



Cat Chat

Hardin-Houston Local School

August 2023



Superintendent's Message

I hope you find the August Cat Chat informative as we soon begin the 2023-2024 school year. As customary, our outstanding maintenance staff has been busy deep cleaning the entire building since late May and once again has it looking like new. Three projects have been undertaken on campus this summer with the first one being coating the upper roof of the 1978 gymnasium with an elastic membrane that will extend the original lifespan of the roof. The second & third major projects were the renovation of the playground kickball field and the addition of the complex playground, with both projects being paid for by the use of federal grant dollars. I have no doubt these two projects will be enjoyed by our current and future Wildcats for many years to come!

As we look forward to an exciting 2023-24 school year, our students' successes, academic growth, and social experiences will continue to be at the forefront of what we do. This year will be year two of our one to one Chromebook initiative which starts in 5th and 9th grade. All 5th, 6th, 9th, & 10th graders will receive a school issued Chromebook which can be taken home each night. Students and parents will be sent information pertaining to this continued initiative as we get closer to the start of the school year. On a final note, please take time to update Final Forms with any changes that have occurred over the summer. This task is imperative as this is our most effective means to communicate with you throughout the school year.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year, I can be reached at rmaier@hardinhouston.org or at 295-3010 ext. 3001. The district will continue to use our school website to communicate with our community, in addition to our two twitter accounts @hhlocalschool and @HHWildcats. I am looking forward to a great school year and hope you are as well.

As always- GO WILDCATS!

Important Dates:

- Aug 10** Fee Pay Day- 7:00AM-7:00PM; 9th grade orientation-6:00PM Commons; 7th grade orientation- 6:30PM Commons
- Aug 15** Open House- 5:00-7:00PM
- Aug 17** First student day grades 1-12 & KDG (last name A-G only)
- Aug 18** First day for KDG (last name H-O only)
- Aug 21** First day for KDG (last name P-Z only)
- Aug 25** Building Safety Training Day (2 hr. early dismissal)
- Sep 1** Staff Safety Training Day (1 hr. early dismissal)
- Sep 4** No school- Labor Day
- Oct 13** No school- professional development for staff
- Nov 14** JH/HS Band Concert
- Nov 17** Meet the Team Night
- Dec 21** Start of Christmas Break
- Jan 3** First day back!
- Jan 26** Homecoming Festivities/Game



Project completed and paid for by federal grant dollars.

School Supply Lists

The school supply list for both the elementary and JH/HS buildings can be found under the home tab of the district website. School supply lists can also be found at local retailers including Walmart in Sidney.



Elementary Principal's Message - Mrs. Sara Roseberry

B.B. King once said, "The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." We are so happy that you will be sending your children to us to gain knowledge that can take them wherever they desire to go in their futures! Our staff is ready to begin a new year of exploration with our students and

provide them with the gift of knowledge that they can always hold and treasure.

The Elementary school has a few new staff members to welcome this year along with a few changes of placement. Mrs. McKee will now be teaching Title 1 Reading, and Ms. Francis will take over the first grade classroom. Ms. Francis was previously an Intervention Specialist at the High School. Mrs. Stephey and Mrs. Wical will be joining us as new Intervention Specialists. They come from Troy and Auglaize Co ESC, respectively. Mrs. Ginn will teach both 5th grade ELA and Science, and Mrs. Hollinger will teach both 5th grade Math and Social Studies. We will also welcome three new aides, Mrs. Borchers, Miss Duncum and Mrs. Rust. It's always a pleasure to invite fresh ideas into our building!

There will be a required meeting for incoming 5th graders and their parents in the auxiliary gym at 6:00 on August 15 (Open House Night) to discuss important information about our 1:1 Chromebook program. Last year's fifth graders really enjoyed having their own computers and showed us that they could be very responsible. Please be sure to complete the sign-in sheet at the door so we know you participated.

Summer is not quite over, so enjoy what is left. We look forward to seeing you at Open House!

Elementary and Secondary Education Act

According to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, previously known as the No Child Left Behind Act, districts having Title I programs must annually notify parents of their right to request information regarding professional and paraprofessional qualifications in the building. Parents may request professional and paraprofessional qualifications of Hardin-Houston Elementary School personnel criteria for your child's grade level and subject area being taught including:

- if the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas in which they are teaching
- if the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status in which Ohio qualifications or licensing criteria are currently being waived
- the teacher's baccalaureate degree major, graduate certification, and field of discipline
- whether the student is provided services by a paraprofessional, and if so, his/her qualifications.

Hardin-Houston Open House

On Tuesday, August 15th from 5:00-7:00pm the school district will have its traditional open house for you and your child to meet their teachers and bus driver. The PTO will once again be having the Big Susie's Ice Cream truck providing free ice cream for all H-H PK-6 grade students. The ice cream truck will also be open to any other family members wanting to purchase ice cream. In addition, on the way out of the building, stop and grab a free hotdog for the entire family.

The Hardin-Houston Elementary Student Council Officers

presented a check to Shelly Calvert who runs a non-profit organization called "We Love Birthday Parties." The Student Council Body raised funds through various activities this year and chose this non-profit organization because it provides birthday parties to children in foster care and experiencing poverty. Thank you to all elementary students who participated in this year's fundraiser.



Substitute Bus Drivers/Substitute Cooks/ Substitute Custodians/Substitute Aides

Hardin-Houston Local School is actively looking for caring and dedicated individuals to fill substitute positions within the school system. There is an immediate need to fill positions, as well as a need to fill anticipated openings in the near future. Please call the superintendent's office for more information.

Closings & Delays

In the event of inclement weather or other school emergencies, the district will use The Education Connection (TEC) and Twitter to notify parents and guardians of delays or closings. We also use the local television stations to communicate information about the status of school and athletic cancellations.

Lunch Prices for 2023-2024

The Hardin-Houston School District will follow the same lunch prices that were in place last year. As in the past, JH&HS students must use their online lunch account for Coffee Bar and ala Carte items. Free and reduced applications are available on the website and in the school's office. Children from families whose annual income is at or below the Federal Guidelines are eligible for free and reduced price meals and school fee waivers.

Busing Information

As in past years, transportation information can be obtained at the Open House on Tuesday, August 15th in the Commons. To help alleviate some first day jitters, parents and students are invited to the back Bus Parking Lot to meet their child's bus driver and walk through their bus. Please call the transportation office if you are new to the area or if you have had a change of address over the summer. We would be happy to assist you!

Becky Heitman
Secretary to the Superintendent
Transportation Coordinator
937-295-3010 ext. 3000

Fee Pay Day/ 7th & 9th Grade Orientation

Houston High School will again host a fee pay day on August 10th from 7am - 7pm. We look forward to seeing you. Also on August 10th, Mrs. Merickel and Mr. Judy will host 7th grade and freshman orientation in the Commons. Freshman orientation will begin at 6:00pm followed by 7th grade orientation at 6:30pm.



High School Principal's Message - Mr. Jeff Judy

The administration, teachers, and staff of Houston High School are excited to welcome students back to begin the 2023 - 2024 school year. I hope that everyone enjoyed a safe, and relaxing summer. Hopefully, the summer break allowed everyone to recharge and get ready to return for a

successful year.

This school year will bring the continuation of our 1:1 Chromebook initiative. Phase two of this initiative will again provide a Chromebook to all of our 9th-grade students. This will mean that all students in grades 9 and 10 (who received Chromebooks last year as 9th graders) will be equipped with a device that they can use to enhance their learning throughout the school year. The introduction of 1:1 was a success last year, and I look forward to seeing us continue to expand our application of this resource to student learning. Details regarding our 1:1 initiative will be shared at the 9th-grade orientation, so as always, I encourage you to plan to attend that event.

Houston High School will always be committed to providing our students with a safe learning environment and challenging them to meet their potential. In addition, we are committed to creating meaningful partnerships between students, parents, and school personnel. Please reach out to your child's teachers with questions or concerns. The staff directory on our school website contains the email addresses of all staff members. I can always be reached by phone (937-295-3010 Ext. 2001) or email (jjudy@hardinhouston.org) and will be more than happy to help in any way that I can. Finally, please access important information from our school website, Twitter accounts, and the Education Connection system.

Respect, success, and pride - that is the Wildcat Way!
Mr. Judy

High School Band

The HS Band worked hard at band camp during July and had a great performance at the Shelby County Fair. They will also be kicking off the school year by playing at the open house on Aug 15th. Please stop by to enjoy some of your favorite Wildcat tunes! Additionally, save the dates for our other fall performances:

- Ft. Loramie Show: September 22
- Bradford Pumpkin Show: October 12
- Wapak Halloween Parade: October 19
- Fall Concert: November 14

High School Guidance Message

Orientations for 9th and 7th grades will be held on Fee Pay Day, Thursday, August 10th.

- 9th grade Orientation 6:00 p.m.
- 7th grade Orientation 6:30 p.m.

These presentations will be led by Mr. Judy and Mrs. Merickel and will contain a wealth of valuable information that students will be expected to know. Please plan to attend!

High School Staff Additions and Changes

Kyle Borchers will join the Houston High School team as a 7-12 ELA teacher. Mr. Borchers has spent the last 8 years at Newton High School and brings 11 years of teaching experience overall. Mr. Borchers is a graduate of Houston High School and we are excited for him to come back home and contribute to the students and families of the district.

Dave Hall is not a new teacher to the district but will make a move back to the JH/HS side of the building for part of the school day. Mr. Hall is one of our very valuable intervention specialists and will help teach math at both the JH and HS levels.

I encourage students and parents to come to open house to meet and greet our new teachers.

FCCLA National Leadership Conference

Over the summer, four members of the Houston Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter, along with adviser, Mrs. Abby Pleiman, had the opportunity to attend and compete in various competitive events, known as STAR Events, at the FCCLA National Conference held in Denver, Colorado.

Sophia Waesch and Mya Lentz competed in the Chapter Service Project Portfolio event. This event recognizes chapters that develop and implement an in depth service project that makes a worthwhile contribution to families, schools, and communities. Students must use Family and Consumer Sciences content and skills to address and take action on a community need. Sophia and Mya organized a Miracle Minute held last winter to help Mrs. Kittel in her battle with cancer. The girls were able to raise over \$8,000 for Mrs. Kittel. The girls received a Gold rating at regionals and received a Gold rating and 1st place at the state competition, which qualified them for the national competition. At Nationals, Mya and Sophia received another Gold rating and placed 2nd in the nation!



Marissa McDermit and Sophia Sharp competed in the Focus on Children event. This is an event where participants use Family and Consumer Science skills to plan and conduct a child development project that has a positive impact on children and community. They worked with Mrs. Phipps' 1st grade class and taught the students about healthy dental habits. They received a Gold rating at regionals, and received a Gold rating and 2nd place at the state competition, which also qualified them to the national competition. At Nationals, they received another Gold rating, and placed in the Top 10 in the nation!



We would like to thank everyone in our community for all their support and help to make this opportunity available to our students!

Hardin-Houston Local School
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Houston, OH 45333
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www.hardinhouston.org

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The CAT CHAT is published and distributed two times a year by Hardin-Houston School for the purpose of keeping district residents informed.

Highly Qualified Teacher Report

In order to comply with the state's Highly Qualified teacher mandate, all districts across the state have to report if they have any teachers not considered by ODE as fulfilling the Highly Qualified requirements. Each school district strives to be 100%. Hardin-Houston has one teacher who is not considered by the state as being highly qualified, because he/she are lacking in specific area of the qualifications. Although that teacher has all degrees and certifications necessary to teach in the state of Ohio and has been doing so very well for many years, the District wants to inform you that Hardin-Houston's HQT percentage is 99.58%.

Neola 9160 Handicap Access Disclaimer

This notice is available for anyone who is interested in attending a Hardin-Houston event who may require one or more accommodations. In accordance with State and Federal Law, the District will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities who wish to attend and/or participate in school events. Such individuals should notify the principal/athletic director if they require a reasonable accommodation.

*The Hardin-Houston Local School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, color, religion, national origin, handicap, or age in its education, activities, admissions, or employment policies as required by Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Executive Order 11244 and all its amendments.

Any violations of this policy should be referred to the Civil Rights Officer for Hardin-Houston Local School District, Superintendent Ryan Maier, (937) 295-3010 ext. 3001.

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



Athletic Department

Mr. Craig Knouff - Athletic Director / Asst. K-12 Principal

Wildcats, the 2023-24 academic and athletic year is quickly approaching and your summer will soon come to a close. I hope that each of you have been able to enjoy the much needed break in preparation of our upcoming school year.

Parents, please ensure your athlete has an up-to-date physical as we begin our Fall athletic season. Physicals are good for thirteen months and then must be renewed. Additionally, students and parents, please login to your Final Forms account as soon as possible. There is essential information in your account that must be reviewed prior to the official start of a school sponsored sport in order for a student athlete to participate in any sport activities.

As in the past, the athletic department will be offering Houston students the opportunity to purchase a Houston High School Athletic t-shirt. The fee to purchase the shirt will be \$20. As in the past, purchase of the t-shirt allows your Houston student to enter any home athletic event for \$1, as long as they are wearing any Houston shirt to the event. In addition, athletic passes can be purchased through the front office. The fee for a student pass is \$50 and an adult pass will be \$100. The Golden Wildcat pass will be available for free to any Houston resident of 65 years or older.

Furthermore, our home athletic events will broadcast through the NFHS Network system. A subscription must be purchased

to view the games. An annual subscription will be \$79.99 and a monthly subscription is \$11.99. To get your subscription visit nfhsnetwork.com/subscribe/retail. With each subscription Houston High School receives a portion of the fee. Moreover, if you have not done so, please follow us on our Twitter account @HHWildcats.

I would also like to take this time to recognize one of our premier athletes, Emilee Earl. For those of you that were unaware, Emily qualified to the state track meet in three separate events: pole vault, shot put and discus. Emilee scored in two of the events, shot put and pole vault. She placed 5th in pole vault and 6th in the shot put. The athletic department would like to congratulate her, and we look forward to her continued success this upcoming year.

First Day of School

- August 17** ALL students in grades 1-12 & KDG. (last name A-G only)
- August 18** First Day for KDG (last name H-O only)
- August 21** First Day for KDG (last name P-Z only)



district twitter
@hhlocalschool
athletics twitter
@HHWildcats