



December 2017 Newsletter

Happy Holidays from the Administration, Faculty, and Staff of HVRHS

In early November, I distributed a survey which gave students an opportunity to give us their evaluation of the new schedule and grading system. On the positive side, we learned that 73% of the students rated the new Flex Block period as helpful to very helpful; the same percentage said that they felt this schedule gives them more access to the teachers they needed to see. Less popular was the new grading system. Because of their concerns, this topic was the main discussion topic at the Department Chair and Faculty meetings. Please assure your student that the administration takes their feedback very seriously and is working to decide how best to answer their concerns so we can move forward positively and responsibly.

Notes from First School Community Partnership (SCP) Meeting

The first of two SCP meetings was held last month. The initial discussion topic was a conversation of what the “Portrait of a HVRHS Graduate” should look like. Dr. Martinez discussed the Four C’s of education - Critical thinking, Communication, Collaboration and Creativity. This discussion was then followed by a review of professional development days and how the focus this year has been on instruction. An overview of the new grading practices was next and it was centered on what we as a school want to grade our students on. The final topic was the upcoming NEASC Accreditation and how the school is preparing for its March visit. Each topic was introduced by a member of the administration and after they provided background information and a base for future conversations, the twenty-member audience was divided into break-out groups to encourage productive dialogues and to give everyone present an opportunity to voice their opinions and feedback.

Counseling Department Update

It has been a busy beginning to the year for the School Counseling Department. During the first two days of school, we serviced 172 students with questions or concerns related to their schedules! In the months of September and October, we met with the senior class to do a classroom lesson on the college application process. We also held a Senior Parent Night, met with seniors individually to further solidify their post-high school plans, created resumes and held several Common Application help sessions during the Flex Block. In November, we conducted a lesson for freshmen to introduce them to all the help resources available in the building and had them complete a career interest profiler which can be accessed in their Naviance account.

The department, in conjunction with John Marsicano, our school psychologist, will be running several therapeutic groups with subjects including anxiety reduction, relationship building, and organizational skills. We will be starting individual meetings with freshmen this month through January. Sophomores will receive a lesson in identifying stress and anxiety through their Biology classes and they will complete the “Do What You Are” career assessment. For further information regarding upcoming counseling events, please visit our School Counseling webpage which can be found under the Departments heading on the HVRHS website.

Community Partners Collaborate on Northwest Corner Opioid Report

There is much to learn on this important and hard-hitting topic. We encourage all parents to [read the report](#) compiled by NW Community Foundation, Berkshire Taconic, McCall Center for Behavioral Health and the Foundation for Community Health. It is a very thorough and thoughtful overview of the situation in our region and the resources available to our community.

Enriching Opportunity

21st Century Fund for HVRHS is pleased to launch this year's Annual Ingenuity Competition (AIC). The Competition was designed to inspire our students to envision and implement cutting edge projects through ingenuity, teamwork, and critical thinking about contemporary issues. Applications should be submitted by three member teams, under the guidance of an adult mentor, by January 5, 2018. If your child is interested or has an idea they'd like to explore, have them speak with Dr. Martinez who is the school's liaison for this project. More details are also available on the school [website](#), just scroll down on the Latest News page.

Each member of the winning team will receive a \$1,000 grant to use towards an enriching educational experience of their choice; the selected team can spend up to \$2,000 for project expenses and materials.

SGA Offers Parents a Night Off

On Friday, December 8th, from 4:30 – 9:30pm HVRHS Student Government Association (SGA) is introducing a *Parents Night Out* fundraiser. For \$12/child or \$30 for three or more, HVRHS students and adult supervisors will provide your younger children with an evening of crafts, activities, and movies like *Elf* and *Frozen* while you take a break from the holiday stress. Drop your children at HVRHS and enjoy having time to prepare for the holidays, a night out or time to yourself.

Open House to 7th & 8th Graders and Parents

On Thursday, December 7th from 6:00-8:00 pm, the school administration and teachers are hosting an information night - open to all Region One 7th and 8th graders and parents. They will have an opportunity to meet with teachers, administrators, and school personnel to discuss any and all aspects of our diverse programming. Self- or student-guided tours will give our visitors a first-hand opportunity to see what we offer.

Trees, Wreaths, and Treats Galore

The annual FFA Holiday Store will be open from December 2nd through the 23rd from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Prices are as follows: Cabot Cheese: \$3-\$12, Wreaths: \$12-\$65 (average \$20), Floral Centerpieces: 1 candle \$15/3 candles \$25, small swags \$10, Large swags \$15, Balsam Cross \$20, Mixed Cross \$24, Kissing Balls \$30, greens \$1 a bunch, roping \$2-\$3 a foot, small boxwood trees \$20, Large boxwood trees \$25, Holiday (cemetery) boxes \$20, Poinsettias \$4-\$45. All prices are approximate and may vary by specific item.

This year the store will also have pet toys made by HVRHS students. The proceeds from the sale of these items will go to the Little Guild of Saint Francis in Cornwall. This initiative was led by HVRHS Juniors Zoey Sosinsky and Donovan McCray. Please spread the word and help our students and Little Guild meet their goals.



Workshop Dates!

All workshops will be held in the Science and Technology Center. Sign up to STC Flex on Enriching students!

Thursday, November 30 (Day 1)

Will be held during Flex blocks 1, 2, 4 & 5

Friday, December 1 (Day 2)

Tuesday, December 5 (Day 4)

Wednesday, December 6 (Day 5)

the Little Guild Project

Help create pet toys to be sold at the FFA Holiday Production!

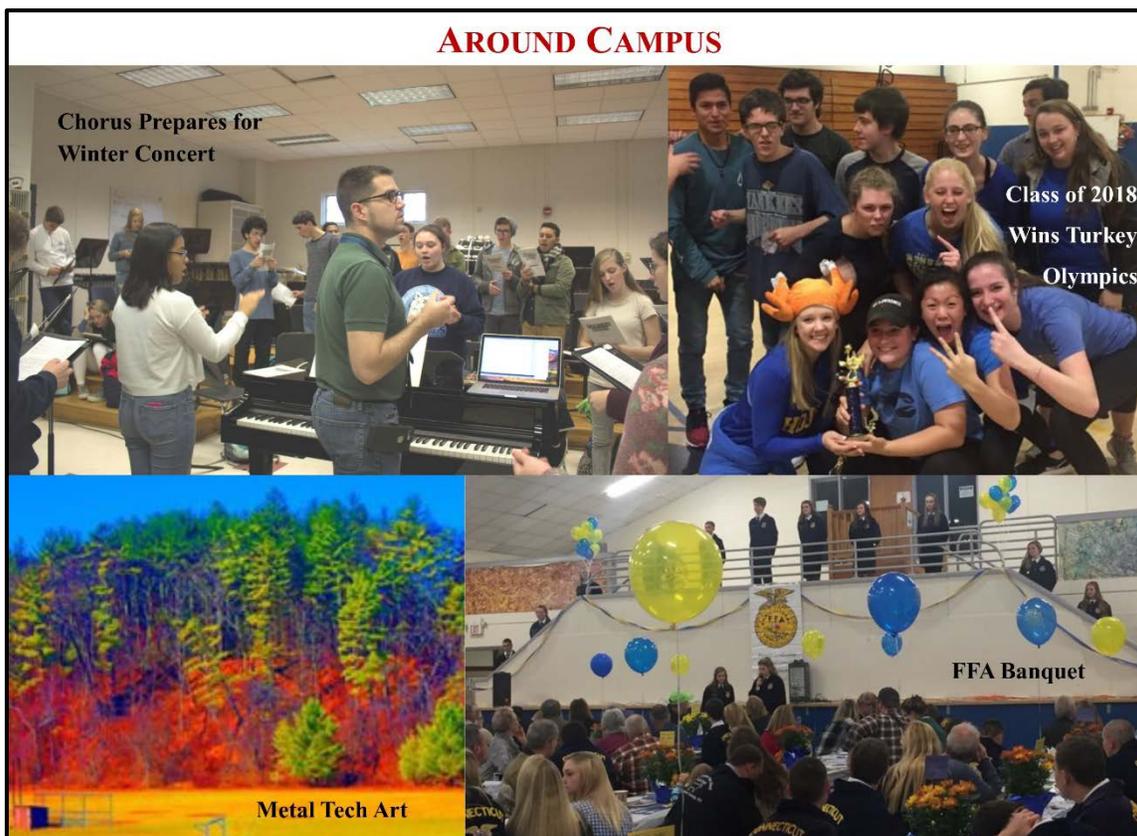
Announcements & Reminders:

Early Dismissal for Student Led Conferences on Dec. 12th and May 15th: Dismissal will be at 12:20pm. Conferences will be scheduled by students and their PLP Teacher and held from 1:30 - 7:30pm.

Self-Defense Club meets every Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2:30-3:30pm in the gym. It is run by community member Bill Anstett.

We encourage you to read the HYSB's [Latest Mental Health Monday](#), the new [Regional Newsletter](#) on the home page of the Regional School District #1 and the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS Winter [Newsletter](#).

AROUND CAMPUS



Chorus Prepares for Winter Concert

Class of 2018 Wins Turkey Olympics

Metal Tech Art

FFA Banquet

Calendar:

- Dec. 2 Opening of FFA Holiday Sale
- Dec. 4 Mid-marking period
- Dec. 7 Late Opening for Faculty Professional Development
6PM: 7th and 8th Grade Parent Night
- Dec. 8 Parents Night Out, babysitting available from 4:30-9:30PM in the cafeteria
- Dec. 15 Winter Concert in Auditorium at 7PM
- Dec. 18 Snow Date for Winter Concert
- Dec. 22 Blood drive in Mahoney-Hewat STC from 9AM - 12:30PM
Early Dismissal 12:20PM
- Dec. 25th – Jan. 3rd School closed for Holiday Recess