



HPS District Compass

MINUTE

A MINUTE TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE **Hull Public Schools**

Quarterly Newsletter

VOLUME 2/ISSUE 1
November 2023

Dates to Remember

February

- 19 Presidents' Day - No School
- 19-23 February Break
- 26 School Committee Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 28 Jacobs Early Release - Teacher Collaboration - 12:15 pm

March

- 6 Early Release - Professional Development
- 11 School Committee Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 13 MMS Family Band Night - 5:30 pm
- 21 90 Minute Early Release - Jacobs Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 25 School Committee Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 27 Jacobs Early Release - Teacher Collaboration - 12:15 pm
- 29 Good Friday - No School



Hull Pirate Pride - Together We Make A Difference

I hope you and your family are enjoying this vacation week. School vacations are always a great opportunity for quality family time, participating in engaging activities with your children, and a well-deserved break for everyone. When we return from February vacation, there will be four months left of school, marking the home stretch for this academic year. During this time, the leadership team is dedicated to continued planning and implementation of phase two of our reconfiguration initiative. Here are some updates on the progress:

Positive Meeting with Grade 7 & 8 Parents:

On January 9, we held a productive meeting with almost 60 grade 7 & 8 parents. The purpose was to share the exciting plans for phase two, and we were thrilled to have such strong attendance.

Spring Community Meetings with Grade 7 & 8 Students:

We are in the process of scheduling spring community meetings with grade 7 & 8 students during the school day. The Hull High School Principal and Assistant Principal will facilitate these meetings to help prepare our students for their transition to Hull High School.

Finalization of Schedules:

The master schedules for grade 8 and grades 6 & 7 are being finalized to ensure an engaging schedule for students.

Support for Teachers:

We are actively planning support measures for teachers who will be moving to new classrooms or buildings. Our goal is to make this transition as seamless as possible.

Continued on Page 2



.....Continued from Page 1

Intermediate Assistant Principal (4-7):



After an extensive selection process and great consideration, Jessica Scott was selected as the Intermediate Assistant Principal of the Jacobs School.

Principal Shaw said “Jessica emerged as the top candidate following a thorough screening, including several individual conversations with candidates both in person and on the phone, two rounds of interviews, and thorough reference checks of all finalists. I decided, with great confidence, that Jessica was the candidate to best move our school forward.”

Facility Updates:

Some high school rooms received a fresh coat of paint over the winter break, and more painting and room preparations are scheduled for February vacation and during the spring to enhance the learning environment.

Changes to Jacobs School Start Time:

We anticipate that the Jacobs School will start 20 minutes earlier for the 2024 - 2025 school year. One reason for this adjustment aims to support students getting dismissed earlier to access appointments and after-school activities, as well as narrowing the time between two schools with the closing of the middle school.

Closing Event for Memorial Middle School:

In the spring, we plan to organize a special event to acknowledge the closing of Memorial Middle School. This event will provide an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the rich history of Memorial Middle School.

I appreciate your continued support and involvement in our school community. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out. Wishing you a restful and enjoyable February vacation!

– Judy Kuehn



Safety Notice:

Door Security Enhancement

We have recently implemented a safety enhancement in our schools. You will now find a sign posted on each entry door, serving as a reminder for visitors not to hold doors open for individuals entering behind them. This measure is in place to ensure the security and safety of everyone within our school.

Your cooperation in adhering to this guideline is crucial for maintaining a secure environment for all. If you have any questions or concerns about our safety protocols, feel free to reach out to our School Resource Officer, Jake Mahoney. Thank you for your understanding and commitment to the safety of our school community.



District Calendar of School Events

Each school calendar has been linked to the District Event Calendar, located on the District Homepage of the HPS school website, to streamline communication of school events for families. Continue to check your students school calendar for school specific information.

[Link to District Calendar of Events](#)

Hull High School Theatre Updates

We recently completed an upgrade to the audio video capabilities in the high school auditorium. Upgrades include a new digital mixing console, audio processor, wireless microphones, full range loudspeakers and subwoofers, an assisted listening system, and a new video system, including a video switcher and wall mounted video projector. These upgrades will enhance the experience for theatre productions, assemblies, and meetings. Future upgrades will be made to the lighting in the auditorium.



Repair of Chromebooks

Loss, theft or damage of your child's device must be reported to the school secretary by the next school day after the occurrence. If the device is a Chromebook, it will have been purchased by the District and carries a one-year HP warranty for protection to malfunction. The HP warranty does not cover a Chromebook if it is lost, stolen, or damaged due to neglect. A cracked case, screen or broken hinge will not be covered under the HP warranty and is considered neglect.

If your child's Chromebook is in need of repair, the Hull Public Schools technology department will evaluate your child's Chromebook and determine if the repair is covered under the warranty or if you will be responsible for the repair. An alternate Chromebook is provided to students during this repair period. If there is a cost to your child's Chromebook repair you will receive a bill. Please provide payment to your child's school secretary.

Your cooperation in promptly reporting incidents and adhering to the repair process is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact your child's principal or the technology department for assistance.

"War Brides"

will be performed
at Hull High School
on March 1 at 7 p.m.,
and Marshfield High School on
March 2 at 4:30 p.m.

Both performances are open to the public, but the material contains mature themes not suitable for all ages. Please email eodonnell2@town.hull.ma.us with any questions.





INTERFACE

Hull Public Schools has partnered with William James College to bring INTERFACE, a free outpatient mental health referral service program, to students in the district and all Hull residents. The program is designed to easily connect students and residents with outpatient mental health and wellness resources and providers.

Students and residents who choose to take advantage of the program will go through the following process:

- **Intake:** Participants will speak with an INTERFACE resource and referral counselor for 15-20 minutes and provide important information to ensure a successful match with outpatient mental health provider options.
- **Making a match:** A resource and referral counselor assigned to the participant will review a database of over 9,000 licensed and vetted providers to find a match. INTERFACE strives to match participants with mental health professionals and practices that best meet their needs, insurance or fee requirement, specialty request, location, availability and more.
- **Providing matches:** Once a provider match has been identified (generally within 3 weeks of the initial call), the resource and referral counselor will give participants the provider's information so they can schedule with this provider.
- **Following up:** The resource and referral counselor will follow up within one to two weeks of participants receiving the match to ensure they've been able to connect.
- **Closing a referral:** Once there is a successful match, the resource and referral counselor will close the referral process. If participants need additional support in the future, they can always call the helpline again.

The service is available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m and Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. To access the service, which began Feb. 1, call 888-244-6843. The Helpline is staffed by mental health professionals.

Funding for this initiative was provided to Hull by a Supporting Students' Social Emotional Learning, Behavioral and Mental Health and Wellness grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Click [here](#) to view a helpful flyer to learn more about the program.

Please note that the referral service is not a mental health hotline. In case of an emergency, dial 911.



**We're here to help!
Here's how:**

FUEL ASSISTANCE

The fuel assistance program helps eligible low income households with their heating bills in the winter. We assist with oil, kerosene, propane, gas, electric, or wood/pellets. For information about the fuel assistance program or to apply call us at 508-746-6707 or go to our website www.SSCAC.org.

WEATHERIZATION

Is your home cold and drafty in the winter and hot in the summer?
Want to save \$\$ on your electric bills?
To see if you qualify for this **FREE** program call the Energy Conservation Dept. (508) 747-7575 x6221.

HEATING SYSTEM REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT

Does your heating system need to be repaired or replaced?

# of household members	Yearly household gross income limit
1	\$45,392
2	\$59,359
3	\$73,326
4	\$87,294
*	Call for limits for larger households, income levels change annually





Community Resources

Wellspring Food Pantry

Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Please contact Anne Stenfors, at astenfors@wellspringmultiservices.org or 781-925-3211 ext. 122 to schedule a personal shopping time.

Fuel Assistance

As the winter months approach, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Gerbis at 781-925-3211 ext. 127 or jenny@wellspringmultiservice.org for more information regarding fuel assistance and support to complete an application.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Should any family require information or assistance to complete an application for SNAP, please contact Jenny Gerbis at 781-925-3211 ext. 127 or jenny@wellspringmultiservice.org.

Flu Shots are available in all schools

See your school nurse to receive your flu shot.



Attention MassHealth Families



You need to renew your coverage this year.

All MassHealth members will need to be renewed this year, including children.

Your child may still be eligible for MassHealth coverage even if the adults in your household may not be.

Take three steps to renew your coverage:

1. Call to update your contact info
2. Check your mail
3. Respond to MassHealth

Take steps now to make sure your family stays covered.

Call (800) 841-2900 (TDD/TTY: 711), visit www.masshealthrenew.org or scan the code to learn more about what steps you need to take.

If you or your family have recently lost MassHealth coverage, contact us! Call us within 90 days and your coverage may be reinstated without a new application.

Act now. Stay covered.



masshealthrenew.org
(800) 841-2900 (TDD/TTY: 711)



Click picture to view flyer

MassHealth reminder: On April 1, 2023, MassHealth, the state's Medicaid program, began redetermining the status of all 2.3 million members.

1. Does your child have MassHealth? If so, listen up! You may need to take action to keep your child covered. Learn more at www.mass.gov/masshealthrenew

2. Are you a MassHealth member? MassHealth needs to renew all of their members! Don't wait – update! Make sure MassHealth has your current contact information by calling 1-800-841-2900.

3. Attention MassHealth members! You will need to renew your coverage this year. Here's how you can stay covered:

- Update your contact info
- Check your mail
- Respond to MassHealth

Find more information here:

www.mass.gov/masshealthrenew



4. Lost your MassHealth coverage? Reapply now by calling MassHealth customer service at 1-800-841-2900 or going online to www.mahix.org/individual/

Chronic Absenteeism

In Massachusetts, chronic absenteeism is defined as missing at least 10 percent of enrolled days, equivalent to 18 days for a standard school year of 180 days, regardless of the reason for the absence. Being chronically absent can significantly impact a student's academic progress and their ability to access the diverse range of academic and non-academic supports that schools offer.

The prevalence of chronic absenteeism increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and, as of the 2022-23 school year, had not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Alarming, almost 1 in 4 Massachusetts students missed 18 or more days of school during the 2022-23 academic year.

These statistics underscore the importance of addressing chronic absenteeism to ensure the well-being and academic success of our students. As part of the district's initiatives, we are actively working with families to assist those with children that are chronically absent. If you have concerns or questions regarding attendance, please reach out to your child's principal for assistance. We appreciate your collaboration in promoting consistent student attendance and engagement in the learning process.

Snack Reminder

All students are eligible to receive one FREE full breakfast and one FREE full lunch every school day. **However, snacks and any a la carte items will be charged to your students account.**

This includes milk, juice, water, a second full meal, a slice of pizza, etc.

- Although we will accept cash & checks at the registers, we strongly encourage families to pay on-line
- By setting up a MySchoolBucks account, parents and students can monitor their accounts.
- You can set up low balance alerts or monitor what's being charged to the students account
- All students MUST have an account set up at www.myschoolbucks.com to pay on-line
- Once a student's account shows as negative, an email reminder will be generated

Please contact Patty Gardiner
781-925-4400 x1112 or by email
pgardiner@town.hull.ma.us if you need your students ID, you do not want your student purchasing extra items or need further assistance.



STRETCH your food budget



The Stretch Your Food Budget (SYFB) program is a service project of the Nantasket-Hull Rotary. Its goal is to help Hull citizens stretch their food dollars by enjoying free, nutritious, delicious dinners packaged in easy-to-prepare kits. The meal kits contain all the necessary ingredients for the recipe, along with simple directions. The prepared dinners provide 4-6 servings—enough to feed a family! [Click here](#) for more information.