



William S. Hackett Middle School



THE HAWK'S NEST School Newsletter • February 2021

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Principal's Message

Enclosed is your child's second-quarter report card. Please review it with your child, and if you have any questions, call the Guidance Office at (518) 475-6486 to speak with your child's counselor. If needed, they can schedule a meeting with your child's teacher(s).

As you know, February is Black History Month. But did you know its concept was inspired by Harvard historian Carter G. Woodson? He celebrated the first Negro History Week in February 1926. February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, men who played a significant role in helping to end slavery. It was 50 years later, during our nation's bicentennial, that President Gerald Ford expanded the celebration to a month and decreed Black History Month as a national observance. In this time of remembering the African-American struggle for civil rights and human rights, we also celebrate and understand the positive impact of Black heritage and culture on our country.

To date, we have had a very successful school year at Hackett. Our faculty and staff remain committed to ensuring that all students are provided with the instructional supports to achieve academic success.

Together, with your support, Hackett has continued to develop into a highly recognized middle school in our community and throughout the Capital Region.

The second semester is already underway at Hackett. Please continue to remind your children how important it is for them to continue to focus on academic achievement. As June will be upon us before we know it, I want to remind all parents of eighth-grade students that the **Moving-Up Ceremony** will be held on Friday, June 25.

Please note, **Winter Recess** will run from Monday, Feb. 15 -Friday, Feb. 19. Classes will resume on Monday, Feb. 22. Hackett's **Second Quarter Honor Roll Ceremony** is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3 at 8:30 a.m. The ceremony will be held virtually. Also on March 3 is our next **virtual PTA meeting** at 7 p.m. PTA meetings will held be April 14, May 5 and June 2, 2021. The link for all PTA meetings is the same: <https://meet.google.com/cmn-ytag-waj?hs=122&authuser=0> We hope you will consider attending our meetings and sharing with us your thoughts for providing all students with a safe and supportive learning environment.



Daily health screener

Please remember to complete the daily health screener each day that arrives each morning in your email. Parents and guardians who need to add or update an email address should call the school. Even though many Hackett Hawks are distance learners, it's still important to complete the screener each day so we can help the Albany County Health Department track and eventually contain the spread of COVID-19.

Take the Family Engagement Survey

Your feedback is important in our efforts to improve Hackett Middle School. That's why we ask you to complete this year's family engagement survey.

It's easy to complete online; just follow the link below and enter the password.

- **Link:** albanyschools.org/FamilySurvey
- **Password:** Hackett2020

(Please note that the password is case-sensitive.)

The survey will be open through March 12. Paper copies of the survey are available at school upon request.

There are 25 survey questions that are rated on a five-part scale. There also are three open questions for you to offer your comments.

All survey responses are anonymous; respondents are not identified. We ask that there be one survey per household (if you have students in more than one school, then one survey per household for each of your children's schools; you will receive a similar letter from those schools with the password to login to that survey).

Help us make our great school even better!

Music update

Starting Feb. 5, your child's music instruction will change.

The change is in response to feedback from students, teachers and families indicating a desire to have instrument lessons more often for band students. Due to COVID-19, these lessons started later this year and occurred less frequently than usual.

If your child is a band student, he or she will now have more frequent instrument lessons. Student lesson days/times will be communicated by Mr. Redmond and be posted in his Band Google Classroom.

If your child is a general music student of Mr. Redmond's, his or her class will occur at the same time on alternating

days on Monday-Thursday, but Fridays will now become reserved for office hours and small group band instruction.

The general music curriculum will continue unchanged. Music assignments and resources for the week will continue to be inside Mr. Redmond's Music Google Classroom, but he will not host a live Google Meet on Fridays.

We are excited for the upcoming opportunities for our students as we restructure this programming need. We know this adjustment to our instructional program will be helpful in supporting your students.

State test dates

Although several months away, we would like to bring to your attention the upcoming **2021 New York State Assessment** dates:

- **English Language Arts:** April 20-21
- **NYSESLAT speaking:** April 19-May 15
- **Math:** May 4-5
- **NYSESLAT listening, reading, writing:** May 17-28
- **Grade 8 Science performance:** May 25-June 4
- **Grade 8 Science written:** June 7

Mark Your Calendar

- **Feb. 15-19** *NO SCHOOL*, Winter Recess
- **March 3** Virtual Honor Roll Ceremony, 8:30 a.m.
- **March 3** PTA meeting, 7 p.m.
- **March 12** Third-quarter interim grades close

Important phone numbers

Attendance: (518) 475-6488

Full Service: (518) 475-6495, 6496, 6497, 6498 or 6499

Guidance Office: (518) 475-6486

Home School Coordinator: (518) 475-6485

Main Office: (518) 475-6475

Nurse's Office: (518) 475-6482

School Meals: (518) 475-6493

School Psychologist: (518) 475-6491

Security: (518) 475-6489