

HARTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

AT ORE CREEK

September 15, 2011 Newsletter

School office telephone number: (810) 626-2400

Absence line: (810) 626-2405

HMSOC PAC NEWS

Our next Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting is Wednesday, October 12 in the HMSOC media center. All interested HMSOC parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Our Fall Fundraiser kickoff is October 21. Students should bring home information regarding our annual fundraiser, or visit the PAC table at Open House. Proceeds help support field trips, assemblies, teacher requests, student assignment books, Challenge Day, student recognition, and student assistance.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY

The September after school activity is Friday, September 30 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. This activity is for seventh and eighth grade students and will include music, open gym time, refreshments, foosball, ping-pong, and more. Admission is five dollars (\$5). Please contact Ms. Paulson or Mr. Jellison, our Student Council sponsors, through the Middle School office if you are interested as volunteering as a chaperone.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY (NJHS)

Mrs. McLennan, our school counselor and NJHS sponsor, contacts eighth grade students who are eligible to join the Hartland Middle School NJHS. If you are new to the school, or if you believe your child qualifies, but has not been contacted, please call Mrs. McLennan through the school office. Students must have maintained a 3.6 or higher grade point each marking period in seventh grade, write an essay on service, character, and leadership, and have a teacher recommendation in order to be considered for admission.

OPEN HOUSE

All HMSOC parents are invited to our annual Open House on Tuesday, September 20 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Parents will report to their children's first hour teachers to pick up a schedule, as you will follow your children's schedules for the evening. You will have an opportunity to meet teachers and receive an overview of the course and curriculum. Each "class" will last approximately ten minutes. This is not a time for individual conferences with teachers (Parent-teacher Conferences are scheduled for November). Please note that due to space limitations, Open House is intended for parents only, not for students or siblings. Open House will conclude at approximately 8:00 p.m. Please plan to arrive early enough to allow time for parking. We look forward to seeing all parents of Hartland Middle School students at our Open House on September 20.

ATTENDANCE LINE

Please note that we have an attendance line. Call (810) 626-2405 to report a student absence.

YEARBOOK

The HMS Yearbook club has begun meeting. Students work under the direction of Mr. Silverston to produce the school yearbook. Contact Mr. Silverston through the school office for more information.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAMES

Please note that elementary and middle school-aged children need to be accompanied by a responsible adult to home Hartland High School football games. Please do not drop children off and pick them up after the game. Thank you for your cooperation.

SCHOOL SAFETY

In order to ensure the safest environment possible, we need your cooperation. We are asking that parents make sure to sign students in or out in the front office if arriving late or leaving early. We also need you to wait in the front office, not meet students at lockers or in the classroom area. Other safety procedures that we will be strictly enforcing:

- All visitors must report to the office. Those approved to proceed into the classroom area must have a visitor badge.
- All entrances except for the main doors near the office will be locked.
- We will practice at least two lock down drills with students this school year. An actual lock down would be called if there were any situation where it would be safer for students to remain in classrooms with teachers and not be dismissed to hallways or common areas.
- We will not allow students to be signed out by anyone not specifically authorized by a parent/guardian on the emergency card on file in the office.

MEAP TESTING

The MEAP Test window for this school year is Tuesday, October 11 through Friday, October 28. Seventh grade students take the Math and Reading and Writing tests. Eighth grade students will take the Math, Reading and Science Tests. These are important measures of student performance, and we would appreciate your help in making sure students are well rested, eat breakfast, and are in attendance during the testing window. The test schedule is as follows:

10/11	Reading Session 1
10/12	Reading Session 2
10/13	Writing Day 1 (Grade 7)
10/18	Math
10/19	Writing Day 2 (Grade 7)
10/19	Science (Grade 8)
10/20 -- 28	Make-up All Subjects

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

MIDWEST ACADEMIC TALENT SEARCH

If you are interested in having your child take the ACT or SAT now through Midwest Academic Talent Search, please go to <http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats/register/> for more information. You may contact our school counselor, Erica McLennan, with questions.

HONOR POINTS

Each year, eighth grade students are awarded ten honor points. Students must have at least one honor point remaining in order to participate in the annual eighth grade trip to Cedar Point in June. Honor points are deducted for disciplinary infractions.

FIELD TRIPS

- The seventh grade Spicer Orchards trip is scheduled for September 27, 28 and 29 depending on your child's team. Look for information to come home with details.
- The eighth grade Detroit Institute of Arts field trip is September 30, and October 5 and 6. Look for information to come home through your child's English teacher.

FALL PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 11 and 15 as follows:

- Friday, November 11 from 7:40 – 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 15 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Some teams have scheduled appointment times (they notify parents directly). All other conferences are in individual teacher classrooms (no "arena" style) on a "drop in" basis (first come, first served). In an effort to see as many of our 900 students' parents as possible – and to minimize wait times as much as possible -- teachers have been asked to keep conference times brief (5-10 minutes). We hope to see you all during conferences.

FREE/REDUCED PRICE LUNCHESES

To apply for free or reduced price lunch at school, a new completed application must be submitted each school year. These forms have been mailed to all students, and additional forms are available in the school office.

PARENT CONNECT

Parent Connect allows parents with Internet access to monitor their children's grades. If you had a password assigned last year, it remains the same. Contact Karen Wilson at pc@hartlandschools.us for assistance.

TARDY TO SCHOOL POLICY

Please help your child do his or her best. Attendance is a crucial factor for student academic success.

- Students tardy to school (i.e. late to Homeroom) must be signed in at the front office by a parent or legal guardian in order for the tardy to be considered excused.
- Unexcused tardies to school will result in disciplinary action.

Excessive parent excused tardies may be referred to the Livingston County Attendance Officer.

SAFETY IN THE PARKING LOT

The morning “drop off” time before school and afternoon “pick up” time after school means that students who are being driven to and from school must negotiate a very busy parking lot. PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY and put the safety of our students ahead of time issues.

QUIZ BOWL

The HMS Quiz Bowl Team will meet Wednesdays after school beginning September 21. This club is open to all seventh and eighth grade students. Contact club sponsors Ms. Holcomb or Ms. Parlette through the school office for more information.

CELEBRITY SERVER NIGHT

You are invited to attend a “Celebrity Server Night” at Hartland Big Boy Restaurant on Tuesday, October 18, 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Principals and Teachers will wait on tables with smiles and enthusiasm for this community fundraiser. All tips given to the servers and 10% of the evening’s sales from Big Boy Restaurant will be donated to the Hartland Optimist Club for “Adopt A Family” at Christmas, and other youth events. The Optimist Club is known as “A Friend of Youth” and sponsors many activities and programs involving children in the community.

An exciting addition to this event will be a drawing for students to win “Breakfast with the Principal.” So bring your children, family and friends to this fun event where their principals and teachers will be a Server, Host, or Hostess. *Please contact* Judy Cowan 810 632-7415 with any questions.

Newsletters will not be mailed home or sent home with students. Updated newsletters will be available approximately every two weeks (every other Thursday) via the school website (www.hartlandschools.us). If you do not have internet access, you or your child may pick up a hard copy of the newsletter in the school office.