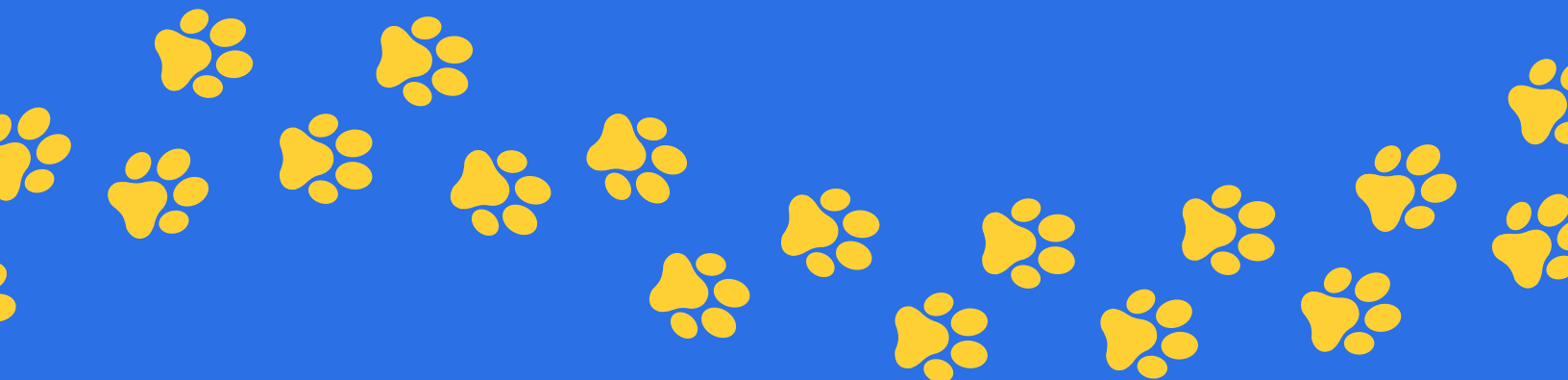




HGSES Newsletter

Winter 2025 Edition



From the Principal...



Hello Parents and Guardians,
Happy New Year!

We had a very successful first semester at Hickory Grove Sharon Elementary School, and our goal is to stay focused and continue progressing in every aspect of educating our students. Our Winter MAP testing data showed significant progress in both math and reading compared to the Fall data. It's always exciting to see these academic gains made by our students.

As we move into the second semester, it's crucial for students to maintain good habits such as attending school every day, participating in class, and doing their very best! Students will be learning new grade-level standards across all subjects, including reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.

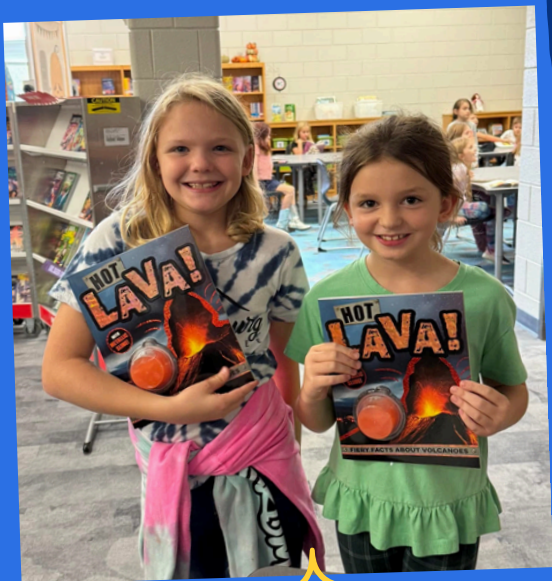
Please continue to communicate regularly with your child's teachers. Our 3rd grade through 6th grade teachers have a Canvas page, and I encourage you to check for updates on what your child is learning at school. All of our other grade levels will continue to communicate through REMIND and weekly Newsletters. Furthermore, your support is invaluable, and we appreciate all you do to help our students succeed. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thanks,

Keith McSwain, Principal

Important Dates

Jan 16: YSD1 6th Grade Beginning Band Concert @ 6:30 pm, YIS Gym
Jan 20: Holiday (MLK Jr)
Jan 21: Domino's Spirit Day Code "HGSES"
Jan 21: PTO Meeting at 2:45pm
Jan 27: Schramm's Field Trip
Jan 31: Birthday Lunch
Feb 3: Teacher Workday
Feb 4: 5th & 6th Grade STEM Field Trip



Feb 18: Domino's Spirit Day Code "HGSES"

Feb 18: PTO Meeting at 2:45pm

Feb 21: Birthday Lunch

Feb 24-27: Intercession Week

Mar 6/7: MERIT Field Trip

Mar 18: Domino's Spirit Day Code "HGSES"

Mar 18: PTO Meeting at 2:45pm

Mar 19: Early Release Day (11:30)

Mar 28: Birthday Lunch

Mar 28: Spring Pics (no makeup day)

PTO



The HGSE PTO had a fantastic fall! We provided treat bags to our performers on Veteran's Day and participated in Fall for Reading. We had our very own Vanna White "Spin the Wheel" to celebrate our Perfect Attendance employees for the first nine weeks. Ms. Alicia Breakfield and Jailynn Ferguson were the lucky winners, and both went home with a \$50 check! In November, PTO sponsored a Thanksgiving meal for our HSGE family, with the help of our hardworking and talented cafeteria ladies! Most recently, the PTO held the first annual Holiday Shop and wrapped up the event with a fun morning of Bojangles biscuits and reading with our families. The PTO sponsored Polar Express & Pajama Day for our students with a party and a small gift for each child. This was an exciting day full of fun and laughter for the children here at HGSE. We'd like to thank all the parents, grandparents, and extended family who participated in our events this fall. We hope you've had as much fun as we have!

Sponsors for our monthly birthday ice cream celebrations were Trent Campbell Builders (September), Faulkner Law Firm (October), Faulkner Development (November), and Black's Peaches (December). Please support local businesses and thank them for helping your child celebrate their special day. We are thankful for their support! If you would like to sponsor this event, please let us know. The sponsorship is \$100 and your business will be acknowledged on our school's social media pages for being willing to help us celebrate their birthday!

Our Domino's Spirit Days are awesome! You can order online ANYTIME on Domino's Day and you'll save 35% on your order of any item PLUS you'll help our PTO earn 10% of the total sales for that day. Just use HGSES as your coupon code when your order. This applies to ONLINE ORDERS ONLY. Our upcoming dates for Domino's dates are January 21st, February 18th, and March 18th for the spring. Don't worry about lunch or dinner those days... just order Domino's!

We have raised almost \$500 with our BoxTops for Education app. Join us in earning cash for our school by using the Box Tops app. It's an easy way to make a difference. All you do is buy Box Tops participating products (like Cheerios!) and scan your grocery receipt. Box Tops are worth \$.10 each and they add up fast! Twice a year, our school receives a check to help pay for whatever we need - equipment, supplies, or experiences the kids love! Use this referral code GWWX5LAQ when you sign up and you'll get 25 Bonus Box Tops when you scan your first receipt now through 05/31/2025, while supplies last! Download the Box Tops for Education app here: https://btfe.smart.link/c2jjdifkw?referral_code=GWWX5LAQ

MERIT



New Discoveries

3rd Grade

Students are increasing their Math academic vocabulary as they investigate concepts of probability and best strategies for forming greatest and least sums. In January, we will begin to explore materials engineering in archaeology.

4th Grade

Students discovered that technology is more than electronic devices. They participated in a mystery bag activity in which they drew and labeled an item. Then, they explained how it solved a problem. Next, students have learned how to regroup in a base-three system. Ask them to explain gickles, bickles, rickles, and trickle.

5th/6th Grades

Building upon previous archaeology studies, fifth graders are using Canva and research skills to create a presentation on an archaeological site. Fifth and sixth graders have been studying circumference. They have measured pumpkin pancakes and are now drawing and measuring snowmen. Sixth graders are learning how to measure the area of their snowmen.

Reminders

4th Grade

Camp Thunderbird Field Trip

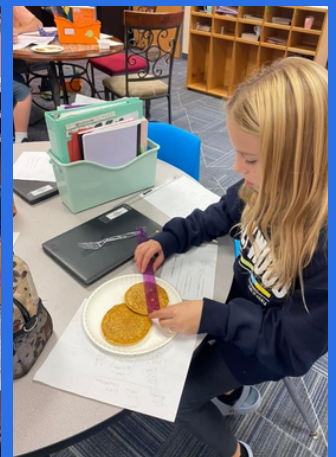
Student/Chaperone

Payments Due:

- January 21-27
- February 24-28

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 18-21 MERIT Testing
- Mar. 6-7 4th Grade goes to Camp Thunderbird



Nurse



We would like to welcome Kristie Schmaltz to the HGS family as our school nurse. Nurse Schmaltz comes to us from the middle school. Please help us welcome her to our amazing school!

As the holiday season allows us to spend more time with family and friends, it also brings with it the peak of respiratory illness and flu season. To prevent widespread illness in the school, we recommend that your child stay home from school if experiencing flu or respiratory illness (such as RSV) symptoms. To decide whether or not to send your child to school, please consider the following guidelines:

Keep your child at home for treatment and observation if he or she has any of these symptoms:

- Fever (greater than 100 degrees and your child may return to school only after his or her temperature has been consistently below 100 degrees, by mouth, for a minimum of 24 hours)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- General malaise or feelings of fatigue, discomfort, weakness or muscle aches
- Frequent congested (wet) or croupy cough

To help prevent the flu and other respiratory illnesses, teach your children good hygiene habits:

- Wash hands frequently
- Do not touch eyes, nose or mouth
- Cover mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, use a paper tissue, throw it away and then wash hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Keeping a sick child at home will minimize the spread of infections and viruses in the classroom.

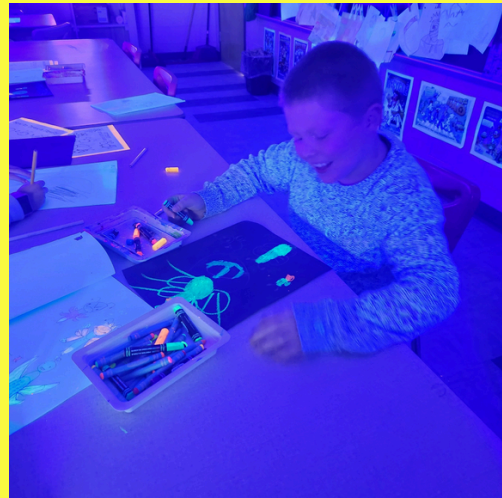
As a school, we have our custodians disinfect surfaces and other touch points daily. We are also ensuring that there is soap and hand sanitizer readily available and reminding students about the importance of hand washing. Please also take the time to click on the links below for illness guides for parents from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and SC DHEC.

<https://scdhec.gov/health/child-teen-health/school-exclusion> ·
<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/tools-resources/health-care-providers.html> · <https://scdhec.gov/flu-schools-child-care-centers>

Our school nurses track trends of flu, COVID and RSV. If your child has been diagnosed with any of these illnesses, please contact your school nurse. Thank you in advance for helping make this season and school year as healthy as possible.

Art

Students are using the inspiration of black lights and neon colors, practical application of Shape and Form, and use the elements and principles of line, shape, color, texture, space, form, and value to create a neon shape painting. Cross-Curricular connection: Math (Shape, Form, Value, Color, and Patterns), Science (Bioluminescence, Nocturnal Animals, Jellyfish)



Kindergarten Neon Shapes
1st Grade Neon Owls
2nd Grades Neon Fireflies
3rd Grade Neon Lava Lamps
4th Grade Neon Snails
6th and 5th Grade Neon
Jellyfish

Guidance



We are looking forward to exciting things in the new year! Sixth graders will be taking a career assessment through the program SCOIS. This is the South Carolina Occupational Information System that is SC's official career information system. Each student has his/her own account that will follow him/her until high school graduation. There are 16 career clusters that are rated based on the student's answers. The cluster system directly links a student's school courses and interests to future career goals. It also helps in the creation of an Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) as well as make students and parents knowledgeable about the needs of the labor market. More information will be sent home to parents.

Parents, we would love to hear about your careers! If you are interested in sharing about your career with our students, we would love to have you present at school! Please contact Amy Preslar at 803-820-5908 or email at apreslar@york.k12.sc.us

Classroom guidance will focus on respecting each other's differences and individuality. All classes will discuss the importance of the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and how he made the world a better place through non-violence and his words. Students learn the most important part of a person is their heart and how they treat each other. We do this through a fun M & M candy game! As always...Kindness Counts and it starts with You!

PE



Here in HGSES PE, we have been doing a variety of games that incorporate our physical education skills. We have also enjoyed different games that went along with the holiday season. In grade 3rd-6th, the students participated in a basketball skills game that worked on our dribbling and shooting skill called Shoots and Ladder. The students really enjoyed this game as it brought out the competitive spirit. In grades Pre K-2nd, the students enjoyed playing holiday themed games such as Grinch Tag and Run, Run, Rudolph.

Thanks,
Coach Elliott



Fitness Club

Fitness Club Schedule: Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday, and
Friday 7:20-7:40

January 7-10: 5th Grade

January 13-17: 6th Grade

January 21-24: 5th Grade

January 27-31: 6th Grade

February 3-7: 5th Grade

February 10-14: 6th Grade

February 17-21: 5th Grade

February 24-28: Winter Break



Library



Thanks to all the volunteers who worked the Fall Book Fair, and all the parents and students that shopped the Book Fair!! We made \$2500 to buy books and supplies for the library! Third-Sixth grade students are reading the York Book Award books across our district. Our students are doing an excellent job of participating in this challenge. At this point, over 150 students have read at least one of the books and earned a prize!! Keep on Reading!!



Many parents don't know about Discus and what a great resource it is for all of us. Let me share a little about it. I will try to highlight different resources available to all students in SC in each newsletter. This is funded by our very own tax dollars and we should take advantage of it when we can.

What is Discus? Discus – South Carolina's Virtual Library is the "information place" for all South Carolinians. It provides free access to an electronic library that's available 24/7. Discus provides a variety of organized resources, called databases*, for individuals of all ages, educational levels and interests.

"Discus" stands for Digital Information for SC Users.

To learn more and see all that Discus has to offer, visit: scdiscus.org. Some of the resources require a username/password to get home access to these resources. Contact me at shcomer@york.k12.sc.us and I can share that password with you. Students can access Discus through their classlink account, too.



Discus now offers free access to Tutor.com for South Carolina residents – free, real-time tutoring, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for English and Spanish speakers. Connect with a tutor on a variety of subjects, test prep assistance, or parent coaching. There is also SAT and ACT prep for our high school students. Get online today and check out all the great services tutor.com offers.

Click on the logo above to go to tutor.com and create a free account. Students or parents can set this up. You just need an email address. Once you set up an account, you can choose to have the same tutor each time you visit and also save the sessions to look at later. If you need help, just contact me at the email to the left!

Music



We have had an exciting first semester in music! Our 3rd Grade class performed at the Veteran's Day Program and 4th Grade performed at our Winter Concert. Congratulations to both groups for successful performances! This spring, we will be focusing on different instruments families in each grade level, as well as preparing for upcoming performances!



Band



Our YSD1 6th Grade Beginning Band Winter Showcase will be on January 16th at 6:30 pm in the YIS Gym! We are so excited to showcase all the hard work and growth we have made so far! After our Showcase, we will be working on pieces for our next concert and preparing for the SCBDA Solo and Ensemble State Assessment!



Act 114 Read to Succeed

Act 114 requires that beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, a student must be retained in the third grade if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency by scoring Does Not Meet Expectations on SC READY Reading. A student may be exempt for good cause from the mandatory retention but shall continue to receive instructional support and services and reading intervention appropriate for their age and reading level. GCEs remain the same except for the reading portfolio which has been removed as a GCE. Successful completion of Summer Reading camp is defined more narrowly to include alternate formative assessments or reassessment of SC READY and revised cut scores to reflect the requirements of Act 114.

Information in regards to Read to Succeed, Parent Conferences, and Individualized Reading Plans will come home with your child's report card on January 15th. If you have further questions please contact your child's teacher. A direct link to the Read to Succeed Law can be found at <https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/early-learning-and-literacy/read-to-succeed/>



©Jason Miczek Photography

Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

DID YOU KNOW?

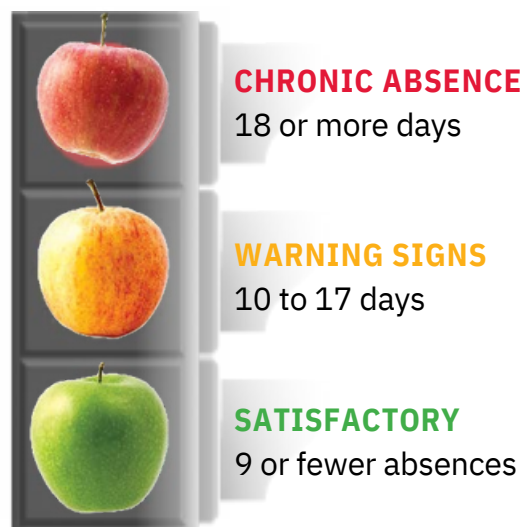
- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-urgent related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are concerned that your child may have a contagious illness, call your school or health care provider for advice.
- If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

STRATEGIC CHANGE AGENDA - 2022-2027



MISSION

Our mission is to cultivate a service-oriented community of learners who strive for personal growth and excellence as communicators, collaborators, creators, and critical thinkers.

VISION

To Learn, Serve, and Give as One

BELIEFS

- Learning is a life-long, ever-changing process for students and staff.
- Each child is unique and should have the opportunity to reach his/her full potential.
- A safe, orderly, and nurturing environment is essential for learning.
- Education is a collaborative effort between schools and the community.
- Technology is a tool that should be leveraged to enhance the teaching and learning process.
- Teaching and learning should be relevant, individualized, and intentional to equip students for success.

COMMITMENTS

1. We will foster and maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff.
2. We will establish and nurture trusting and caring relationships with students, families, community members, and colleagues.
3. We will provide quality learning experiences to meet the individual needs of students.
4. We will embrace a commitment to continuous learning for students and staff.
5. We will partner and collaborate with students, families, and the community to enhance educational experiences.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.YORK.K12.SC.US/MISSION