

Harpwell Community School Newsletter

Inspiring students to successfully navigate the world.

From the Principal...

The first couple of months of school have certainly flown by, and lots of exciting learning has been happening at HCS! We have much to be grateful for within our school community:

**Compassionate, competent school and district staff who are dedicated to meeting the needs of all students! *Caring parents and guardians (including our amazing PTO!) who are committed to working with the school to support their children! *Generous community members and organizations who have committed time and resources to support the school!*

Thank you to everyone who helps to make HCS a wonderful place to work and learn!
~ Anita Hopkins



Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)



Information went home recently regarding school-wide systems that support positive expectations — our code of cooperation, consequence rubrics, the process room, which promotes pro-social learning, and positive Claw Slips. This week, we have added a system for “Golden Awards” for specials - Golden Sneaker, Golden Palette, Golden Note, and Golden Book. Teachers for each of these subjects will award and track points for each class, based on positive behavioral expectations. Weekly points will be averaged for the month, and at our end-of-month assembly a K-2 as well as a 3-5 class winner will be announced for each Golden award. Our custodians will also designate a Golden Trash Can classroom each month — one from the upper hallway and one from the lower hallway! We have much to celebrate!

160

That’s how many Claw Slips students earned in just about 3 weeks in October!

107

That’s how many students voted on election day to support Mid Coast Humane with coins on Spirit Days! (Detailed information went home from Ms. Baggett.)

37

That’s the number of full- and part-time staff who are devoting their efforts to make sure that every HCS student is successful!



November 12

Veterans’ Day – No School
– Thank you to all veterans for your service!

November 13 - 20

Parent Conferences (Some conferences may be scheduled outside of this window, for convenience of parents.) We hope to see everyone at conferences!

November 14 - 20

Scholastic Book Fair in the Learning Commons

November 15

Picture Retake Day - Go to lifetouch.com to preorder

November 20

12:10 Student Dismissal

November 21 - 25

Thanksgiving Break – Enjoy time with your loved ones!

December 4

6:30 Music Concert - Grades 1, 2, 4, & Chorus

December 7

Report Cards will go home with students

Every Thursday

Lego Club in the gym at 8:15 a.m.!

Attendance Matters

This year, district and school goals include increasing days at school for all students, especially those that have been chronically absent in the past. As the graphic here explains, missing as few as 10% of school days decreases a child's opportunities for success. Too often, we don't realize how quickly absences add up: Missing just two days every month can cause a child to fall behind. It's interesting to note that this research includes all absences, not just unexcused absences. Excessive late arrivals or early dismissals also negatively impact a child's education. Regular attendance is critical in order for children to meet their academic growth targets by the end of their grade level. The early education years are also crucial for establishing work and behavior habits essential for future success. Important to remember is that chronic absenteeism does not affect only the students who miss school. If too many students are chronically absent, it slows down instruction for other students, who must wait while the teacher repeats material for absentee students. This makes it harder for students to learn and for teachers to teach.

School staff and families no doubt share the same goals for children — the best possible social, behavioral, and academic outcomes. In order to achieve those outcomes, children need to be in school to learn. The good news is that chronic absenteeism is a problem we can solve if we work together. Of course, children need to stay home if they are ill. If there are other barriers that are causing your child to miss school, though, please reach out to us. We can work together to find ways to remove those barriers and support your child.

Every minute of school matters.

Missing **18** days or 10% of school per year makes a student **chronically absent.**

Set a Goal
with your child to be at school every day.
Make **good attendance** a priority.

1 in 10
Kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent.
Attendance habits **start early.**

Missing out on class can affect a student's ability to learn fundamental reading and math skills that will carry them into **college and career.**

**“Attend today,
achieve tomorrow.”**

Title I at HCS

Title I is a federal grant program, with funds distributed to schools based on free and reduced lunch rates. Because of shifting rates among schools in MSAD 75, the number of days that we have Title I interventionists available to us (for additional math and/or reading support) has been reduced. For HCS to take advantage of all available funds, it is very important that all free and reduced lunch forms are returned to school, regardless of whether your child chooses to eat school lunch or breakfast. If you did not return your form at the beginning of the school year, please let us know and we will provide you with a replacement form. Thank you so much for your attention and help in this matter!

VISITOR AND VOLUNTEER POLICIES

We value, appreciate, and welcome parent and community involvement at our school - we simply could not do our jobs effectively without it! With increased awareness around school security in communities across our state and nation, HCS has taken a fresh look at our policies in order to ensure that they are in line with district policies. Much of this has been previously communicated, but here's a recap:

- When dropping off a child after 9:10 (or 10:10 on Wednesdays), please sign your child in and have him or her get a late pass from Mrs. Card.
- When picking up a child, please sign the child out at the office and wait in the lobby for the child to be called.
- All visitors (anyone who is not an HCS employee) who proceed beyond the lobby must sign in and out at the office, and pick and display a visitor or volunteer badge. Any parents wishing to speak with teachers should make an appointment, so as not to interrupt teaching or planning time.
- All volunteers must complete a volunteer application. All chaperones and all in-school volunteers beyond a one-time occurrence must be approved through the district office as a level 2 volunteer, which involves a mandatory background check.

