



# School District of Hillsboro

LEARN • ACHIEVE • SUCCEED

## TIGER NATION NEWS

DECEMBER 2018

On behalf of the school board, administration, staff and students, I want to begin by thanking you for the vote of support with our recent referendum. The ability to maintain programming for our students and make some necessary improvements to our facilities is greatly appreciated.

As a district, we are continually seeking to grow and improve in our mission to best meet the needs of our students and prepare them for success. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) generates a School Report Card and District Report Card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. This is one of the ways in which we can monitor our progress and guide our process for continuous improvement. These public report cards are available online at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

If you look at the past report cards, you will see that there has been a change in the scoring. In the first years of the DPI using school report cards, our district had quite favorable scores. We were in the “Meets Expectations” category for each of the first three years. Then, after some changes in how the scores were calculated, we moved to the “Meets Few Expectations” for two of the past three years. Regardless of what measures are used to determine these scores, we can pull valuable information from the reports to guide our improvement strategies.

As a school system, we have to actively seek more ways to improve. We have already begun the process of making some necessary changes. Among these changes are:

- Use of instructional coaches. We know that quality teaching is the greatest predictor of academic success.
- Implementation of a guaranteed and viable curriculum. We are seeing academic growth in literacy and math with *EngageNY* and *Wonders* and expect that growth to be indicated in future DPI report cards.
- Analyzing and utilizing our data and making changes that have a greater impact on student learning.
- Identifying and implementing essential standards for each grade level and subject area.
- Ongoing efforts to align curriculum and incorporate best practices into instruction.

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Please know that the district is working diligently to make the changes necessary for these scores to improve and more importantly to make sure that we are best meeting the needs of our students; your children.

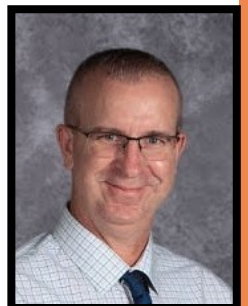
At this point, we know we need to make changes. Moving forward, some of the improvement we need to make are:

- develop school improvement plans with specific goals and target areas
- invest more in professional development
- evaluate our programming and staffing
- develop learning targets and common assessments
- focus on core instruction
- implement PBIS and responsive classroom strategies to support student behavior growth
- create a culture of higher expectations

Benjamin Franklin said “Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.” We are prioritizing our improvement efforts to first make sure we are providing adequate instructional time and high-quality instruction along with a focus on providing intervention/enrichment to all learners. We believe focusing on these two areas will lead to improvements in the learning of our students as well as improved results in these accountability reports.

Please contact us if you have any questions. Together we will *“Learn, Achieve, Succeed.”*

Curt Bisarek | Superintendent



# FIRST GRADE S.T.E.M

Krista Revels | First Grade Teacher

One of our goals this year in first grade is to increase STEM opportunities within our classroom. If you're unfamiliar with STEM, it stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. We want to allow our students more time to explore, engage, become more hands on, and collaborate.



Last year we began this journey by implementing “morning tubs” in first grade. We created tubs of activities that work on fine motor skills, team building, and STEM opportunities. Students can explore with playdough, build with multiple materials, stack cups, etc. in a group of two or three students. These activities are done each morning during arrival time and work to keep others busy while some arrive, some eat breakfast, and so on.

This year we wanted to include more STEM opportunities within our classroom. The students thrive when working with their hands, exploring, and working together. Our grade level decided to include half an hour of STEM time a week. This extra time for a critical thinking activity has been wonderful! We’ve seen so many collaborative efforts to problem solve!

A few of the activities we’ve done with our students so far are:

- Building towers with index cards
- Creating pumpkin slime
- Ghost balloons
- Building with toothpicks and pumpkin candies



Although we’re just getting started, the students are loving these special opportunities to explore and create. And as their teachers, we’re loving the excitement and learning it is providing!



## H-CLUB PURCHASES HOMECOMING T-SHIRTS FOR EACH STUDENT AT HHS

Shannon Chute | Spanish Teacher, H-Club Advisor

For the first time ever, every Hillsboro High School student received a free homecoming t-shirt compliments of H-Club. The idea behind it was to show school spirit and allow for every student to be included. Each class was given their own color with their graduating year on the back. Students will keep their shirts and class colors all four years of high school. In future years, H-Club will purchase t-shirts for the incoming freshmen and any student new to HHS.



## 5TH GRADE PERFORMING ARTS FAIR

LeAnn Fisher | Fifth Grade Teacher

This fall, the fifth grade class began preparing for the annual Performing Arts Fair. Students could choose from various categories such as poetry, vocal or instrumental music, dance, speech, or solo-acting. All fifth grade students were asked to participate, but they could choose if they wanted to be judged or not. The Performing Arts Fair was held on Tuesday, October 16th. The two winners were David Johnson with



“The Evolution of Dance” and Raegon Stanek with a comedy baking show. Lauren Auel was chosen as the alternate, solo acting Smeagol from “Lord of the Rings.” Hillsboro School District hosted the next level of competition on October 23rd. David Johnson was chosen from the dance category to perform in front of all students. Congratulations to our winners and all fifth grade participants for having the courage to get up in front of their peers and parents.



# UPCOMING HOLIDAY BOOK EXCHANGE AT HILLSBORO ELEMENTARY

Lori Cherf|Title 1 Teacher

On Thursday, December 20th, we will be holding our Annual Holiday Book Exchange at Hillsboro Elementary.

Students interested in participating should bring two to six books (in good condition) to any of the Intervention teachers by Tuesday, December 18th, 2018. For each book brought in, students will receive a ticket to redeem at the Book Exchange. Community members can also donate gently used books for the book exchange.



This is a perfect opportunity for students to share the love of reading with a gift for a friend or family member. With the holidays just around the corner, we will have wrapping stations available. Donations of wrapping paper, scotch tape, and gift labels can be dropped off at the elementary school office. All donations are appreciated.

This event is sponsored by C.A.R.E.S. (Community Advocates for Reading Enrichment and Success), and Title I.

**Who: Students in PK-5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**What: Holiday Book Exchange**

**When: December 20th during the school day.**



# HILLSBORO SCHOOLWIDE TITLE I COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## STUDENT/PARENT/TEACHER

### PARTNERSHIP PLEDGE

This pledge is a promise among students, parents, and teachers to work toward the suggestions below in order to achieve the best possible outcome for the child. These promises are voluntary commitments made by individuals to themselves and others.

#### As a student ...

##### **I promise to ...**

- attend school regularly
- work hard to do my best in class and with homework
- help to keep my school safe
- ask for help when I need it
- respect and cooperate with others
- be alert
- talk with my parents about my experiences

##### **I need ...**

- people who believe I can learn
- respect for my culture and me as an individual
- schools that are safe
- time with caring adults
- a family, school staff, and community that support me

#### As a parent/caring adult ...

##### **I promise to ...**

- expect my child to do their best
- help my child go to school and be on time
- find a quiet place for schoolwork, answer questions, and make sure homework is finished
- talk with my child about his or her experiences
- respect my child and school staff

##### **I need ...**

- teachers who respect my role as a parent
- to hear from the school often
- others to be sensitive to my needs and beliefs
- a community who supports my family
- reassurances that my child is safe

#### As a teacher ...

##### **I promise to ...**

- show that I care about myself, students, and others
- communicate with families
- provide a safe environment
- respect individual differences
- provide for many learning styles
- respect my students and their families

##### **I need ...**

- students who are ready to learn
- respect, support, and cooperation from students, family, and community
- families to communicate with me

# Animation in the Art Room

Julie Johnson | MS/HS Art Teacher

Sixth through eighth grade students recently worked in teams to create short animated films. You can see their projects on [Mrs. Johnson's YouTube Channel](#).

Students learned teamwork, problem solving, and time management while mixing art skills with technology.

Here are the steps students took:


- 1) Brainstorm stories.
- 2) Decide on characters, settings, and plots with team.
- 3) Build sets, props, and characters.
- 4) Practice using iPads to take pictures.
- 5) Take photo sequences using iPad.
- 6) Use Stop Motion Studio Pro app and iPad to put together pictures, make edits, and add sound.
- 7) Finalize and export.
- 8) Share with others.
- 9) Reflect as a group.



# HILLSBORO ELEMENTARY CLAY EXPLORATION

Ellen Scharfenberg| Elementary Art Teacher

The Hillsboro Elementary Art Program is the recipient of the Wisconsin Art Education Association Potawatomi Grant for the second year in a row! Last year Ms. Scharfenberg received the grant to fund printmaking supplies such as linoleum blocks, carving tools, brayers, ink and paper. Last year, the fifth-grade class got to use them for a long term project on endangered species and the fifth-graders this year will get to use them as well! This year the Potawatomi Grant will fund the Hillsboro Elementary Clay Exploration Project. Since the elementary school does not have a kiln we were able purchase Crayola air dry clay and special tempera paint that will make our creations look like real ceramic pieces! Each grade level will be able to create at least one clay project this year! Thank you Wisconsin Art Education Association for this generous grant.

A portrait photograph of a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a light-colored, possibly white, top. The background is a mottled grey.

Ms. Scharfenberg also received the \$100 Meemic Scholastic Grant to add more *I Spy* books to the Elementary Art Room library. Students love looking at *I Spy* books during free time in the classroom. *I Spy* books promote literacy, looking for details, creative problem solving, and working in groups! All of these skills are critical to the development of 21st century learners and they are all skills that we use in the art room every single day. These new books will surely be put to good use.

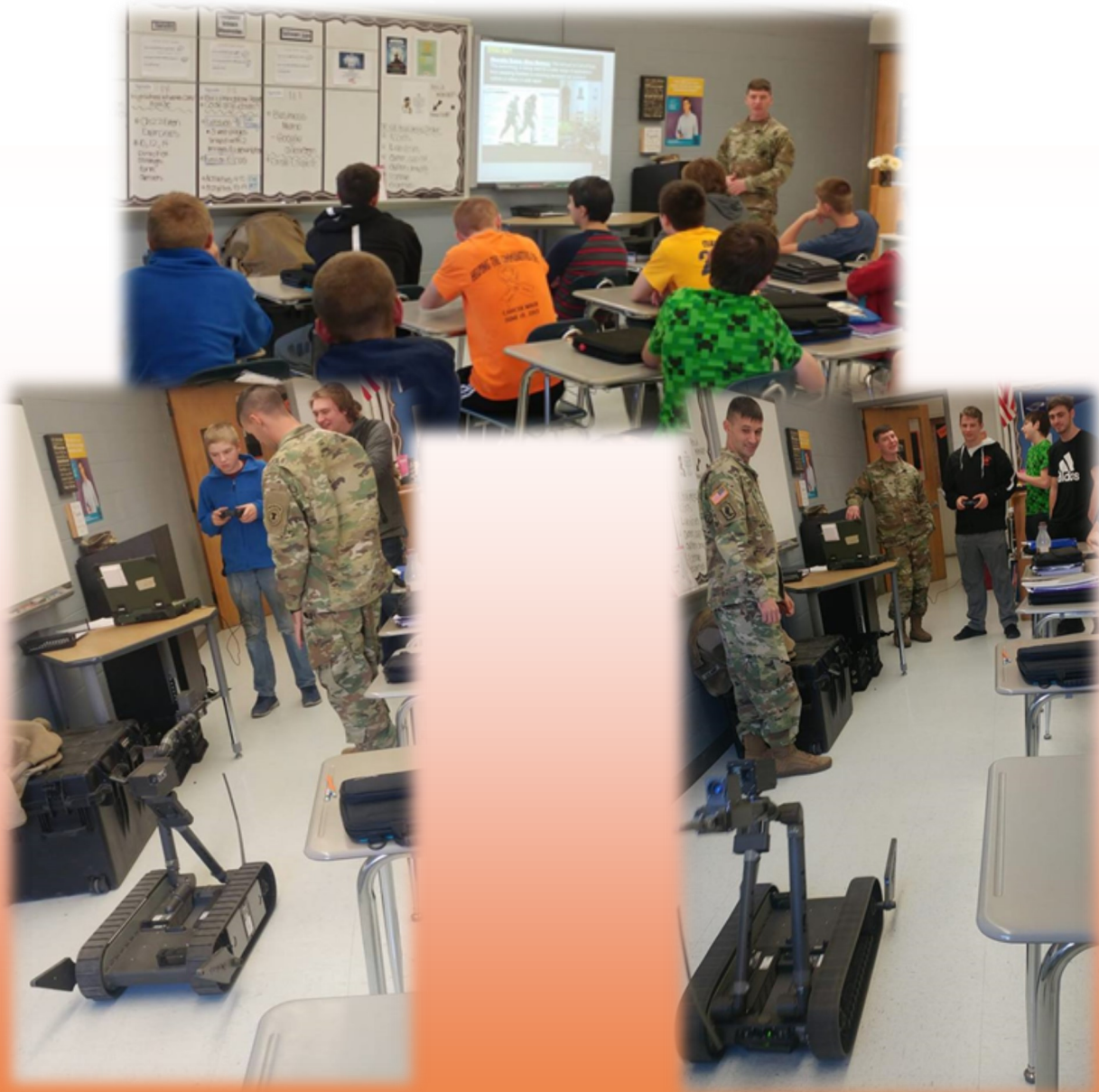




# Computer Science in the Military

Jennifer Gibbons | Business Education Teacher/FBLA Advisor

Earlier this month, the computer science class learned about some of the many ways computer science is currently being used in the military. Staff Sergeant Robert Lee Shumaker and Staff Sergeant Brent Mciver provided a presentation on CS technology in the military and gave a demonstration of the Packbot. This robot is a multi-mission tactical mobile robot developed and manufactured by iRobot. It is designed for use by soldiers and first responders to carry out dangerous missions in high-threat battlefield scenarios. The robot is controlled by a mechanism very similar to controllers used for gaming. These controllers combined with cameras mounted on the robot allow soldiers to drive the robot in remote locations. After the demonstration, students were able to practice driving this robot using the controller and mounted cameras.



# PLUS ONE

Yanula Nusse | Plus One Coordinator/Special Education Paraprofessional

Plus One is off to a great start this year. The students have a nice variety of activities to participate in. There are science classes offered by Ms. Schultz, art classes by Ms. Scharfenberg, craft classes by Mrs. Thompson and character building classes by Mrs. Clark. The kindergarten through second-graders get the opportunity to read to Bella the dog and her wonderful owner Mrs. Schultz monthly. The students enjoy the hikes out on the school nature trail with Nicholas. We are very appreciative to the Hillsboro Hotel for their generosity. They were kind enough to let us add an additional night to our swimming rotation so now we have two nights a week that we send a small group of students swimming. All the students have had a chance to take a walk to the public library and engage in some fun activities with Mrs. Lambert and her excellent staff. We are very excited to have such a great team of high school mentors. One of the really exciting things about our high school mentors this year is they are working within a program that they attended when they were in elementary school. It's so wonderful to see them supporting a program that at one time supported them! This group of students takes time out of their busy schedules to spend time with the young students in our program. They spend time doing helping with homework, playing games, leading activities and much more. Seeing these students build relationships with our young students is a joy to see.





# FBLA FUNDRAISER AND FOOD DRIVE FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

## BECAUSE BEING HUNGRY IS SCARY

Jennifer Gibbons | Business Education Teacher/FBLA Advisor

On Halloween night, middle school and high school FBLA members were busy! The high school FBLA created a Haunted Trail and provided guided spooky tours through the woods. Participants were charged admission of \$2.00 or \$1.00 and a non-perishable food item. The middle school FBLA spent several hours traversing the community knocking on doors for food donations. They often were given candy in addition to the donations which were gladly received. The combined efforts brought in approximately \$320.00 and 30 bags of groceries that were donated to the local food pantry. Pictured are some of the middle school trick or feeders in their costumes and the group of students who took the bags of food to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry and Thrift.

