



# HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

*Chuck Hughes, Superintendent*

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February 8, 2023

Dear HCS Education Community:

**Thank a School Counselor:** This week is National School Counseling Week. Please take a moment to reach out and thank our hard working and caring counseling team. We have a special group of individuals who clearly put children first in all that they do.



**Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (Academic and Behavioral Support):** It was requested that I present to the community a detailed look into how the district approaches teaching social-emotional skills. Over the past five years, individual schools have shared several presentations at Board of Education meetings regarding how they are working with children. To accomplish this request, I have collaborated with district staff to pull together a presentation outlining how we educate the whole child through our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support approach. If you are interested you can view the presentation at <https://www.hartlandschools.us/documents/Superintendent-Updates/2023-02-07-Multi-Tiered-System-of-Support-Presentation.pdf>.

It is essential to reiterate that helping students learn how to monitor and control themselves (behavior) is not a program but an approach to teaching and learning. By addressing this component, we better prepare children to be successful academically. HCS has not adopted a specific program, but uses multiple resources to teach what we used to call citizenship/life skills. HCS prides itself in what we call “hartlandizing” teaching and learning. There is no silver bullet program that works with every student, classroom, school or district. We believe that the job as an educator requires us to help students obtain high levels of achievement, which requires us to address student behavior needs. I believe that teaching reason, respect, and responsibility (3R’s) is a community core value and that the community expects the district to help children learn to respect each other, regardless of their backgrounds. While I cannot disagree with statements such as, it is not natural to like everyone; I can, and will, argue that not liking someone does not mean that it is okay to bully, harass, intimidate, be rude, or be mean to others. Thank you for taking the time to understand the work of our wonderful educators.

**Congratulations Mr. Oake:** Hartland High School Business Teacher and Boys Golf Coach, Mr. Nathan Oake will be inducted into the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame in August. Congratulations Mr. Oake. You are a great role model who impacts students daily. We are proud of you and thankful to have you in Hartland.



**Round Elementary Glow Party:** Round Elementary students, parents, and staff had a great time bringing back their glow party.



**Don't Miss Hartland Winterfest:** Hartland Winterfest will be in full swing this weekend. Get out and enjoy the festivities. All activities will be held at Heritage Field on M-59 east of US 23.



**Unfathomable Behavior:** Parents, yesterday I forwarded the following email because I was concerned that you would hear information through the media or on social media and think this happened in Hartland. This “swatting” hoax did not occur in Hartland or Livingston County. In working with the county superintendents, we felt it important to get ahead of this unfathomable hoax. Please talk with your children about how disruptive and life changing it would be to themselves and others if they were caught doing something like this.



Tuesday, February 7

Dear Families,

Today, several schools in Michigan were targets of “swatting” hoaxes. In a “swatting” hoax, a caller uses an untraceable number to contact emergency services claiming that there is an active shooter at a school. This call triggers a large-scale law enforcement and first responder response to the school. Districts around the country have been dealing with these incidents all school year, and it is clear it is now happening in Michigan.

Thankfully the reports of an active shooter at these schools turned out to be false. The large-scale and complete response to these reports of an active shooter is precisely what we would want and expect from our law enforcement partners, who believe our school community may be in danger. When a call like this comes in, law enforcement will not and should not waste time calling to confirm with the school. That makes trying to prepare and plan for something like this very hard. In the event an incident like this were to occur, our districts would enact our crisis response protocols like what the schools affected by these hoaxes did today.

For the students, families, staff, and communities affected by these hoaxes, this has undoubtedly been an incredibly traumatic situation that no one should endure. This type of incident is difficult to overcome, and it will take time for these schools and communities to heal. Returning to school tomorrow or the next day will be very difficult for some students and staff.

As educational leaders in Livingston County, our top priority is the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We have been in contact with each other and our law enforcement and first responder partner all day. Our students should not fear coming to school each day, and incidents like the ones that happened today do nothing but raise anxieties and worry. We urge you to speak to your child about the incredibly serious nature of these “swatting” hoaxes. If the individual responsible for these actions can be identified, they will likely face stiff punishment up to federal terrorism charges.

Thank you for your continued partnership,

Dr. R. Michael Hubert, Superintendent  
Livingston Educational Service Agency

Dr. Matthew Outlaw, Superintendent  
Brighton Area Schools

Dave Brown, Interim Supt.  
Fowlerville Community Schools

Chuck Hughes, Superintendent  
Hartland Consolidated Schools

Erin MacGregor, Superintendent  
Howell Public Schools

Rick Todd, Superintendent  
Pinckney Community Schools

Respectfully,

Chuck Hughes