



Cat Chat

Hardin-Houston Local School

February 2024



News from the Superintendent's Office!

As you will soon see, the majority of the February Chat Cat will be spent spotlighting our incredibly talented Wildcat students for the first half of the 23-24 school year. Before you do that, I would like to share a piece of information which I am sure parents will appreciate as we begin preparing for the 24-25 school year. Starting with next school year, the only school supplies students will need is a backpack and a pair of earbuds/headphones- based upon teacher recommendations per grade level. As we approach the end of this school year and summer break, additional information for next school year will be shared with parents through Final Forms. I would also encourage our community members to access our district website and X (formerly Twitter), for all school related news and student accomplishments.

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. Enjoy the February Cat Chat edition.

Go Wildcats!

Ryan Maier, Superintendent

National Honor Society

On Friday, October 6, the David L. Boggs chapter of the National Honor Society proudly inducted 12 new members. The ceremony was conducted by NHS President Katie Maier and assisted by fellow Senior officers Ella Crim, Cienna Kennedy, Ethan Lukey, and Rusty Vondenhuevel. New members include: Emilee Earl, Adam Edwards, Alexandra Hartings, Lillianne McClenen, Addilyn Mowery, Mekayla Pleiman, Austin Schutz, Dylan Shaffer, Cheyenne Stangel, Reagan Steiner, Dustin Strunk, and Sophia Waesch.

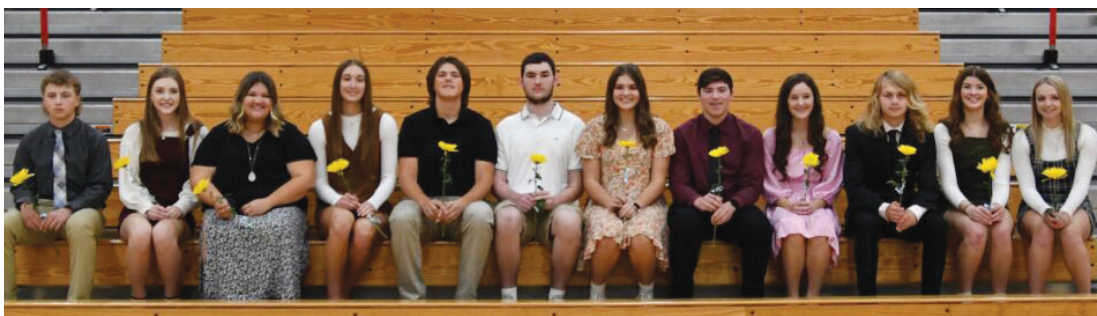
The NHS conducts two service projects each school year. The Thanksgiving Food Drive and the Spring Blood Drive. The food drive generated over 1,200 items! The elementary class winner was the 1st grade! The junior high/high school class who donated the most items (per student) was the Seniors, who then faced the Staff in an obstacle course showdown, which was a lot of fun and ended with Ethan Dienhart and Mr. Hausfeld's faces in whipped cream pies.

The NHS is looking forward to the Spring service event, the Blood Drive, which will be held on Thursday March 14th. All students 16 years or older can donate. We look forward to having another fantastic turnout of donors.

The National Honor Society is advised by Stephanie Merickel.

Important Dates:

Mar 1 & 2	Spring Play
Mar 29	Start of Spring Break
Apr 4 & 5	Kindergarten Screening
Apr 6	Prom at the Oaks Club
Apr 23	JH/HS Art Show & Band Concert
May 16	Last student day
May 19	Graduation- 2:00PM





Elementary Principal's Message

Greetings from Hardin-Houston Elementary! As usual, we have had a very busy winter. On Saturday, January 13, the Board of Education members and administration recognized 50 elementary students with high achievement during the first semester of the year in front of a large crowd at

the Houston vs Lehman game. Our Destination Imagination teams have been busy practicing for their upcoming Regional competition at Sinclair Community College on March 9. Last year, they qualified for state competition, so hopefully they can get there again this year. We wish these talented students all the best. Our 2nd grade students will be taking a gifted assessment the first week of February and our 3rd-6th grade students are very busy preparing for the Ohio State Tests beginning at the end of March and running through May. Our classrooms are all busy with fun learning activities every day. Please share with friends and family who have a child who will be 5 years old by August 1 that our kindergarten screening will be April 4th and 5th. We want to be sure we reach all of our upcoming kindergarteners. Our school is a great place to learn!

Box Tops for Education

If you purchase products to use at home with Box Tops for Education on them, you have the ability to help the school earn cash at no cost to you. The process is very simple. You just go to the Box Tops for Education website for a simple explanation of how to download the app and scan your receipts for credit.

Power of the Pen

Congratulations to the Power of the Pen teams for an outstanding showing at the District Competition at OSU-Lima on Saturday, January 27. The 7th grade team, consisting of Alivia Brown, Adisson Douglas, Claire Holscher, Teagan Rauch, Taylor Wagner, and Ava Widmark placed 2nd, with Claire Holscher and Taylor Wagner placing 3rd and 7th. The 8th grade team, consisting of Zane Hina, Lacey Naseman, Zevvon Schutte, Jaycie Seipel, Kaelyn Richardson, and Bentleigh Willingham also placed 2nd, with Kaelyn Richardson and Lacey Naseman placing 2nd and 9th.



Seventh grade team.



Eighth grade team.

Spirit Week Contest

On December 15th, the grades that won the spirit week contest had a final competition where they decorated a teacher. The pictures below show the results of that competition, where the 1st grade was declared the winner.



Mr. Barhorst (4th)



Mrs. Phipps (1st)



Mrs. Ginn (5th)

Philip S. Abbott Junior Honor Society



On Wednesday, November 29th, the Philip S. Abbott Junior Honor Society membership held an induction of new members. Peyton Mummey led the induction ceremonies with the assistance of current members: Alan Riffle, Alexis West, Aubrey Bodenmiller, Avery Barker, Bera Sliter, Carter Sauvie, Cooper Echols, Deijah Weidner, Grant Cole, Hailey McCorkle, Heidi Jenkins, Kaia Kellersmith, Konner Pleiman, Logan Mangen, Logan Ramge, Maddie Deppen, Megan South, Sophie Bryan, Tatum Branscum, Tucker Chappie, Weston Hoover, Zoey Young. The newly inducted freshman members included: Hayden Burger, Jayden Waggoner, Natalie Griffin, and Wyatt Larger. Newly inducted eighth graders were: Amber Young, Autumn Wilkins-Bunnell, Ben Coy, Brylee Breeze, Caden Hoellrich, Carmen Beaver, Claire Rust, Elizabeth Fogt, Emma Koenig, Hailey Ewing, Hannah Ostendorf, Jackie Earl, Kaelyn Richardson, Kenleigh Nation, Kylie Price, Lacey Naseman, Laney White, Madison Plunkett, Morgan Allen, Olivia Maier, Sophie Campbell, Trenton Hartings, Xander McCorkle, and Zoey Kinsella.

Congratulations to all the new members and their families. The Philip S. Abbott Junior Honor Society is advised by Danielle Poeppelman.



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

The 2023 - 2024 school year continues to fly by. The end of the second nine weeks represented the halfway point of the year. As a result, it is important to acknowledge the successes that we have experienced thus far and the challenges yet to come.

First and foremost, our students have accomplished so much this year. During the first semester, we had a successful 8th grade trip to Washington D.C., an awesome fall play, and an excellent JH/HS band and choir concert, just to name a few. In addition, many of our students received recognition for their academic achievements. During the first quarter, 230 students (64%) in grades 7-12 obtained Honor Roll status. During the second quarter, 208 students (58%) obtained that status. Please visit our school website at <http://hardinhouston.org/> for updates on these and other items of interest.

During the second semester, there will be many important events that will occur. One important event for parents and students to be aware of is State Testing. Students will be tested in the areas of English Language Arts, Science, Math, and Social Studies. Testing will begin the first week of April and conclude the first week of May. It is vitally important that our students do their very best so that their content knowledge is accurately represented. As we approach testing season more specific information will be made available.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff for all of their hard work. Each day I am impressed by them and their dedication to our students. I encourage parents to reach out to them with questions or concerns regarding their child's experience in their classes. All teacher contact information is listed under the Staff Directory tab of our district website (<http://hardinhouston.org/staff-directory/>).

As always, I look forward to an exciting and successful 2nd semester and conclusion of the school year. Please continue to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 937-295-3010 ext. 2001 or jjudy@hardinhouston.org.

Houston UVCC FFA

The Houston UVCC FFA has had a very busy first half of the year. Below are just a few of the highlights.

- The Mechanical Principles class finished their Foster Care Trunk Project in which the class built six trunks to be donated to local foster children.
- Malaiya Gross finished first place in the extemporary category, at the County Public Speaking Competition and will be advancing to the District Contest.
- FFA officers Mason McDermit, Addie Mowery, Emilee Earl, and Dylan Shaffer, recently submitted their officer books and all received gold ratings.
- In the upcoming weeks they will be submitting their National Chapter Application and State Degree Applications for Mason McDermit, Katie Maier and Elizabeth Low.
- Alex Kellersmith will be submitting his American Degree Application.



Malaiya Gross

Band News

The Wildcat Band had a successful fall performing at the Shelby County Fair, Ft. Loramie Football Game, Bradford Pumpkin Show, Greenville Holiday Horse Parade, Fall Concert and Homecoming Show. Eight students, Cadence DeLong, Jasmine Diehl, Alexis West, Bera Sliter, Lilly Detrick, Deijah Weidner, Hailey McCorkle, and Peyton Mummey participated in the OMEA Solo and Ensemble competition. The HS Band will also be participating at the OMEA District Contest on March 15th or 16th. Additionally, all music ensembles, 5th Grade Band, 6th Grade Band, Jr. High Band, 7-12 Choir, Jazz Band, and High School Band look forward to performing at the spring concert on April 23rd at 6pm, in the Hardin-Houston School Commons.

Senior Band Members —
Front Row: L to R – Rusty Vondenhuevel, Katie Maier & Ethan Lukey. Back Row: L to R – Caleb Woodward, Gabe Stangel, Kegan Brelsford & Austin Schutz.



Homecoming Houston High School

Homecoming festivities for the 2023-2024 school year were January 26 and January 27, 2024 at Houston High School. Festivities began at 6:00 P.M. on Friday, before the boys' junior varsity and varsity basketball games against Anna. Under the direction of Mrs. Emily Barga, the high school marching band put on a stellar performance. The court was introduced followed by the crowning of the king and queen. The court for homecoming was as follows: Freshmen attendants; Grant Cole and Kaia Kellersmith, Sophomore attendants; Hudson Price and Jaeden Spencer, Junior attendants; Paul Samera and Addie Mowery. Senior court members were: Gabe Dershem, Ella Crim, Ethan Dienhart, Katie Maier, Rusty Vondenhuevel and Kayla Winner. Second grade Crown Bearers were Easton Wones and Rochelle Graham. Returning were the 2022-2023 King and Queen Alex Kellersmith and Addy Frohne who then crowned the new royalty: King Rusty Vondenhuevel and Queen Kayla Winner.



"Winter Wonderland" was the theme for the homecoming dance that was held on Saturday, at the Houston High School Commons. All homecoming activities were organized and sponsored by the Student Council.

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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

Houstonians,

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some outstanding accomplishments by a few of our young athletes. The following athletes exemplify what it takes to stand out among their peers in our highly competitive Shelby County Athletic League. Their attitude, dedication and devotion to their sport should be modeled by those around them.

The Fall 2023 volleyball season was marked with Katie Maier's performance. Her play represented why she has continued to be an integral part of the high school program. For the second year in a row, the SCAL coaches have recognized Katie as one of the foremost players in our league, by presenting her with an All-League Honorable Mention award. Additionally, Ella Crim's serving accomplishment is a highlight of the volleyball season. This past fall, Ella broke the school's record for "Aces" with 41 on the season.

Furthermore, during the Fall 2023 season, Ethan Lukey and Tanner Voisard distinguished themselves as part of the golf program. Tanner earned a Second Team All-SCAL Honors. Moreover, Tanner shot a 79 during the Sectional Golf Tournament. His play earned him an individual qualifying spot in the District Golf Tournament, where he fired an 83. Continuing in what has become a tradition for Ethan Lukey, he earned a First Place All-League SCAL Honors, which he has done for three years in a row. Along with Tanner, Ethan qualified for the District Golf Tournament. At the tournament, Ethan's amazing play continued by winning the DIII Southwest District Tournament. Ethan's win earned him the right to play at the OHSA State Golf Tournament. Ethan was one of only twelve individuals in the entire state to accomplish this feat. Ethan went on to place 22nd overall at the state tournament.

As our Wildcat basketball schedule finishes up and our teams head into tournament play, I would like to wish each of our basketball teams the best of luck. And finally, good luck to our Spring sports as they begin the 2024 season.



30 Houston band alumni from the graduating years of 1991-2023 joined the HS Pep Band on February 3, for a spectacular combined performance!