

PUMA Team,



Welcome to the 2014-15 school year! What a fantastic beginning it has been for all of the PUMAS. The Back-to-School Picnic was a wonderful evening! I enjoyed meeting new students and families, as well as welcoming back returning students. Many thanks go out to the Student Council, cafeteria workers, and staff who made the evening a fun occasion.

I would like to welcome four new staff members to HPSA – Stan Whipkey, Erin White, Evelyn Wingate, and Doug Goodwin – all veteran educators. I am thrilled they are part of our team and I am very excited to have them enrich our school with their varied experiences.

Congratulations to all the students who attended Helfrich Park last year on their ISTEP scores. As a school, the numbers are as follows: 86.2% passed the math portion and 78.5% passed the ELA portion. Grade level breakdowns are as follows: Math – 88% for 6th grade, 88% for 7th grade, and 83% for 8th grade; ELA – 75% for 6th grade, 85% for 7th grade, and 76% for 8th grade; Science – 76.3% for 6th grade; and Social Studies – 78.7% for 6th grade. Many students, obviously, did well, but I would like to recognize a few students for their outstanding scores. In 6th grade: Tensei Nakamura and Lela Curtis earned perfect scores in math. In ELA, Victoria Garland earned the highest score. In 7th grade: Elyse Talley had a perfect score in math and a perfect score in the Algebra ECA exam! WOW! Danielle Canary scored highest in ELA and Elyse scored the highest in Social Studies, as well. Last year's 8th grade high scores were by Gracie Peckenpugh with a 756 in ELA and Brandon Herr with a 780 in math. Kudos to these students and all the kids for doing their best! Thank you for your hard work all year!

The students have received some treats during lunch the past three weeks for their 99.3% attendance rate and positive leadership efforts. They have been rewarded, also, with popsicles during lunch for their excellent citizenship and manners. Tremendous work students! On August 22, we had our first Fun Night and I

believe the kids enjoyed themselves by socializing, dancing, or playing basketball.

Parents, thank you for your support and commitment to your children and to Helfrich Park STEM Academy. It is certainly an honor to work with such fine children, families, and staff!

Mac

CITIZENS OF THE WEEK

6TH GRADE: Justice Hargrove, Brady Johnson, Conner Alford, Elise Umbach, Kylee Wilson, David Minton, Matthew Robey, Abigayle Snyder, Claire Whitehouse

7TH GRADE: Amanda Mueth, Kyle Hartmann, Ryan McClellan, Victoria Garland, Candace Sachs, Tessa Offutt, Joe Durham, Eric Dietsch

8TH GRADE: Claire Strueh, Trey Flax, A'Mari'Yea Hayden, Geovanni Norman, Emily Scott, Snow Mathews, Jalen Head



CONGRATULATIONS, MR. MAC

Mr. McIntosh was named "Educator of the Year" at Peabody Energy's Leaders in Education awards dinner this past Saturday at the Evansville Country Club. Mr. McIntosh was selected from 30 outstanding educators for this award. What an honor for his leadership, commitment, and inspiring work at Helfrich Park STEM Academy! **CONGRATULATIONS, MR. MCINTOSH!!!**

MESSAGE FROM MR. SCHERRY, ASST. PRINCIPAL

How great it is to have the kids and the teachers back in the building for this school year. Things are off to a great start with student dress and behavior. Please take time to make sure your children are “Dressed for Success” when they leave for school. Short pants need to be a length which reaches past the student’s fingertips. If in doubt, go long.

COUNSELOR’S CORNER

Students and Parents – At Helfrich Park, we feel academic performance and success is directly related to attendance in school. A conference will be held with Mr. Connors for students and parents, if a student misses 10 days of school for any reason. Set a personal goal for yourself that you will be at school every day. Make this a great school year by helping reach our school goal of 99% attendance.



NEW FACES AROUND SCHOOL

Helfrich Park welcomes four new teachers this year. Let’s give them a warm, Westside welcome!

Evelyn Wingate – I teach 8th grade at Helfrich Park. This is my 25th year of teaching middle school. I moved this summer with my family to Evansville. We lived in Cincinnati, Ohio for the last 9 years. I have two wonderful children, Reese (20, attending Miami University of Ohio) and Emma (10, attending Highland Elementary). My husband and I bought a fixer-upper and have been working hard on getting that finished ...almost done! I am happy to be a part of the HPSA team. I am looking forward to working with all the staff and students.

Mr. Stan Whipkey – I teach 7/8th grade social studies. I have been teaching for 27 years; this is my first year at Helfrich Park. I was born and raised in southern Illinois and graduated

from Indiana State University with a B.S. in Secondary Education, Masters in Higher Education Administration and Management. I will be coaching Reserve Boys Basketball and Boys Track this year. I live with my wife of 36 years, Ruth Ann, and Sugar Bear, my three-year-old shih-poo dog. I have two children, Elizabeth, age 29, who lives in Holland and Evan, age 25, who lives in Boulder, Co.

Erin White – I am teaching 8th grade English and German. I graduated from Indiana University and received my Master’s degree from University of Southern Indiana in Education and English. I have been married 6 years and have an 11 year old step-daughter and 5 month old daughter. I am a transplant to Evansville from Seymour, Indiana and love living here!

Doug Goodwin – I am currently serving as the Band director at Helfrich Park STEM Academy in the historic Westside of Evansville. Before arriving in 2014, I established a fine reputation as an educator, marching band show designer, clinician, and judge throughout the United States. Originally from Anderson, I received my Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Ball State University and my Master’s degree from the American Band College of Sam Houston State University. My wife, Lydia, and I live in Evansville with our daughter Magnolia.

6TH GRADE STARS



In science, the 6th graders are off to a great start! The 6th grade is learning there are three major divisions of science: life, earth, and physical. Each division of science has a lot of sub-categories. They are also learning the scientific method. The scientific method is the step-by-step process of conducting a science experiment. Soon, students will soar out to space and study the solar system in depth.

Some of the sixth grade recently took a trip to USI where they were instructed by a college professor and had the opportunity to experience science with a hands-on lab. All

6th graders will get the opportunity to go to USI for a science lab at some point during the school year.

Math students are off and running this year! They have already learned about adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with decimal numbers and students have taken their first test. Decimals are part of the “real world,” and we have put extra focus on ways they are used every day. During the next unit, students will be learning some neat divisibility tricks, as well as ratios and rates in the “real world.” Advanced and Honors classes will be working on ratios, rates, and unit rates, as well as fractions, decimals, and percents. All sixth grade math students have homework at least four times a week. Please go over your child’s homework with him/her to be sure it is completed each night. If we work together, we can help ensure that the sixth grade year will be a successful one for your Helfrich Park child!

Students have been busy in Mrs. Burkhart's English class. Students have been reading several fiction and nonfiction literature pieces. The fiction literature was used to learn about the elements of plot. Students are able to recognize various types of genres. They enjoyed learning about the traits of writing and finishing their first narrative writing assignment. The students’ stories were fantastic! One of the goals is to incorporate new vocabulary words into their writing, which the students are doing very well. The grammar focus has been to learn about nouns, pronouns, and verbs. Mrs. Alford’s and Mrs. Brown’s STARS are off to a great start! Language arts classes have been focusing on the traits of good writing including ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. A review of parts of speech has also been introduced. In literature, students are reviewing the elements of fiction, plot diagrams, and identifying points of view. In English, Mr. Kahle’s classes have been reviewing parts of speech and began working with specific types of nouns. They have also been examining the writing process. In literature his students started the year by

looking at elements of fiction, as well as the different types. Students have been applying these skills to the stories *Greyling* and *Stray*.

Geography has been the focus in the social studies classes. A note about organization: it is very important that papers, folders, books, and other supplies are kept organized. Students must keep papers separated by subject in the correct folders and arrive to class prepared.

7TH GRADE M&MS



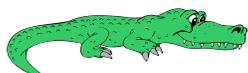
Mrs. McDurmon, Mrs. Todd, and Mr. Hartmann want to thank the Helfrich Park families for a great start to seventh grade math. We met many wonderful students and parents at the annual Back-to-School night. An initial placement test has been given to determine strengths and weaknesses. Students are currently working on integer addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Exponents and factors are just on the horizon. As always, we continue to encourage daily homework and practice to develop mathematical skills.

Seventh grade social studies will start their “Beginning Geography” unit. This unit will cover maps and globes, world climate zones, natural resources, oceans and continents, and landforms. Seventh grade social studies will also study the various types of governments and economies found around the world. Your child should be able to tell you a few countries in the world and what type of government they have by the end of the lesson! Mr. Whipkey's social studies classes began the new school year learning rules, procedures and routines for class. During the first few weeks, students will focus on learning map and geography skills. Students are required to bring pencil, paper, textbook and netbook to class every day.

Seventh grade science students have had a great start to the year through reviewing the scientific method and measurement, through

notes and exciting labs. Following this review and practice, students will be introduced to biology. They will learn about the kingdoms of animals and will practice and understand the use of dichotomous keys to identify animals. In health, students are learning about the importance of physical activity and goal setting. They will practice setting short and long term goals and apply physical activity to their daily lives.

Mr. Loehrlein's English and literature students are learning about point of view, inference, context clues, theme, and plot structure. These skills will help students analyze texts by Gary Soto and other writers. Students are reviewing parts of speech and will begin writing narratives.



8TH GRADE G8TORS

Mrs. Antey's *We the People* Honors is beginning to examine key topics in the foundations of American government. Students will be reading and studying Units 1 and 2 in the *We the People* textbook. Time will be spent every Friday in class researching and looking at current events through the use of CNN.com, CNN Student News, Junior Scholastic Magazine, and USA Today. Mr. Whipkey's social studies classes began the new school year learning rules, procedures and routines for class. U.S. History students are studying the colonization of America, the beginnings of the United States of America and how it was formed.

Language arts students are focusing on nouns, pronouns, and verbs. Students are also writing their first essay about a childhood memory. Ask your student what memory he or she chose to write about! Students are also focusing on short stories and identifying plot and theme. Students will be able to recognize these in both fiction and non-fiction.

Mrs. Deal's science classes are off to a great start! Currently, students are learning about the scientific method and the tools that scientists use to do their jobs. They will put the scientific method into practice by creating

and implementing a paper airplane experiment. After finishing the scientific method, the 8th grade will move into the topic of chemistry! In Mrs. Wingate's science classes, students are learning about the nature of science. Learning to use proper scientific methods will help them be better scientists and problem solvers. Their next unit will be chemistry.

The G.8.T.O.R.S. are off to a great start and looking forward to a bright and rewarding year in math. We are trying to establish good study and work habits to set the tone for the year. Teachers have been working to develop Common Formative Assessments for the Problems of Practice in Professional Learning Communities. We are modeling how to use data to help drive instruction and help students succeed. Students have been determining how to tell the difference between rational and irrational numbers. They have also worked on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing these numbers. If you have any questions please feel free to contact your helpful 8th grade math teacher. ☺

WASHINGTON D.C. & NEW YORK CITY

The time is here for the fall sign-ups for 8th graders wanting to see Washington D.C. and New York City. The program is an incredible learning opportunity for your child – it is both educational and fun! The trip is planned for **May 26 – 29, 2015**. Imagine your child's excitement when preparing for an adventure to our nation's capital. Imagine the stories your child will tell and the memories your child will keep forever. During this amazing trip we will see the Smithsonian Museums, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, Chinatown, a Broadway show and many other fabulous places. The sights, sounds, smells, and memories that students gain on this trip will last a lifetime and forever change the way they read a history book or watch the news. This trip to Washington D.C. and New York City will be an adventure. Don't let your child miss this "once-in-a-lifetime" trip. Early sign ups were the most ever! We have 52 people signed up and only have room for two more. You may contact Mr. Loveless with any questions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Welcome back! We have had a wonderful start to the year. In Physical Education, students will begin the year with Newcomb Ball in 6th and 7th grades, and Volleyball in 8th grade. Sixth and seventh grades will be working on the fundamentals of Newcomb Ball -- passing, catching, serving, etc. Students in 8th grade will be working on the fundamentals of volleyball by practicing serving, bumping, setting, and calling for the ball. All of our classes will work on exhibiting good sportsmanship and teamwork abilities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Mahan or Mrs. Redd.

Netbooks

The Netbooks are being passed out and here are a few reminders:

It is the student's responsibility to make sure his/her netbook is charged for each school day.

If you bring your netbook in to have it looked at, please back up all of your needed files. Depending on the repair, your netbook files may need to be erased or you may get a different netbook. Either way, needed files could be lost.

Having widgets/gadgets running on your desktop or having your wallpaper rotate images, takes away from your overall battery performance.

Please remember the schools have wireless internet, not all household do. If a student does not have an internet connection at home, there are a few options available: Students should be able to access the internet system at the public library, **on Tuesdays and Thursdays, there is tutoring until 4 o'clock where students will have internet access**, and finally, students should ask their teachers if they could download the needed materials to work on assignments offline at home and then upload their completed work the next morning during homerooms.

All returning 7th and 8th graders should have their netbook cases from last year. It will cost \$14.45 to purchase a new case and we have a few used cases that can be purchased at a discounted rate. Incoming 6th graders will get a new case when they are issued their netbooks.



ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Sixth grade is beginning the year by learning about electricity. They are building circuits and using alternative forms of energy to make solar cars, wind mills, and water wheels that will generate electricity.

Seventh and eighth grades are building and programming Lego robots. Both grade levels are programming robots to move and react to various obstacles. Students are making the robots navigate a maze, sumo wrestle, and follow a line.

Eighth graders will also be using the robots to create projects like a rattle snake, a dragster, a catapult, or even a fork lift. Thanks to the Public Education Foundation, students will also be able to use the new EV3 robots, purchased with a grant that was awarded last spring.

DIGI COM

Welcome back from Mr. Combs! This year looks to be exciting and filled with new experiences. I have been in contact with several of our ePal teachers and we will be continuing building connections in Colorado, South Dakota, New Hampshire, Romania, and Argentina.

Computer Club

This year we will be offering a Computer Club that will run from Mid-October to Mid-March. We will explore coding, video editing, and other topics picked by the students.



VOCAL MUSIC

Mr. DeKemper's general music class is off to a great start. Students have spent the first two weeks of school working on clapping rhythms, learning music history, and the 7th and 8th graders are starting to play guitar.

In 7th grade choir, the students are matching pitch, singing unison and two part songs, and have learned the hand signs and syllables for solfege.

The after-school choir will meet every Monday after school until 4 p.m. There will be buses to take the students home. If you are picking up your child, please be in the parking lot at 4 p.m.

BAND/ORCHESTRA

It is hard to believe summer vacation is over and school is starting once again! For us, the best part of the year is seeing the look on 5th grade band students' faces when they get to open their instrument case for the first time. This year, 5th grade students from Tekoppel and Cynthia Heights schools will ride buses to Helfrich Park STEM Academy in the mornings to participate in this valuable program.

If you know of a 5th grade student who would like to participate in band, it is not too late to start. For more information please contact Kathy Sliment from the EVSC district office at Kathy.Sliment@evsc.k12.in.us or Mr. Goodwin from Helfrich Park at douglas.goodwin@evsc.k12.in.us. The Helfrich Park Band, and their new director Mr. Doug Goodwin, hope you have an amazing school year!

ART

Students are off to a great start in Mrs. Lamb's art classes! They have done a nice job reviewing rules and making art journals. Students are learning about Aborigine art by selecting an animal and drawing it onto brown paper that resembles bark. They will add color with crayon and

paint. I can't wait to see how they turn out. Art Club will be starting for 8th graders Wednesday, August 27 after school until approximately 4:00. Seventh and sixth grade Art Club will be meeting later in the year, so check the newsletter if students are interested

Archery-NASP



Last year Helfrich Park received a grant for archery equipment. Using the grant, we will teach archery for 10 days in the P.E. classes, as well as have an after-school club. Since this will be an outside activity, the club will run from late-Aug to mid-Oct and then again mid-March to early-May, based on the weather. Mondays the 7th and 8th graders will practice until 4 pm and the 6th graders will practice on Tuesdays until 4.

FROM THE EVSC OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES & WELLNESS

Indiana Code requires information regarding Meningococcal Disease and Vaccine be made available to all Indiana students/parents at the beginning of each school year. This information can be found online at <http://www.evscschools.com/evsc-offices/center-family-school-and-community-partnerships/health-and-wellness>. Click on the "Meningococcal Disease Information" link at the bottom of the webpage. If you do not have internet access, and you wish to read this information, you may contact your school's nurse for a paper flyer containing the information.

Also, all 6th grade students are required by the state of Indiana to have updated immunizations. If you have not turned in your child's shot record, or have not scheduled an appointment to have immunizations updated, the deadline is October 15. Contact Mrs. Moore if you have any questions or concerns.





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T.S.A.

Welcome back to another great year at Helfrich Park! Be sure to join P.T.S.A. It is only \$6.00 a person. Please send in an envelope with cash or check made out to Helfrich P.T.S.A. We need your name, child's name, teacher's name, email, and phone number. It's that easy!

Thank you to everyone who has already joined P.T.S.A. Our next P.T.S.A. meeting is Monday, September 8, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the Media Center.

The winner of the Showplace Cinema gift basket for early-sign-up was Mrs. Bateman.

Box Tops! Box Tops! I am looking forward to another great year with Box Tops! I am collecting Box Tops every month through the end of the year. Be sure to put your homeroom teacher's name on your bag(s) or envelopes; I want to make sure your homeroom gets the proper credit it deserves. I will be giving the winning homerooms in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades a pizza party. Don't forget to send in your Box Tops! Thank you. Mrs. Koonce

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – SEPTEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOR DAY (No School)	2 Archery-6 th 2:30-4 CC 2:30-4 Orchestra 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 Tutoring 2:30-4 VB @ PH 5-6:30	3 Art Club 2:30-4 CC Meet @ HP 5-6 Orchestra 2:30-4 St. Cncl. 2:30-4 VB vs. Wash. @ HP 5-6:30 3 on 3 (Kahle) 2:30-4 CUB FB game @ Castle Jr. Hi. 5:30	4 Band/Orchestra Lessons 2:30-4 CC 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 Tutoring 2:30-4 VB 2:30-5 Cheer Parent Meet.–Gym 6-6:30 pm	5 VB 2:30-4 Spell Bowl 2:30-4	6
7	8 Archery-7/8 th 2:30-4 Cheer 2:30-4 CC 2:30-4 Choir 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 VB game vs. North @ HP 5-6:30 PTSA 4 PM Media Ctr.	9 Archery-6 th 2:30-4 CC Meet @ Angel Mds. 5-6:30 Orchestra 2:30-4 Speech Meet @ HP 5-7:30 Tutoring 2:30-4 VB 2:30-5	10 Art 2:30-4 CC 2:30-4 Orchestra 2:30-4	11 Band/Orchestra Lessons 2:30-4 CC 2:30-4 Dance Try Out 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 Tutoring 2:30-4 VB 2:30-5	12 VB 2:30-4 Spell Bowl 2:30-4	13
14	15 Archery-7/8 th 2:30-4 Choir 2:30-4 CC 2:30-4 Dance Try Outs 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 Tutoring 2:30-4 VB game @ Lodge 5-6:30	16 Archery-6 th 2:30-4 CC Meet @ Thomp. 5-6:30 Orchestra 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 St. Cncl. 2:30-4 Tutoring 2:30-4 VB 2:30-5	17 Art 2:30-4 Cheer 2:30-4 CC 2:30-4 Orchestra 2:30-4 VB vs. Glen. @ HP 5-6:30 3 on 3 (Kahle) 2:30-4	18 CC Meet @ PH 5-6 Band/Orchestra Lessons 2:30-4 Dance Try Out 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 Tutoring 2:30-4 VB 2:30-5 Cub FB game @ Central 5:30	19 FUN NIGHT 2:30-4:30 (extra bus)	20
21	22 Archery-7/8 th 2:30-4 Choir 2:30-4 CC 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 VB game @ Thomp. 5-6:30	23 Archery-6 th 2:30-4 CC Dist. Meet @ Angel Mds. 5-6 Orchestra 2:30-4 Speech Meet @ HP 5-7:30 Tutoring 2:30-4 VB 2:30-5	24 Art 2:30-4 Cheer 2:30-4 CC (qualifiers) 2:30-4 Orchestra 2:30-4 VB vs. Plaza @ HP 5-6:30 3 on 3 (Kahle) 2:30-4	25 Band/Orchestra Lessons 2:30-4 CC (qualifiers) 2:30-4 Dance 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 Tutoring 2:30-4 VB 2:30-5 Cub FB game @ Harrison 5:30	26 VB 2:30-4 Spell Bowl 2:30-4	27
28	29 Archery-7/8 th 2:30-4 Choir 2:30-4 CC (qualifiers) 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 VB game @ North 5-6:30	30 Archery-6 th 2:30-4 CC City Meet @ Angel Mds. 5-6 Speech 2:30-4 Tutoring 2:30-4 VB 2:30-5				

