

PUMA Team,



The school year is off to a terrific start. The kids are getting used to a different routine and are acclimating themselves very nicely.

Congratulations to Mr. Loveless's and Mr. Hartmann's Algebra classes. All the students earned a pass+ score on the high school algebra end-of-course assessment exam of May 2015. One hundred percent of the students passed the very difficult curriculum, which is quite a feat. Congrats, also, to PUMA band director, Mr. Goodwin. As part of his summer, he coordinated an all-star marching band that has been invited to perform in Philadelphia in November. He will be featured in a national podcast highlighting elite directors in a round-table discussion on the nuances of high level band students' performances. Finally, congratulations to Mrs. Hall, 6th grade math teacher and her husband, Dustin, on the arrival of A.J. Hall on June 25, 2015. Also, congratulations go out to Mr. DeKemper, vocal music teacher, and his wife, Alissa, on the birth of their son, A.J. on April 21.

Our annual Back-to-School family picnic and orientation on August 6 was another wonderful event. Thank you students, parents, and staff, for making the evening an exciting time for all.

Good Luck to Mrs. Goebel, our front secretary! She is retiring today to spend some time traveling and relaxing with family and friends. All the best to you, Mrs. Goebel!

I am looking forward to my fourteenth year at Helfrich Park. We have an outstanding group of teachers and support staff, in addition to the BEST students and families! Welcome Back to a fantastic new school year.

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NEW FACES



Helfrich Park welcomes six new staff members this year. Please read a little about each new PUMA and give them a warm welcome!

Emily Houston, UE graduate, is the new Special Education teacher. When not at Helfrich Park, she is at Reitz working with the color guard, which is part of the marching band.

Sherry Long is our new Special Ed Assistant. She has a daughter and two grandchildren. She enjoys walking, cooking, baking, traveling and watching HGTV and Food Network.

Mindy Dillow, Ball State graduate, is teaching 7th grade science and 7th grade honors science. She enjoys sports and running. She has a sophomore at Reitz and a 7th grader at Perry Heights.

Gabrielle Thompson, USI graduate, is teaching 7th/8th grade English language arts. She has two sisters. She enjoys reading and bike riding. She will also be the cheerleading coach at Helfrich Park.

Aaron McGee is a graduate of UE and will be teaching 8th grade English. He is originally from Marion, IL, but has called Evansville home for the past four years. He enjoys playing and watching sports (Ohio State football), hiking, cooking, listening to music, and UE theater performances.

Corey Ellermann is our new IT Support Tech. This is Corey's third year with EVSC. He not only services Helfrich Park with tech issues, but Cynthia Heights and Tekoppel, as well. Corey has been working on distributing the Think Pads to all students this month. He enjoys listening to music in his spare time.

Joann Bogard will join the office staff on August 31. She is the new secretary. Mrs. Bogard has been a Media Specialist at Perry Heights and comes from Vogel's secretarial staff. Joann, her husband Steve and three children live on the great Westside!!

All our new teachers and staff members are excited to be at HPSA and look forward to getting to know the students and families.

CITIZENS OF THE WEEK

6TH GRADE: Liam Babb, Hope Bell, Jaxon Brown, Mara Higdon, Kenai'jah Kelley, Ashton Maxheimer, Sarah Reisz, Brandon Strouse, Piper Ashby, Kennedy Gauer, Brayden Herron, Andy Trinh.

7TH GRADE: Hope McGuire, Brandon Scales, Caleb Williamson, Brynn Duvall, Javonte Madison, Nathan Snyder, Abbie Steinhart, Kelsey Cassin, Travis Cox, Erin Dietsch, Claire Graham, Lucas Lynch.

8TH GRADE: Clayton Groves, Nicholas Hull, Bailey Wissel, Kalaina Boyden, Deidreanna Fowler, Kaylise Peaches, Ryan McClellan, Nate Young, Lonnie Bell, Ava Hill, Claire Mattes, Marc Vincent.

6TH GRADE STARS



In science, the 6th graders are off to a great start! Students are 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.

Sixth grade math students are off and running this year! They have already learned about adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with decimal numbers. Also, 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 our next unit, students will be learning some neat divisibility tricks as well as ratios and rates in the "real world." Honors and advanced-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 be sure to go over your child's homework with him/her to make sure it is completed each night. If we work together, we can help ensure the sixth grade year will be a successful one for your Helfrich Park child!

The year is off to a great start! In English, students have been working with nouns and pronouns. They have also been working with narrative writing and the writing process. In

literature, classes have been studying the elements of fiction within different stories including *Greyling* and *Stray*. They will continue to work with plot and the other elements while reading fiction texts.

In social studies, students have been working on geography and its basic parts. They are looking forward to a great rest of the school year!

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 have the opportunity to go to USI for a science lab at some point during the school year.

7TH GRADE M&MS

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.



Mrs. McDurmon's math 7H classes started off the year with Math Olympics. Ask them about it! Students will be studying integer and rational number operations and then moving on to order of operations. The students are doing a great job...keep it up!

Mr. Whipkey's Eastern World social studies classes are reviewing the five themes of geography before moving on to study the history of Eastern World cultures. Mrs. Antey's social studies classes started the year out studying "Social Studies Basic and Geography." The next unit of study will be "The World's People," which includes the world's population, governments, and cultures.

The ELA students are off to a great start. We have reviewed point of view and plot structure using a variety of selections. The students are beginning a novel. We have begun a narrative essay unit working on sentence structure and editing.

The 7th grade science teachers, Mrs. Deal, Mrs. Dillow, Mrs. Jarrell, and Mrs. McDurmon, are excited to begin the new school year. In the beginning, we will focus on the scientific method and the metric system. These units cover process standards necessary for the rest of the year and in future science classes. Students will be conducting experiments using metric measurements. We hope they come home and share what they're learning in class!



8TH GRADE G8TORS

Science is off to a great start! After covering lab safety, we are excited about our upcoming units on the scientific method and the metric system. Students will cover important concepts necessary for understanding and successfully completing this year's science units. Students can look forward to doing many lab activities in the next few weeks, such as, the Metric Olympics and using paper airplanes to demonstrate understanding of the scientific method. Please remember to check RDS to view your student's progress.

U.S History students in Mr. Whipkey's class began the year with a quick review of the 50 states and capitals. Later, students will begin the study of the original 13 colonies and how our great nation was birthed. Mrs. Antey's "We the People" classes have concluded their studies of Unit One, "The Foundations of Government" and are moving onto Unit Two, "What Happened During and After the American Revolution." Very soon, students will be divided into their Unit teams! The kids are very excited to find out who they will be working with and what they will become the experts on this semester!

The G.8.T.O.R.S. are off to a great start in math and looking forward to a bright and rewarding year. 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.

The ELA team is off to a great start! Students are already getting refresher courses on parts of speech, working on theme, and are demonstrating their writing skills. In literature class, students have already read two short stories and next week, will begin their first novel, *The Outsiders*. Students can expect to read about one chapter a day with a test/writing assignment as the culminating assessment.

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 on May 24-27, 2016. The program is an incredible learning opportunity for your child – it is both educational and fun! 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 students gain on this trip will last a lifetime and forever change the way they read a history book or watch the news. Don't let your child miss this "once-in-a-lifetime" adventure. Early sign-ups were the most ever! Already, we have 45 people signed up and have room for only a few more. You may contact Mr. Loveless with any questions.

DIGI-COM

Welcome back! 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, Argentina, and Romania. I have been in contact with a few other teachers in New Mexico, New Jersey, Cambodia, and Malaysia but we are still working out details on how to connect our students.

ThinkPads have been handed out☺



Mr. Corey Ellermann is our new ThinkPad Technical Support. He will be at HPSA on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If your child is having ThinkPad issues, please have them complete a Tech Repair Request Tag and bring the tag and the ThinkPad to Mr. Ellermann. If Mr. Ellermann is not available, please have your child bring their ThinkPad to Mr. Combs's room to store until Mr. Ellermann can pick it up.

A few reminders for the students:

It is the student's responsibility to make sure his/her ThinkPad is charged for each school day. If you bring your ThinkPad in to be looked at, please back up all your needed files. Depending on the repair, your hard drive may need to be erased or you may get a different netbook back. Either way, needed files could be lost. Widgets/gadgets running on your desktop or having your wallpaper rotate images, takes away from your overall battery performance.

Please remember school has wireless internet, not all households do. If a student does not have an internet connection at home, they should be able to access the public library's internet system or use school's access during Flex Period. Students should ask their teachers if they could download the needed materials for assignments offline at home and then upload their completed work the next morning during homerooms.

The ThinkPads are new to all students this year. They will receive one bag for use for the next four years. The ThinkPad and charger will be returned in the spring.

TECH

Eighth graders are beginning the year with a unit on Structures. They will be designing and building bridges in addition to designing floor plans for houses. Seventh grade is taking to the sky with the Air and Space unit. They will build and test gliders utilizing Newton's laws to launch 2 liter bottle rockets. Sixth graders are currently building Lego simple machines in preparation to design, build, and test amusement park rides.

Robotics Team

Robotics for 7th and 8th graders will begin on Wednesday, September 2. See Mrs. King for details. Sixth graders will not begin Robotics until December.

BAND AND ORCHESTRA



Band and Orchestra is off to a fast start this year!! Please make sure students turn in their Instrument Rental Contacts, Handbook Acknowledgment Form/Contact Sheet, and any fees owed to Mr. Clark and Mr. Goodwin as soon as possible. Honors Band and Orchestra forms have been sent home with the students interested in joining. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Clark or Mr. Goodwin. We look forward to seeing you at our first concert on November 19 at 6:30 p.m.

VOCAL MUSIC

The school year has started out great with all music classes learning about genres of music and how to clap to songs correctly. Students will study music theory, music history, and learn how to play chords and simple melodies on the guitar.

Choir

The Helfrich Park after-school 6th grade Choir will begin Monday, August 24 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. All 6th grade students are welcome to join.



Our choirs will be singing the National Anthem at the Reitz home football game September 25.

The Helfrich Park Choir Concerts will be December 3 in the gym at 6:30 p.m. and May 12 in the gym at 6:30 p.m.

P.E.

Physical Education classes are off to a great start. Students have locks and are now dressing out every day. In Physical Education, students are working on whiffle ball. They will learn the rules of the game and how to play. Students are also working on a warm up called The Point Trail. Students will choose their route and be graded on it. For example, if a student chooses a 1, it would equal 3 laps; if the student chooses a 2, it would equal 4 laps; and if the student chooses a 3, it would equal 6 laps. Students will do this for two weeks.



ART

The art students are currently looking at Greco/Roman art. The 6th graders are drawing Greek vases on scratchboard and they are turning out wonderful. The 7th grade is focusing on Greek architecture and creating a cube that looks like a Greek building. Eighth graders are being challenged with recreating the Roman Colosseum in detail and adding a 3-dimensional touch. Be looking for this art in the hallways as we start hanging new pieces. The art department has had a great start to the school year.

COMPUTER CLUB

This year, Mr. Comb's Computer Club will run from mid-October to mid-March. Students will explore coding, video editing, and other topics.

DANCE TEAM

Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders who are not on the basketball or cheer teams are able to try out for Dance Team. Dance Team will have tryouts after school on Monday, September 14 until 4:00 p.m. Practices for tryouts are after school on Wednesday, September 9 and Thursday, September 10 until 4:00 p.m. Students who make the team will have practices after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 4:00 p.m. from September 17 through mid-February. Dance Team will perform at halftime of the first game at all boys' and girls' basketball home games.

ARCHERY-NASP-HPSA ARROWS

The after-school Archery Club will start on August 24 and go until early October. The Club will meet from 2:30 until 3:50 p.m. when the students can be picked up or take the after-school bus which leaves at 4:00 p.m. The Parent Permission Slip must be signed and returned before students can take part in this activity. Mr. Combs is looking forward to another year of outdoor archery.

TARGET® REDCARD™

Target makes school fundraising easy by using the Target REDcard. Here is how the program works: When school supporters enroll and use their REDcard, Target donates up to 1% of every purchase made with their REDcard to a school of their choice. The funds can really add up—there is no limit to the amount a school can receive. All you need is a REDcard and a designated school. To sign-up and designate your school, go online to apply for a REDcard credit account in stores or online at Target.com/apply.) What an easy way to help Helfrich Park STEM Academy!!!

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FROM EVSC HEALTH SERVICES & WELLNESS

Indiana Code requires that 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 www.edlinesites.net/pages/EVSC/EVSC_Offices/Center_for_Family_School_and_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.

PTSA NEWS



Helfrich Park will once again start collecting **Box Tops** for the school year. All you need to do is write your child's homeroom teacher's name on the bag; I will keep a homeroom total. The homeroom bringing in the most **Box Tops** through the end of September will win a pizza party. **Remember, save your Box Tops.**

It's that time again for **PTSA Membership** at Helfrich Park. It is only \$6 a person. You may send in a check or cash with your child's name, homeroom teacher's name, parent's name, and email address. I would love to have a record-breaking year for memberships. Your child can even join PTSA! Thank you.

Lori Koonce



FALL PICTURE DAY

Fall pictures will be taken on October 21. Picture order envelopes will be sent home closer to that day. Plan ahead for that perfect outfit and "smile."

DON'T FORGET ...

Labor Day-No School	9/7
Candy Fundraiser	9/16-30
Fun Night	9/25
Fall Picture Day	10/21
HP Book Fair	10/26-30
8th Gr. Enrollment@Reitz	11/16, 5:30 pm



CALENDAR OF EVENTS – SEPTEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 VB 2:30-4 3 on 3 (Wertman) 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	2 Band 2:30-4 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC Meet @ HP 5-6 VB @ Wash. 4:30-7 3 on 3 (Kahle) 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	3 Archery 2:30-4 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 VB 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	4 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 Spell Bowl 2:30-4 VB 2:30-4	5
6	7 <div style="text-align: center;">  Happy Labor Day  No School </div>	8 Cheer 2:30-4 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC Meet @ Angel Mounds 5-6:30 Speech Meet @ HP 4:30-6:30 St. Council 2:30-4 VB @ North Jr. Hi. 4:30-7 3 on 3 (Wertman) 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	9 Band 2:30-4 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC 2:30-4 Dance Try-Outs 2:30-4 Robotics 7/8 th 2:30-4 VB 2:30-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	10 Archery 2:30-4 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC 2:30-4 Dance Try-Outs 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 VB 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	11 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 Spell Bowl 2:30-4 VB 2:30-4	12
13	14 Archery 2:30-4 Cheer 2:30-4 Choir 2:30-4 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC 2:30-4 Dance Try Out 2:30-4 VB home game 4-7 Scherry 2:30-4	15 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC Meet @ Thompkins 5-6 Speech 2:30-4 VB 2:30-4 3 on 3 (Wertman) 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	16 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 VB home game 4-7 <div style="text-align: center;">Staff Meeting</div>	17 Archery 2:30-4 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC Meet at P.H. 5-6:00 Dance 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 VB 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	18 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 Spell Bowl 2:30-4 VB 2:30-4	19
20	21 Archery 2:30-4 Cheer 2:30-4 Choir 2:30-4 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-3 St. Council 2:30-4 VB 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	22 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC Dist.Meet @ Angel Mounds 5-6 Dance 2:30-4 Speech Meet @ HP 4:30-6:30 VB 2:30-4 3 on 3 (Wertman) 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	23 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC (qualifiers only) 2:30-4 German Club 2:30-4 Robotics 7/8 th 2:30-4 VB @ Plaza 4-7 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	24 Archery 2:30-4 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC (qualifiers only) 2:30-4 Dance 2:30-4 VB 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	25 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 <div style="text-align: center;"> FUN NIGHT 2:30-4:30  </div>	26
27	28 Archery 2:30-4 Cheer 2:30-4 Choir 2:30-4 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC (qualifiers only) 2:30-4 VB home game 4-7 Scherry 2:30-4	29 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 CC City Meet @ Angel Mounds 5-6 Dance 2:30-4 Speech 2:30-4 VB 2:30-4 3 on 3 (Wertman) 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4	30 Cub FB to Reitz 2:30 Robotics 7/8 th 2:30-4 VB @ P.H. 4-7 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 2:30-4 Scherry 2:30-4			

