



# Hanover-Horton School District

10000 Moscow Road  
Horton, MI 49246  
517-563-0100

## NEWSLETTER

February 2024

### *Special Points of Interest:*

#### **SPRING BREAK**

March 21 - Half Day  
March 22 - March 29  
School Resumes April 1

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#### **NO SCHOOL DATES**

March 11 No School K-12  
May 27 No School K-12  
June 6 Last Day/Half Day K-12

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#### **YOUNG 5's/KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP INFORMATION**

April 9 - Elementary Informational  
Meeting for Y5/Kindergarten Parent  
(See Page 4)

April 22, 23 and 24 - *By appt. only*  
Y5/Kindergarten Roundup  
Phone 517-563-0103 for an appt.  
(See Page 4)

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#### **SENIOR HONORS NIGHT**

May 23 6:30 pm

#### **SENIOR GRADUATION**

May 24 7:00 pm

**GO COMETS!**

### **FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT JOHN DENNEY...**



As we enter into 2024, there are a few significant items that I want to make sure you are aware of. I informed our staff and parents in August that I would step down from my position on June 30th. While I am still not sure what is going to be next for me, with my daughter graduating this year it is a good time for the district, my family, and for me to make a change. On July 1st, our longtime middle school principal, Mrs. Denise Bergstrom, will take over as the next superintendent of Hanover-Horton School District. Between now and then, the two of us will work together to allow for a seamless transition. She is going to do a great job in her new position!

Over the last several months, our district developed a new strategic plan. With help from the Michigan Association of School Boards, we were able to gather input from a wide range of community members, parents, students, and staff so that our new plan is a product of our entire community. Many of the key parts of the changes are highlighted in this newsletter and more details are also available on our website under the heading "Board Goals." This new plan will be the road map for at least the next five years and be a great tool as we continue to improve. Thank you to all staff and community members who participated in this process! See Page 2 for a summary of the strategic plan.

Our district has two proposals on the February 27th ballot. The first proposal is a renewal request for our current Operating Millage. The second proposal would enable the district to collect the full 18 mills for the millage. Operating millages are not levied on primary residences; any property that has a homestead exemption is exempted.

Operating millages are among the most confusing items that school districts ever put onto a ballot. The language, which is dictated by statutes, does not help much either. Simply put, for a school district to receive its full per-pupil allocation from the state, the district must levy 18 mills on all eligible properties within their district. Any amount under 18 mills that a district collects results in a loss of revenue for the district. If I can help to answer any questions you may have or provide any clarification, please let me know and I will be happy to help in any way that I can.

When our current millage was passed, it was approved for 18.5912 mills, however due to Headlee Rollbacks, we currently levy at a rate of 17.2144 mills. This results in a revenue shortfall of about \$60,000 per year. Both proposals combined would authorize a levy total of 19.2144 mills. By law, a school district can only levy a total of 18 mills for their operating millage regardless of how many mills the voters have approved. The additional mills would provide a small cushion for the district in case the rate is rolled back. Any amount under 18 mills that the district is unable to collect results in a loss of our per-pupil funding. Hanover-Horton is the only public school district in Jackson County that is not able to collect the full 18 mills. More information on the proposals is included in this newsletter and is also available on our website.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions regarding our district.

**Go Comets!**  
*John*

## Strategic Plan Process

The Hanover-Horton Board of Education has approved the final report of the Strategic Plan process, as presented by Dr. Julie Kaminski of the Michigan Association of School Boards. This report was the result of information gathered over the last several months from the community surveys, input session, the all-day workshop, and meetings with administration and school improvement chairs to form a new set of suggested board goals for the district for the next five years. Below is a summary of the Strategic Plan.



### Mission

To educate and empower all students to succeed. We are committed to providing a safe and caring environment with an exemplary staff and supportive community.

### Vision

Building a brighter future, one student at a time.

### Board of Education

Chris Blackledge, President  
Kristin Flick, Vice President  
Liz Scott, Secretary  
Leon Densmore, Treasurer  
Gail Proctor, Trustee  
Tonya Sears, Trustee  
Tim Evans, Trustee

## Hanover-Horton School District

Strategic Plan Summary 2024-2029

### Belief Statements

We believe:

- All students have the ability to learn.
- In fostering a safe and supporting learning environment for all students.
- In empowering all students to develop critical thinking skills.
- Successful schools are a shared responsibility of students, parents, staff, and community members.
- In inspiring students to become productive citizens and contributing community members.

### Focus Areas

Academics/  
Programs

Learning Environment &  
Culture

Communications &  
Community Engagement

Personnel & Leadership

Operations

### Superintendent

John Denney



## Hanover-Horton School District

Strategic Plan Summary 2024 - 2029

### Academics & Programs

**Goal Statement:** HHSD will improve academic performance for all students.

**Objectives:**

1. Complete an audit of curriculum materials by subject and grade level.
2. Create a written process for identifying students for interventions at all levels and communicate it to all stakeholders.

### Learning Environment & Culture

**Goal Statement:** HHSD will provide and maintain a safe physical, emotional, and quality educational environment for all students.

**Objectives:**

1. Create a plan for SEL and PBIS implementation.
2. Maintain and update a safe physical environment.

### Communications & Community Engagement

**Goal Statement:** HHSD will develop and implement a regular communication plan that includes multiple platforms to reach all community members.

**Objectives:**

1. Develop and implement a regular communication plan.

### Operations

**Goal Statement:** HHSD will maintain and improve all areas of operations.

**Objectives:**

1. Update and maintain technology.
2. Identify protocols and procedures for maintenance and operations.

### Personnel & Leadership

**Goal Statement:** HHSD will recruit and retain exemplary staff.

**Objectives:**

1. Implement a training system for mentor teachers.
2. Make connections with staff at colleges and universities.
3. Establish a personnel binder for new staff.



# HANOVER-HORTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

## HANOVER-HORTON SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL & PROPOSAL

### *ACTUAL BALLOT DESCRIPTIONS OF PROPOSALS AS SEEN ON BALLOTS* **OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

THIS PROPOSAL WILL ALLOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO CONTINUE TO LEVY ITS AUTHORIZED MILLAGE RATE OF NOT TO EXCEED 17.2144 MILLS ON ALL PROPERTY, EXCEPT PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW, REQUIRED FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO RECEIVE ITS REVENUE PER PUPIL FOUNDATION ALLOWANCE AND RENEWS MILLAGE THAT WILL EXPIRE WITH THE 2024 TAX LEVY. THE TOTAL OPERATING MILLAGE LEVIED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL NOT EXCEED 18 MILLS IN ANY YEAR.

### **OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

THIS PROPOSAL WILL ALLOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO LEVY THE STATUTORY RATE OF NOT TO EXCEED 18 MILLS ON ALL PROPERTY, EXCEPT PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW, REQUIRED FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO RECEIVE ITS FULL REVENUE PER PUPIL FOUNDATION ALLOWANCE. THE TOTAL OPERATING MILLAGE LEVIED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL NOT EXCEED 18 MILLS IN ANY YEAR.

- HHSD is the only district in Jackson County not collecting the full 18-mills.
- The first proposal is a renewal of the current millage passed in 2015.
- The second proposal would allow the district to levy the full 18-mills.
- An 18-mill Operating Millage is required for a school district to receive full funding from the state.
- By law, districts are unable to levy more than a total of 18-mills for their Operating Millages.
- Additional mills provide a cushion against future Headlee Rollbacks.
- The millages would only be levied on properties that do not qualify for the homestead exemption; no tax impact on your primary residence.
- The combined value of both proposals is approximately \$1,550,198 per year.
- 1-mill equals \$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value.

**For more information:**

**[john.denney@hanoverhorton.org](mailto:john.denney@hanoverhorton.org)**

**[www.hanoverhorton.org](http://www.hanoverhorton.org)**

**517-563-0100**



# VOTE BY FEB. 27TH



### **Young 5's/Kindergarten Round-Up Parent Informational Meeting**

The elementary will be holding a parent informational meeting for all incoming Young 5's and Kindergarten students on Tuesday, April 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary gymnasium. This is a very important meeting, where the following topics will be discussed:

- \* What to bring with you and expect at Y5's/ Kindergarten Round-Up;
- \* Registration forms;
- \* The different skills we'd like each child to have before entering Young 5's/Kindergarten;
- \* What a day at Hanover-Horton looks like;
- \* Transportation information; and
- \* Our food service program.

We are asking parents to bring their incoming Young 5/Kindergartner to the meeting. While parents are attending the informational session, their children will go with our teachers for a story and activity. After the presentation, parents will have the opportunity to sign up for a time to bring their child to Young 5's/Kindergarten Round-up. We look forward to seeing you!



### **Young 5's/Kindergarten Round-Up April 22nd and 23rd (9:00-2:30), April 24th (9:00-12:00)**

All children who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2024 are eligible to attend. Children who will turn 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2024 may apply for a waiver to attend for the 2024-25 school year. Please make an appointment for your child at the parent meeting, which will be held at Hanover-Horton Elementary on April 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend the meeting, the elementary office will take reservations starting April 10th up until the first day of Round-Up.

Please bring:

- ☀ Your Young 5/Kindergartner
- ☀ Immunization record
- ☀ Original birth certificate
- ☀ Paperwork from the parent meeting

***See you then!***



The High School Band recently traveled down to Florida for their Disney Performance. This year they performed a concert at Disney Springs where they performed a variety of Christmas and Disney pieces for the park guests as well as friends and family who made the trip down with them.

The Band also did a sight-reading and recording studio clinic with Dr. Derek Deakins, a Walt Disney Teaching Artist who has toured with Blake Shelton and Rascal Flatts, and is known for his banjo and fiddle playing! During the clinic the students reviewed the key skills for sight-reading a piece for the first time, the expectations of a professional Disney Musician, as well as recorded "I See the Light" from the movie Tangled, which was added to the movie footage!

During the trip, the band also visited Universal Studios, The Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, and Animal Kingdom.





# Hanover-Horton Elementary



## FROM TEACHER TO SOLDIER

Former H-H Elementary fifth grade teacher, Mr. Ethan Showler, is now SPC Showler in the U.S. Army! Last October, Mr. Showler fulfilled a life-long dream of serving in the military, and left teaching for basic training. On a 2-week break, he surprised our students and stopped back through on his way to visit his family in New Jersey. The kids were very excited to see him and asked a lot of questions. He had some very entertaining stories, mostly around doing something that had him “thrashed” (extra hard workouts) for correction. He is really enjoying his service and looking forward to his next duty assignment. We are very proud of SPC Showler!

## FITNESS IS FUN!

Fitness Finders created a video in order to market Mileage Club to other school districts in the state of Michigan. They chose Hanover-Horton Elementary as one of the schools to highlight in their video.

We had two very good runners, Johnathan Stovall and Allison Dorian, who were part of the video, along with their teachers, Mr. VanEpps and Mrs. Beach.

The video features amazing descriptions of what the Mileage Club is, how it benefits students in the classroom, and how it helps focus on getting and staying healthy through running.

You can watch the video online at the following link:

<https://replay.dropbox.com/share/I9zLaxxfI3utouBe>



## YOUNG 5's FESTIVITIES

Mrs. Cytlak and Mrs. Santoro worked together to coordinate parents as both chefs and wait staff for their Thanksgiving feast, and were dressed in their best for their “fancy party” and meal. The volunteers and teachers worked with the children to practice using their speaking voices and listening skills to “ask politely” for ketchup, ranch, or no dressing for their chicken nuggets, or for water or apple juice, and for dessert!

## DATES TO KNOW

### February

- 1 Parent/Teacher Conferences:  
Elementary 4:00 - 7:30 pm  
Middle/High School 3:30 - 6:30 pm  
8 10th Grade JACC Tour Field Trip  
12 Board of Education Meeting 6:00 pm  
16&19 No School, President's Day Weekend



### March:

- 11 No School, All Students  
21 Half Day All Students - Spring Break Begins  
22-29 Spring Break

### April:

- 1 School Resumes  
8 Board of Education Meeting 6:00 pm  
9 Incoming Young 5's/Kindergarten Informational Meeting 6:00 pm  
10 PSAT Test for 8th, 9th, 10th Grade  
10 SAT Test for 11th Grade  
11 WorkKeys Test for 11th Grade  
18 MStep Test for 11th Grade  
22-24 Kindergarten Roundup (By Appointment)  
April 8-May 15 Middle School M-Step Testing Window

### May:

- 2 Spring Concert:  
5th Grade/Middle School 6:00 pm  
High School 7:00 pm  
8 AP English Test 8 am  
11 Prom at Jackson Symphony Orchestra Bldg  
13 AP Calculus Test 8 am  
13 Board of Education Meeting 6:00 pm  
23 Senior Honors Night 6:30 pm  
24 Senior Graduation at Potter Center 7:00 pm  
27 No School, Memorial Day



### June:

- 4-6 High School Exams  
6 Last Day of School, Half Day All Students  
Middle School Honors Assembly 9:00 am  
17 Board of Education Meeting 6:00 p.m.



December wasn't just about jingle bells and candy canes at the Middle School! Our hallways were transformed into a winter wonderland, thanks to the Winter Door Decorating Challenge, where classes battled it out for the most festive and creative door design.

But this wasn't your typical decorating contest. Each class received a basket filled with an assortment of supplies. The challenge was to use these materials to create a cohesive winter scene. This sparked incredible teamwork as students brainstormed, negotiated, and compromised to bring their visions to life.

The judging was tough, with each door displaying remarkable ingenuity and spirit. But in the end, the winners emerged. The winners were: 1st place Mrs. Kughn's team, 2nd place Mrs. Herwat's team, 3rd place Mrs. Frank's team. The people's choice award voted by students and staff went to: 1st place Mr. Jones, 2nd place Mr. Stone, 3rd place Mr. Deliyenne. What truly mattered, however, was the journey – the laughter, the collaboration, and the shared sense of accomplishment.

The Winter Door Challenge wasn't just about decorating; it was about building teamwork, embracing challenges, problem solving and letting imaginations soar. And as we head into the new year, the lessons learned and the smiles shared will continue to brighten our hallways long after the decorations come down.



# High School Happenings

*A message from.....*

*Counselor Jacqueline Davis-Green*

## JACC TOURS

The Jackson Area Career Center offered all 9th grade students a brand new opportunity to explore future careers back in November. Building off their 8th grade tour, the 9th graders selected four programs to visit and learn more about, based on their educational development plan. As these students progress to 10th grade, they will have yet another visit, where they will focus on two programs to ultimately help confirm their choice in 11th grade.

Also, the Career Center is very excited about the upcoming 10th grade tours during the first week of February and for the annual public Open House on February 22, 2024, from 4-7 pm.

More information about the programs offered can be found at: <https://www.jacc-mi.net/programs>

## PARENTS OF SENIORS: FAFSA AND SCHOLARSHIPS

**The FAFSA application has opened!** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) typically opens October 1st each year for the following school year; however, this year the application has been overhauled to a better and more accurate application. This year's high school seniors will be filling out the FAFSA for the 2024-25 school year. The first step is to create an FSA ID. You can create the FSA ID at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

Here are some important facts about the FAFSA:

1. All students should complete the FAFSA, especially those who are planning to attend a college/trade school.
2. Students are considered to be 'Dependent' on their parents' income until the age of 24, unless they meet specific criteria. Parents will need to provide their 2022 tax information on their student's FAFSA.
3. The FAFSA should be completed by June 30 to maximize your ability for student financial aid.
4. The FAFSA is required to access pell grants, TIP grant, other state aid, federal student loans, and many scholarships.
5. Many scholarships require the FAFSA to be done, including several Hanover-Horton and Jackson County Scholarships.

An opportunity for FAFSA assistance is at the Jackson College and Career Access Center's February President's Day workshop, February 19th, from 11 am—7 pm at the Jackson Crossing Mall. Lunch is provided. Families can also attend via Zoom at this link: <https://bit.ly/ccacevent>.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Parents, encourage your seniors to apply for scholarships! There are many scholarships available to just Hanover-Horton students and many for Jackson County students. The odds of getting something are good, but they need to apply! Seniors have access to the scholarship list via their email and Xello account, Google Classroom, and on Mrs. Davis-Green's website. There are scholarships available to students going to trade schools, too!



2023-2024 FALL ACADEMIC ATHLETIC AWARDS

Academic All-Conference Individuals

**Cross Country:** Olivia Perrine, Sophia Reynolds, Alexis Flint, Landon Jordon, Julianna Debozy-Crawford, Lily Mason, Evan Shepherd, Maggie Stebing, David Fielder

**Football:** Tracy Ackley, Logan Blackledge, Brenden Myers

**Volleyball:** Hadlie Barber, Natalee Krage

**Girls Golf:** Sophia Donders

All-State Individuals

**Cross Country:** Olivia Perrine

**Volleyball:** Natalee Krage, (HM)

Academic All-State Team

**Volleyball:** Hadlie Barber, Grace Bialczyk, Halle Swihart, Madeline Sauber, Mollie Barber, Chelsea Russ, Sophie Schuette, Lainey Griffis, Natalee Krage, Morgan Kuhl, Bree Johnson, Brynn deGlee

For up-to-date athletic information, please visit [hhcomets.net](http://hhcomets.net)



DISTRICT PHONE NUMBERS

Administration.....	517-563-0100
High School.....	517-563-0101
Athletics.....	517-867-6503
Middle School.....	517-563-0102
Elementary.....	517-563-0103
Transportation.....	517-563-0106
Early Impressions	
Before/After School Care.....	517-867-6418
Enrollments .....	517-888-5155

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10000 MOSCOW ROAD  
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[www.hanoverhorton.org](http://www.hanoverhorton.org)