Tammie Shafer and Carolina Gosalvez try something new!

Hoosac Valley High School
2019-2020
Words from Byrd: Week ending 3.6.2020
Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, Empathy = Hoosac PRIDE

NEW THIS WEEK...

PROGRESS REPORTS SENT HOME TODAY: Check your kids’ backpacks this afternoon. Q3 progress reports were sent home, and the recommendations for the 2020-2021 school year are located in the comments section of the report. If you/your child DISAGREE with a recommendation and want a course change, the “course change form” must be filled out, signed and returned to Guidance by Friday, March 20. Forms can be picked up in guidance.
GOOD LUCK TO THE LADY ‘CANES as they play for the DIII Western Mass Girls’ Basketball Title tomorrow, Saturday, March 7, at 2:15 p.m. at the Curry Hicks Cage (UMASS).

INCREASING SAFETY THROUGH STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY: Tammie Shafer and Carolina Gosalvez have introduced a Digital Hall Pass in their classroom. When students want to leave the room for any reason, they SCAN a QR code, using their cell phone. This QR code leads them to a Google Form; they insert their name and select their intended location from a dropdown menu. A Google Sheet records the information, including a timestamp. When students return to class, they scan again and complete the form for entry back into class. This allows the teachers to keep teaching, while maintaining a digital log for student accountability. Any data analysis can be completed at any time. This is increasing accountability, it’s utilizing electronics easily, and it increases safety in the classroom. Tammie and Carolina report that students have adapted quickly to this change and have already become accustomed to logging in and out of the classroom.

SENIOR ALL-NIGHT PARTY: So far we’ve had 2 meetings with parents regarding the parent sponsored/parent run all-night party for Friday, June 5. We NEED more help. Any senior class parents interested in participating are encouraged to contact me at cbyrd@hoosacvalley.org.

FREE SKIING EVENT: The HVHS Cross Country Ski Team is hosting a free skiing event at Notchview Reservation in Windsor tomorrow, March 7, at 2 p.m. Any student interested in trying out the sport … There are free rentals and you’ll meet the coaches! 2 p.m. SHARP!

P.A.L. 3 v 3 TOURNAMENT: There is a senior league 3v3 Tournament scheduled for March 15, in the middle-school gym. This is a coed event open to all 9-12 grade students, who are not currently playing on a high-school team (one varsity player per team). The cost is $5 per player/$15 per team. Tournament starts at NOON, and registration is open this Sunday, March 8, at the MS gym from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

COVID-19: We understand that many families may have questions regarding the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus and how it may impact our local community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is providing DAILY updates and recommendations. You can stay updated by utilizing the following link: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

DISINFECTING THE BUILDING: We have been purchasing Lysol spray, and the custodians are spraying locker handles, and door handles to classrooms; in addition, teachers have been given spray bottles and wipes for their rooms. The school has purchased a product that will be added to our spray bottles (mixed with water) that will be used throughout the building to help sanitize and prevent the spread of viruses. Custodians will be utilizing this product throughout the rest of the year.
**SMS OPTIONS:** Our school is now utilizing the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. You can participate in this free service just by sending a text message of “Y” or “Yes” to our school’s short code number, **67587**. You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “Stop”. We recommend saving this short code and Caller ID to the contacts on your phone. This will help prevent any 3rd party call blocking systems from interfering with your receipt of important messages sent by the school or district. SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone. **EVERY number listed in our system will receive a text TODAY, asking you to opt in or opt out.**

**ANNUAL JAZZ NIGHT:** March 27, in the HVMHS Auditorium, starting at 7 p.m.

**WHAT WILL YOU RUN FOR?** An essay contest to create change! There is still time to enter. In a dynamic persuasive essay contest, grades 7-12 students will find a local issue they’re passionate about and imagine running for office (mayor, city council, or state legislature). They will express how they will effect change around their chosen issue -- and share their plan in a 2- to 3-page essay. Get them started by using the no-prep lesson, thought organizer, and essay prompts. **ENTRIES ARE DUE:** March, 29, 2020. [Check it out here](#). Or google “Scholastic civics and ELA create change.”

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH WITH AJ ENCHILL:** Thursday, March 19, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at The Green, 85 Main Street, North Adams. Join them for a workshop with AJ Enchill, District Aid from State Senator Adam Hinds office, to learn about local government, the voting process and how to engage your representatives. This is open to all high school/college age youth. Transportation is available upon request. For more information, contact Carissa at 413-663-7588 or email [csacherski@nbccoalition.org](mailto:csacherski@nbccoalition.org).

**ADULTING 101 - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:** Monday, March 30, from 4 p.m to 6 p.m. at the nbCC conference room at 61 Main St., Rm. 213, North Adams. This is designed specifically for youth transitioning to independent adulthood. Gain a basic understanding of credit and how to build your credit score and learn skills for basic budgeting. It’s being facilitated by a Financial Wellness Coach. Transportation and childcare are available upon request. Light refreshments will be served. To register, contact Stephanie Puc at 413-663-7588 or email [spuc@nbccoalition.org](mailto:spuc@nbccoalition.org).

**MARCH 18 HAS BEEN CHANGED TO A HALF DAY:** Just a reminder that March 18 (formally a full day off for students) has been changed to a half day. Students will be dismissed at 10:40 a.m., and we will run a shortened 7-Period schedule.

**CALENDAR of EVENTS for STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

**March 13 - 14:** OKLAHOMA! Musical, 7 p.m. in the HVHMS Auditorium.
March 18: Half-Day for teacher In-Service. School dismisses at 10:40 a.m.

March 24-25: MCAS Grade 10 ELA -- Please encourage your students to come to school on time and to have a good breakfast (or get a great breakfast here at school).

March 27: SCIENCE Fair, Grade 8 (more information to follow).

March 27: JAZZ Night in the HVMHS auditorium, 7 p.m.


April 10: QUARTER 3 Report Cards Distributed.

THINGS WE WANT YOU TO REMEMBER

DOOR PROJECT/SAFETY-GRANT COMPLETE: Our front door project and the addition of a swipe at the gym entrance is now DONE and operating. What does that mean for you? When you “buzz” into our building, you will be buzzed in a second time, as the doors in that area are now locked. This is an added safety measure for our school. All visitors are still required to enter the Main Hub/Office to get checked in, etc.

MY TEEN IS SELF INJURING. WHAT DO I DO? Your first reaction may be to panic, but we know that isn't the most helpful response. The families for Depression awareness will share strategies and resources so you can learn how to respond calmly and support your teen in getting the help they need. Join them on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 7pm for the FREE live webinar to learn how to

- talk about self-injury in a healthy way
- identify the signs of self-injury and respond in an effective manner
- help teens develop healthy coping skills.

You can sign up by following this link: https://platform.cinchcast.com/ses/54A0KixCtbvNt9czypRQJw~~

KNOW A STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN LITTLE LEAGUE: Families that qualify for reduced lunch, SNAP, or WIC can participate in a program that will pay Little League registration funds. This program is being sponsored by T-Mobile, and you don’t have to be a service provider to qualify. In addition, if the family has already paid their Little League registration fee there is a process to be reimbursed. Visit: https://www.littleleague.org/call-up-grant-program/ for more information.

IMPORTANT REMINDER RE: HANDICAPPED PARKING: We have designated handicapped parking spaces in both parking areas of our school. Folks parking in those areas MUST have a valid handicapped placard. In addition, the driveway between the gyms and the cafeteria is not
a dropoff area. Those handicapped parking areas are being blocked by cars pulling in and out. PLEASE drop your children off at the start of the walkway or in the parent dropoff, which will allow you to follow the natural loop around and out of the parking lot. You will start noticing folks directing traffic in that area.