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Harrisburg School District



Important Dates

January 8
School Board Meeting

January 15
Holiday no school

January 25
End of first semester

January 29
Start of second semester

February 12
School Board Meeting

March 9
Curriculum Day

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THOUGHTS FROM THE Superintendent

I hope all of you had a wonderful time with family and friends during the holidays. The Christmas concert was an excellent way to usher in the season. The light parade was well attended this year with our own marching band leading the way followed by the middle school float. The middle school float won best theme award this year. The high school FFA had a float with reindeer and FFA members on board.

During the December Harrisburg School Board meeting, an official decision to initiate a bond measure on the May 15, 2018 ballot was approved. The Harrisburg School District is proposing a fifteen year general obligation bond of \$1.59 per thousand property value. This bond will renew the existing twenty year bond that will sunset on June of 2019. The total dollar amount is estimated at \$8,943,000. These funds will be primarily directed to the following categories that have outlived their lifespan: Electrical and HVAC systems energy efficient upgrades, roofs, safety and security at each campus. Additionally, each campus needs some more classroom space, and our athletic complex needs upgrades fixing drainage issues with athletic fields and rebuilding the track to meet regulation standards. Finally, our school district storage is limited and needs to be addressed.

The projects will be more defined when we pass the general obligation bond and hire a firm to guide the school district. A list of projects was prioritized during meetings with staff and community members during September and October. The district hired McKinstry to complete a long range facilities plan and facility assessment. This assessment and long range

plan will be used to determine those items that need upgraded because of useful life span limitations. The actual cost of construction and equipment upgrades will determine how many projects we will complete.

A bond Political Action Committee (PAC) is up and running. They meet once a month, are creating flyers and yard sign themes, and determining how best to spread the message that our students and community need a yes vote. If you wish to help out in anyway please contact the chairman, Justin Thomas.

We will have school this year on Presidents day in February. In the past few years we have taken this day off. In order to keep from going further into June and keep with no school on Fridays it was decided to have school on Monday, February 19 this school year.

Strive For Less Than 5 days Absent campaign kicks off second semester in the school district. Attendance continues to be an issue in our school district. Each building principal will recognize those students who have 5 or less days absent during the end of second semester awards assemblies. We are currently seeking sponsors from local businesses for various awards for the students who meet the criteria.

I want to thank the Parents Club who provided the funds for the Physical Education Teacher at the elementary school this year. It takes all of us working together to accomplish our goals for student success. This is a great example of our Vision statement: "Together We Empower Students to Succeed".

School Delays and Closures

We've added a link to the front page of our district website. If you click on the delays and closures in the left hand column, it will take you to an informational page. Here you can sign up for your very own flash alert notification via email or free app on your cell phone.

School Attendance Really Matters

Excerpt from Attendance Works article written in August 2014.

"The growing body of research into school attendance makes two things clear: Students who miss too much school, in excused or unexcused absences, suffer academically. And, schools can predict who these students will be early in the school year. Several studies show that chronic absence—missing 10 percent of school days—in a previous school year is a signal that a student will be chronically absent again the following year. Research now suggests that poor attendance in the first month of class can also predict chronic absence for the school year.

Harrisburg School District is working hard to improve our attendance rates at each grade level. Building principals are providing very nice awards for students who exhibit excellent attendance. Our strategic plan has a goal around attendance: Every student will attend school 95% or more school days. A performance indicator related to this goal is that our students will have no more than 8 absences a year and students will attend school every day during the first month of school. Currently, our baseline data indicates 66% of our students met the two different indicators. We have some more work to do in Harrisburg Schools and parents role in improving school attendance is paramount.



Winter