

Hardin-Houston Local School

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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.



Athletic Department

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

Wildcats, I hope that you have enjoyed the summer break that has transpired so far, and it is my wish that what remains of it is remarkable as well. The 2022-23 athletic and academic school year is quickly approaching. I am confident that as your summer vacation draws to a close, you will be prepared to come back and excel in your chosen sports and in your academic pursuits.

As always, with the beginning of the school year, there are a few specific items you need to be aware of. First, it is essential that all athletes have an up-to-date physical. Physicals are only good for one year and must be renewed after its anniversary date. Additionally, all athletes and parents must complete the Mandatory OHSA Preseason

Meeting. The meeting is conducted online through Final Forms. Each parent and student must create their own account in Final Forms and review the preseason material. Upon completion of each component, both the parent and athlete must sign acknowledging they have looked over, understand and agree to the policies entailed in each of those components.

Secondly, 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, with the purchase of the t-shirt, your Houston student will be able 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, we have added several new coaches to the district. It is my pleasure to welcome Dana Anthony, Janelle Hillard and Teresa Knouff to the Fall coaching staff. Dana and Janelle will be our JH volleyball coaches and Teresa has taken over for the iconic Mr. Boeke as an additional coach for the cross country team. Moreover, we have several new Winter sport's coaches. Caleb Fledderjohann has taken over the head boys basketball coaching position and he has added Zach Freeling as his assistant varsity coach. Brian Gillespie will be the new head girls basketball coach. His staff will consist of Tammy Vondenhuevel as the assistant varsity coach and Matt Phyllaier as the junior varsity coach. Last but by no means least, Jonna Raffel will take over the JH cheerleading advising position.

Finally, the athletic department will still be broadcasting our home athletic events through the NFHS Network system. A subscription must be purchased to view the games. An annual pass will be \$69.99 and a monthly pass is \$10.99. To get your subscription visit nfhsnetwork.com/subscribe/ retail. With each subscription Houston High School receives a portion of the fee. Lastly, if you have not done so, follow us on our Twitter account @HHWildcats.

Go Cats!



district twitter
@hhlocalschool
athletics twitter
@HHWildcats



Cat Chat

Hardin-Houston Local School

August 2022



News from the Superintendent's Office!

I hope this 2022 August Cat Chat comes to you enjoying what has been a wet, dry, wet summer break! Before we jump ahead to the exciting changes for the 2022-2023 school year, I want to share with you a few projects that occurred over the summer break. As usual, our outstanding maintenance staff has been busy deep cleaning the entire building and once again has it looking like it was new back in 2011. The first project entailed installing thru-wall flashing and coating the lower roof of the 1978 gymnasium with two coats of elastic membrane. The second project that will be completed the first part of September is the track press box.

As we look forward to an exciting 2022-23 school year, you will see a few changes that I hope you agree will be beneficial to our Wildcat students by enhancing their many school experiences, in addition to making life more streamlined for our parents in dealing with all the paperwork we need filled out each year. Starting this year all 5th & 9th graders will receive a school issued Chromebook which can be taken home each night. Students and

parents will be sent information pertaining to this exciting initiative as we get closer to the start of the school year. The second major change has been in motion over the summer and should have been noticed by all of our parents is the transition of Onecallnow to The Education Connection (TEC) and Oneview to Final Forms. You will find a detailed explanation of both programs later in this edition. The last change you will notice is the restructuring of school fees for the 22-23 school year. You will be happy to hear, and soon see, that most of our parents will see a sizable reduction in their child's school fees.

As always, 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. Have a great school year and GO WILDCATS!

Mr. Ryan Maier, Superintendent

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.

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 following television stations to communicate information about the status of school and athletic cancellations:

WDTN Channel 2 (NBC)

WKEF Channel 7 (CBS)

WKEF/WRGT Channel 22/45 (ABC/FOX)

Important Dates:

- Aug 11** Fee Pay Day- 7:00AM-7:00PM; 9th grade orientation- 6:00PM Commons; 7th grade orientation- 6:30PM Commons
- Aug 16** Open House- 5:00-7:00PM
- Aug 18** First student day grades 1-12 & KDG (last name A-G only)
- Aug 19** First day for KDG (last name H-O only)
- Aug 22** First day for KDG (last name P-Z only)
- Aug 26** Building Safety Training Day (2 hr. early dismissal)
- Sep 2** Staff Safety Training Day (1 hr. early dismissal)
- Sep 5** No School- Labor Day
- Sep 8** PK-12 Photos
- Oct 14** No School- professional development for staff
- Nov 11** Meet the Team Night
- Dec 16** Homecoming Festivities/Game
- Dec 22** Start of Christmas Break
- Jan 3** First day back!

Hardin-Houston Open House

On Tuesday, August 16th 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 hotdog for the entire family.



Elementary Principal's Message - Mrs. Sara Roseberry

As was stated on the Wonder Years T.V. show, "Growing up happens in a heartbeat. One day you're in diapers; the next day you're gone. But the memories of childhood stay with you for the long haul." I hope that your children collected many fond memories over the summer

that they can think back on in later years. We also intend to add to those wonderful memories this upcoming school year. We have worked hard over the summer to prepare for a great year, and we are excited to have the students return.

Upcoming changes for this school year include: Mrs. Foster has moved from 5th grade to 3rd grade where she will teach science and social studies and support Mrs. Smith in ELA. Mr. New and Mrs. Koverman will teach 4th, 5th, and 6th grade social studies and science, respectively.

There will be a meeting for 5th graders and their parents in the auxiliary gym at 6:00 on August 16 (Open House night) to discuss important information about our new 1:1 Chromebook program. There will be a sign-in sheet at the door, so please be sure to sign in.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer, and 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.

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The Education Connection (TEC)

The Education Connection has replaced One Call Now as the primary way in which we communicate with parents about emergencies, such as delays and closings, as well as non-emergency notifications, such as school events and reminders. Calls will originate from (937) 575-0031.

To receive text message notifications, you must text the word "TEC" to 64085. If you would like to stop receiving text messages, you can opt-out by texting the word "Stop" to 64085. If you decide to not opt-in to the texting feature, you will not receive messages sent through text.

The Education Connection will also include several more features, such as a dedicated absence line. You may also call the TEC phone number to listen to the most recent message sent from the school. More information about TEC will be available on the school website in the coming weeks.

Please ensure that your contact information is up-to-date in Final Forms, as this is how phone numbers are updated/added to TEC. Only the home phone and cell phone of the primary and secondary parent/guardian contacts from the enrollment forms are added.

Fee Pay Day/ 7th & 9th grade orientation

Houston High school will again host a fee pay day on August 11th from 7am - 7pm. We look forward to seeing you. Also on August 11th, 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.

Engraved Brick PAVER & BLOCK Project

Hardin-Houston Local School is once again selling personalized engraved paver bricks & blocks to residents, alumni and local businesses. Please see the school website for more information and a complete order form.

Final Forms

Hardin-Houston Local School has replaced OneView with Final Forms as our online enrollment and back to school form software. These online forms provide parents/guardians with a convenient way of filling out and electronically signing and submitting the forms to the district. This system is also used to submit new enrollment registration forms to the district for any new students who will be attending Hardin-Houston Local School, as well as athletic forms, agreements, and physicals.

Prior to the beginning of each school year, every student attending Hardin-Houston Local School is required to update their Final Forms documents. These forms are required to be updated throughout the year if any changes to the information occur, such as a change in phone number, address, emergency contacts, etc. This ensures the district has the most up-to-date information. All forms can be found by logging into your Final Forms account through our school website.

In addition to online forms, Final Forms is also used as a communication platform to email parents about any pertinent information that may include attachments or other information that is not able to be communicated through TEC. Please ensure your Final Forms account has the correct email address(es) listed.

Completion of the online registration forms is vital to effective communication with parents/guardians. Please ensure that all information is accurate. The district appreciates your promptness in completing the online forms.

If you have questions about Final Forms or the electronic forms process, you may call us at (937) 295-3010. If you do not have access to a computer, tablet or phone to complete your forms, or if you need assistance, our school office is set up with a public kiosk computer for family use.



JH/HS Principal's Message - Mr. Jeff Judy

The administration, teachers, and staff of Houston High School are excited to welcome students back to begin the 2022 - 2023 school year. I hope that everyone has enjoyed a safe, and relaxing summer, and is recharged and ready to return for a great year.

The 22-23 school year will bring the onset of our 1:1 student Chromebook initiative. This initiative will be phased in over the next four school years. During that time each 9th-grade student, beginning with this year's freshman class, will be issued a Chromebook that will be used both in and out of the classroom to enhance student learning. I am very excited that we have the opportunity to provide this resource to our students. Our teachers have been working hard to find ways to maximize the use of this resource in their classrooms and I am confident that this will only add to the quality instruction and learning that our students receive at HHS. Details regarding our 1:1 initiative will be shared at 9th-grade orientation, so as always, I encourage you to plan to attend that event.

The partnership between school personnel, parents, and students is paramount to a successful educational community. A key component of that partnership is communication. Please continue to access important information from our school website, Twitter accounts, and the Education Connection (which has replaced One Call Now) system. In addition, please reach out to me and your child's teachers with your 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.

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

Lunch Prices for 2022-2023

The Hardin-Houston School District will follow the lunch prices that were in place before the pandemic. As in the past, JH & HS students must use their online lunch account for Coffee Bar and ala Carte items. Free and reduced applications need to be filled out this year and are available in the Principal'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 16th 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

New Hardin-Houston Teaching Staff Members

The Hardin-Houston School District is excited to announce the addition of the following new teaching staff members for the 2022-2023 school year.

ELEMENTARY

Dave Hall will teach 5th grade ELA and math in the resource room. Mr. Hall was previously in the JH/HS.

Jenna Barlage will teach 4th and 6th grade ELA and math in the resource room. She served as a full time substitute last year and worked with both JH/HS and elementary students.

Emily Ginn will teach 5th grade ELA. She comes to us from Urbana Schools where she was a literacy coach and ELA teacher.

Natalie Renfroe will teach 1 st grade pending Board approval. She has previously taught in Dayton, Brookville, and Mississippi.

HIGH SCHOOL

Caleb Fledderjohann will join us as a Jr. High and High School intervention specialist. Mr. Fledderjohann comes to us from Goshen Local Schools where he served as an I.S. since 2010. Mr. Fledderjohann will also serve as our head boys basketball coach.

Jonna Raffel has spent the last seven years teaching at Tri-Village Jr./Sr. High School. Mrs. Raffel will be a great addition to our ELA department. She will also serve as one of our Power of the Pen coaches and our Jr. High cheerleading advisor.

Kristen Rappold is a recent graduate of the University of Kentucky and will take over as our new Agricultural Education teacher and FFA advisor. Ms. Rappold completed her student teaching at HHS last year and we are excited to now have her as a full-time member of our staff.

Emilee Tannyhill comes to HHS with six years of combined experience at both Graham and Piqua Schools. Mrs. Tannyhill will be an excellent addition to our ELA and Social Studies departments.

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

FCCLA Update

Over the summer, Adviser Mrs. Abby Pleiman and three members of the Houston Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter had the opportunity to attend and compete in various competitive events, known as STAR Events, at the FCCLA National Conference held in San Diego, California.

Sophia Waesch competed in the National Programs in Action event. This is an event where participants use the planning process to plan and implement a national program project. Sophia planned and carried out the Princess Spa Day, which FCCLA hosted last winter. She received a Gold rating at regionals and received a Gold rating and 2nd place at the state competition, which qualified her for the national competition. At Nationals, Sophia received a Silver rating and placed 22nd in the nation!

Sara Loraine 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 MyPlate and healthy eating habits. They received a Gold rating at regionals, and received a Gold rating and 1st place at the state competition, which also qualified them to the national competition. At Nationals, they received another Gold rating, and placed 8th 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!

