

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Haverhill Public Schools

November 17, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DR. MARGARET MAROTTA

HPS School Community,

As you know, we have been experiencing cases of COVID-19 in our community and our school; thus far, these incidents have been largely isolated and not spread within our schools due to the vigilance of our students and staff in adhering to safety measures.

We have all been sacrificing and social distancing for the past nine months, so believe me, I understand that people want to enjoy the holidays. Unfortunately, the timing is bad; the coronavirus infection rate is on the rise, setting new daily infection records. Small gatherings, especially within families, are believed to be fueling much of the spread and it is hurting us as a community. Public health officials are cautioning against family and friends gathering in homes, but we all have pandemic fatigue. We all need a little normal, a little happy, a little love.

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, suggests that if you are going to celebrate the holidays with friends or family this year, keep the gathering small and add heaping portions of precautions. Such as:

- Frequent hand wash, social distance, and masks.
- Limiting the number of households in attendance.
- Opening multiple windows.
- Turn on exhaust fans in bathrooms and over the stove.
- Consider a portable air cleaner.
- Consider COVID Surveillance testing prior to the gathering.
- Be vigilant in reducing contacts and potential exposures for at least a week before and preferably two weeks after the gathering.
- If the weather permits, try hosting your holiday celebration outdoors.
- Screaming and cheering increases the amount of viral particles that a person emits, so skip the big game party.
- Always wear a mask in gatherings where physical distancing is limited.
- Use disposable plates and utensils and have separate serving spoons. Avoid sharing and passing serving dishes or utensils. Be mindful of touching water pitchers and drinking glasses handled by others.
- Place disposable paper towels in the bathroom, so your guests aren't sharing the same hand towel.
- Space your guests so they aren't crowded around a table.

We share this in hopes of reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our schools so that we may remain open for in-person schooling through the holiday season.

Warmest Regards,

Margaret

**Adapted from a New York Times Article by Tara Parker Pope*

Featured Artists



*Kiera Acosta Campusano
Consentino Middle School
Grade 8*



*Sean Kpalou
T.E.A.C.H.
Grade 12*



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HAVERHILL HIGH SCHOOL UPDATES

Haverhill High School continues to provide all the activities and opportunities that make us a truly comprehensive high school. In the past couple of weeks HHS has hosted two events that really define our school, Coffee House and the virtual performance of “Movie Set Mystery.”

We are very excited for our next show, The Winter Concert, being put on by the HHS band. If any scholar is interested in joining, the band is always looking for members. You can join the fun through live band sessions on Tuesdays, 2:30pm until 3:30pm, at the High School. If any scholar that joins, is not currently in a band class, they will receive half a credit for the class! And don't forget about the late bus transportation available for participating students. After school band is available to all cohort students!

Last but not least, a huge kudos to all of our Scholars continuing to create incredible artwork while in classes and from home. They have been sharing their amazing work with their teachers and staff. It has all been very impressive, and is a great representation of the special scholars we have at Haverhill High School! Keep up the awesome work.



On Sunday, November 1, the National Honor Society, Business Honor Society and the Foreign Language Honor Society had a beautiful induction ceremony at the Stadium. These scholars have persevered during difficult times in their academics and service to our community. We had 72 scholars inducted into the National Honor Society, 8 scholars inducted into the Business Honor Society, 29 scholars inducted into the Foreign Language Honor Society, and 3 scholars who were inducted into all three.

H We are extremely proud of all of our hard working MCROTC members.

These scholars maintain good academic standing, show up to help out at every event we have here at the High School, and regardless if they learn remotely or come in in person they show up to every practice, drill, and competition.

Social Emotional Learning



The effects of the Pandemic are real... students, staff and families continue to struggle to balance the demands of home, work and learning as the COVID statistics remain widespread.

Haverhill Public School's staff and community partners are diligently working to provide the support needed to address the social and emotional needs of our staff, students and families.

Universal Mental Health electronic referral system: A district team has designed and implemented a Universal Mental Health referral system that will allow authorized staff to make mental health referrals to Beth-Israel Lahey Health Behavioral Services, Family Services of the Merrimack Valley, South Bay Mental Health and Blueskies Behavioral Health. This unique on-line system makes the referral process more efficient and helps us quickly and accurately connect students to high quality mental health care in the community during this difficult time.

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training: Department of Elementary & Second Education (DESE) is bringing this training to Haverhill Public Schools as part of a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to address rising rates of mental health problems in Massachusetts. This training is a certificate program, like Red Cross First Aid, and is aimed at staff *without* mental health training. By the end of the training course, staff completing this program will be able to help identify and support a young person struggling with a mental health issue, addiction problem or crisis and connect them to a HPS Professional Support Staff (School Adjustment Counselor, Guidance Counselor, Nurse, etc.) for further assessment/referral. The district is currently working with our community partners to identify and train staff at locations where are students are learning and visiting recreationally.

Pandemic Stress Management Orientation: Haverhill Public Schools partnered with Riverside Trauma Center and MassSupport to provide 45 leaders in the district a confidential, non-evaluative orientation about managing organizational and individual stress. Dr. Courtney Breen from Riverside Trauma Center led conversations about stress, emotional support, coping strategies, resources, and up-to-date information during the COVID-19 pandemic. MassSupport is a statewide program funded by FEMA and managed in partnership between the MA Department of Mental Health and Riverside Trauma Center. The district will continue to implement this social emotional support and training to building staff.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

BRADFORD K - 4
978-374-2443

CONSENTINO MIDDLE 5 - 8
978-374-5775

GOLDEN HILL K - 4
978-374-5794

GREENLEAF ACADEMY 5 - 12
978-374-3487

HHS 9-12
978-374-5700 MAIN

HUNKING K - 8
978-374-5787

MOODY PRE - K
978-374-3459

NETTLE MIDDLE 5 - 8
978-374-5792

PENTUCKET LAKE K - 4
978-374-2421

SILVER HILL K - 5
978-374-3448

TEACH AT BARTLETT K - 12
978-469-8735

TILTON LOWER K - 3
978-374-3475

TILTON UPPER 4 - 5
978-374-3482

WALNUT SQUARE K - 2
978-374-3471

J.G. WHITTIER MIDDLE 5 - 8
978-374-5782

**CENTRAL OFFICE
AT CITY HALL**
978-374-3400

SPECIAL EDUCATION
978-374-3435

**REGISTRATION CENTER
AT BURNHAM**
978-420-1951

**TRANSPORTATION DEPT.
AT BURNHAM**
978-420-1921

UPCOMING EVENTS:



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2020
PENTUCKET LAKE MEADOW FARMS FUNDRAISER
ONLINE STORE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 18, 2020
BRADFORD ELEMENTARY PICTURE DAYS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 24, 2020
HUNKING FOOD DRIVE
SACRED HEARTS FOOD BANK

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020
TILTON UPPER & LOWER RESTAURANT NIGHT
11:00AM-8:00PM THE CHICKEN CONNECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 19, 2020
GOLDEN HILL PICTURE DAYS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020
HHS TERM 2 BEGINS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2020
HHS FALL PLAY: THE 39 STEPS
7:00PM STREAMING - BROADWAY ON DEMAND

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 27, 2020
SILVER HILL RUNS FROM 2020 FUNDRAISER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020
EARLY RELEASE
THANKSGIVING RECESS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2020
NO SCHOOL-THANKSGIVING DAY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2020
NO SCHOOL-THANKSGIVING RECESS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020
SENIOR YEARBOOK PORTRAITS DUE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020
HHS TERM 1 REPORT CARDS
ISSUED IN PARENT PORTAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020
SAT EXAM
HAVERHILL HIGH SCHOOL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
HHS PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
6:00PM-7:30PM REMOTE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020
K-8 CLOSE TRIMESTER 1

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020
GREENLEAF PARENT SUPPORT MEETING
7:00PM-8:00PM GOOGLE MEET

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020
EARLY RELEASE - WINTER RECESS
K-8 TRIMESTER 1 REPORT CARDS
HHS TERM 1 PROGRESS REPORTS - ISSUED IN PARENT PORTAL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2021
NO SCHOOL-WINTER RECESS

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021
WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021
K-8 TEACHER PARENT CONFERENCES

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021
NO SCHOOL
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021
HHS TERM 2 PROGRESS REPORTS
ISSUED IN PARENT PORTAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021
PSAT EXAM
HAVERHILL HIGH SCHOOL

PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR SCHOOL AND
THE DISTRICT WEBPAGE CALENDAR FOR
ADDITIONAL DATES AND EVENTS

HAVERHILL ATHLETICS

Tom O'Brien - Director of Athletics

Several Haverhill High School sports teams have been competing this fall and doing so successfully! There are approximately 225 student-athletes currently competing and our teams have combined for an impressive record of 21 wins, five losses and two ties.

Golf and cross country, which are classified as low risk sports, have been competing since early October. The golf team actually just wrapped up one of its best seasons ever, finishing with an 11-1 record. With a win over Dracut on October 21, the girls' cross country team remained undefeated, having won its first four meets.

The boys' team also picked up a big win over Dracut on the same day at Winnekenni Park.

The girls' soccer team is off to a 2-0 start with a pair of wins over Dracut including a 6-2 win on October 21. The girls' volleyball team has also won its first two matches, winning both by a score of 3-0. The boys' soccer team played to a thrilling 3-3 draw with Dracut in the home opener at Haverhill Stadium then dropped a 2-1 decision to the Middies on the road. Also facing off against Dracut, the Hillie field hockey team opened the year with a 1-0 win.

All Haverhill High School sports teams are under the governance of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the Merrimack Valley Conference (MVC). Both the MIAA and MVC have established sport-specific modifications to ensure a safe environment for our student-athletes. Some examples include: masks at all times for moderate risk sports, daily attestation, reduced number of players for field hockey, no throw-ins for soccer, staggered starts for cross country, and golfers playing only in foursomes with their own team. A complete list of sport modifications and other Covid-19 sports-related information can be found at www.miaa.net.

There are typically three seasons of sports: fall, winter and spring. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the MIAA has established a second fall season. The sports that could not be held this fall due to safety concerns are being moved to the "Fall II" season, which will start on February 22 and run through April 26. The winter seasons are slated for November 30 through February 21 and spring seasons will start on April 27.

The MIAA is still awaiting guidance from the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs regarding the status of winter sports and what modifications will need to be made. For schedules, registration and other information on Hillie sports, please visit the Haverhill Athletics web site at www.haverhillhillies.com.





i-Ready is an online program for reading and/or mathematics that will help your student's teacher determine your student's needs, personalize their learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year. i-Ready allows teachers to meet students exactly where they are and provides data to increase student's learning gains.

i-Ready consists of two parts: Diagnostic and Personalized Instruction

i-Ready Diagnostic is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions to suit your student's needs. Each item a student sees is individualized based on their answer to the previous question. For example, a series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly easier questions.

i-Ready Personalized Instruction provides students with lessons based on their individual skill level and needs, so your student can learn at a pace that is just right for them. These lessons are fun and interactive to keep your student engaged as they learn.

So far this year:

- ◆ HPS has administered the diagnostic assessment to our students to get a “baseline” of their individual current skill levels.
- ◆ HPS has shared those baselines with parents (during progress report time).
- ◆ Professional Development for all our staff administering i-Ready was provided on November, 2, 2020. This included how to use the data from the diagnostic tests to form groups, implement lessons, teacher toolbox, etc.

We are excited to continue with the i-Ready program to help all our students reach their full academic potential!

Nurses Corner



Many of the recommendations from MDPH and CDC focus on preventative measures that are standard for any flu or cold virus. These simple precautions will help prevent the spread of the flu and other respiratory illnesses such as Coronavirus:

- Please cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, using a tissue or the inside of your elbow
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and warm water frequently or use hand sanitizer when washing is not an option
- Maintain 6 feet physical distancing
- If you have a fever or feel sick, stay home and call your healthcare provider

Get the flu vaccine – it is not too late! Find more information on the flu and where to get a flu vaccine here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/what-should-i-know-about-flu>

Haverhill Public Schools Mission Statement

The Haverhill Public School system is dedicated to ensuring each learner meets or exceeds rigorous academic standards to become citizens with integrity, skills, and the resources to succeed in the global community.

Employment Opportunities

- ⇒ **Haverhill-ps.org**
- ⇒ **Departments**
- ⇒ **Human Resources**
- ⇒ **Current Employment Opportunities**

Job vacancies and postings for all positions are available on our website. Job opportunities are posted as vacancies become available and will remain on the website until positions are filled. Applicants may access application information and forms from our website or visit the Human Resource Office at the School Department located at 4 Summer Street Room 104, Haverhill, MA 01830 - EOE

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HAVERHILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Haverhill School Committee Approved Meeting Schedule

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Thursday, January 28, 2021

All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be broadcast over HCTV and WHAV until further notice. The full meeting recording will be posted on the HCTV and HPS websites the following day.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Baker issued an Emergency Order temporarily suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Public bodies otherwise governed by the OML are temporarily relieved from the requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."

*For additional information please visit the School Committee Department on our website:
<https://www.haverhill-ps.org/school-committee>*



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