



William S. Hackett Middle School



THE HAWK'S NEST School Newsletter • June 2021

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Principal's Message

It's hard to believe we are entering the last few weeks of school. Please review the following information carefully, and also note that we will have regular school days (8 a.m.-3 p.m.) through the last day of school, Thursday, June 24.

Enclosed is your child's fourth quarter interim report card. Please review it, and if you have any questions or concerns, call the Guidance Office at (518) 475-6486 for assistance.

As we rapidly approach the end of the 2020-2021 school year, we will continue to enforce behavior expectations in order to maintain a safe and orderly environment. We expect all students to arrive at school and each class period on time. While this is not a new expectation, it is one that we will continue to enforce in order to maximize academic time and minimize disruptions and disturbances.

On Wednesday, May 12, we celebrated our final **Honor Roll** ceremony of the school year. Approximately 311 students achieved honor roll for the third quarter, many of whom maintained an average of 84.5% or higher for the entire year. We honor and applaud their outstanding academic success and continue to provide positive reinforcement that will inspire all

students to perform at their highest level.

On **Friday, June 25**, we will celebrate our **Grade 8 Moving-Up Ceremony** (see more on page 2). In order for eighth-graders to participate in the ceremony, they must pass three of their four core classes and be in good behavioral standing.

Students who must attend summer school in order to be eligible for grade 9 will not be allowed to attend the Moving Up Ceremony. Students must successfully complete summer school in order to be promoted to the next grade. Please note there will not be a summer school graduation. Summer school for students in grades 6-8 will be held at Myers Middle School starting on July 6. The program will run Monday-Friday with breakfast and lunch served daily. For more information, please contact the Guidance Office at (518) 475-6486.

As the end of the school year approaches, our students get very excited about summer vacation. Although we are in our final weeks of



school, I ask for your assistance in reinforcing appropriate dress with your child(ren). Students are not allowed to wear brief garments such as strapless tops, crop tops, net tops, halter tops, tanks with spaghetti straps, etc. Shorts and dresses must be of a moderate length and should not be shorter than fingertips. In addition, students are required to wear appropriate footwear at all times. Slippers, flip-flops, platforms and heels of an unsafe height pose a safety issue and are unacceptable. Students identified as being dressed inappropriately will be referred to their respective administrator. If

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Grade 8 Moving Up Details

The Grade 8 Moving Up Ceremony will be held **Friday, June 25**.

In an effort to enable students to experience the ceremony with family members, we are tentatively planning an outdoor celebration. To ensure compliance with COVID-19 health guidelines and regulations, we have developed the following format for this year's Moving Up.

Each student participating in the ceremony will be allowed to bring **four (4)** additional family members/guests with them to the celebration. To avoid a large crowd from forming, we ask that all students adhere to their assigned time slot. Students will report to school at designated times based upon their last name as follows:

- **A-D** – 9-9:30 a.m.
- **E-H** – 9:30-10 a.m.
- **I-L** – 10-10:30 a.m.
- **M-P** – 10:30-11 a.m.
- **Q-T** – 11-11:30 a.m.
- **U-Z** – 11:30– noon

Students and family members should report to the parking lot behind school, near the cafeteria. Parking spaces will be provided. Students and guests will line up together, remaining socially distanced from other families. All attendees will be required to wear a mask at all times.

The graduating student will then proceed through a receiving line of all Hackett faculty and staff before eventually reaching the main stage and podium. Guests will be allowed to walk to the front of the podium to hear their child's name called and to take pictures of them receiving their diploma. After receiving a diploma, each student and their guests will walk to a designated area, where students will receive their graduating t-shirts and additional awards. A separate area will be available for students and family members to take pictures to celebrate the occasion. A photographer from i-Smiles studios will also be on hand to take

professional pictures. Parents will have the option to purchase pictures from i-Smiles at a later time.

The Moving Up Ceremony is a semiformal event. Students should be dressed appropriately.

If the ceremony needs to move inside due to unforeseen weather, the date and times will remain the same. In compliance with health regulations for inside celebrations, only students will be allowed to participate in the indoor ceremony. Unfortunately, parents and/or guests will not be allowed inside the auditorium to observe the ceremony. If that happens, we will livestream the ceremony so that all family members can watch the event from another location. A video copy of the ceremony will also be provided after the ceremony on the Hackett page of the school district website – albany-schools.org/Hackett.

We look forward to celebrating with you on June 25!

Grade 8 Dance

The **Grade 8 Dance** will be held on Friday, June 18 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

This is a semiformal affair and students should be dressed appropriately. Grade 8 students who meet their academic and behavioral requirements will be allowed to participate in the dance.

All students interested in attending will need to complete and return an assigned permission slip form no later than June 16. Permission slips were distributed both in-person and through Google classroom to all students by their social studies teacher, and may be returned to the main office. Students will receive a pass with a completed form. Students will need to present the pass in order to be allowed entrance into the dance. Due to COVID regulations, guests will not be allowed to attend this year's dance.

Mark Your Calendar

June 8-9	NYS science written test (Grade 8)
June 18	Eighth-Grade Dance, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
June 22	Living Environment Regents
June 23	Algebra Regents
June 24	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
June 25	Eighth-grade Moving-Up Ceremony, 9 a.m.

Principal's Message (continued)

additional clothing/footwear are not available to the student, parents will be called. I appreciate your cooperation and assistance in this matter.

In this unprecedented time, I would like to thank you for stepping up in remarkable ways to support your child's education at home. I know it has not been easy or ideal, but your dedication to your child's education has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. This year, educators and students' families really showed what teamwork is all about. Thank you, again. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (518) 475-6475.