

# WILDCAT NEWS

Central Middle School

January, 2023

Hartford Jt. #1 School

## Principal:

I sure hope you are staying warm this winter. As of this writing, it is -20 degrees outside! We are 5 months into the school year and time is rolling by fast. We have already had 2 diagnostics for Exact Path, so we are getting a pretty good pulse on where students are academically this year. We have seen some nice growth as a whole with each grade. We have especially been pushing our 8th graders on the most recent diagnostic, as that counts as their placement tests for high school.

We have about 15 weeks until the end of the school year. We recently hosted our Forensics meet, and over 400 students and 19 schools visited CMS. We had approximately 30 of our students take part in the meet. They will continue to participate in meets at other locations.

Our Student Council has been to the Bucks Leadership Conference earlier this month, and they recently attended the HUHS Student Council Leadership Conference. Our students were in leadership sessions throughout the day, and they had the ability to shadow students in high school classes.

Our Yearbook group is working hard at putting together the finishing touches on this year's yearbook. There is still time to order your copy if you are interested. An order link is at the end of this newsletter. Ms. Beck has a good group of students that assist her in photography and putting together the pages. As we do every year, we have a student design the front cover. I was pretty impressed with the chosen design this year. Yearbooks will come out at the end of the school year.

I want to remind students and parents that students are not allowed to carry backpacks in the classrooms. We only allow the district laptop bag, and it shouldn't be used as a backpack. We have seen too many devices broken these past months because students are jamming the laptop bags full, or not using the bag at all. Students have the ability to go to their lockers in between classes, so they should not need to stack their bag with anything.

## *Calendar of Events*

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- 2/7 – Parent-Teacher Conferences  
(by invitation only) 4:00 – 7:00 pm
- 2/13 – Parent Meeting: Human Growth and Development  
5:30 – 6:30 pm
- 2/14 – PTO Meeting 6:00 – 7:00 pm
- 2/15 – Family Book Study 5:00 – 6:30pm
- 2/16 – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra “All Strings Concert”  
6:30 – 8:30 pm
- 2/17 – PTO Talent Show  
6:30 – 8:00 pm
- 2/20 – No School
- 2/22 – District School Board Meeting  
6:00 – 8:00 pm
- 2/25 – Solos and Ensembles at CMS  
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- 2/28 – NJHS Induction Ceremony  
6:00 – 8:00 pm
- 3/1 – 8<sup>th</sup> graders at HUHS Choir concert 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- 3/3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Progress Reports emailed home
- 3/8 – Family Book Study 5:00 – 6:30pm
- 3/13 – Community Fair 5:00 – 7:00pm
- 3/14 – District School Board Meeting  
6:00 – 8:00 pm
- 3/15 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting  
5:30 – 6:30 pm
- 3/16 – Band Concerts 6:00 – 8:00pm
- 3/22 – Family Book Study 5:00 – 6:30pm
- 3/24 – End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter
- 3/27 – 3/31 – Spring Break

For a full listing of events, see our District Web page.

<https://www.hartfordjt1.k12.wi.us/central-middle-school/cms-calendar>

Finally, we could use some parent encouragement to have students finish strong this year. We have seen a larger number of students not completing homework or assignments in class. We stress to students the importance of preparing for high school by building good study habits and routines. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out at any time!

Stay warm ☺

*Mr. Viste*

Assistant Principal:

### HELPFUL TIPS FOR AWESOME ATTENDANCE

Remind your child that school is their first and most important job!

Tardies and early release times can count as “parts of days.” - Communicate the importance of regular school attendance to your child so they are hearing the same thing we are saying at school. - If your child has a doctor/ dentist appointment, they can still get credit for a full day if they attend at least some of the day. You can bring them before or after their appointment with the note from the doctor. - If your student is running a fever, vomiting, or has diarrhea they need to be kept home--if they do not have any of these symptoms, please send them!

*- Mrs. Rose*

6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Hartford Joint 1 Parents and staff,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the interim 6th-grade math teacher for Mr. Wagner. My name is Tyler Kowalke, and I am pleased to be a member of the Central staff. I am currently working on a degree in psychology with a focus in child and adolescent development. I believe it is crucial to support all students, to apply grace while teaching, and to be an effective listener and teacher. Middle school years are some of the most challenging chapters in life. So, I believe that supporting students, no matter the circumstance, is a must as a middle school teacher. I encourage kids, on a daily basis, to support one another and lift each other up rather than to bully or speak negatively towards staff or other students. I try to show them the importance of these qualities in their daily lives as well.

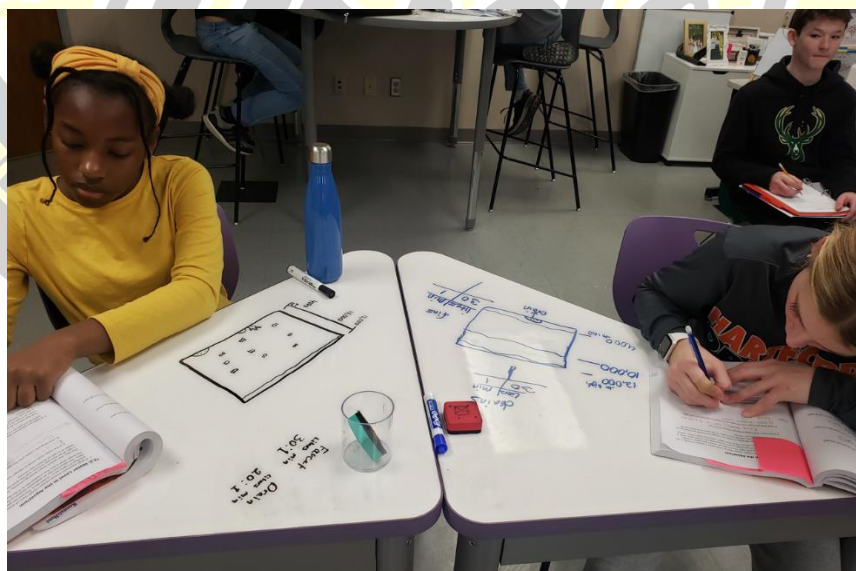
Sincerely,  
Mr. Kowalke



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

7th grade students have started Unit 5 - Rational Number Arithmetic in Math class. They are learning how to use operations with negative numbers and to apply that to real world situations. One project that applies this concept is the Stock Market Project. Students will learn how to utilize and understand the negative and positive percentages of the stocks and be able to compare companies of their choosing. Asking your child on what stocks they are investing in and having conversations at home about good spending/budgeting will help them to be more responsible and successful for their future!

Math Olympics has also started. Math teachers have collaborated to review for the Forward Testing in a fun and competitive way! Ask your child about what they have reviewed!





7th grade also had their first Pop-Up Party on Thursday 1/26/2023. 55 students were invited! We are extremely proud and hope to give more invitations for the next one! These are called pop-up parties because they can 'pop-up' at any time! Expectations for this and all of the future parties are as follows:

1. No missing work! That includes homework, projects, assignments on paper and digital, cool downs, assessments, etc.
2. Students need to show effort in all of their classes.
3. No referrals including mis-use of computers, and a max of 2 late-to-class.
4. Be respectful individuals.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

### Academic and Career Planning

In January, 8th grade students participated in three career exploration lessons. Students use the career exploration software, Xello, that they have continually updated throughout middle school.

Students completed a Career Match questionnaire, which matched them with possible future career interests. Students could then explore various career profiles and save their favorite careers, college majors, and potential colleges to their profile.

Students all did activities related to self-advocacy and preparing for the transition to high school.

Please ask your student about their saved careers and interests. There are many elective opportunities at HUHS that can help prepare them for their future endeavors.

For more guidance on talking to your child about careers, [here is an article](#) from the Xello Blog on talking with your child on developing interests.

## Applied Fine Arts:

### Art:

**6th grade** students finished the 2nd quarter with glazing their clay projects and drawing a 1-point perspective aquarium or art gallery.

**7th grade** students finished the 2nd quarter with glazing their clay projects and drawing a 2-point perspective street scene.

**8th grade 2D** art students completed a large grid drawing of a baby picture and then colored them in using pastels. They also completed a scratchboard drawing of a close-up of an animal and an oil pastel landscape.

**8th grade Pottery** students completed three different clay projects: a pinch pot animal, a coil pot and a slab box. They were able to glaze all three of them before the quarter ended.

### Music:

**6th grade** finished 2nd quarter with an African drumming unit after composing their own songs in ABA form.

**7th grade** students finished 2nd quarter playing acoustic guitars and singing the song Three Little Birds by Bob Marley.

**8th grade Instruments** class finished up 2nd quarter performing in Blues combos. Using the 12-bar Blues, they played guitar, piano, and sang lyrics that they created based on themes that were used throughout Blues history.

**8th grade Musical Theatre** Class's last unit of the quarter was about Broadway history and how musicals have changed from the early 1900's. They learned about famous composers like Irving Berlin and George Gershwin, famous performers like George M. Cohan, Burt Williams, and Fanny Brice, and early shows like the Ziegfeld Follies and Show Boat.

### **Spanish:**

**Spanish 1** - Students are currently learning about the house (rooms, furniture) and are learning to conjugate verbs in the present tense. It is exciting to see students being able to talk about various people and their actions in full sentences. As the school year continues, they will learn to conjugate even more verbs!

**Spanish 2** - Students are learning about their daily routine. We are talking about getting up, getting ready, brushing teeth, etc. In Spanish it is called a reflexive verb so we are adding on to our knowledge of the present tense and commands with this type of verb. The end of January we will start talking about clothing and shopping.

### **PLTW:**

**7th Grade** - Students wrapped up the 2nd quarter by learning about kinetic and potential energy. They designed and built paper roller coasters that would provide the appropriate amount of energy to allow a marble to run all the way without getting stuck or flying off the track.

#### **8th Grade**

**Sustainable Architecture** - Students have been working hard on designing a "green" home out of reclaimed shipping containers. They had to think outside of the box to utilize the limited space effectively and incorporate features to make it sustainable. They have also worked hard to learn how to create computer generated floor plans and 3-D models of their designed homes.

**Robotics** - Students ended the quarter learning to how to use motors and sensors to program projects to run without human assistance. They experimented with a car to learn the basics, and then moved on to design, build, and program a spinning sign.

### **Tech Ed:**

#### **7th grade - Intro to Tech Ed.-**

Students finished their semester project of a corner wall mock up. They painted their drywall and tiled the floor. It was great to see the finished products. The new semester has brought in a new group and the process will begin to learn about safety and prepare to work in groups in the shop again.

#### **8th grade - Intro to Woods -**

Students were able to finish their projects of making a tool box. They finished them by putting them together, stained it, and finish coated it with Polyurethane. Once again it was great to watch the process and great to see them succeed in finishing it and being able to take it home. The new semester has brought a new group in to start the process and talk about safety in the shop.

### **Virtual:**

Students are working to complete second quarter principles of Game Development, Fashion Design, Career Exploration, French, Personal Finance, and Agriscience. Virtual students are working on finishing their third quarter core classes.

### **Physical Education:**

Students will be participating in Fitness Stations that develop strength, flexibility and endurance. Students will demonstrate responsible and respectful behaviors while working in small groups rotating to 24 stations. Mrs. Retzliff PE classes will begin Human Growth and Development Class on February 27 during their PE classes. A Parent meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 13 at 6:00 PM. Parents are encouraged to watch for a parent letter in the mail the week of January 23, 2023.

### **Band:**

The first week back from Winter break was spent selecting Solo & Ensemble pieces for our event on February 25th. Registration forms are due by February 3rd. If your child is participating we could still use volunteers! In band class, we have been hard at work preparing for our upcoming concert on March 16th. As always, we look forward to showing off our hard work and performing for the community!

### **Orchestra:**

The Orchestra is preparing for their All Strings Concert February 16th, and Solo and Ensemble February 25th. Things are going well! There is lots of learning happening every single day in the Central Middle School Orchestra Program.

### **Choir:**

6th and 7th grade choirs are picking songs for our Solo/Ensemble Festival that is February 25. In class we are working on both solos and small ensembles like duets and double duets.

8th grade is also getting ready for the Solo/Ensemble Festival. In addition to that, they have been invited by the HUHS choir department to sing in their March 1st concert. The 8th graders will have their own section of the concert and then, at the end, sing along with the rest of the choirs.



**School Counselor- Ms. Allyson Morrow**  
**& School Psychologist- Mrs. Sarah Griebenow**

Changes are coming! As we are midway through the school year, we begin to think about the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. Below are details regarding HUHS transition and course selection for middle school students.

#### **First Step: New Student Open Enrollment**

- Make sure you have completed enrollment on the HUHS webpage. Students will not be able to register for classes until they are enrolled.
- Information regarding enrollment can be found [here](#)



- Please email Taylor Bever at [taylor.bever@huhs.org](mailto:taylor.bever@huhs.org) if you have any questions regarding enrollment

### **Second Step: Registration**

- Students may register on their HUHS Skyward account
- Registration closes February 13th
- If students have questions, please contact Allyson Morrow, CMS school counselor, at [amorrow@hjt1.org](mailto:amorrow@hjt1.org)

### **Bonus: HUHS Showcase**

- The Showcase is an event where students can explore the different course departments at the high school
- Date: February 8th from 6-8pm
- Additional presentation on course selection from 5-6 before the Showcase event in the Fieldhouse.

## **Clubs/Activities:**

### **Forensics:**

The Forensics season started off at Central Middle School for our first meet.

We were overwhelmed with how well the performances went for their first time. The kids had fun speaking, eating and dancing. We can't wait to take all the advice from the judges and perfect their pieces.

Our next meet is 2/3/23 at Silverbrook Middle School. **Way to go Central Team!**

### **Solos & Ensembles:**

#### **Please Note:**

**Solos and Ensembles will be hosted at Central Middle School on February 25<sup>th</sup>, not at HUHS as previously announced.**

#### **Mark your calendar:**

***8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE RECOGNITION***  
***Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>***  
***1:30 – 2:30 pm***

## **Order your 2022-2023 Yearbook**

**A YEARBOOK**

**AS UNIQUE AS your student**

We never forget cracking open a yearbook for the first time. Seeing the year captured inside. Reminiscing, both now and for years to come. Don't let that feeling slip away. Order a Central Middle School yearbook today!

**ORDER YEARBOOK >**

