



# HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

*Chuck Hughes, Superintendent*

9525 E. Highland Road  
Howell, Michigan 48843

Telephone (810) 626-2100  
Fax (810) 626-2101

August 17, 2022

Dear HCS Education Community:

**Ready, Set, Go!** We are off and running. Today I saw many happy and friendly faces. I cannot help but smile when I see the little ones ready to learn. It is always amazing to see over 6,000 staff and students start a new adventure with so few glitches. Thank you for entrusting the care of your children to our fantastic staff.



Buses dropping off high school students this morning.

**Unfortunately, I Have to Address Misinformation Being Shared Once Again:** Today, I was made aware of a social media post in which the author misinforms the audience that Hartland Schools has created gender neutral restrooms. The post goes on to question the district's receipt of over \$2,000,000 through the Federal Child Nutrition program in 2021-22 when they should have only qualified for \$700,000. Asking the question, what has the district done with the profit?

**Fact:** The district has not established gender neutral bathrooms. We continue to have male and female restrooms in all our buildings.

**Fact:** What the post did not state is that in 2021-22 the federal government funded free meals for all students and not just those qualifying for free or reduced priced meals. The dollars received were used to feed ALL children for free.

**Fact:** Any institution or organization, whether they accept federal dollars or not, has no choice but to agree to follow all non-discrimination laws or policies. It is illegal to discriminate.

**Fact:** Courts have upheld that tax-exempt organizations must follow non-discrimination laws or policies such as Title IX.

**Fact:** I confirmed that the neighboring school district identified in the social media post is following the same process as HCS and receiving federal funding.

**Conclusion:** If we take all references to money off the table, the fact is that all school districts, including Hartland Consolidated, cannot discriminate against any student or staff member. Title IX and other non-discrimination laws and policies must be followed.

**Reminder to Nominate a Hartland Volunteer of the Year:** If you would like to nominate a community member for Hartland Volunteer of the Year, please visit <https://www.hartlandliving.com/news/nominations-are-open-for-volunteer-of-the-year-2022/>. We have some outstanding and dedicated individuals in our community that deserve your consideration.

**Adult Learning:** Mr. Horacio Sanchez engaged with our 7-12 staff to teach about the neuroscience of the brain and how it applies to student resiliency. The pictures below show the high school and LEGACY staff working with Mr. Sanchez. All the feedback I have received from staff has been that phenomenal learning took place.



**Harassment/Bullying/Hazing/Discrimination:** I respectfully ask that parents take time to review board policy pertaining to harassment, bullying, hazing, and discrimination. Board Policies 5517 and 5517.01 clearly outline these expectations. Policy can be found in the Parent/Student Handbooks or online at: <https://go.boarddocs.com/mi/hartl/Board.nsf/Public#>. I remind everyone that HCS embraces our guiding tenets of Reason, Respect, and Responsibility (<https://www.hartlandschools.us/Board-of-Education/index.html>) regarding how each of us is expected to treat one another, without exception! We trust in the ability of each student and staff member to understand these statements and to engage with one another in a positive and productive manner. It is essential that we all work together to address any issues of harassment, bullying, hazing, or discrimination by embracing “SEE SOMETHING, HEAR SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.” You can reach out to a teacher, counselor, social worker, administrator, or myself to share your concern. If you prefer an anonymous notification, you can submit concerns to OK2SAY at 855-565-2729 or text 652729 or email @ [OK2SAY@mi.gov](mailto:OK2SAY@mi.gov).

“Progress consists of more than gains in our safety and material well-being. It consists also of gains in how we treat each other.”  
*Steven Pinker*

**HCS Teacher of the Year:** Once again, congratulations to Mrs. Theresa Smith, Spanish Teacher at Hartland Middle School, for being honored as the 2022 Teacher of the Year.



Respectfully,

Chuck Hughes