

February 21, 2024

Update #123 from Dr. Derek Arrowood, Superintendent, Hamilton Heights School Corporation

Tomorrow is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. I want to give a shout to our incredible team of school bus drivers. These unsung heroes are good stewards and advocates who consistently demonstrate their immense value beyond driving the school buses. They serve as a crucial link in the education chain who ensure the safe and reliable transportation of our students. They are a special breed of professionals who positively impact our students and families in far-reaching and amazing ways. Thank you! We appreciate you!

Monday kicks off Public Schools Week. It's a week designated to recognize and celebrate the invaluable role of our nation's public schools. Strong public schools are the foundation of success for young people, the growth of our communities, and instrumental to our country's future. Hamilton Heights, and its community predecessor schools, have been helping to prepare students to go out into the world and make a powerful difference for well over a century. Thanks in part to the caliber of teachers, administrators, staff, involved families, and strong community partners, Heights continues to be a destination of choice for K-12 education.

We invite you to celebrate the many opportunities afforded through our local public schools and engage in activities that will strengthen the business-school connection throughout the year. We welcome and encourage our families and community to be actively engaged in all things Hamilton Heights and stay connected in every way possible including via our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [X](#) where you will always find 'Great Kids Doing Great Things!'

Speaking of being involved, the community is invited to join us at our next Superintendent Advisory Group meeting on Wednesday, February 28 at the HHMS Cafeteria beginning at 6 p.m. These quarterly meetings offer the community an opportunity to meet school personnel and learn about different programs and services that are instrumental in operating a successful public school district. Our featured speaker is our new Food Service Director Kylie Dhonau. She will share an overview of her role and function, how we feed over 2,000 students daily, and some exciting new initiatives that will make our outstanding food service program even better! We look forward to seeing you then. Bring a friend!

Hamilton Heights FFA Chapter wraps up National FFA Week with a community breakfast this Friday, February 23 from 6 to 8 a.m. at the high school (enter through Door N). The breakfast is free and open to the public. Donations welcome. Hamilton Heights' highly respected agriculture program and involvement in FFA continues to help students develop their potential for leadership, explore their interests, and take advantage of a broad range of career pathways in agricultural. Emilie Carson, Agriculture Educator and FFA Chapter Advisor, has been at the helm of the program growing it in size and scope since 2016.

On a side note, we have four Flex Days built into our calendar to make up for weather-related school closures this year. We have used two and the remaining two are the first two days of our Spring Break (March 25 and 26). While I am hopeful that the worst of the winter weather is behind us, sometimes Mother Nature has a mind of her own. Should we have a weather-related school closure that could require the use of a Flex Day, our plan right now is to instead utilize a Synchronous E-Learning Day since these have proven to be a successful option here. Stay tuned and in the meantime, hope for sunny skies!

Thank you for your commitment to all that is public education and belief in the future of our students.  
#PublicSchoolProud #WeAreHuskies