

# NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

From the Superintendent's desk:

This past week I was trying to think of the year when we had two different snowfalls of at least 3+ inches in the month of October. My memory isn't as good as it once was, but I know it's been a few years since it's snowed twice in October. I sure hope this is not a sign of things to come because I'm not a big fan of winter! As we transition from fall to the winter season, I want to remind you, that we will again be utilizing the Connect 5 communication system for weather related postponements and cancelations. We had a 10:00 a.m. late start on Monday, October 26, hopefully you all received your communication from the school. I know many of you rely on this communication (text message & email), but please do not rely solely on the Connect 5 communication system. This week I received an email asking if I would add a radio station to my list that I call informing them of a late start or cancelation. Most of the radio stations I call or complete information on-line are lumped together through a large company or system where they get information for school closing or late starts. I have listed the radio and television stations below that I typically contact, hopefully one of them is one you listen to for school related announcements. Most of you are familiar with our Connect 5 system, if you aren't, at the beginning of the school year, a Connect 5 form was included in your packet for you to update phone numbers and e-mail addresses. This form needs to be turned in to the office so we can input your cell/home phone number into the system. If you are not receiving our school messages, please contact Amanda Veik and we will get a form to you or take your information over the phone. The decision to cancel school or go with a 10:00 a.m. late start is a difficult decision at times because our Nebraska weather changes quickly, and at the most inopportune time, such as when buses are in the middle of their routes. Please know that I will base every school/weather related decision on the safety of our students. Regardless of the decision I make, you as parents must make the FINAL decision, to either send them or keep them at home, this is your decision to make! If you decide to send them, make sure students understand the same thing I tell the bus drivers which is, leave early, slow down, take your time, and if you're late, that is fine, because I want everyone to arrive safely. In most cases, I will try to make weather related decisions by 6:15 a.m. but sometimes it is later. When conditions warrant, I will announce the night before, so parents have an opportunity to make necessary arrangements. The radio stations I call are as follows; KEXL 106.7 FM, WJAG 78 AM, KZ 100 FM, KKOT 93.5 The Hawk FM, KLIR 101.1 FM, KJSK 900 AM, KTTT 1510 AM, KNEN 94.7 FM and US 92 FM. The following TV stations will also carry the announcements: KOLN/KGIN TV Channel 10/11 in Lincoln and WOW-TV Channel 6 in Omaha

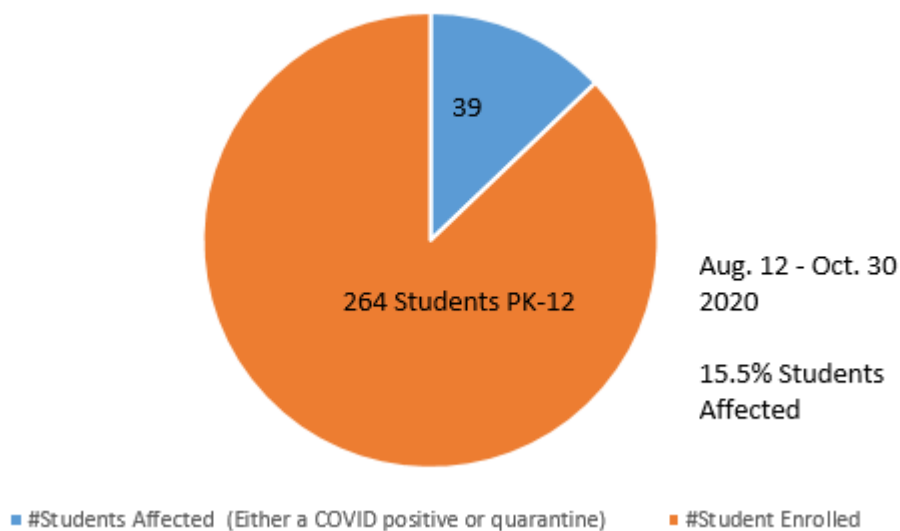
About two weeks ago, I shared a message that Mr. Osborn, our grades 7-12 Science teacher had resigned his teaching position for health-related reasons. Mr. King and I tried to fill the position, but were unable to find a science teacher that wanted to take the position in the middle of a semester and during COVID-19. Mr. Osborn contacted us several days later after hearing we were unable to fill the position. Fortunately, we were able to work out a solution that brought Mr. Osborn back to Humphrey Public. The plan is for Mr. Osborn to teach periods 2-7, have his Chemistry class join the other Chemistry class taught by Mrs. Lovercheck and change his prep period. This shortened schedule will allow him to address some of his health issues and

concerns while still teaching our students. First and foremost, we want Mr. Osborn healthy and able to enjoy life without worrying about some of the health issues he is dealing with currently. Secondly, we want him teaching our students because in a very short time, he has established quality professional relationships with students and is providing high-quality education. Both Mr. King and I are very happy to have Mr. Osborn back at Humphrey Public School. I do want to thank our parents and students for your patience during this time, I also know this shortened schedule has caused some students to change their schedules. It remains our goal for the 2021-2022 school year that we employ a full-time science teacher and hopefully with continued good health, Mr. Osborn is able to continue teaching.

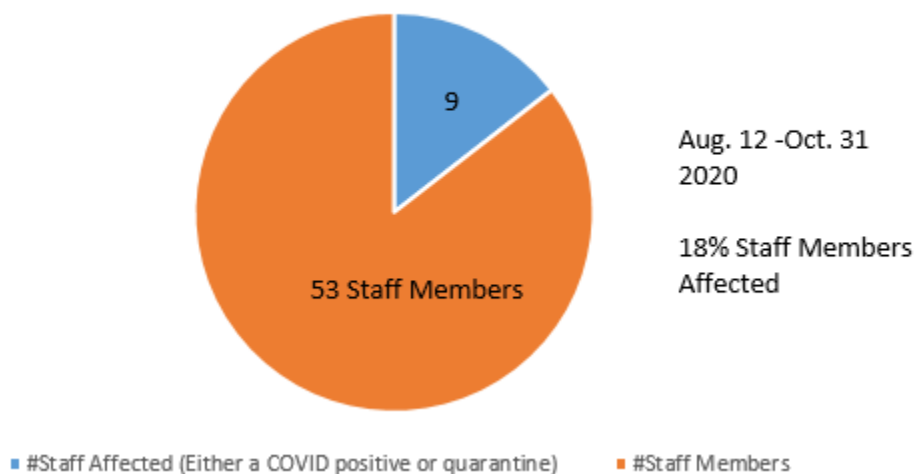
As most of you know, Humphrey Public School and Lindsay Holy Family, together in our sports cooperative, will be participating in the school's first ever HLHF Bowling team. I am super excited about this new opportunity for our students in grades 9-12. To be clear, we have had very successful bowling teams that have accomplished great things in past years. The difference this year is our students will have the opportunity to compete for a NSAA State Championship. I want to thank Mr. Nathan Stone who has agreed to be our Bowling coach. I met with Mr. Stone in October to discuss this position and I believe he will do a great job teaching bowling and providing positive leadership for our students. We will have a separate girls and boys' team; they will practice at the Humphrey bowling alley. If you have any questions about Bowling, feel free to talk with Mrs. Hanzel or myself.

The last topic I want to discuss is an obvious one and that is COVID-19. The school has put together some data below that illustrates the importance of wearing a mask while in school and during activities. When we started the school year, there was some doubt about getting through the first quarter of school. To the credit of our school board, our staff, students and parents, we developed a plan and implemented protocols to mitigate COVID-19 risks. With the cooperation of everyone involved, we have been able to navigate our way through the months of August, September, and October without having to shut down for COVID-19. The pandemic continues to be of high concern because of the increased number of positive cases in Platte County. The East Central District Health department provides weekly data for school administrators and we use their data to help make decisions. We do not base school decisions solely on the risk dial at ECHD, but it is one important piece of data we look at and review. The other factors that are reviewed include the number of COVID-19 cases within the school district and county as well as health-related information from the Nebraska Department of Education and the state. Some protocols that we have in place include hand-washing, required masks in ALL classes for staff and students, as well as all activities within the school. We will continue to keep these protocols in place today and in the future because they have worked to date. I also want to thank our teachers, staff members and students for their hard work during this pandemic. The changes and the protocols that have been supported and followed have been challenging, but they have met those challenges amazingly. Mr. King, Mrs. Hanzel, and I will be working on the "Winter Activities Protocols" this week and will share those protocols out as soon as they are completed.

### HPS & LAC Student COVID Data

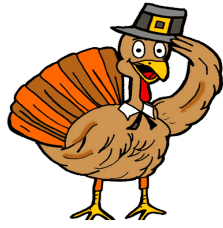


### HPS & LAC Staff COVID Data



I want to end my newsletter as I always do by saying, should you ever have any questions, please call, or stop by in person and get the answers. This will help curb any misinformation and eliminate rumors and concerns. Clear and open communication between the community and the school are vital areas in the success of Humphrey Public School. Have a great November and a Happy Thanksgiving!

Mr. Sjuts



Greetings from the School Counselor,

Harvest is off and running and so are our students. Continue to check with teachers about the homework and projects you need to complete if you are out of the building. I, too, am frequently out of the building. If you need my assistance and I am absent, please, feel free to email me, leave me notes, or communicate to me in any way that you can what it is that I can assist you all with. As always, please contact me if there is anything at all that I can do to help you.

Elementary in review: October is bullying prevention month along with Red Ribbon Week. We have spent the past month talking about ways to show kindness to others. Please, continue to have these conversations at home as well. This transitioned to being kind to ourselves and taking care of our bodies. We also spoke about good drugs (such as medicine) and the bad drugs (illegal drugs). If your child has come home and told you to “quit drinking”, please know, we talked about the use of legal drugs in moderation and how our parents can make grown up decisions. I do apologize if you’re feeling some peer pressure, though. ☺ We finished October with drug awareness activities to hang around school.

We have had limited instances of bullying currently this school year. We are hopeful that is because it is not happening and not because we do not know about it. Therefore, we ask if it is occurring to please communicate with us. We cannot help if we do not know. We ask that at home you are speaking about the importance of bully free schools. I encourage students to stand up to those who are bullying, support those who have been bullied, and do their best to never become a bully. If you are aware of bullying instances, please, talk to someone. We want our learning environment to be safe and effective for all of our students.

As we move into November, we will be working with personal hygiene, positive classroom behavior, being a good friend, giving compliments, and being thankful. This leads into our Holiday Season and I want to wish all our Bulldog families a truly blessed one.

Junior High:

1. Now is the time to remember that our GPA matters a great deal in our future. Continue to work hard for your grades, ask for help if you do not understand, and stay caught up on all of your work despite all other activities.
2. I also encourage you to begin joining the different clubs and organizations that Humphrey Public Schools offers for instance FCCLA/FFA/HOSA, athletic teams, speech and play production, and attending school events (when possible) to show and build your school spirit.
3. It is also never too early to start saving up for college or your future. This means the money for tuition, books, room and board, and especially spending money while you are at college. It also may be helpful when purchasing a vehicle or other necessity items upon

graduation if you choose a different path than college. Keep thinking about what you would like to do in your future career and the steps it will take to get there. Remember, I am always here to help.

9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Grade:

1. Continue to try your very best in your classes and completing class work. Your GPA has a direct effect on the amount of assistance you have for college, where you will be able to go to college, and even getting into college. If you work hard now, it will pay off in the future. Colleges are starting to pay more attention to your GPA than ACT score. Make this a benefit for you by completing all work at a high level.
2. Continue to be or get involved within the school. It helps to build well-rounded individuals and looks wonderful on resumes too. Start saving up money for college and your future.
3. Check your school emails. I communicate through here frequently. There are some opportunities for under classmen to attend. I will email out many of these opportunities! Also, pay attention to posters outside of my office. They also have helpful information posted.

11<sup>th</sup> Grade:

1. As with the other classes, continue to work hard on your grades and activities you are involved in. It will pay off in the future.
2. I encourage you all to start talking about college more frequently. Talk to your parents about plans for paying for college. Then, keep that in mind as you research colleges. Now is the perfect time to visit colleges and find the best fit for you. You are allowed to go on college visits with parent permission. If you need help setting that up, please, let me know.
3. Another good idea is job shadowing. This helps you to figure out if a career is a good fit for you or not. Due to COVID, the opportunities to job shadow are limited. Virtual options have been made available and can be a good option for now. Don't just wait for COVID to go away before shadowing, take a look at the various options now so you stay on track with planning your future.
4. I also encourage you to meet with the college representatives that visit school (virtually and when possible, in person). If you are for sure the college is not a fit, please stay in class. However, if it is a college you have thought about, please visit with them. It is a quick and efficient way to see if a college may be right for you.
5. It is never a bad idea to take the ACT. You can register at: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) In preparation for the ACT, you all have access to your On To College accounts. There are many courses within there that help prepare you for numerous assessments, but is proven to be beneficial for the ACT.

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade students:

1. I have created On to College (John Baylor) ACT Test Prep accounts for you as well as ACT Online prep through the act web page. John Baylor can be accessed at [www.ontocollege.com](http://www.ontocollege.com) and online prep can be accessed at [www.onlineprep.act.org](http://www.onlineprep.act.org). Both of these are free for you to use to study for the ACT. Your username is your school email and your password is your first name capitalized plus the year you graduate. For instance:

[johnbaylor@humphrey.esu7.org](mailto:johnbaylor@humphrey.esu7.org) is the username and John2018 would be the password. Please, come see me if you have issues with either account.

2. On to College Prep, which uses John Baylor, will be implemented during the 11<sup>th</sup> grade Careers course in the second semester. This is to help with the State ACT Test all juniors will complete. With the correct use of these resources, ACT scores typically show a growth of 2-3 points. If you would like to register for an act visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) to register. If you qualify for free/reduced priced lunches, please see me for a test fee waiver.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:

1. Continue working on maintaining high grades. Research has shown one of the biggest indicators for a successful college student is a student who has continued to maintain a high GPA while in high school. The high GPA can help to offset ACT scores that might not be as high as we would like. Further, many colleges are accepting GPAs in place of ACT scores for scholarship and admittance.
2. On the note of ACT scores, the last test date typically accepted by colleges for scholarships is the December 12<sup>th</sup> date. Some schools are willing to accept the February test date, but that is not guaranteed. You may register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). Always pay attention to registration deadlines that are posted outside of my office and on posters throughout the school.
3. Continue to visit colleges. Find the right fit for you. Consider the location, cost, and degree options. If you would like help researching the college, please, see me and we can do that. Currently, there are tons of virtual options for visiting campuses. If unable to get on campus, please use this as a great alternative!
4. Complete the FAFSA. By completing the FAFSA early, it allows for more scholarships and schools to have that information earlier which speeds up the process on deciding which college will be the right fit for you. I am available to help with this process, but pieces of it require your parents.

As always, if there is anything that I can do to help in any of these processes, please, let me know. You may contact me in person, through phone, email, notes, etc. Whichever works for you, I will make it work for me.

It is a great day to be a Bulldog!

Cami Oelsligle  
K-12 School Counselor  
[camio@humphrey.esu7.org](mailto:camio@humphrey.esu7.org)

# JUNIOR HIGH ENGLISH AND LIBRARY NEWS

MRS. KIM BENDER

## English 7

Second period begins with English 7 and nineteen eager learners! This year will be filled with the reading of several novels, the learning, defining and applying of literary devices as well as a study of grammar. Students also have weekly tasks, which include three new vocabulary words, using these words in a sentence, writing answers in complete sentences, inferences, silent reading and 25 ixl problems. Even though this makes for a busy fifty minutes, the students rise to the challenge each day and the period seems to go quickly. We just finished reading the novel, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963* and applying literary devices to the reading. This historical fiction will also be used as a springboard in learning about the 1960s and the Civil Rights Movement.

## English 8

The eighth grade English students now meet either third or fourth period! What a great group of English scholars! This year we continue with weekly vocabulary with sentences due every Wednesday and a quiz every Friday as well as learning daily doses of silent reading while we explore the joy of reading for pleasure. We are currently working on our short story unit learning and applying literary terms and devices. We are exploring the big ideas and themes of these stories as well as making inferences and supporting all of our work with evidence from the text. We will also be doing some in depth grammar and writing as well!



## BOOKS AS GIFTS

As the holidays approach, our minds and thoughts begin to swirl like the falling leaves—what should I get my loved ones? When creating your lists **PLEASE** remember the gift of books!

Research shows that regular reading improves brain connectivity, increases vocabulary and comprehension, empowers the reader to empathize, aides in sleep readiness, reduces stress, lowers blood pressure and heart rate, fights symptoms of depression, and prevents cognitive decline as one ages. Wow, that's a lot of benefits!

Old or young, regardless of size, the gift of reading is one that always fits!

Happy holidays and happy reading!




# Humphrey Public School

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 *FFA Member Mtg 7:30am *One Act Practice 6:30pm *Booster Club/Post Prom 7:00pm	3	4 *FFA Meeting 7:30am	5	6	7
				STATE VOLLEYBALL		
8	9 *One Act Practice 6:30pm *School Board Mtg 7:30pm	10 *One Act Festival @ St. Francis	11 Veterans Day 	12	13	14
15	16 *HS Winter Practice Begins * JH G BB @ Battle Creek *One Act Practice 6:30pm	17 *EHC One Act	18 1:00pm Student Dismissal No Preschool Teacher In-Service	19	20	21 *JH G BB Tourney @ HHS
22	23 *One Act Practice 6:30pm	24	25 1:00pm Dismissal No Preschool	26  NO SCHOOL	27 Thanksgiving Break	28
29	30 * JH G BB @ Twin River (Monroe) *One Act Practice 6:30pm	<p>Activities are subject to change due to unforeseen scheduling conflicts, etc. Please watch the daily bulletin for the most up to date information. Thank You!</p> <p><a href="http://www.humphreybulldogs.org">www.humphreybulldogs.org</a></p> 				



# November



MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
<b>2</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Beef & Noodle Casserole Corn Apple Dinner Bun	<b>3</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Chicken Sandwich Tater Tots Peaches	<b>4</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Ham & Scalloped Potatoes Broccoli or Green Beans Pears Dinner Bun	<b>5</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Chicken Wrap California Blend Pineapple	<b>6</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Fiestada Lettuce & Corn Applesauce Cookie
<b>9</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Beef & Bean Burrito Spanish Rice Refried Beans Pineapple	<b>10</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Peaches Dinner Bun	<b>11</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Hamburger on a Bun French Fries Strawberries Berry Blue Jello	<b>12</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Pork Patty on a Bun Green Beans Mandarin Oranges	<b>13</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Chicken Nuggets Corn Star Apple Dinner Bun
<b>16</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Taco in a Bag Celery & Carrot Sticks Pears	<b>17</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Turkey Dinner Trimmings Pumpkin Dessert	<b>18</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Hot Dog on a Bun Baked Beans Chips Applesauce	<b>19</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Spaghetti with White Sauce Green Beans Peaches Bread Stick	<b>20</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Pizza Lettuce Corn Banana
<b>23</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Chicken Fajita over Rice/ Noodles Broccoli or Corn Orange Dinner Bun	<b>24</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Steamed Peas Pears	<b>25</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Nachos & Trimmings Corn Lettuce Peaches	<b>26</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> 	<b>27</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>30</b> Hot Sandwich/Cold Cereal ~~~~~ Chinese over Rice Broccoli Pineapple Fortune Cookie	Menus subject to change. Choice of hot breakfast sandwich,, milk, water and juice offered daily for breakfast. Choice of cold sandwich, milk, water and salad bar offered daily for lunch. <i>Lunch alternate must be requested by 9:00 am.</i> USDA is an equal opportunity provider & employer.			