please complete the [form here](#) to register.

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 799 7852 2347;

Passcode: 8UdABL

HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Claverack · Ghent · Greenport · Hudson · Livingston · Stockport · Tighkanic

VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

WE ARE HIRING!

- Certified Teachers
- Clerical Staff
- School Aides
- Spanish Teachers
- STEM Teacher
- Substitute Teachers
- Student Support Staff, etc.

WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR DIVERSITY.

- Convenient
- No Travel Expenses
- Saves Time

ONLINE INTERVIEWS!

Please complete the form below to register:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQL5dIVM0SfCqjLzbU_bZtaAMaImo-t3zIR5fvETTuHg53SsHgA/viewform

When: Friday, April 12, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79978522347?pwd=YMPW1DCYh7CAOWdAqWcWVkbGwiRq.1>
Meeting ID: 799 7852 2347
Passcode: 8UdABL

HUDSON
Together, we can!

HOLIDAYS AND UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE

- April 8-30:** Hudson City School District Student Art Show at Columbia-Greene Community College Opens
- April 9:** Hudson Board of Education Meeting and Budget Workshop, 6 p.m., Hudson High School Library
- April 10:** Observation of Eid Al Fitr - No School
- April 11:** Opening Reception for Hudson CSD Student Art Show at Columbia Greene Community College (4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)
- April 12:** Hudson City School District Virtual Job Fair (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- April 18:** "Conversations with the Superintendent," 6 p.m., A.B. Shaw Fire Company, 67 State Route 23, Claverack
- April 18-19:** Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School Spring Picture Day
- April 19:** All-County (SHS Choir, JHS Band, MCSES Choir)
- April 23:** Hudson CSD Board of Education Meeting and Budget Workshop (6 p.m. in Hudson High School Library)
- April 25:** Voter Registration Day, 4-8 p.m., Hudson High School cafeteria
- April 26:** Hudson JSHS 3rd Quarter Report Cards Issued
- May 2:** MCSES House Community Day
- May 4:** Hudson Children's Book Festival, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Hudson Junior Senior High School
- May 6:** "Conversations with the Superintendent" at 6 p.m., Greenport Community Center, 500 Town Hall Drive, Hudson
- May 16:** "Conversations with the Superintendent" at 6 p.m., Hudson City Department of Youth, 18 South 3rd St., Hudson
- May 21:** Community vote on the 2024-2025 Hudson City School District budget and two Board of Education seats

