



Hanover Herald

2023 - 2024 SCHOOL YEAR, VOL. 4



JANUARY 2024

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From the Principal's Desk...

Happy New Year! I hope that all of you had an opportunity to rest, relax, and spend quality time with family over the winter break. We are excited for students to get back to school and start 2024 on a positive note. These next few months are a great time for learning and we tend to see a lot of growth in our students during this time of year. It will be fun to witness all of the learning that will take place here at HES.

With the beginning of a new year, many of us take the time to make New Year's resolutions. Setting goals is a great life skill, yet in order to reach our goals we need to follow some important steps to ensure those goals are met.

- State the goal and write it down.
- Plan how you will meet the goal.
- Talk about the goal with others.
- Do each step in the plan and adjust as needed.

As a staff, we have many goals every school year that we want to accomplish, and I want to take this opportunity to share some of them with you. First and foremost our goal is to make our vision and mission a reality for our students. At Hanover Elementary, our vision and mission are:

HES Vision: Preparing all students for success in a global society.

HES Mission Statement: We at Hanover Elementary School believe that all children can learn and succeed. We will provide children with a supportive, caring environment which fosters the development of a growth mindset, positive self-esteem, intrinsic motivation, and a sense of responsibility. We will create an atmosphere where all children can develop to their greatest academic, social, and physical potential to lay the foundation for college and career readiness. We will utilize teaching strategies that are designed to ensure that all children are making progress towards meeting the state standards. We will establish effective partnerships between home, school, and the community.

Two specific goal areas we have identified this year are in the areas of reading.

- 1) Increase the percentage of students who are proficient on the MCA Reading Test in 2024. In 2023, 75% of our students who took the MCA Reading Test (Grades 3-5) were proficient. This was an increase from 72% in 2022. Even though our students continue to score above state percentages, we want to see this percentage continue to increase as our work is never done until 100% of our students are proficient!
- 2) 80% or more of HES students will meet grade level proficiency on District Reading Assessments by spring of 2024. Again, our ultimate goal is 100% of students showing proficiency by the time they leave HES.

There are many other goals and areas that we are focused on to ensure

(cont'd on next page) →

that our students are college and career ready when they leave Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools. You can see more of those skills and areas in our newly adopted BHM Portrait of a Graduate, which is located on the next page of our newsletter. You'll notice in the "Portrait of a Graduate" that these essential skills are categorized into Rigorous Academic Preparedness, Opportunity Knowledge, and Student Agency. HES along with all BHM schools are committed to ensuring that all students have these essential skills, experiences, and opportunities upon graduation regardless of what options they may choose to pursue. You will see and hear more about what this looks like for students at all levels in the months and years to come.

We know that in order to accomplish our goals it will take a team effort, so thank you for the role you play in supporting your child at home in their education.

Our theme for the Month of January is Perseverance, which fits in perfectly with the idea of goal-setting. Perseverance is pushing yourself through challenges and obstacles. In order to accomplish our goals, we need to be able to overcome obstacles. Students will be learning more about what perseverance means to them throughout the month. Feel free to utilize the family newsletter article on perseverance to have a discussion as a family as well.

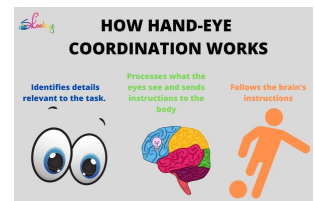
Lastly, I wanted to remind you that our semester ends on January 25th and students will not have school on Friday, January 26th. Our conferences are scheduled for February 1st and February 6th. You will be receiving information on how and when to schedule your conferences online. Parent participation in conferences has been amazing and our partnership with you is why our students continue to be so successful! Thanks for all you do to support Hanover Elementary School.

~Brad Koltes, Principal~

Fitness Focus

This December in grades K-5 we focused on Fitness Testing, striking skills, and hand-eye coordination. We also did some chasing, fleeing, and dodging in grades K-2. We focused on the importance of locomotor movement in grades K and 1st.

The *Timberwolves GET FIT Sheets* are due on Friday, January 5th! I hope you were able to complete the program and were able to talk about the importance of physical activity in daily life.



Looking forward to January, we are going to finish fitness testing in 5th grade. This month we will be focusing on jump rope skills in all grade levels. I begin teaching those skills with the kindergarteners, and I build on those skills every year through 5th grade. This year, like last year, we will be doing our Jump Rope Ninja's challenge. To earn each different colored belt, students must do a certain number of successful jumps. It is a fun challenge that students have embraced in the past! We are looking forward to a fun time! As the month progresses we will focus on striking skills by playing some ping pong. As always with K-2 we will mix in spatial awareness tag games.

At some point winter will start. If we get some good snow we will shift gears in grades 2-5 and go snowshoeing. I will give the students and teachers notice if this happens. We will snowshoe in the yard out back of the school and through the trail. This will only happen if the weather is warm enough to be outside. Students will need to have their snow gear ready.



As always we are working towards treating one another with respect and practicing our good sportsmanship skills.

This month's focus at HES is *Perseverance* and we will talk about how we can use perseverance in PE and in life. I ask that you help your child remember their tennis shoes for PE class. Thank you to all as we look forward to having a great January in HES PE.

Sincerely,

Mr. Turner / joeturner@bhmschools.org / 763-682-0865

BEING A GOOD SPORT

1. Speak nicely 🗣️
2. Play together 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻
3. Follow rules 🚦
4. Take turns 🕒
5. Stay positive 😊



Portrait of a Graduate

Rigorous Academics

Students develop academic skills and can successfully complete rigorous college and career preparatory curriculum and experiences.

Writing

Communicates ideas, demonstrates learning and deepens understanding.

Inquiry

Clarifies, thinks critically, and conducts proficient academic investigation.

Collaboration

Communicates effectively and works effectively and with groups.

Organization

Manages materials, time and thinking with proper tools and prioritization.

Reading

Engages in critical reading to deepen understanding in all texts.

Opportunity Knowledge

Students research opportunities, set goals, make choices that support their long-term aspirations, and successfully navigate to the next level.

Developing Future Readiness

Develops financial literacy and a professional profile, and monitors digital footprint.

Building Career Preparedness

Develops an awareness of personal fit in terms of career selection, and plans education and career path based on personal goals.

Advancing College Preparedness

Explores and plans education path based on personal strengths, skills, interests and goals. These plans are informed by an understanding of college admissions, as well as financial considerations.

Student Agency

Students believe in themselves and act intentionally to build relationships, persist through obstacles, and activate their academic, social, emotional, and professional knowledge and skills to reach their potential.

Building Relationships

Establishes and maintains positive relationships that create a physical and digital network of support.

Persisting Through Obstacles


Monitors progress toward long-term goals, seeks assistance and feedback when necessary, and develops a strong voice to self-advocate.

Activating Knowledge and Skills

Carries a strong sense of identity, develops and employs leadership traits, and thinks critically, behaves safely and participates responsibly in the digital world.

Musical Notes

January has arrived!

 All music students at Hanover will be exploring the Treble clef and staff this month.

K- 5 students will start on the piano keyboard mid-January. This unit will be about 3 weeks long and will conclude with a performance assessment in February. Students will also be composing melodies to play on their pianos. Thank you to our PTO who donated more keyboards that needed to be replaced for our music program this year.



Our 2nd grade students will also begin learning their musical for this year, "Dinostars!" They will perform for students, staff and families in mid-March.

All music students have been working through the Quaver Music curriculum composing rhythmic and melody compositions and will continue this throughout the winter.



Happy 2024!

Mrs. Bolton

763-682-0855 / mbolton@bhmschools.org



PTO Page

Thank you to all of the students and their families who shopped our Scholastic Bookfair in December. It was the first book fair run by PTO and we are looking forward to the next one later in the school year. That book fair will be a BOGO Fair so families can stock up for their summer reading. More details will be sent out as we get closer to the date.



Look for information coming soon on a Bingo Night at HES in February!

The best ideas come when we work together. We would love to have you at our next PTO meeting to share your ideas with us. Our next meeting is on Monday, January 8th, 2024, starting at 6:00 P.M. in the staff lounge at HES. E-mail us at hespto2020@gmail.com with any questions or comments!

Artistic Expressions

Happy New Year from the art room!

5th grade students finished their amazing winter landscapes. They turned out better than I could have imagined and I hope your 5th grader has shared theirs with you. We are spending January creating artwork inspired by stained glass. We focus on using line, color and space to create an appealing composition.



4th grade students are beginning our unit on color theory. We will be learning about all the different color groupings: warm/cool, neutral, complementary, monochromatic, analogous and more.



2nd graders are spending the beginning part of the year learning all about landscapes. Students will be able to identify where a midground, foreground and background are located in a landscape. Our first landscape features a winter scene, which feels a bit strange as we are not seeing a very winter-like landscape here in Minnesota!

1st graders have been busily creating their dinosaur sculptures. Hopefully your first grader will be bringing home a clay dinosaur to show off, if they haven't already. Of course, our dinosaur needs a place to live, too! So we are creating a habitat for our little clay dino in early January.



Kindergarten learners are spending a lot of time in the art room working on collages. Our first collage is going to feature a landscape with a dinosaur. To scaffold on our December learning, we will also be collaging a color wheel as a big collaborative class project.

Warmly,
Mrs. Rausch
Art Integration

763-682-0867 / krausch@bhmschools.org



Health Headlines

Reminder: Give Kids a Smile February 2nd and 3rd

Each year, dental professionals from across the state participate in Give Kids a Smile, providing free dental care to low-income children in need. The event takes place on the first Friday and Saturday of February and is made possible by the collaborative effort of the Minnesota Dental Association, volunteer dentists, and other generous sponsors. Registration begins January 1, 2024. Parents can find local participating clinics by visiting mndental.org or by calling United Way 2-1-1 or 1-800-543-7709. Please note: Every child must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and must have an appointment in advance. Walk-in care is not available.

Parents of Preschoolers and soon-to-be Kindergartners

If you have a child who is 3 ½ to four years old or one who is entering kindergarten in September and have not been contacted for Early Childhood Screening, please call Cheri at 763-682-8408. Early Childhood Screening is an early intervention program targeted for children ages 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 years old. It is a mandated program for all children entering kindergarten in the public school however it is intended to be administered at the 3 ½ - 4 years of age.

Parents of Kindergarten Students Starting '24-'25 school year

If you have a child beginning kindergarten in September, please consider taking care of their immunization needs now. It is the law that all students must submit an updated immunization status before starting kindergarten. Please submit one of the following: immunization record, notarized non-medical exemption form or physician signed medical exemption form.

Required shots for vaccinated students include:

5 DTP

4 Polio (IPV or OVP)

3 Hepatitis B (HBV - not to be confused with Hib, which is the Haemophilus Influenza)

2 MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella)

- **2 Varicella (Chicken Pox)** – If your child has had the chicken pox illness, the school will need a statement from your health care provider indicating one of the following: The signature of a provider along with the date of the child's varicella illness
- The signature of a provider along with a statement that the parent's or legal guardian's description of the child's varicella disease history is indicative of past varicella infection.

If you have questions, please contact Heidi Gallart, RN, at hgallart@bhmschools.org or 763-682-8818.

donations

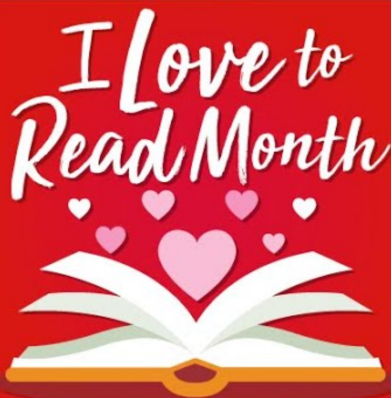
Allina Health

\$100.00

Box Tops for Education

\$48.50

Greatly Appreciated!



February is
I Love to Read month.
Look for more information
to come home on
activities scheduled for the
month!



- If your child will be absent, please call the attendance line at 763-682-0822. Leave a message with why your child is absent and if ill, what their symptoms are. Another option is to send an email to our attendance address at hesattendance@bhmschools.org with the information.
- Any correspondence about attendance to your child's teacher - sickness, vacation, coming in late, leaving early, end of day plans, etc. - should also be copied to the attendance email hesattendance@bhmschools.org so the office knows the plans or where a child is going if there are any questions.
- If there are **any** changes to your child's end of day transportation, please call the office at 763-682-0800 **by 1:00 pm**. We will make sure your child and their teacher know where they are to go. If you email the teacher, be aware they may not get the message because they do not always check their email messages in the afternoon, so also copy hesattendance@bhmschools.org



2024-2025

If you have a child eligible for kindergarten this fall, you should be receiving information in the mail later this month. Kindergarten Registration Night is Thursday, February 15th at 6 p.m. in the Media Center. Please plan to bring with you:

- Early Childhood Screening Records (if they were not screened in our district): All children in the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District are required to complete Early Childhood Screening before entering kindergarten. The screening is mandated by the state of Minnesota and its purpose is to help the school district identify children who may benefit from district and community resources and/or early intervention services. This screening is NOT a predictor of kindergarten readiness or academic success. It is a developmental inventory to ensure your child's development is typical and on track. The earlier the screening is done, the better. This screening may be done at a public or private health care provider, through the school district, or through the Head Start program. If you would like the district to do the screening, please call (763) 682-8408 to schedule an appointment. Your child must have this screening in order to enter kindergarten. (A parent may refuse the screening due to conscientiously held beliefs if a written and signed statement to that effect is provided to the school.) If your child had his/her Early Childhood Screening somewhere other than the Buffalo School District, please bring a copy of the results with you to registration.
- Child's Immunization Information: Please bring immunization status information to registration even if your child is still in need of vaccinations prior to kindergarten. The Minnesota School Immunization Law requires that parents of children entering kindergarten submit updated information regarding your child's immunization status prior to the start of school. This could include the actual immunizations with full dates, a notarized conscientious objection form or a signed medical exemption. If you have any questions regarding your child's immunization status/compliance, feel free to contact the district nurse, Heidi Gallart, at (763) 682-8818 or hgallart@bhmschools.org
- Child's Legal Birth Certificate (or copy of)

For questions or concerns about Kindergarten Registration Night, contact Jill Mischke at jmischke@bhmschools.org or (763) 682-0824.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 5: Early release at 12:25pm
 January 5: Dress-up: Hat day and/or college and career wear
 January 8: PTO meeting, 6pm
 January 11: 5th grade field trip to U of MN
 January 15: No school, MLK Jr. Day
 January 16: Online conference sign-up begins
 January 26: No school Grades K-8, teacher workshop
 February 1: 5th grade field trip to BHS for Music Round-up
 February 1 & 6: Conferences
 February 2: Early release at 12:25pm



Thank you to all the families that brought in donations for

The Giving Tree!

You donated 271 toys, 258 food items, 250 clothing articles and 20 other items (like books, blankets, electronics). There was also \$110 donated to the Hanover Area Food Shelf. You helped many families have a wonderful holiday season!



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Winter Conferences will take place on February 1st and February 6th. Online sign-up will be available beginning January 16th. More information will be coming on how to sign up at www.myconferencetime.com/hanover.

Talk with your child about the importance of honesty

By the time children reach elementary school, most know the difference between being honest and lying. But that doesn't always make telling the truth easy for them.

To encourage honesty:

- Talk about it. Does your child believe that honesty is the best policy? Why or why not? When, if ever, does your child think it's OK to lie?
- Discuss the consequences of lying. Lying destroys trust. If your child makes a habit of lying to people, they won't believe what your child says—even when it's the truth.
- Demonstrate honesty. Children notice when family members tell the truth—and when they don't.
- Create opportunities for telling the truth. Say, "Why did you rip this book?" not, "Did you do this?"
- React calmly when your child lies. Express confidence that your child will make better choices in the future.
- Reward trustworthiness. If your child is truthful in a difficult situation, offer praise. But don't let your child off the hook. Follow through with consequences.

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Accelerate your child's math learning with three strategies

Simple things families do at home can make a big difference in how well students perform in math. Use these three strategies to boost your child's math learning:

1. **Family engagement.** Partnering with the teacher to support your child's math learning results in higher achievement. Look over math papers your child brings home, and talk about what your child is learning. Ask the teacher what else you can do at home to help your child with math.
2. **Math talk.** When your child solves a problem, ask, "How did you get your answer?" Children solve problems more accurately in the long run when they regularly talk about their math thinking and explain their methods. While explaining, they clarify their thinking—and often catch their own mistakes.
3. **Motivation.** Children often do better at things they enjoy, so make math fun! When you play board games, appoint your child scorekeeper or banker. Put a math twist on games like hopscotch (write a problem in each square) and Simon Says ("Simon says add 18 plus 18"). In the car, challenge each other to solve problems using numbers on road signs. If the speed limit is 65, your child can solve $6 + 5$, $6 - 5$ or 6×5 .

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Experts share ways to manage screen time

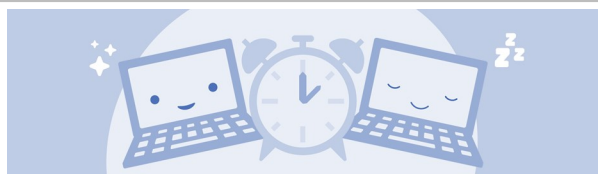
Children are spending more and more time on digital devices. One study found that eight- to 12-year-olds spend an average of 5 hours and 33 minutes a day on recreational screen time—going online, watching TV, playing video games.

While the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends families monitor and manage non-educational screen time, many elementary school students say there are no rules about technology in their homes.

Experts recommend families:

- Set technology curfews. Ask your child to turn off digital devices at least 30 minutes before bedtime.
- Designate screen-free times, such as during family meals and while in the car.
- Offer alternatives. Go on a winter walk. Play cards. Do a craft. Show that there are plenty of ways to have fun—and engage your child's brain—without sitting in front of a screen.

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PERSEVERANCE

Family Newsletter

PurposeFULL
People

Perseverance Overview

This month is all about Perseverance. One way to think about Perseverance is "pushing yourself through challenges and obstacles." We all experience challenges in our lives. We all have moments when we feel like we can't do it or that we want to give up on a big task. It is important to develop tools that help us work through those challenges in order to grow in those moments instead of giving up. How might you practice Perseverance as a family this month?

Perseverance is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students **Be Strong**. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like focusing, organizing, and goal-setting.

Conversation Starters



- Can you share or show what it means to have Perseverance?
- When working towards goals, how does Perseverance help us to reach them?

PurposeFull Pursuits

Have some fun connecting as a family this month while practicing Perseverance. Here are 2 "PurposeFull Pursuits" you can complete together!

#1

Consistency is hard. Have each person in the family commit to 1 thing they will do each day this week. Maybe it is flossing, drinking a certain amount of water, getting to bed at a certain time, limiting screen time, or exercising. Create a place where each person can tally their progress and see who can keep their streak going the longest!

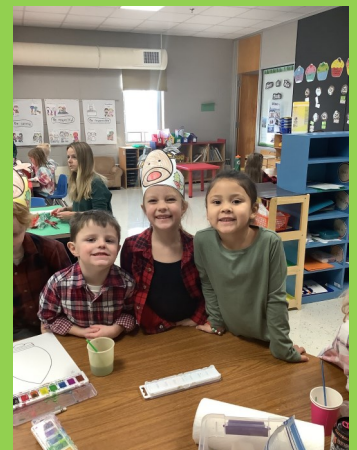
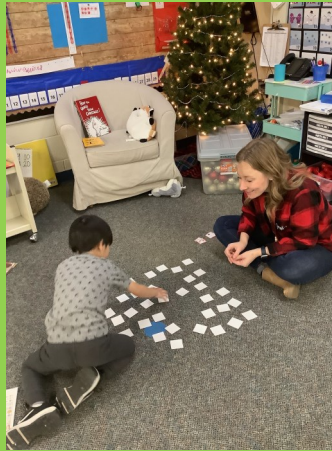


#2

Review Perseverance as a family! Remember that Perseverance is pushing yourself to work through challenges and obstacles.

Here's a fun challenge: Can you fit your whole body through an index card? While it sounds impossible, with the correct folding and cutting technique, you can make it happen! Give each family member a 4x6 index card and a pair of scissors. Ready for the answer? You can find the directions and solution online by searching: "Fit Your Body Through an Index Card."

Holiday Party Fun



HANOVER'S FOREST

