



*A Professional Learning
Community*

**CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALBANY
WILLIAM S. HACKETT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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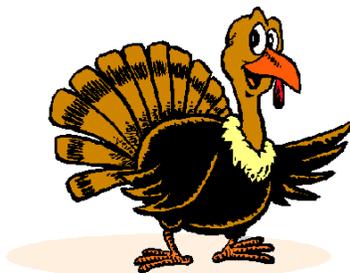
MISSION STATEMENT

We celebrate the strength of our diversity and foster a learning community based on mutual respect and supportive relationships to achieve our full potential as leaders, learners and citizens.



GO HAWKS!

November 22, 2013



Principal's Corner:

Greetings to you and your families! It is hard to believe the holiday season is right around the corner. By this point in time, all parents and guardians should have received their children's first quarter report cards. I encourage all parents to take time and review with their children their progress for the 1st quarter of school. Second quarter interim reports are scheduled to be mailed home by December 20th. Should you have any questions regarding the information provided within these two documents, please feel free to contact the Guidance department and request a meeting.

On Friday, November 22, we welcomed parents and guardians to **Parent/Teacher Conference Day**. Team teachers devoted an entire day to discussing students' progress with parents at appointment intervals. I would like to extend my appreciation to our staff and the many parents who took time out of their busy schedule and helped make this important day a huge success.

Though a short month, December promises to hold much excitement. We begin our activities on Wednesday, December 4th as Hackett Middle School holds its first quarter **Honor Roll Ceremony**. Parents of students achieving a first grade point average of 84.5 or higher are invited to attend this academic celebration. Also on Wednesday, December 4, **PTA** will hold its monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Please consider attending our monthly meetings and sharing with us your thoughts for providing all students with a safe and supportive learning environment. Also, as a reminder, PTA is participating in **Box Tops for Education** as a way to raise funds. You may start collecting General Mills box tops from participating products and encourage friends, family and neighbors to do so as well. You can go to www.boxtops4education.com to find out what products participate and other ways to support our school through Box Tops For Education. Our school ID is #9674509. The Advisory class with the most box tops will win a classroom celebration! Advisory classes have also begun collecting **Toys for Tots** Christmas donations. Donations of money or a new toy would be greatly appreciated. Your child may bring any donations to the collection boxes in designated classrooms prior to the end of Wednesday, December 18.

On Wednesday, December 11th, we will hold our annual **Winter Concert** at 7:00 p.m. As always this concert is a wonderful way to welcome the holidays. We hope you will join us to celebrate the talents of our young musicians as well as the beautiful sounds of the season.

Please note that 2nd quarter interim grades close on Friday, December 13th with a target mailing date of Friday, December 20th. Our last day of classes will be on Friday, December 20, 2013. We will recess through Friday, January 3, 2014 and classes will resume on Monday, January 6, 2014.

As we have entered the winter months, I impress upon our students the importance of dressing in layers and bundling up well. However, students must remember that all hooded sweatshirts, coats, jackets, hats, gloves and any other items deemed outerwear, be placed in their lockers upon entering the building. The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe and secure learning environment for all students. Over the last two months of school, the faculty, staff, and administration at Hackett Middle School have gone to great efforts to instill in all students the importance of high academic standards and a commitment to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment. We hope you will join us in enforcing this policy with your child.

Finally, from our home to yours, may you enjoy a wonderful holiday season and a New Year full of peace and happiness. Warm wishes to you all!

JOKES

What kind of key has legs and can't open doors?
A Turkey!

What do you call a 500-pound turkey?
Sir!

What sound does a space turkey make?
Hubble, Hubble, Hubble!



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8th Grade

Students in Mrs. Howard's 8th Grade English class are finishing the novel Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai. Students will be writing a final essay about the novel in November, and completing a short research project about refugees from different countries. When our work is done, we will be starting the novel To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee.

Happy November! Miss Stone's 8A classes are heavily immersed in skill centers. We practice close reading comprehension, vocabulary word work, independent reading, and Study Island (an online program that matches are current reading level with skill-based reading comprehension practice work.) Students are doing an awesome job using the centers and are gaining fundamental 21st Century skills through peer collaboration and analytical discussions around literature. Keep working hard and watch your reading level skyrocket! Everything we do in AIS class, transfers deeply into all other classes since reading and writing is the foundation of what it means to be "literate. "

In Writer's Workshop class, we are delving into research! Together with a partner, we are choosing a real world issue to research and write a Non-fiction book. We will also be doing a short presentation about our topic using an online presentation tool. For this unit, we are using Noodletools, an online program that stores all of our research. It is a great way to stay organized and we can share all of our work with our partner even when they are not in front of us! Thank you to Ms. Greenaway for showing us excellent library resources that reflect 21st Century Learning.

In Advisory class, together with Mrs. Rizzo, we are doing a fundraiser for the Make A Wish Foundation. Please keep an eye out for upcoming information on how you can donate and help us raise money.

In Ms. Walsh's 7th and 8th grade French classes will be travelling to Quebec City for an overnight trip Friday January 17 and Saturday January 18 - highlights are attached - pick and choose what you want. Students will be fundraising selling Hoffman's car wash tickets - students get half the proceeds of what they sell. Please help support our students and buy some carwash tickets - \$9 exterior wash and \$21 full service wash. Also forgot to mention that we are selling Hoffman car wash tickets to fundraiser for our trip and for parents to help us out by buying some.

7th Grade

In Mr. Hutchins 7th grade Science, we just completed our second unit of the year. In this Unit we learned about different ways to describe matter and different ways matter can be changed. We also learned about the structure of atoms, the difference between elements and compounds, and how the Periodic Table is organized.

In our 3rd Unit we will be learning more about chemical reactions, acids and bases, mixtures and solutions, and heat and energy. The next Unit Test will be on January 10th.

All 7B Science Students are given an updated grade sheet every Monday that shows both their overall grade as well as their grade on each assignment. Your student should be able to show you their updated grade sheet for Science at home every Monday afternoon/evening.

Technology

Mr. McNally's 7th grade Technology classes recently finished learning how to hand-code web pages in the computer lab. Students learned HTML and CSS code and used Microsoft Expression Web to create a starter web page about a topic of their choice.

Mr. McNally's 8th grade Technology classes recently finished a unit focusing on our impact on our environment - students learned about the problem of global climate change as well as renewable 'green' energy sources that are in use now (such as solar, wind, and others.)

Both grades are currently starting a unit on measurement, and after Thanksgiving will be learning how to create 3D models on the computers!

6th Grade

Ms. Vacca's 6th grade ELA: We are wrapping up Module 1 work around *The Lightning Thief* book. We are moving into the second Module based around the book *Bud, Not Buddy*. Everything we do in class is based around the reading. To ensure your student's success, please make sure they are reading every night. The module's can be found on the engageny.org website.

In Mr. Czerwinski's Math, we are finishing up the Ratio Module; converting measurements, finding unit rates, and changing ratios (fractions) into percent. It's a lot of multiplication, division, working with decimals and especially reading for understanding.

The end of the module test will happen sometime after Thanksgiving.



Ms. Kelly's and Mrs. Schnurr's Advisory students visited the Native American exhibit at the State Museum during Native American History Month.

In Ms. Van Dyke's Social Studies - students have been focusing on the five traits of a civilization: advanced cities, record keeping, specializations, advanced technology, and complex institutions. The first civilization that we are studying is the oldest civilization to date-Mesopotamia, which is modern-day Iraq. We are looking at the geography, history, and culture of this area. By the time we are done with this unit, students should be able to discuss how geography has influenced the development of civilization in southwest Asia. The next unit of study is ancient Egypt.

PALS

Extended Day will begin a new session December 9, and continue through March 13. New programs will be offered and students must complete an application for the session 2 program changes as soon as possible. New programs include: swimming, slam poetry, the Art of Drawing and many others! Applications are available in the Main Office.

Toys for Tots

We will be collecting Toys for Tots Christmas donations during Advisory. Donations of money or a new toy would be greatly appreciated. Please use the donation boxes in Rooms 302 & 303. Collection ends Wednesday, 12/18.

Box Tops



Hackett Middle School will be participating in Box Tops for Education® this school year. Over the course of the year, staff and students will be encouraged to bring in clipped box tops from home. For every box top Hackett collects, the school receives 10 cents. Box tops can be found on many products, such as General Mills, Hefty, Pillsbury and Betty Crocker. Students are encouraged to hand in clipped box tops during their advisory class. In addition to clipping box tops, the school can also receive box tops from online shopping. On the Box Top website there is a Marketplace where registered shoppers can earn box tops through online shopping at stores such as CVS photo, DSW and Nook. To find out more information about box tops, to check on our school's earnings, and to sign up for the Online Marketplace please visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com>.

Professional Development

On Monday, December 9th, Professor John Harden J.D., PhD (candidate) will be presenting on the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People at Hackett Middle School. This will count as part of the professional development requirement for staff.