

November 26, 2024

Dear SAU 70 Families,

It's hard to believe that it's already Thanksgiving Break! All of us at SAU 70 are grateful to serve such a supportive community! We wish you a happy holiday, and hope you have a great long weekend!

Here are some of the events happening in our schools and districts...

Important Dates

- Thanksgiving Break - November 27, 28, 29 - No School (SAU closed Nov 28, 29)
- Norwich Budget Presentation - December 4
- Hanover Budget Presentation - December 11
- Dresden Budget Presentation - December 17
- December Break - December 23 - January 3 (SAU closed Dec 24, 25, Jan 1)
- Dresden Budget Adoption/Public Hearing - January 7
- Hanover Budget Adoption/Public Hearing - January 8
- Norwich Budget Adoption/Public Hearing - January 9
- Civil Rights Day (VT) / Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Day (NH) January 20 - No School & SAU closed

[District Calendar](#)



District News and Information

Updates from Curriculum

The District is continuing its rollout of curriculum documentation for families. This process involves transferring course information from the Teachers' SAU 70 Curriculum Drive to a user-friendly, web-based template. Hundreds of pages of curriculum documents have already been reviewed as part of this initial phase, and throughout the year, more curriculum details will be added.

In addition to curriculum development, staff members are actively participating in professional development focused on science at the elementary level. Shane Clifford, a 5th-grade teacher at Ray, has been leading professional development sessions on the Next Generation Science Standards. He collaborates with grade-level teams to design science units around engaging storylines. These teams recently shared their work to highlight the continuity of learning across grade levels.

Furthermore, over 20 teachers, administrators, and staff members from the elementary schools came together at the end of the 2023-2024 school year to form an English Language Arts (ELA) Committee, which continues its work this year. This committee is grounded in Science of Reading research. Members are engaged in reading current research literature, analyzing school-wide and district-wide ELA data, designing an "ideal" literacy block, and exploring pedagogy, materials, and professional development.



Safety

Our district is transitioning to a new set of emergency procedures called the Standard Response Protocol. We will be presenting this resource at the Hanover School Board meeting in December. We have begun sharing this new tool with our staff and will be launching our newly created Safety page on our website. Please know that for safety reasons, we can only share limited information, but the new protocol will help us to be consistent in our communication in the event of an emergency situation.

Coaching Opportunities

Are you passionate about sports and looking for an opportunity to work with students beyond the classroom? The Hanover High School is seeking staff and community members interested in coaching! There are both paid and volunteer positions available at the Varsity, sub-Varsity, and Developmental levels.

Winter sports include girls and boys basketball, ice hockey, alpine and nordic skiing, ski jumping, swimming and diving, and indoor track and field. Spring sports feature baseball, softball, boys and girls lacrosse and tennis, outdoor track and field, and crew.

If you're interested in supporting our student-athletes and fostering their growth, please reach out to the athletic department at hhs-athletics@hanovernorwichschools.org. We'd love to have you join the team!

Middle School Sports

Speaking of sports, in conjunction with this year's budget process, the Dresden School District has launched a Middle School Sports Committee that has been tasked with developing a recommendation regarding the addition of a middle school sports program at Richmond Middle School. The committee's meetings are usually scheduled at noon, are open to the public, and are posted on the SAU 70 website. The committee is considering funding, staffing, and selection of sports as it carries out its work. Part of the impetus for this work is Hanover Parks and Recreation's planning to eventually phase out 7th and 8th grade programming. Establishing a middle school sports program would bring our district into alignment with other regional school systems, such as Lebanon and Claremont. The committee hopes to complete its work by January in time for the final presentation of the 2025-26 budget.

National Blue Ribbon Award 2024 Ceremony



Principal Amrhein and Hanover School District Board Chair Keeney attend the 2024 Blue Ribbon Schools Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 7 and 8th.

[Principal Amrhein's recap of the events!](#)

Playground Opens at MCS

Welcome to the New MCS Playground!

We're thrilled to announce that the new playground at Marion Cross School (MCS) is officially open, and is already a huge hit! Thank you to everyone who has supported this project. Last week was fun for me as I was able to bring each class outside on their first visits to the new playground. It was heartwarming to see the excitement as students

from Pre-K through 6th grade explored the new space—sixth graders were as excited as students in the lower grades!

Each day this week, students have been successfully playing on the structure, testing out the equipment, and learning how to enjoy it safely. It's wonderful to see them navigating the new space with enthusiasm and respect for the expectations we introduced.

A special thank you to Jamie Teague, Tony Daigle, Tim Fernandez, and Shawn Stender for their hard work and dedication in making this playground a reality. Their efforts in planning, building, and overseeing the project have provided a wonderful space that will benefit MCS students for years to come. The vision, planning, and hands-on work by each of them has created a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment for all children to enjoy.

Principal Gonyaw

See the Fun in Action!

We've captured some wonderful moments of the kids enjoying the new playground! Check out this video to see the joy and excitement as students test out the equipment. It's a reminder of the joy play brings to our school community!

[Student Video](#)

[District Administrators](#) visit the newly opened playground.

A Note from Human Resources...

Still Hiring

We are still looking for special education support staff employees at HHS and Ray School - openings can be viewed on our [job listings](#) page.

...and we are always in need of substitutes - for more information visit our [Substitute](#) page.

Communication Opt-In Option Reminder



To opt in to receive important updates and announcements via text text "YES" to 79041 and you'll get timely reminders and notifications right to your phone. If you have previously opted in and would prefer to opt out, text "NO" to 79041.

Winter is on the Way!



As winter approaches, it's important to remember our commitment to safety. We monitor the weather forecasts daily during the winter and make the decision to remain open, delay, or cancel school with a great deal of deliberation. Remember that even when roads in town seem fine, many of our families live at higher elevations where conditions can be far worse. Also, it's important to keep in mind that many of our teachers, administrators and support staff commute to work, some from considerable distances, so we keep in touch not only with our local road crews, but also with state and regional colleagues as we decide how to react to winter weather.

Happy Thanksgiving!