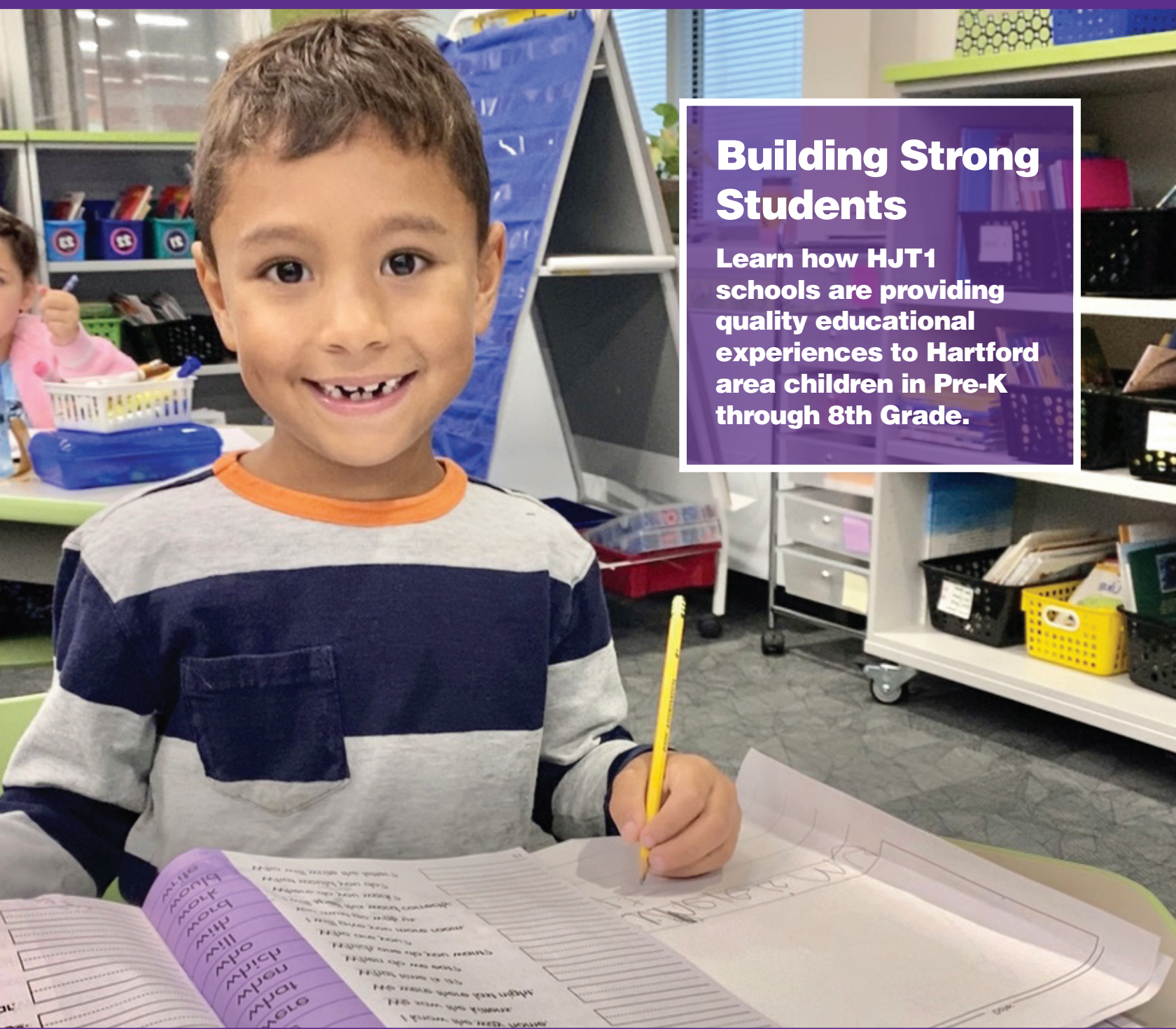


THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HARTFORD JT. 1

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## Building Strong Students

Learn how HJT1  
schools are providing  
quality educational  
experiences to Hartford  
area children in Pre-K  
through 8th Grade.



## Our Schools

The School District of Hartford Jt. 1 (referred to as “HJT1”) proudly serves Hartford area students in Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Our three schools include:

**Lincoln Elementary**  
Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Rossman Elementary**  
4K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Central Middle School**  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Our Commitment

Our District is dedicated to the success of each student through the active participation of students, staff, family, and community.

Together, we will create an academically challenging environment, while encouraging a desire for life-long learning.



# The Great Things Happening in Our Schools

During the past couple of months, it has been gratifying to observe our students enjoying themselves while learning at school as we continue to move back to our normal status quo. Whether seeing students on the playground at recess or when I’m visiting classrooms, I enjoy seeing smiles on their faces. It is great to see our students actively engaged in their academics, collaborating with their peers, and enthusiastic about interacting with one another. They are thrilled to have a teacher in front of them in class and in person.

Likewise, the staff is also delighted to have children in the classroom. Staff is enjoying the opportunity to engage each child and build necessary relationships to promote active learning. As a result, schedules and procedures are once again becoming routine.

To that end, after more than a year and a half of unpredictability, we have some catch-up to do. So, this year, more than ever, I will be calling out to parents and guardians to keep in close contact with their child’s teachers and monitor and plan for student progress. Additionally, the District is extending additional learning opportunities for students who are in need of additional support to catch up. Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact the Community Coordinators at their child’s school to discuss Power Hour (see page 7), Exact Path, Summer School, Jump Start, or simply to check out an extra library book.

Our Hartford Jt. 1 staff is devoted to working with children. Together, with the support of parents, guardians and the community, our educators will work to overcome any obstacles or challenges that have occurred during the past 18 months. Looking ahead, our District staff will continue to seek out ways to engage with the children while anticipating significant learning growth and success.

**This is why we are bringing this newsletter directly to your mailboxes. Despite the challenges we have all faced, we are seeing really great work this year. So please take a moment to read through this newsletter. We want you to see the smiling faces and the great things that are happening in our schools each day!**

Let’s look forward to a great rest of the school year, and as always, we appreciate the continued support of our Hartford community.

**Dr. Mark Smits, District Administrator**  
School District of Hartford Jt. 1





## Encouraging a Spirit of Inquiry

We believe that building problem solving and critical thinking skills is crucial for students to succeed in today's technology-dependent, fast-paced, and ever-changing world. Employers agree: critical thinking skills are among the top skills they look for in prospective employees.



### Creating Opportunities for High School and Beyond

The District's goal is to provide students with opportunities for success throughout their educational journey.

Central Middle School, in conjunction with Hartford Union High School, offers courses for high school credit in technical education and Spanish in which students may receive high school credit from HUHS. This allows students to jump start their high school electives and continue to take advanced high school courses in these content areas or opens room in their schedule for other courses in preparation for postsecondary opportunities in technical college, college, or the workforce.



### Preparing for the Workforce with Project Lead the Way

Project Lead the Way is an engaging, hands-on learning experience that empowers students to develop knowledge and skill sets in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This program truly reinvents the classroom experience.

The District is in its third year offering Project Lead the Way programming to students in grades 6-8. Courses within the program include Innovators & Makers, App Creators, Science of Technology, Sustainable Architecture, and Energy & the Environment. These courses empower students to solve real-world challenges.



### Inspiring Students to Love Science

The District's K-8 science curriculum encourages students to dig deeper, ask questions and solve problems.

The Middle School *Amplify* curriculum is an approach to problem-solving and is integrated into Life Science, Earth and Space Science units. Lessons are hands-on and encourage students to think like scientists. They use evidence-based inquiry and problem-solving processes to reach conclusions.

The elementary *Mystery Science* curriculum introduces students to critical thinking and problem-solving concepts. Lessons are hands-on and include a variety of activities that teach scientific observation and other skills. Students are finding this approach to be an engaging way to learn about science and technology.

# Fiscal Responsibility

## Managing Your Tax Dollars to Maintain the Community's Schools and to Provide an Exceptional Education



### Ensuring Safe Spaces

#### Safety Preparations

District staff meets annually with representatives of Hartford emergency services including police and fire and rescue to review safety protocols to ensure the physical security of District facilities, information security, food service and health safety, student transportation safety and emergency response procedures.



### Serving Meals to Students

#### Food Service Serves 300,000 Meals

HJT1 is dedicated to nutrition and food security by ensuring that school meals are accessible to all children. This includes a commitment to providing safe, healthy meals which are free of charge to ALL students this school year. Last year, food service staff served approximately 300,000 meals!



### Keeping Students Connected

#### Devices for All Students

HJT1 is proud to offer a 1:1 technology program providing mobile devices for students in grades 5K through 8. With additional devices in use, there are increased questions, equipment needs, and support requests; therefore, the District provides a Technology Support Line (262-670-1678) for students, families and staff.



### Providing Healthy Spaces

#### Caring for Students & Staff

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the District (like many others) has an increased need for health services staff in our schools in order to ensure the health and safety of all. This staff includes a District Registered Nurse and three Health Room Aides. We appreciate all they do to care for our students and staff.





# Hartford Jt. 1 Financial Dashboard



## District Taxpayers To See Mill Rate Decrease

**Equalized Value**  
of District's Real Estate  
**\$2,055,492,497**

**Net New Construction Properties**  
(paying tax for the first time)  
**\$45 Million**

**Mill Rate Decreases 5.5%**  
\$5.60 per \$1,000 of valuation  
(2020-21)

**\$5.30** per \$1,000 of valuation  
(2021-22)

**Total District Tax Levy**  
\$10,684,218 (2020-21)  
**\$10,897,617** (2021-22)

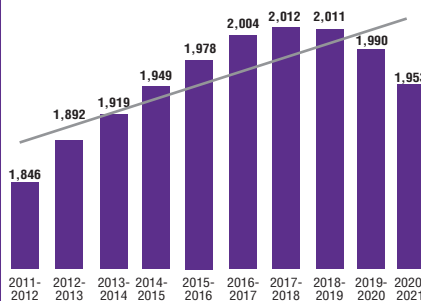


## Increased State Equalization Aid

In addition to local property taxes, the District's budget is funded by equalization aid from the State.

**State Aid Increases 3.2%**  
\$11,802,898 (2020-21)  
**\$12,180,790** (2021-22)

### Student Membership Totals



## One-Time Federal Pandemic Funding

The District received one-time federal grants to aid in unforeseen expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic including:



**Devices and Software**  
to Support Learning  
for All Students



**Increased Custodial Costs**  
for Cleaning Staff, Supplies  
and Equipment



**Increased Health and Safety**  
Costs for Staff and Supplies  
(including Signage, Physical  
Barriers and PPE)

## HJT1 Educational Costs Spent Outside of the District

### District Expenditures Include Spending for Local Private School Education

State Law gives Hartford Jt. 1 a \$437,000 revenue limit exemption for local taxpayer dollars funding the education of resident children to attend private schools. The District does not lose any budget dollars, nor gain any budget dollars in this process, however it does inflate both the District's available revenue and expenditures.

HJT1 expenditures include funding services for our local private schools. By law, HJT1 taxpayers fund transportation, special education and Title services costs for children attending private schools within the borders of the Hartford Union High School District. HJT1 does not receive additional funding for private school students on a per pupil basis under the revenue limit.



### MORE MATH THAN EVER

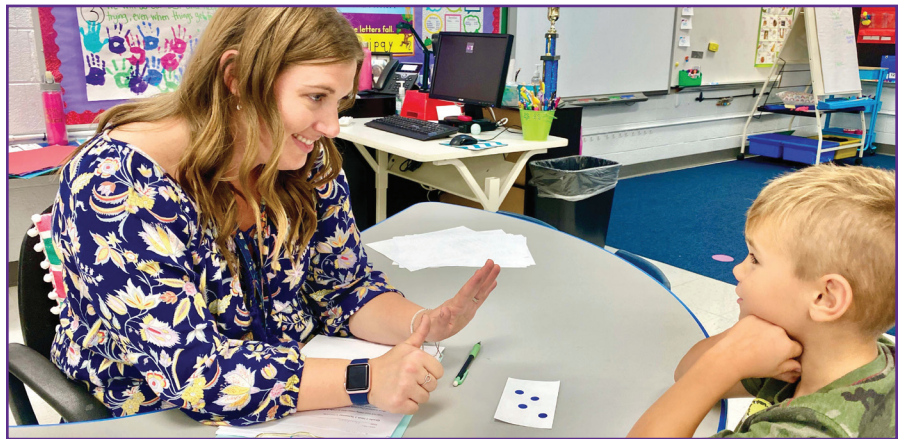
The District's math curriculum, for students in 4K-5th grade, includes investigation, hands-on manipulatives, and interactive skill-building activities. Students are developing problem solving skills, a deeper understanding of content, and proficiency in key math areas with application to a real-world context.



### APPLIED & FINE ARTS

Applied and Fine Arts courses provide a comprehensive educational experience for students. We are proud to facilitate AFA opportunities in the District and the community.

- ▶ *District Art Show & statewide educational contests & displays*
- ▶ *Middle School Spring Musical*
- ▶ *Central Jazz Band*
- ▶ *Central Marching Band performances in Homecoming, Holiday and Memorial Day parades*
- ▶ *Out-of-state trips for Band & Orchestra*
- ▶ *Honors band, orchestra & choir participation*
- ▶ *Orchestra Community Club*



## Professional Development to Improve the Effectiveness of all HJTI Staff

The School District of Hartford Jt. 1 is committed to helping staff remain effective by offering a variety of professional development opportunities throughout the year.

### Staff Completed 5,000 hours of Professional Development

To prepare for the 2021-22 school year, District staff completed 5,000 hours of professional development. Among the sessions offered were courses introducing the District math program as well as training on how to manage behavioral concerns in the classroom. At the middle school level, staff worked with experts in their content areas (math, science, language arts, for example).

### Learning Specialists Collaborate with Teaching Staff

The District has two learning specialists who work with staff throughout the year, coordinating regular sessions. Specialists also work with individual teachers in the classroom, offering input on instructional techniques and strategies. Along with other District staff, specialists use testing data to pinpoint areas where changes in instructional approach and technique may be helpful in increasing student success.

### Teachers Participate in Book Study to Learn New Methods for Engagement

New this year is a voluntary book club for teachers. This summer, a writing expert worked with teachers to develop new and engaging methods for teaching students to be enthusiastic writers. The focus is on ways to teach writing in small group settings. Currently, teachers from several grade levels are meeting monthly to discuss lessons from the book and ways to incorporate the strategies into their classrooms.

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**“The additional training and professional development really pays off in the classroom. A well-prepared and motivated staff results in more success for our students.”**

~Cheryl Simonson, Director of Curriculum & Instruction



# Focusing on Literacy

## *to Prepare Students for College, Career, & Life*

Reading and writing are fundamental skills, which is why literacy instruction is embedded throughout our curriculum beginning in 4-year-old kindergarten. Teaching students to read and write, and then building on those skills, is crucial for students to succeed in school, college, and the workplace.



### **Reader's & Writer's Workshops Increase Engagement**

To build literacy skills, the District uses a Reader's Workshop teaching model, which allows students to engage in authentic reading experiences. Lessons include whole group instruction, small group discussion and independent work. Teachers lead interactive read-alouds and facilitate shared reading sessions. Similarly, Writer's Workshop units include a teacher-led mini lesson followed by independent work and small-group instruction. This approach offers flexibility for teachers to meet all students' needs and allows students to make

choices, which increases student engagement. Both programs aim to build a student's confidence in reading and writing, with the goal of developing them into adults who love to read and can handle any writing task.



### **Exploring Interests with Book Clubs**

Students have the opportunity to participate in book clubs facilitated by teachers to support development of effective speaking and listening skills and deeper understanding of the subject material. The clubs also allow students to pursue individual interests.

### **District Literacy Coach Supports Teachers**

To improve literacy support, the position of literacy coach is a way of supporting teachers and helping them improve their work in the classroom. As a Literacy

Coach, Katie Malterer works with teachers, helping them to reflect on their strategies and techniques and apply knowledge gained from professional development sessions. As a result, students receive consistent, high-quality instruction that results in deeper learning and more engagement.

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**“Literacy is a building block. It’s something students need no matter where they go. It’s essential.”**

~ Katie Malterer, Learning Specialist & Literacy Coach



## **HJT1 Literacy Support Programs**

As part of our commitment to literacy, we offer a variety of programs to support students with reading and writing.

### **Leveled Literacy Intervention**

provides daily, intensive, small-group instruction that supplements Reader's and Writer's Workshop.

### **School Power Hour**

The District's Learning Recovery Plan includes a 'Power Hour' which is facilitated by school Community Coordinators and classroom teachers on Thursdays after school. Students spend their time working on their individual learning path in Exact Path and in small groups for differentiated instruction.

► Approximately 120 students are participating in Power Hour and it continues to grow!

**Read to Succeed** is an after school program offered at the elementary level for English Language Learners. In partnership with Casa Guadalupe Education Center, students are paired with a volunteer to work on reading skills and develop linguistic proficiency.



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**The School District of Hartford Jt. 1 is dedicated to the success of each student.  
Thank you for supporting your community schools. Look inside to see what we've been up to!**



#### **NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

The School District of Hartford Jt. 1 Board of Education is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students in the District. The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including gender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student program and activities. Federal laws Title IX, 34 CFR 106.9, Section 504, 34 CFR 104.8, Title II, 28 CFR 35.106; Student Policy 2260, AG 2260D & Form 2260 F2; Staff Policy 1422, 3122, 4122. The Board designates the following individual to serve as the District's "Compliance Officer" – Alex Kenealy, Director of Pupil Services, School District of Hartford Joint 1, 402 W. Sumner St, Hartford, WI 53027, 262-673-8042, [kenealy@hjt1.org](mailto:kenealy@hjt1.org). Students, parents and all other members of the School District community are encouraged to promptly report suspected violations of this policy to a teacher or administrator. The complaint procedure will follow Board Policy 2260. The Board of the Hartford Jt. 1 School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activity and is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment. The District's Title IX Coordinator(s) is: Alex Kenealy, Director of Pupil Services, School District of Hartford Joint 1, 402 W. Sumner St, Hartford, WI 53027, 262-673-8042, [kenealy@hjt1.org](mailto:kenealy@hjt1.org). Any inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator(s), the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both. The Board has adopted a grievance process that provides for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that is prohibited by Title IX and/or its implementing regulations. The grievance process is included in Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, which is available at: <https://go.boarddocs.com/wi/hjt1/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies>. The grievance process specifically addresses how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of Sexual Harassment, and how the District will respond.