

# HACKETT HEADLINES

“Teaching, Learning and Achieving Together . . . Embrace the Dream.”

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## Welcome Back!

The 2012-2013 school year has gotten off to a wonderful start. It is hard to believe that the first month of school has already passed. Before we know it, we will be taking time to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends, and cleaning the fluffy white snow from our cars and sidewalks.

During the first week of school, students were presented with their new agenda books. The agenda book has been an extremely useful resource for all students. In addition to its primary role as a “passbook,” the agenda book has assisted students in recording their homework and school-related assignments, provided clarity to various school-related expectations and policies, as well as served as a communication tool between teachers and parents. Students in need of a new agenda book can purchase one for \$3.00 in the student bookstore.

On Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, Hackett Middle School held its annual Kick-Off to School Barbecue. An outdoor hotdog and hamburger barbecue with make-your-own ice cream sundaes was held for all students. A special thanks to the Hackett Middle School PTA for their assistance in cooking the food and serving ice cream sundaes to all students. Your help and support ensured a great kick-off to the first week of school!

Hackett Middle School’s PAL Extended-Day program is officially underway. Students are encouraged to complete an application and register for their favorite after-school recreational and apprenticeship programs. The Extended-Day program runs every week, Monday-Thursday, from 3:00 – 5:30 PM. Students participating in the program can receive daily after-school tutoring and academic support, as well as attend programs to develop various 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and learn more about the college process. Transportation is available for all students participating in the Extended-Day program.

This year, Hackett Middle School was awarded a \$250,000 College Access Challenge Grant (CACG). The grant is designed to help low-income and first-generation students earn a college degree. As part of the grant, Hackett Middle School will partner with the State University of New York at Albany and provide five field trips throughout the school year to encourage students to prepare for college. The first field trip was held on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Approximately 35 HMS students attended a day-long campus visit to Columbia University in New York City. Students were afforded the opportunity to tour the campus, meet with college recruiters, visit classrooms, and eat in the dining center. The students who attended had a wonderful time. The next college visit is scheduled for Mohawk Valley Community College on October 15<sup>th</sup>. To be eligible to participate in the field trip, students need to submit a completed Extended-Day application.

The month of October is a very busy time for all students at HMS. Throughout the month, students will be taking various diagnostic assessments. It is imperative that students get to bed on time and eat healthy so that they can perform well on these assessments.

Just a reminder: our first HMS Teen Night is scheduled for Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. This is our annual Haunted Halloween Teen Night. The Teen Night will be held from 6:00 – 8:30 PM, and the cost of a ticket is only \$4.00. Please consider joining us for this fun-filled event.

-Mr. Paolino, School Principal

### PTA Corner

Dates to Remember: **10/19:** Hats for Hackett Fundraiser • **10/26:** Teen Night, 6:00-8:30  
**11/1:** Picture Day • **11/5-9:** Penny War Fundraiser  
**11/7:** PTA Meeting, 7:00 • **11/9:** 1st Quarter Grades Close

Want to get all of the PTA’s updates? Interested in volunteering but can’t make PTA meetings? Email [hackettpta@gmail.com](mailto:hackettpta@gmail.com) to get on the email list!

**The PTA is looking for volunteers for the year’s first Teen Night! Email their Gmail account to find out what you can do to get involved.**

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade



In Mrs. House's ELA class, the students have spent time getting to know each other and building relationships. They have "unwrapped" the standards and are actively engaged in their learning. They have been working independently and collaboratively on the Elements of a Story, using a variety of texts. Students will be learning about different perspectives and how characters respond.

In Ms. Kelly's English Enrichment, we are learning the proper technique of creating paragraphs. We talked about always having a purpose for writing and reading, as the written word is a form of communication.

In Ms. Van Dyke's Social Studies class, the students have been reviewing map skills and the 5 themes of geography: place, location, region, movement, and human-environment interaction. The students will be starting their unit on the Neolithic Revolution and the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia.

In Mrs. Webb's and Mr. Czerwinski's Math classes, the students just finished a unit on whole numbers and decimal operations, and are moving into working with fractions and relationships within fractions and decimals.

In Mr. Ascher's Science class, the students are finishing their first unit on the scientific method, metric measurement, and data interpretation. Our next unit will focus on the human body. We will learn how different parts of the body work together to perform life functions. We will also investigate diseases including cancer and infectious diseases. It is going to be a very fun and interesting unit!

## Physical Education



**Is your child interested in soccer?**

Did you know that students can come to school before breakfast to play a social game of soccer? Students can come to the back field to meet Ms. Baker at 7:15 every day. Games are played until 7:45, at which time students can get scanned in for breakfast or to go to their lockers. Students in grades 6 - 8 are all invited! If the weather is bad, the game will be played in the gym. This is a great way to get to school on time, make new friends, and fit additional exercise into the day.

Please remember that Physical Education classes will be going outside for the month of October! Students should be prepared with warmer exercise clothes for class. Please send your child to school with sweats, windjackets, and old sneakers if possible.

## Team 8A

In AIS, we are learning about character and theme. We are learning about strategies that help us to become more analytical and interactive with our reading. We are doing graphic organizers to help us organize our thoughts about literature. We are also learning how to read, write, and think using reading codes and thought prompts.

In Writer's Workshop, we are doing high-level character and theme analysis using mentor texts. This is serving as foundational work to prepare for our Literary Essays. We have selected Realistic Fiction novels to read interactively and log our thoughts and reflections in our Writer's notebook. We just wrote Character Summaries and are learning that writing is a process that constantly reminds us that:

*"When you think you are done,  
you've only just begun!"*

-Lucy Calkins

Lastly, we are learning to be patient with our writing and that it is important to choose formal language and pay close attention to structure and style when drafting. These skills and more are integral to producing a well-written essay.

## Technology

We're off to a great start in tech this year! Mr. McNally and Mr. DeGraff's 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes have been learning about the history of technology and soon will be covering the 7 Resources of Technology, while also learning about transportation and completing some fun hands-on design projects. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes are focused on engineering and are looking into careers in different fields of engineering and how they're specialized. One of our favorite projects is the Crash Car, where our students research car safety systems, model those safety systems on a small car chassis, and conduct crash tests to see if they can save the egg inside their car! We're looking forward to a great year.



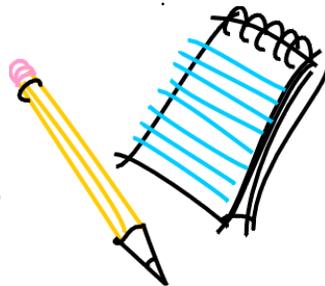
## Building-Wide Mathematics with Ms. Netter

Our first full school year with the new Common Core Math Standards is under way! You can learn more about the new math standards by visiting the following website: <http://www.cgcs.org/domain/36>.

8<sup>th</sup> grade math students have been working with Exponents and Scientific Notation. 7<sup>th</sup> graders have been working with Integers and Algebraic Expressions; while 6<sup>th</sup> graders spent September working with factors and multiples, performing long division, and operations with decimals. Be sure to ask your student about these topics!

A big part of the new Math curriculum involves relating math to the real world. In September, Hackett math students at all grade levels had the opportunity to participate in a Problem-of-the-Month contest. The problem involved finding the total sales for a plant sale given the price per plant, total population and fractional part of the population who purchased a plant. The following students were contest winners:

- Caylee Kelley (Grade 8)
  - Yverdon Okoren (Grade 7)
  - Joshua Caron (Grade 6)
- Congratulations to all students who participated in the contest!



## FACS

The mission of Family and Consumer Science (FACS) is to prepare individuals to be competent, confident and caring in managing their personal, family and career lives. HMS students have FACS for a semester every other day in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and for 2 semesters every day in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. With that in mind, Hackett's FACS teachers, Monica Gaetano and Cathy Corbo, are working on projects that are relevant and meaningful for our students. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade we are learning about community connections and investigating volunteer organizations and how they support the many needs of our community, both locally and nationally. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade we are working on The Juggling Act, which allows students to create a life for a randomly selected 'life situation.' They must get their person a job, calculate their net income, find out what their child will cost in the first year of its life, calculate real life expenses, find a place to live, day care, transportation, food, laundry and all the components of a monthly budget. Their job is to have a balanced budget, figure where their time is spent, and apply this to their own lives by writing an essay about their future plans for success.

## Team 8B

Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are currently exploring "themes" in ELA. Students are reading a variety of short stories and are working both independently and in pairs. In Writers Workshop, students are completing their first piece for their portfolios, which they will continue to add to throughout the year.

## Computers with Ms. Bautochka

- We are just starting our Computer Hardware Unit. Topics consist of the following:
- Outer Hardware – Explore major components on the outside of the computer.
  - Hardware on the Inside – Explore the parts on the inside of the computer.
  - Bits & Bytes – Learn how letters are interpreted and how binary code is used.
  - Storage – Learn about different kinds of storage devices inside and outside the computer.
  - Programs – Discuss the different languages used to program a computer.
  - Operating Systems – Learn about different operating systems.
  - Files & Folders – Learn how to store files and folders and their hierarchy.
  - Knowing Your System – Learn about compatibility and system requirements.
  - Computer Care & Safety – How to care for your computer.
  - Internet Concepts – How the Internet was developed and what it means.



If you any questions please feel free to contact me at [jbautochka@albany.k12.ny.us](mailto:jbautochka@albany.k12.ny.us).



## Team 7B

### STAYING ORGANIZED WITH BINDERS

The core teachers (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies) for the entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade have started a new binder system for all of our students. Our students are required to bring a 3-inch binder with them to class every day. The binder should have separate sections for each of the core classes.

In addition, students are keeping a separate assignment log for each core class. Students use this log to keep track of their assignments, when they turn them in, and the grade they earn. For most assignments, students can correct their work and turn it back in to receive partial additional credit.

Please help your students by looking at their binder and assignment logs at home. Encourage them to stay organized and on top of their assignments.

### TESTING

The start of our school year has brought a lot of testing. The testing is being used to determine where our students are in skills and knowledge at the start of the school year. The results of these tests will be used to both guide instruction and track individual students' progress.

### NYS MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

7<sup>th</sup> grade students embarked on a field trip to the New York State Museum on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. We walked to the museum where we split into smaller groups and spent the day touring different exhibits as students worked to complete a series of questions relating to Social Studies. Ms. Hogan, who organized the trip, also met with each group in front of the Native People of New York exhibits to discuss the connection between human societies and their environments.

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If you have any questions for any of us, you can reach us at the following e-mail addresses

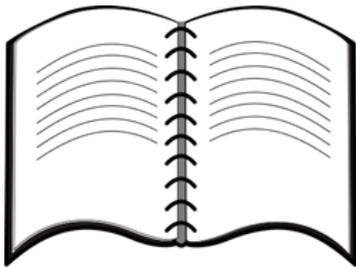
ELA: Ms. Howard- [choward@albany.k12.ny.us](mailto:choward@albany.k12.ny.us)

Ms. Lydon- [jlydon@albany.k12.ny.us](mailto:jlydon@albany.k12.ny.us)

Math: Mrs. Bennett- [tbennett@albany.k12.ny.us](mailto:tbennett@albany.k12.ny.us)

Science: Mr. Hutchins- [jhutchins@albany.k12.ny.us](mailto:jhutchins@albany.k12.ny.us)

Social Studies: Ms. Hogan- [shogan@albany.k12.ny.us](mailto:shogan@albany.k12.ny.us)



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## Guidance Corner

Welcome to another exciting school year at Hackett Middle School! The guidance department wanted to keep you updated on a few things:

- Our 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter marking period will be ending on November 9<sup>th</sup>, so you should expect your child's report card around November 19<sup>th</sup>. If you do not receive a report card before our Thanksgiving break, please contact your child's counselor in the guidance office at 518-475-6486.
- Our 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Honor Roll Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30AM in the auditorium (more details to follow).

Parents/Guardians can also access their child's academic information by going online to <http://powerschool.albany.k12.ny.us/public>. Your username & password information is included on your child's 1<sup>st</sup> quarter interim report, or you can obtain it by contacting the guidance office.

If you have moved, please update your address at Central Registration, located at 75 Watervliet Avenue. This will help with keeping our lines of communication open at all times.

Always remember that we are just a phone call away, and that no concern is too small if there is any way that we can help your child.

We look forward to working with you this school year!