

HANOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

# HANOVER PROUD

Volume 3, Issue 1

## **BACK TO SCHOOL**

Registration information  
and before & after-school care

## **STEM PROGRAM**

Learn about the past, present,  
and future of STEM at Hanover

## **SCHOOL SAFETY**

We have officers in all of  
our buildings and  
state-of-the-art equipment

## **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

We are hiring in transportation, nutrition, substitute teaching,  
and more!



# Welcome Back!



Dear Hanover Families and Students,

Welcome back! I'm overjoyed to kick off another exciting school year in our outstanding district. To our returning students - it's wonderful to have you back, continuing your educational journey with us. To all the new faces, whether just beginning or joining from elsewhere, warmest welcomes! We can't wait to get to know you.

The 2024-25 school year holds so much promise and potential. Our talented and caring teachers have meaningful learning experiences planned and will welcome you. Our support staff stands ready to assist students in whatever ways are needed for successful, well-rounded years, and our facilities teams have worked tirelessly to ensure our buildings and grounds are clean, safe, and ideal environments for learning and growth.

Most importantly, this year provides a fresh opportunity for all of us - staff, students, and families - to unite in the pursuit of excellence. Through collaboration, hard work, and a commitment to continuous improvement, there is no limit to what we can achieve together. Hanover remains a destination district!

Let's make it a phenomenal year filled with new discoveries, lasting growth, and wonderful memories! I wish you all the very best.

Warmly,

Dr. Mary Tracy-MacAulay

Superintendent of Hanover Schools

# 2024-2025 School Year Info

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### Returning Students

Online registration for returning students will begin on Monday, July 29, 2024 and continue through Friday, August 9, 2024. All returning students need to re-register for the coming school year.

Parents and guardians will sign in to <https://hcsc.powerschool.com/public> using their parent account and click on the Returning Student Enrollment link found in the Navigation menu. Please review the data for accuracy and make the necessary changes. Anyone who has moved and remains in our district is required to meet with the registrar for residency verification.

### New Students

Online registration for new students will begin on Monday, July 29, 2024 and continue through Friday, August 9, 2024. Before enrolling your student in our district, residency must be verified. Parents and guardians are required to meet with our registrar and have residency verified. An online registration link will be provided to register your student(s).

## Before & After School Care

Grand Tots offers care for these schools:

- Jane Ball Elementary School
- Lincoln Elementary School
- Red Cedars Elementary School

Before school care begins at 6:30 am and goes to the start of school. They will be present for all delays.

After-school care begins at 3:00 pm and is available until 6:00 pm. They will be present for early release days.

Call Grand Tots with any questions at (219)-374-6025 or email at [grandtotsdaycenter@gmail.com](mailto:grandtotsdaycenter@gmail.com).



# Board of Trustees

Regular meetings of the Hanover Community School Corporation Board of Trustees are held in public for the purpose of conducting the school corporation's business. Members of the public are encouraged to attend all public meetings. Meetings are on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.



Pictured: From LEFT to RIGHT Scott Burdan (Member), Aaron Kuzma (Member), Tara Beilke (President), Tracy Haskell (Secretary), and Eric Valiska (Vice President).

## Nutrition Information

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have a few important reminders and facts regarding the National School Lunch Program at Hanover Community School Corporation. Statements on your students' lunch accounts are sent out weekly. Please check your spam box.

If you have a student who graduated or is leaving the corporation, please check their lunch account balance. You may be owed money. You can request a refund, transfer the funds to another account, or donate to our Lunches of Love account. This form can be found on the Hanover website > Departments > Nutrition Department.

For all families that were approved for Meal Assistance during the 2023-2024 school year; your benefits expire September 25, 2024. **YOU MUST FILL OUT A NEW APPLICATION TO APPLY FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.** Failure to apply by September 25, 2024, will result in you being dropped from the program. Applications may take up to 10 days to be processed and you are responsible for any meal charges that occur before your application is processed and approved.

Meal Assistance applications are available after July 15, 2024, on our website and at school offices. Applications will be accepted at any time throughout the year. Only one form is needed per family. It is your responsibility to make sure all household members are listed on the application or approval letter.

Michelle Philipp  
Director of Nutrition



# Hanover Schools Education Foundation (HSEF)

The Hanover Schools Education Foundation's mission is to enhance the high quality education of the Hanover Township K-12 public schools by funding innovative educational programs that foster excellence and have a lasting impact on students. Our efforts are achieved through fundraising, donations, and grant writing opportunities.



The Hanover Schools Education Foundation (HSEF) was created to aid our exemplary schools by providing teacher grants that offer unique opportunities to students in our classrooms that may not be covered through the school budget processes. We also provide scholarships to graduating seniors who are pursuing college or career opportunities.

Make  donations here!

We are a non-profit organization that helps foster the creativity and ingenuity and achievement of excellence in our K-12 public schools. The Hanover Schools Education Foundation is run by community volunteers who are committed to enhancing our school and developing partnerships with our School Board, community groups, families and individuals.

## Events coming up:

Bingo: November 2024

Penguin Plop: March 2025

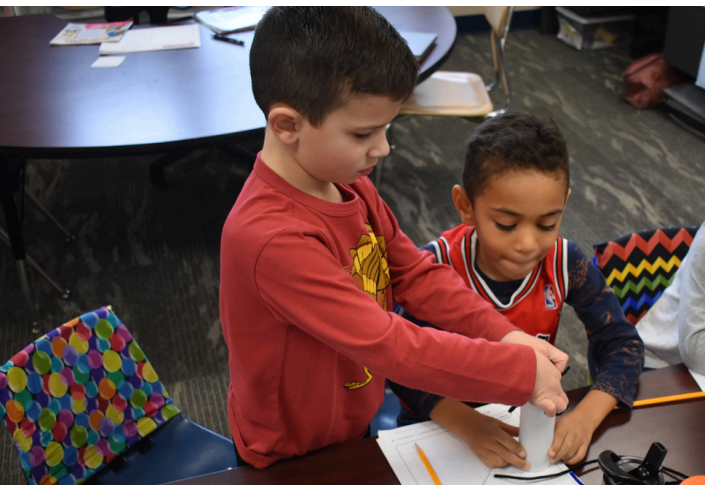


Follow us on Facebook at HSEF-Hanover Schools Education Foundation

# Science Technology Engineering Math



In the 2023-2024 academic year, Hanover introduced a Project Based Learning Coordinator role to oversee the STEM program for kindergarten through 2nd grade. Alicia Darnstaedt, a seasoned educator at Hanover, eagerly embraced this new opportunity. Utilizing the curriculum from EES Innovation called CREATE2THINK, she guides students through projects that highlight various employability skills essential for future endeavors in employment, enlistment, or higher education.



At the core of Mrs. Darnstaedt's STEM approach are the 4 Cs: Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Creativity. Each STEM unit follows a structured process: students identify a problem, engage in planning to devise solutions, build and test their creations, make necessary adjustments, and ultimately present a final product addressing the initial problem. Throughout this process, students integrate elements from at least two of the STEM disciplines: science, technology, engineering, or math.

"I love that STEM reaches all students, and it allows students opportunities to shine, where they might not elsewhere." - Mrs. Fruth, Kindergarten teacher

"The STEM program provides a hands-on approach to learning, which creates a level of engagement like nothing else." - Mrs. Gantz, 2nd Grade teacher

"My favorite thing about STEM is seeing the students take on leadership roles, problem-solve, collaborate, and use critical thinking skills." - Mrs. Ryan, 2nd Grade teacher

STEM education under Mrs. Darnstaedt's guidance breaks away from traditional desk-bound learning, encouraging hands-on exploration and collaborative problem-solving among students. Mrs. Darnstaedt shared that her mother always said, "Don't stifle their creativity," which is something that she follows every day when working in STEM with the students. All educators in the kindergarten through 2nd-grade levels receive training in project-based learning (PBL) and CREATE2THINK. Many teachers are pursuing additional qualifications to integrate STEM into their teaching licenses.



Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 school year, Hanover anticipates extending the STEM program to Red Cedars Elementary School, encompassing 3rd-grade students. Mrs. Darnstaedt is enthusiastic about incorporating guest speakers, organizing field trips, and potentially establishing an after-school STEM program, enriching the educational experience for students beyond the classroom.

"My favorite part about STEM is giving the students a problem to solve & watching them take on the challenge with excitement."  
- Mrs. Bood, 2nd Grade teacher

"Education is changing. If you teach in a project-based way, you can relate it to so much more. It is all about authentic learning." - Mrs. Darnstaedt, PBL Coordinator

"Students get to practice valuable real-world skills such as collaboration, communication, problem-solving, and creativity." - Mrs. Maravilla, 1st Grade teacher

Alicia Darnstaedt has worked in education for 30 years. She graduated from Indiana University Northwest in 1993 and started teaching 2nd grade at Boone Grove Elementary School. After taking time off to raise a family and establish her own preschool, she returned to public education in 2005. She served as a librarian at Lincoln Elementary School here at Hanover, where she introduced art and computer labs to the library. Alicia then taught 1st through 3rd grades for 3 years before focusing on 1st grade for 12 more years. Later, she shifted to teaching high-ability math to 4th and 5th graders, and eventually to 3rd through 5th graders. She recently transitioned into the role of PBL coordinator for Hanover Community School Corporation and is working on getting her master's degree.

## **PBL Coordinator** Mrs. Darnstaedt





# WE ARE HIRING!

Check out our  
available job  
postings here!



## KHAN Academy

Khan Academy is an educational organization with the goal of having a set of online tools to help educate students. Hanover Community Schools adopted the use of Khan Academy in January of 2024, thanks to the AI Pilot Grant from The Indiana Department of Education. We were then awarded a Digital Learning Grant to pay for Khanmigo, a personalized artificial intelligence tutor for our 3rd - 8th grade students.

The purpose of this resource is to assist students in retaining the content they are learning in the classroom, for more than a short-term goal such as a quiz in class. Teachers assign content through the Khan platform that matches what is being taught in class. Khanmigo's AI is available to help students by helping them answer questions without giving them the answers. Student use of AI is monitored and will send messages to administrators and teachers when it is not being used for the intended purpose.

Hanover received a data review document for the one semester the district used Khan Academy with grant funds. Our students learned for an average of 664 minutes, leveled up an average of 60 skills, and became proficient in an average of 51 skills. The goal for the coming school year is to encourage more implementation of this resource in all 3rd - 8th classrooms.

We are excited to have this resource for our students and teachers in the classroom. Like all technology, it is constantly changing. New updates are coming out with the expansion of new subjects. With personalized learning, trusted content, and tools to empower educators, we believe that Khan Academy will be a great addition for this upcoming school year.



# School Safety

Safety and security has been and always will be the top priority of Hanover Community School Corporation. We have almost 500 cameras throughout the district to ensure security throughout all campuses. Each school in the district has a uniformed officer in the building during the entirety of the school day. Our officers are familiar with the students and interact with them on a daily basis.

Over the summer, we are hosting a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design training with other directors of security and school officers. They will be learning how to complete threat assessments and conducting them on all of our buildings before school begins. Director of Safety and Security, Michael O'Donnell is working on getting a grant



for the corporation that will allow us to get upgraded access control with easier access to first responders. This grant would also cover getting new radios that allow administrators and officers to access cameras.

All of our schools follow the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) which includes Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter. All of these protocols are practiced and taught to our students and staff to ensure preparedness for any situation. The Emergency Response Plan covers a few more situations that the SRP does not. Posters of both of these resources are hung throughout all of our buildings and available on our website for reference. Mr. O'Donnell coordinates meetings with our community partners and the emergency response teams from each building multiple times throughout the year to ensure that everyone is on the same page.

We continue to follow state guidelines in regards to all of our safety drills. We conduct monthly fire, tornado, bomb threat, earthquake, and armed intruder drills. In the coming school year, over two days, we will be conducting reunification training for our community partners, teachers, staff and it will be open to other districts in our area.

We encourage parents to check out our Emergency Preparedness Plan on our website at [www.hanover.k12.in.us/safety](http://www.hanover.k12.in.us/safety). We need your help to keep our schools safe. As always, if you See Something, Say Something. Information can be shared with any adult in our buildings or by contacting our anonymous tip line at 219-374-3500 ext. #8477 (TIPS).

# Hanover Community School Corporation

## 2024-25 District Calendar



August				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

September				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

October				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

November				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

December				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

January				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

February				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

March				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

April				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

May				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

June				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

- School not in session
- Half day
- eLearning day
- Teacher work day
- Start of 9 weeks
- End of 9 weeks
- First & last student day

- August
- 13: First Teacher Day
- 14: First Student Day
- September
- 2: Labor Day, No School
- 18: K-12 eLearning Day
- October
- 11: End of first 9 weeks
- 14: Begin second 9 weeks
- 16-18: Fall Break, No School
- 24 & 25: K-8 Early Release
- November
- 27-29: Thanksgiving Break, No School
- December
- 11: K-8 eLearning Day
- 19 & 20: High School Early Release
- 20: End of second 9 weeks
- 23-Jan 3: Winter Break, No School
- January
- 6: Records Day, No School
- 7: Begin third 9 weeks
- 20: Martin Luther King Day, No School
- 29: K-12 eLearning day
- February
- 14: Make-up Day, No School
- 17: President's Day, No School
- March
- 14: End of third 9 weeks
- 17: Begin fourth 9 weeks
- 24-28: Spring Break, No School
- April
- 18: Good Friday, No School
- May
- 26: Memorial Day, No School
- 29 & 30: High School Early Release
- 30: Last Day of School
- June
- 1: High School Graduation
- 2: Records Day, No School



Follow us  
on social  
media!



Check out our  
new website!



**HANOVER CENTRAL  
HIGH SCHOOL**

10120 W. 133rd Avenue Cedar Lake, IN 46303  
Phone: (219) 374-3800



**HANOVER CENTRAL  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

10631 W. 141st Street Cedar Lake, IN 46303  
Phone: (219) 374-3900



**RED CEDARS  
BOBCATS**

10635 W. 141st Street Cedar Lake, IN 46303  
Phone: (219) 587-3400



**JANE BALL  
LIONS**

13313 Parrish Avenue Cedar Lake, IN 46303  
Phone: (219) 374-3700



**LINCOLN  
LEOPARDS**

12245 W. 109th Avenue Cedar Lake, IN 46303  
Phone: (219) 374-3600



**HANOVER LEARNING ACADEMY  
KITTY KATS**

10120 W. 133rd Avenue Cedar Lake, IN 46303  
Phone: (219) 374-3800



**HANOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

July 29th - August 9th: New & Returning Student Registration

August 7th: 6th Grade Orientation 9 - 11 AM

New Student Orientation (7th & 8th) 1- 2 PM

August 8th: Freshman Orientation

August 12th: HCMS Locker Loading 8 AM - 2 PM

Red Cedars Back to School Night 5:30 - 7 PM

August 13th: HLA Back to School Events 11 AM - 12 PM & 4 - 5 PM

Jane Ball Back to School Night 5:30 - 7 PM

Lincoln Back to School Night 5:30 - 7 PM

August 14th: First Day of School!

September 2nd: No School - Labor Day

September 5th: HCMS Back to School Night 5:30 - 7 PM

September 12th: HCHS Back to School Night 5:30 - 7 PM

September 18th: K-12 eLearning Day

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This content is available at [www.hanover.k12.in.us](http://www.hanover.k12.in.us).

