EVSC
Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation

September 2016

HP HELFRICH PARK PUMAS STEM ACADEMY
EVSC: Bringing Learning to Life

Thanks to everyone for helping us make the morning drop off safer for all our students. Bus drop off along Wessel Avenue and car drop off in the main parking lot is working great. To assist with the process, please pull all the way forward (past the bridge) when dropping off your student. This will allow more cars to get off of Maryland Street and into the parking lot. Also, when cars are exiting the parking lot, they can turn left or right onto Wessel Avenue. For many, taking the back way by Golfmoor to Harmony Way will allow for a quicker exit and will reduce the number of cars trying to get back onto Maryland Street. Thank you again for your assistance.

The first grading period will be concluding on Friday, September 16th. We anticipate sending report cards home on Thursday, September 22nd. These grades will be used to determine eligibility for any sports (including girls basketball).

Thanks again for all that you do to help your student grow and learn.

Cory Herrin, Ph.D.
Principal

There will be **NO SCHOOL** on Monday, September 5th in observance of Labor Day.

Friday Fun Night *will be September 30th.*

Athletic Eligibility for Middle School Sports

Effective for the 2016-17 school year, students must pass at least seven courses (fail no more than one class) the grading period prior to the beginning of the sport to be eligible for that sport. This is a new change from the EVSC Athletic Council and a change to what is currently printed in the HPSA Student Planner. Students were informed of this change at the beginning of the year class meetings.

Football, cross country, volleyball: semester grades of the spring semester of the previous school year.
Girls Basketball: first 6-week grading period of the fall semester of the current school year.
Boys Basketball: semester grades of the second 6-week grading period of the current school year.
Track: first 6-week grading period of the spring semester of the current year.

6th Grade Stars

Science: The 6th graders are off to a great start! They are learning that there are three major divisions of science: life, earth, and physical. Each division of science has a lot of sub- categories. We are also learning the scientific method which is the step by step process of conducting a science experiment. Soon we will learn about the metric system. 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: Sixth grade math students took their first quiz and test on order of operations and expressions. The students have been excited to use their online math book! This tool allows them to get help on various homework problems. The students have also set up their RDS account to check their grades online. Please continue to help your child at home by checking that he or she is doing his or her homework at home each night. You may check your child's quiz, test, and homework grades on the RDS account.

ELA: In English we will be continuing our work on parts of speech. We will be moving from nouns to verbs. While examining our parts of speech we will also be finishing up our narrative writings before progressing into a short research essay. In literature we will be working on non-fiction.

Social Studies: Students are continuing their Geography Unit exploring latitude and longitude and climate zones. We also began using Achieve which is an online program full of nonfiction articles differentiated for individual student reading levels. The students are doing a nice job coming to class prepared with charged ThinkPads. Keep up the great work!

Donations As your student grows out of their uniform pants and shorts, please consider donating them to the school nurse.

Sick Child? If your child is ill, please call Helfrich Park Attendance at 812-435-8246 extension 1 before 9 A.M. Please leave your child's full name and the reason that they will be absent. If you would like for homework to be collected, please ask. This request should be sent before 9 A.M. and will be available in the front office between 3 and 3:30 P.M.

FROM THE NURSE

If you have a student new to Helfrich Park this year or a current sixth grader, and you have not yet sent in a copy of the updated immunizations for your child, please send these to the school nurse.

If your student has asthma, diabetes, food allergies, and/or seizures, please make sure his/her Care Plan Forms are completed by the doctor and returned to the nurses office ASAP.

Dance Team

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls who are not on the basketball or cheer team are able to try out for Dance Team. Tryouts will be after school on September 12, 15, and 19 until 4 P.M.

LOST AND FOUND

STUDENTS SHOULD CHECK THE LOST AND FOUND LOCATED IN THE GYM AND THE OFFICE.

7th Grade M&M's

Science: The seventh grade science classes are learning about microscopes and how to use them. We will begin to study life science, in particular cells and cell processes. We will put the microscope knowledge to work! We encourage all seventh graders to start thinking about the science fair. It will be here sooner than you think!

Math: Mrs. McDurmon, Mr. Hartmann, and Mrs. Todd are planning an exciting September. Seventh graders have been working on exponents, factors, and prime factorization. Students continue to compare rational and irrational numbers. By the end of the first grading period, we will be able to build on our success as we learn decimal and fraction operations.

Mrs. McDurmon's Honors Math classes have had a great start to the new year! They have been busy reviewing fraction, decimal, and integer operations. We will be moving on to exponents and scientific notation, and solving equations.

ELA: 7th grade students are reading their first novel of the school year! While reading these scrumptious novels, they will delve into theme, tone, mood, and point of view. Also, students are expanding their skills as authors by practicing their craft and learning about the proper outline of an essay. We hope they continue to flourish as readers and writers!

Social Studies: Mr. Carnahan, Mr. Loehrlein, and Mr. Tekoppel Eastern World social studies classes are finishing the five themes of geography before moving on to study the history of Eastern World cultures. The next unit of study will be "The World's People," which includes the world's population, governments, and cultures. Afterwards, we will DIG into ancient Mesopotamia!

General Music & Choir

We are still looking for more students to join the 6th grade choir. Sixth grade choir meets after school every Monday from 2:30 to 4:00. All sixth grade students are welcome to join. Please see Mr. DeKemper.

The choir concerts for this School year are: December 8th at Helfrich Park at 6:30 P.M. and May 11th at Helfrich Park at 6:30 P.M.

Guitar Club

Guitar Club is every Tuesday from 2:30-4:00. All students are welcome to join. See Mr. DeKemper.

PTSA—Boxtops

Be sure to bring in your Box Tops. We will be collecting them all year long. Be sure to put your homeroom teacher on your baggie or paper so that your homeroom gets credit for a party. Let's see which homerooms can be the winner! Good luck!

Physical Education

During September we will be working on completing our Fitness Testing. Students will be graded on standing broad jump, sit ups, push-ups, mile run, and shuttle run. Testing will take place every Tuesday until complete. We will also be working on a Whiffle Ball/Softball unit. Student's will work on throwing, hitting, and catching as well as how to play the game.

Mrs. Redd and Mr. McIntosh

8TH GRADE G.8.T.O.R.S.

Science: Our students are spending the first grading period learning about lab safety, the scientific method, and the metric system. They are successfully completing many lab activities that are teaching and giving them more practice in each of the scientific method steps as well as the engineering process. We will be moving into our chemistry unit in science and our nutrition unit in health in order to prepare for our field trip to the Fall Festival. Please remember to check your child's grades on RDS in an effort to keep them caught up on homework.

Math: The G.8.T.O.R.S. Mathematicians are currently working on solving linear equations and trying to establish good study and work habits. Standard 8.AF.1 is one of the four "power" standards in 8th grade. Our math classes will also start to prepare for the Fall Festival by having lessons covering standards over probability and 8th grade geometry/measurement. The key to success is self-discipline. Please talk to your child about their progress in math class.

ELA: We have been hard at work on our narrative writing unit in Language Arts. Be sure to ask your student what their story is about! Also, in Literature we have been reading a variety of short stories and focusing on understanding theme, central idea, and citing textual evidence when answering questions. We will soon begin reading *The Outsiders* in class.

U.S. History: Mr. Carnahan's 8th grade U.S. History classes wrapped up covering what led up to the colonization of North America. Next week we will begin covering colonization of early America. Possible dinner table questions (or during commercials, or driving to and from here and there):

1. How did the first humans get to North and South America?
2. Is the United States more like a democracy or a republic?
3. Who fought against one another during the Crusades?
4. What spread throughout the Middle Ages and killed 25 million people in Europe and helped bring the middle ages to an end?
5. (Tough one) How did the Renaissance influence European leaders and merchants to attempt colonizing the New World ('Murica)?

Citizens of the Week: Kamron Thornton, Cameron Johnson, Sarah Smith, DeLissa Ragland, John Payne, and Elissa Delaney.

RDS Parent Access

Now is the perfect time to get yourself signed up to use RDS Parent Access. RDS is a one-stop on-line shop where you can check your student's grades, track attendance and view homework. You can even use the system to email your child's teacher. All you need is a computer or smart phone, internet access and an activation code from your school secretary. Once you get logged on, you create your own easy to remember user name and password…and you're ready to go. For more information on RDS Parent Access, contact your school or visit EVSC website at http://www.evscschools.com/ for tips on how to set up and use the system.

WE THE PEOPLE

Our 8th grade team just finished Unit One, The Founders Basic Ideas About Government, in Mr. Tekoppel's class. Students enjoyed learning about colonial life, the influences of John Locke, constitutional government and the three branches of government. Next up is Unit Two, in which students will analyze what influences shaped the Founding Fathers' thinking about government, leading to the Declaration of Independence.

Cafeteria News

Did you know that you can put stipulations on your child's lunch account? For example, if you want them to purchase ONLY a school lunch or breakfast (no ala cart), we can set it up not to allow ala cart purchases. Ala cart food may not be charged (cash only) and students with a negative account balance may not purchase ala carte food. Parents are encouraged to use EZSchoolPay.com for tracking their student's account balance and set up automatic low balance reminders. EZSchoolPay.com can also be used to add money to your student's account online.

Please note that parents need to reapply annually for free/reduced meals and textbooks. The deadline for this year is September 20, 2016.

HPSA on Social Media

Helfrich Park is diving deeper into the realm of Social Media: we have a new website, continuing with Facebook, and added Twitter and Instagram. We want this to be a positive place to showcase things that are going on at school. If you have questions about school policy and procedures, please contact the school directly.

Website: http://helfrichpark.evscschools.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Helfrich-Park-STEM-Academy-537578926331112/
Twitter: HPSA@HelfrichPark
Instagram: @helfrichparkstemacademy

To give you the most updated information, our school calendar can now be found on our website.

2016 TUG OF WAR TEAM

Dylan Sutherland	DeLissa Ragland
Morgan Hobbs	Justice Hargrove
Malorie Hobbs	Nathan Snyder
Amelia Harl	Javonte Madison
Hope McGuire	Jaylee Gray

Alazah Goodloe-Alternate

Practice will be every morning at 7 A.M.

Are you interested in helping with Popcorn? We are looking for parents who would like to pop every other week. Please call Jessica Minor at 812-430-6326 if you are interested.

Our World's Finest Chocolates fundraiser will be September 14-28. This year we will be giving out more prize money than ever before, plus one lucky winner will receive a 5 lb. chocolate bar! Please see the flyer in this newsletter.

SPIRIT DAYS

Every Friday in September is a spirit day! Students may wear a Reitz or Helfrich Park t-shirt/sweatshirt (no hoodies or center pockets) with their khaki/navy uniform pants.

World's Finest CHOCOLATE **Chocolate Sale!** *Sponsored by…*

Helfrich Park STEM Academy

Attention PUMA Families and Students:

Helfrich Park is kicking off its annual fundraising project selling **World's Finest™ Chocolate candy bars**. Each bar sells for $1.00 and comes with a valuable threewinners.com coupon where you can access 40,000+ coupons!!

Sale starts: September 14 Sale Ends: September 28
Additional cases are available to sell, while they last.

Helfrich Park will earn 50% profit on each candy bar sold. Your help and enthusiasm will make this sale a success! Friendly sales are made by contacting family, neighbors, friends and coworkers. Door-to-door selling is NOT necessary.

Please do not store candy bars near heat or indirect sunlight. Please do not leave in a parked car.

Seller Rewards Program

Sell One Box……..Scratch Card for **CASH!!!!**
Sell Two Boxes……Win a Can of Silly String- which will be used….on a teacher!!

For each additional box sold receive an additional scratch off card worth CASH!!
We will have one scratch card worth…..$100

Those selling their first case by September 21 will be in a drawing for a
5 LB WFC Bar!!!

We will give more cash and prizes to participants than ever before!!

Top selling homeroom in each grade level wins a pizza party.
Top school-wide seller will receive $100 CASH!!!!!!
Top three sellers in each grade level (*selling a minimum three boxes*) wins:

1st Prize **$25** 2nd Prize **$15** 3rd Price **$10**
No prizes awarded until all money is collected.

Proceeds from the sale will go towards funding:

Field Trips	Student Supplies
Assemblies	Student Rewards
Printing Supplies	Professional Development

Thanks for your support!