



## TIGER NATION NEWS

JUNE 2019

### REFLECTIONS ON THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR

Curt Bisarek | Superintendent

As the 2018-19 school year winds to an end, it is a good time to reflect on the year. The weather would probably get votes as the most talked about topic due to the 12 days of the year that we had to close school as a result of flooding, snow, ice, or the Polar Vortex. However, there are other successes that should really be what we remember from this year.

In November, the voters of the district voted to provide much needed financial support with the passage of two referendum questions. Not only will the \$500,000 revenue limit exemption continue for another four years, but we will also be able to complete \$3,700,000 in capital improvement projects this summer. Updates on these projects will be available throughout the summer on the school's website and Facebook page.

This school year was also the beginning of an important process for the district as we began the development of our strategic plan. With input from staff and community members, the school board has been able to identify key pillars for the district moving forward. Over the summer months we will continue to develop this overall plan with a focus on Wellness, Integrity, Community, and Excellence.

As we wind this year to an end, I also want to commend our two retirees on their commitment and dedication to the district over the years. Becky Farra is retiring as Elementary Physical Education teacher after 42 years of service to the district! And, Deb Freitag is retiring after serving as a High School Math and Science teacher for the past 8 years. Both of these teachers have an incredible amount of knowledge and expertise as educators and they will most certainly be missed. Thank you Becky and Deb!



Becky Farra, 42 years  
of service



Debra Freitag, 8  
years of service

# CONFERENCE SUMMARY UPDATE

Lindsay O'Hair | Board Member

Each year school board members and school administrators from across Wisconsin converge in Milwaukee for three days of interactive sessions. This January, six members of the Hillsboro School Board/Administrator team attended. Here are some key insights we brought back:



## **Teaching Empathy and Character**

We are committed to keeping character in our schools and promoting the Tiger Way: Respectful, Responsible, Safe. At the convention we heard countless examples of how improving **empathy** (an emotional connection to others) and **character** (a responsibility to self) directly impacts the whole child – both a student's ability to improve academic scores and in building strong, productive relationships.

## **Equity in Education and the Role of Empathy**

In order to truly have equity in education, we need empathy first. Not all our kids mentally come to school from the same place. They bring their unique experiences, hardships and motivations. If we don't address all those things and get them ready to learn, teaching will not be as effective. This means we need to be more observant and seek to understand student's individual needs.

## **Student and Staff Mental Health**

Teaching the whole child is more important than ever as students today are faced with a world where social media follows them everywhere, societal norms are harder to define and there is information overload. Just as important as student mental health is that of the staff because if they're not well it's hard for us to expect them to be the best for our students. As district leaders, we need to make time for staff wellness.

## **Board/Administrator Communication and Accountability**

We heard panels from multiple school districts discuss best practices for transparent communication with community members and between board, administrators and school staff. We learned new tools that can be used to set better goals as well as how to set clear expectations for fulfilling those goals.

## **Career-Ready Student Achievement**

New information available to students doubles every twelve hours and once out in the world, students will change jobs on average once every 3-5 years. We can't just "job train" or "college train". Rather, training "robot-proof" students – with an ability to learn, unlearn and relearn new skills - will be crucial as we prepare our children for lifelong success.

As a group, we learned that there are many things we are doing well and many areas we can improve. It was good to hear that other districts experience some of the same challenges we do, but even better to hear how to overcome them using best practices, innovative ideas and stronger collaboration.

As a board/administrative team, it is always our goal to work harder and smarter for our students. Thanks for letting us share as we go on this journey together.



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HILLSBORO REFERENDUM PROJECT UPDATE

## Spring 2019



Curt Bisarek | Superintendent

### Project Update

Final bid documents for both the elementary school and the high school were released as a single package in mid-April. The contractor bids were returned early May and fell within the original referendum budget.

Work has begun on the roofing projects at both schools, with the old roof ballast being removed and replaced by a new adhered roof system. This work will continue throughout the summer. Shop drawings for the equipment and fixtures included in the school renovations are currently being submitted and reviewed by the design team. Demolition in portions of both buildings will begin in select locations as soon as the school year has ended.

At the elementary school we are remodeling the front reception vestibule to improve school security and provide a new reception desk to better control visitor access. The kitchen will be reconfigured to improve operating and service efficiency, and to allow for future equipment improvements. A new kitchen office will also be added to separate kitchen administration from food preparation and service activities. The reconfigured kitchen space will also have an easy-to-clean epoxy floor and added hand sinks to improve health code compliance. The elementary courtyard will receive improvements to allow for more student usage and flexibility to add equipment for 4K students in the future. The current courtyard has become overgrown and doesn't offer opportunities for students to effectively use the space. Lastly, the locker room showers will be converted into storage space for staff usage.

At the high school, the fitness and wrestling areas will receive a remodeled ventilation system to improve the air flow in those areas as well as alleviate the floor buckling issue on the gym stage. That same wood stage floor will be replaced with new low-maintenance, flexible vinyl flooring. In the lower level gym bathrooms, damaged plumbing fixtures will be replaced as well as the aging toilet partitions. A new tile floor, ceiling tile, and LED lighting will give these bathrooms a completely refreshed look. New ceilings in the upper floor corridors will address noise concerns as well as provide an opportunity for new, more efficient LED lighting. In the Tech Ed area, the woods and metal shop spaces will be combined to improve the student work flow and increase teacher supervision of both spaces. The agricultural lab will combine smaller computer lab and office spaces into a larger lab area to allow for a more flexible and expanded curriculum. Lastly, new high efficiency boilers will replace aging, inefficient boilers and a new electrical service and panel board system will be installed.

Meetings between the District and design/construction representatives will continue as construction progresses. Construction updates will also be provided throughout the summer.



Existing elementary vestibule that will be remodeled



Existing high school roof that will be replaced



# GOLDEN GALA HELD AT HHS

Mackenzie Morris | 2019 Graduate

On April 27, 2019, The Golden Gala was held at Hillsboro High School.

The court members included Molly Crandall, Ethan Huffman, Abigail Nemec, Tarren Gullett, Lisa Troehler, Eli Stokes, Sierra Johnson, Trent Thorsen, Katrine Pedersen, Bronson Borchardt, Grace Stockwell, Aaron Frederick, McKenzie Bell, Dalton Kehoe, Savannah Urban, Noah Feala, Hannah Munson, and Gunner Hynek.

The miniature King was Weston Conley and miniature queen was Ashley Bloedow. The 2018 Prom King and Queen, Dane Bach and Brookelyn Borchardt, presented the crown to the 2019 Prom King and Queen, Eli Stokes and Tessa Boldon.

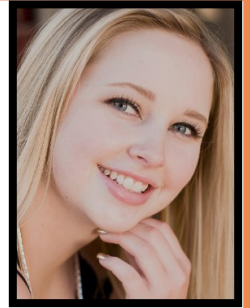


# AN INSIDE LOOK INTO THE WORLD OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Elle Kinnison | 2019 Graduate

What do you think of when you think of special education?

Well, most think of kids who are struggling and need more help, but actually many special education students are striving and growing. In the special education program, our teachers are truly our heroes and best friends. They are there for us when we need help, someone to talk to, and even a shoulder to cry on. Our teachers play a huge role in our life and education, but our peers do, too. In the special education room we truly are a family and work together like a family. Peers play a huge part in boosting our confidence because just like students in the general education classes, we struggle with talking in front of classes, reading out loud in class, taking notes, taking tests, and doing homework. It really does make our days and classes better when our peers outside of the special education program help us and let us know we never have to be ashamed of struggles with learning. I am a product of the special education system and I couldn't be more proud of the obstacles I've overcome, and happy to watch others strive in our special education family.



# HOW FORENSICS CHANGED MY LIFE

Devon Verbsky | 2019 Graduate

I learned what I wanted to do for the rest of my life throughout the course of freshman year.

Literature has been a big part of my life and my interests for as long as I can remember.

With that said, Forensics provided me with an opportunity to express my passion, as well as practice my craft for whatever the future holds for me. Though, throughout the high school, it's clear to me that I'm not the only one who feels this way.

This year, 12 Forensics Team members made it to the state competition at UW-Madison. As for me, it was my second time making it in the three years I've participated.



Although nerve-wracking to some extent, the state competition is an amazing opportunity for all who work hard enough to make it, and along with that, there's a lot of pride that comes with it.



# SPRING SPORTS IN FULL SWING

Nick Stekel | 2019 Graduate

Spring sports are a fun time of the year for HHS students. Whether you're a participant in baseball, softball, or track, there is something for everyone in the Spring. Here are some highlights for each sport as we look forward.

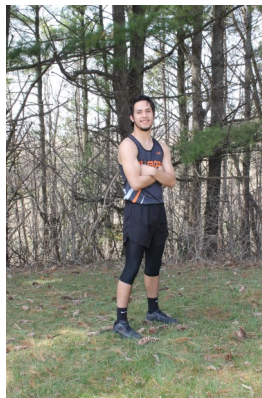


## Baseball

The baseball team is sitting at 12-6 in the Scenic Bluffs conference. Bronson Borchardt holds the team's only home run so far. Nick Stekel threw a no-hitter against Necedah in their first game against the Cardinals. The baseball team houses five seniors in all: Dane Bach, Jacob Brockwell, Peyton Miller, Garrett Sagert, and Nick Stekel.

## Softball

The softball team finished the season 8-10 in Scenic Bluffs conference under the direction of seniors Brookelyn Borchardt and Paige Kelly Kehoe. Molly Crandall leads the team in batting, as well as struck out 13 against Wonewoc to begin the season. Their season ended in the second round of regionals against a tough Blair-Taylor team.



## Track & Field

The HHS track and field team has raw talent in almost every competition available. Izaiah Mendoza recently broke the school record for long jump at 21'. Hannah Munson broke the record for the 800m dash with a time of 2:27.9 and also qualified for state in the 400m dash. The 4x1 team broke the school record with a time of 45.42 and earned a spot at state.

## Golf

This is the second year of the Hillsboro/Wonewoc Center golf co-op. Despite a cold and rainy start to the season, they've been able to get in a few rounds in recent weeks. Mac Verbsky and Brett Harris comprise the Hillsboro portion of the team.

# HILLSBORO DOES GOOD THINGS

Peyton Miller | 2019 Graduate

Hillsboro Schools has always lent a helping hand whenever help has been needed. This year specifically, Hillsboro Schools has been involved with many different events to help raise awareness for different illnesses. The Hillsboro FBLA sponsored and put together the 8th Annual Pack the Gym Night which raises awareness for Cystic Fibrosis. The event also helps raise money to find a cure for the chronic disease. The Girls Basketball team took part in an OCD Awareness night to help bring awareness for mental illness. The entire Hillsboro School District also took part in an “orange out” day in support of Madelyn Novacheck and her fight against Leukemia. T-Shirts were made for the day to raise money for Madelyn and her family.



Hillsboro Schools also had a huge community clean day up after historic flooding this last fall. Students helped by picking up garbage that the water collected and moved, and also helped residents that were affected by the flood.



# ASPIRATIONS OF COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Bronson Borchardt | Junior

Before I started my journey to play college baseball, I had no clue how to get into college athletics. I always thought that my name would get out easier if I was an important component for my team going to state as well as getting conference and state recognition. This part helps, but that isn't even the start of getting into college athletics. There isn't an easy route you can take because you need to be willing to do the hard work in order to make it to the next level. However, there are some ways to make it an easier and quicker process.



A couple months ago, I was searching facebook when an ad came up which informed me about a recruiting program. This program is used by college coaches all around the nation, making it easier for your name to get out there. It also lets you see what teams are out there, apply filters for your academic level and the challenge you want in athletics. My dad helped me enroll in a subscription through this program since I am committed to playing in the future.

The first couple of weeks in this program was fun trying to set up my profile and figure out what colleges I liked. I took a few of their communication courses so I knew exactly how to talk to the recruiter. I also talked to Nick Stekel because he has been through this process before and is currently in the process. I've learned that college coaches have a lot going on in the season so they won't waste their time on someone who doesn't want to put everything into the game because college sports is more of a time commitment than high school sports.

With help from Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Bisarek, I constructed a personal statement where I explained why I'd be a good candidate for college baseball. I told them about my accomplishments and my goals I have for my future. A personal statement is an important part to getting where you want for sports. It gives a little insight on yourself to coaches, which will get them interested in you.

As well as "selling yourself" online, you still have to prove yourself in person. This means a lot of work has to be done at practice as well as outside the program to become a better candidate for college baseball. To become a better player, I would suggest the utilizing the weight room and competing on traveling teams. I personally benefited from playing in Hillsboro as well as going outside of the Hillsboro program. I enjoyed the social aspect of traveling because it allowed me to learn about new people and form friendships, which is also another good quality to have for continuing into college athletics.

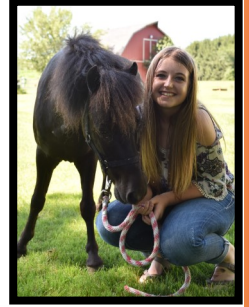
All in all, you need to work hard for what you want. You can't only rely on an online account for recruiters because once you get invited to a showcase and have to show off your skills, you need to have those skills they want to see. Find the perfect college for you, not for your friends. Go into college with the expectation that you have to work hard. Play the game for you, nothing other than the love for the game, and have fun playing while you have the chance to play because you never know what will happen in the future.



# TAKE A LOOK, IN THE BOOK

Tristin Sweatt | 2019 Graduate

Hillsboro high school's 2017-2018 yearbook "*Where Everybody Knows Your Name*" was selected to be in Jostens 2019 Look Book. The Look Book is where the best of the best yearbooks are combined into one. This allows other schools from the United States, Canada, and even International schools to observe different yearbooks. The experts at Jostens select 385 yearbooks out of 2,000 books submitted each year to be considered. Congrats to the HHS Yearbook Staff!



## UNIVERSAL FREE BREAKFAST AT ELEMENTARY

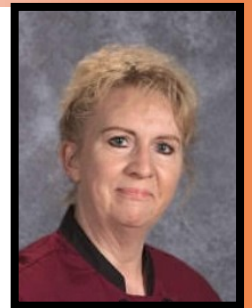
Carolyn Kannenberg | Food Service Director

Starting the 2019-20 school year, Hillsboro Elementary School will be starting a new breakfast program: Universal Free Breakfast! Breakfast will be available at no charge to all elementary students, regardless of their household income.

It is very important that families continue to fill out the free and reduced applications even if you think you do not qualify or as your circumstances potentially change throughout the school year.

The Universal Free Breakfast program will successfully work based on the following two criteria:

1. All families fill out free and reduced lunch applications.
2. All elementary students eat school breakfast daily.



**It is the hope of the Hillsboro School District that all families of elementary students take advantage of this program for the health and well-being of our community's children.**

# MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION FAIR BRINGS CULTURES TO LIFE WITH MAD SCIENCE

Erin Jirschele | 6th Grade Teacher

Hillsboro Middle/High School was hopping during the annual Education Fair. Throughout the school we had cultures from around the world come to life during the Middle School Wax Museum. In the gym, we had the Science Fair. This event involved all middle school students and was a collaborative effort between Middle School Social Studies and Language Arts departments and the Science and Math departments respectively. Students were able to showcase their research, writing, and presenting skills. The Wax Museum was also a service learning project. Patrons of the Wax Museum made the statues “come to life” by dropping \$.25 in a student’s money container. Students nominated and voted on a local cause to receive the profits from the evening and this year’s money will be donated to H.O.P.E. A myriad of science fair experiments had students demonstrating their work with the scientific method. Beginning on the first day of school, students began investigating and using the scientific method only to use it on a question of their choice and experiment at the end of the year. To add to the event, the Women’s Civic Club donated delicious treats for guests to enjoy. Overall, this year was a great success with outstanding projects and student and community involvement.



Winners of the Wax Museum:

6th Grade: Nolan Hanson, Kiana Liska, Carmen Erickson, Reed Urban

7th Grade: Lexie Thorson, Kaitlyn Sebranek, Peyton Sullivan, Ty Ravenscroft

Winners of the Science Fair:

6th Grade: Nick Fuchs, Ira Davison, Reed Urban and Quinn Scheder

7th Grade: Savannah Pooley and Jaelyn Bloor, Kaitlyn Gorn, Peyton Sullivan, Lexie Thorson

8th Grade: Danae Gardner and Violet Morren, Ni Schulz and Noah Burmaster, Tori Slama and Lily von Falkenstein

# BALANCE LITERACY AND HARD WORK

Jill Smith | Elementary Interventionist and Instructional Coach

WHAT IS BALANCED LITERACY? Balanced literacy came along in response to the more extreme teachings of whole language and heavy phonics-based instruction. In the whole language approach, literacy skills were mostly taught IN the context of real reading and writing. Phonics-based instruction swung the opposite direction to teach literacy skills mostly OUT of the context of real reading and writing.



Balanced literacy includes balancing these 3 important components when teaching reading and writing:

- 1- Teacher MODELS (I do)
- 2- Teacher SUPPORTS learners as they practice it (we do)
- 3- Learners WORK INDEPENDENTLY (you do)

WHAT IS WORD WORK? Word work is a hands-on time to explore the spellings and/or meanings of words (vocabulary). Making time for word work is vital because it helps patterns and words move into long-term memory. Word work can help our students become better readers, spellers, and writers. Depending on our learners' developmental stages, teachers might use this time to focus on letters and their sounds, read and spell words, or work on word meanings. At the same time, learners have time to explore sight words.

Here at Hillsboro Elementary, we incorporate Word Work in at least 6 different ways/areas:

1. Before a Small Group Reading Lesson
2. After a Small Group Reading Lesson – The same “warm up” ideas can be used as a “cool down” after the reading lesson is over.
3. As the Focus of a Small Group Lesson – Sometimes, our teachers have “strategy lessons” just to focus on a particular phonics or spelling strategy, especially if we notice several learners struggling to understand the same thing.
4. Whole Group Instruction – mini lessons are recommended within simple phonics lessons for all learners in the classroom each day. This isn't a long lesson (10-15 at most).
5. Separate Spelling Time - Some teachers like the idea of having a separate spelling time, teaching to the developmental needs of learners with a word study approach.
6. Center/Word Station Time – Literacy stations and centers are a great place for learners to really explore spelling, phonics, and sight words.

Our teachers also look for opportunities to integrate spelling and phonics right into their routines. Great opportunities occur for mini lessons during the morning message, morning meeting, shared reading, writing instruction/Writer's Workshop, and sometimes even on the playground with sidewalk chalk!



# MUSIC UPDATES

Zach Bartsch | Band Teacher

What a busy and musical end of the school year it has been! Thank you to all students for their hard work, parents and community for your support and bringing students to the many events over the past few weeks, and the Hillsboro staff for their support and flexibility with all the events we have had in the past two months.



In April, we had our Large Ensemble and District Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Hillsboro had 124 band and choir events between middle school and high school. Of those, we had 13 band events and 17 choral events go on to State at Viterbo. The commitment and efforts by these students paid off and really made Hillsboro shine! Also, at the end of April, the Hillsboro MS and HS jazz bands attended the Eau Claire Jazz Festival, a nationally recognized festival that has bands from across the Midwest come to perform. Our students got to play for nationally recognized performers, including Alexa Tarantino and Tom Luer. Congratulations to Garrett Rafel (6th) and Ashton Beckwith (8th) for receiving a Soloist recognition certificate at this event!

As you have seen, May has been a busy, busy month. Congratulations to all on their concert and recital performances, as well as the services they have provided for community events, performing at Memorial Day along with small group of students who performed for the Women's Civic Club. Congratulations to all music seniors on their graduation, and thank you for your leadership this year in both ensembles.

Now, it is already time for us to turn our scope to the summer and next year. On Monday, June 10th, we have our Band and Choir Trip to New York City. We ride the bus overnight on that Monday, arriving in the city on Tuesday the 11th. We will get to see several fantastic musicals, *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Aladdin*, and the students got the choice to also see either *Wicked* or *Mean Girls*. We perform on Wednesday the 12th at a Veteran's Memorial Home in New Jersey, and will see many parts of the big city, including Times Square, Rockefeller Center, the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, the 9/11 Memorial, Central Park, participate in a Broadway workshop, and so much more! We are excited for such an action-packed week!

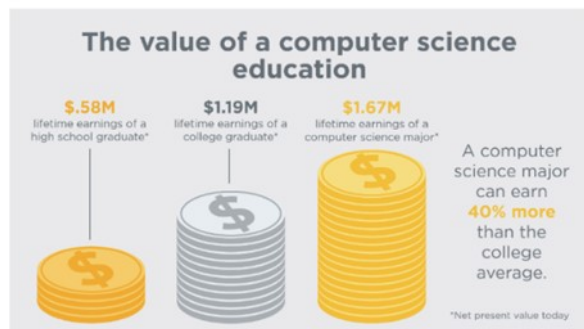
Lastly, summer band lessons will begin on Monday, July 8th this year and go through August 16th. Marching Band camp for the incoming HS band will be Tuesday, August 20th-Friday, August 23rd. Have a great summer!

# AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES COURSE

## AVAILABLE STARTING 2019-2020

Jennifer Gibbons | Business Education

Starting in 2019-2020, Hillsboro High School students will have the option of taking AP Computer Science Principles. This course is a full-year, entry-level course that introduces high school students to the foundations of modern computing. The course covers a broad range of foundational topics such as programming, algorithms, the Internet, big data, digital privacy and security, and the societal impacts of computing. This course is one of a series of courses taught at HSD to provide literacy in computer science.



Computing affects almost all aspects of modern life and all students need access to a computing education that prepares them to pursue the wide array of intellectual and career opportunities that computing has made possible. This course is not a tour of current events and technologies. Rather, it seeks to provide students with a “future proof” foundation in computing principles so that they are adequately prepared with both the knowledge and skills to live and meaningfully

participate in our increasingly digital society, economy, and culture.



There are no formal prerequisites for this course, though the College Board recommends that students have taken at least Algebra 1. For students wishing to complete the requirements of the AP Exam and Performance Tasks, we recommend they be in 10th grade or above due the expectations of student responsibility and maturity for an AP course.

Sources: [The Conference Board](#) and [National Center for Education Statistics](#)



AP is a trademark registered and owned by the College Board.

# FBLA - CREATE. LEAD. INSPIRE.

Jennifer Gibbons | Business Education

The applications have been completed, recommendations submitted and interviews held. Here to lead the way in 2019-2020 are the middle school and high school FBLA officers. The officer positions and names are as follows:



## High School Officers:

President - Grace Holthe

Vice President - Mitch Huntley

Secretary - Kyra Bisarek

Treasurer - Grace Stockwell

Reporter - Tori Slama

Parliamentarian - Molly Crandall

Historian - Malia Liska



## Middle School Officers:

President – Peyton Sullivan

Vice President – Lexie Thorson

Secretary – Delana Hill

Treasurer – Dodge Shore

Reporter – Savannah Pooley



*(Continued)*



FBLA had a very successful year with a combined total of 46 members. One of the activities of an FBLA chapter is to serve our local community and our members did this in several ways. In October, the middle school students organized a dance for the middle school that was attended by two-thirds of the students. On Halloween night, the middle school members went door to door for food pantry donations and the high school organized a Haunted Trail event to collect food donations and raise money to donate to the local food pantry. In November, the middle school chapter organized a Winter Clothing Drive providing a carload of coats, hats and mittens for our community. In December, our middle school and high school joined with the W-C chapter to raise awareness of Cystic Fibrosis at the high school basketball game.

In competition, members were successful as well with middle school and high school members competing at the regional level and several members advancing and competing at the two-day state competition in Green Bay. There were also opportunities for students to attend leadership workshops and conferences. These workshops and conferences provide valuable team-building and leadership activities. This past Fall, our members attended a Leadership workshop at the American Family Corporate Headquarters in Madison and our high school officer team attended a 2-day national conference in Chicago at the downtown Chicago Marriott with 10,000 members from across the nation. In February, four members attended the Legacy Academy where they explored innovative leadership and connected with some of Green Bay's top business leaders. And last but not least, we toured the FiServ Forum in Milwaukee and watched the awesome Milwaukee Bucks defeat the New Orleans Pelicans. We had lots of fun and learned a lot too. Be sure to check us out next year.

