



# William S. Hackett Middle School



## THE HAWK'S NEST School Newsletter • December 2022

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### Principal's Message

I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Thanksgiving break with family and friends. Enclosed is your child's first quarter report card. Please review it with your child and call the Guidance Office at (518) 475-6486 to speak with your child's counselor if you have questions. If needed, they can schedule a meeting with your child's teachers. Quarterly AIS reports also are included in this mailing for students receiving AIS in English and/or math. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's AIS teachers with any questions or concerns.

Our first **Teen Night** of the school year was held on Nov. 4. Students were very excited to attend, since we had not held one in over two years. Students enjoyed dancing, games, a

costume contest and treats under the supervision of PTA parents and staff.

It is that time of year again when we ask all our families to participate in the annual **Family Engagement Survey**. Please review the enclosed survey letter and complete the survey at your earliest convenience.

Please note that courses formerly known as Business, Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) and Technology will now have the name **Intro to CTE** (Career and Technical Education). Career and technical education provides students and adults with academic and technical skills, knowledge and training necessary to succeed in future careers and develop skills they will use throughout their careers.

The **Hackett Middle School PTA** is always looking for new members! Meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the library on the first Wednesday of each month. Please consider attending and sharing with us your thoughts for providing all students with a safe and supportive learning environment. The next meeting is Dec. 7.

Lastly, as we begin the second quarter of school, I want to continue to stress the importance of having students arrive at school on time every day. Students who are late will be checked in by our attendance clerk and will be held accountable for their tardiness. Your assistance in encouraging your child to be on time for school is greatly appreciated.

### Next stop: Albany High!

Albany High School Principal Jodi Commerford met with Hackett eighth graders on Nov. 1 to discuss Albany High's four themed academies and prepare students for the upcoming lottery that will assign them to either Citizenship, Discovery, Innovation or Leadership academy.

These physically smaller learning environments are designed to help students feel connected, involved and engaged. After the presentation, guidance counselors met with students to assist them in the completion of the lottery application. The lottery drawing will be held Dec. 9.



# Hackett is 'No Place for Hate'

On Nov. 18, Hackett held a schoolwide assembly to roll out our “No Place for Hate” initiative to all students, faculty and staff.

The program is designed to engage the entire school community in stopping all forms of bias and bullying and creating a culture of respect and safety for all. The assembly consisted of a short video followed by personal impact statements from several of our

students and the reading of the “No Place for Hate” pledge. We would like to thank our Equity Team, as well as our Home School Coordinator and primary facilitator for this event, Lionel Harris, for providing such an impactful assembly.

Please stay tuned for more exciting planned activities to further support this important and powerful school program.



Pictured above are members of the Hackett Student Equity Team, who assisted in facilitating the Nov. 18 “No Place for Hate” assembly at school.

## Upcoming Events

Hackett Middle School, together with Fallen Chandelier Productions, proudly presents “**Elf Jr., The Musical**” in the Hackett auditorium! Showtimes are Dec. 8, 9 and 10, and all performances are at 7 p.m. Reserved seating is available at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com). Doors open at 6 p.m. for general admission. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for children under 5. Contact [fallenchandelierproductions@gmail.com](mailto:fallenchandelierproductions@gmail.com) with questions.

On Dec. 14, we will hold an **Honor Roll Ceremony** to acknowledge our students’ first quarter academic achievements. The event will run from 8:30-9:45 a.m. in the auditorium. Please join us to celebrate our students’ academic success.

On Dec. 20, Hackett will hold its annual **Winter Concert** at 6:30 p.m. We hope you will join us to celebrate the sounds of the season. The PTA also will host its annual **PTA Dessert Auction** at this event.

## Mark Your Calendar

- **Dec. 7** PTA meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 8-10** “Elf Jr.” performances, 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 14** Honor Roll Ceremony, 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Dec. 16** Second quarter interim grades close
- **Dec. 20** Winter Concert/PTA Dessert Auction, 6:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 23 -Jan. 2** *NO SCHOOL – Holiday Recess*
- **Jan. 3** Classes resume
- **Jan. 4** PTA meeting. 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 16** *NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

# Happy Holidays!