



HUDSON EXPLORERS CONNECT

News and Updates from the Hudson City School District

FALL 2025

Hudson Middle School Earns Special Honor

Congratulations to Hudson Middle School for being named a 2025 School of Distinction by the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE).

HMS is just one of 24 schools in the nation to earn this award.

AMLE Schools of Distinction recognizes and celebrates schools that are actively implementing the essential attributes and characteristics of successful middle grades schools. This prestigious honor is given to select schools following a rigorous review process, including a comprehensive school-wide assessment, continuous improvement planning, and stakeholder interviews with staff, students, and families.



The Schools of Distinction will be recognized in November at the annual AMLE conference in Indianapolis.

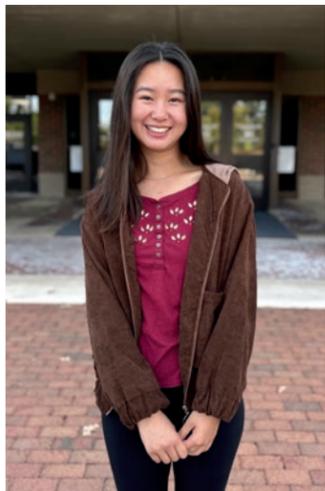


Fifteen Seniors Recognized as National Merit Scholars

We are pleased to announce that 15 Hudson High School seniors have been honored as National Merit Scholars by the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Elena Cheng was named a National Merit Semifinalist, which includes the highest-scoring entrants on the PSAT from each state and represents less than one percent of high school seniors in the United States.

In addition, 14 students have been named National Merit Commended Scholars. They are (from L to R) **Norman Updegraff, Molly McInerney, Chase Gerbick, Grace Newsome, Aidan Conkling, Gemma Ward, Eric Robinson, Selina Li, Mathias Morvillo, Graham Nye, Sherry Li, Ian Katz, Lucy Pulis** and **Isaac Albertson**. Commended Scholars typically rank in the top three percent of those who take the PSAT.



We congratulate all of our students on this amazing achievement!



School Report Cards

Hudson Earns Five Stars on State Report Card

In September, the annual state report card was released by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

Hudson City Schools is proud to be a five-star district, with an increased performance index (PI) of 107.1! The PI score places Hudson as #18 out of 607 districts in the state of Ohio.

In addition, we are one of only 47 districts to receive the five-star ranking. The state's report cards evaluate districts across six components: achievement, progress, gap closing, early literacy, graduation, and post-graduation readiness.



U.S. News & World Report Ranks Hudson High School #11 in Ohio

The 2025 U.S. News & World Report Best High School rankings were released at the start of the school year, and we are proud to report Hudson High School is #11 in Ohio among 903 high schools (top 1.2%) and #396 out of 18,000 schools nationwide (top 2.2%).

Hudson High School is #1 among the Akron Metro Area High Schools. The methodology for the rankings includes college readiness, state assessment proficiency, state assessment performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth, and graduation rates.

Nine New Members Inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame

At the beginning of October, we welcomed nine new members into the Hudson Athletic Hall of Fame! The Hudson City Schools Foundation, in conjunction with Hudson City Schools, hosted a luncheon on Friday, October 3, followed by a field recognition at the home football game for the new inductees.



They are: **Bob Dean**, Soccer Coach; **Allison Wagner Downing** and **Courtney Foster**, both the Class of 1997; **Ben Gedeon**, Class of 2013; **Janice Kempf**, Tennis Coach; **Ken Klemencic**, Sports Photographer; **John Lane**, Class of 1990; **Karey Carnahan Lawton**, Class of 1995; and **Richie Piekarski**, Class of 2010.

The following morning, a breakfast and official induction ceremony took place at Hudson High School.

Congratulations to all of our new inductees!

Fourth Grade Students Take Hudson History Walking Tour

In mid-October, our fourth grade students were out and about in downtown Hudson for a history lesson. Students took the walking field trip to explore Hudson's rich history related to the Underground Railroad. During the trip, students visited 10 different locations where they learned about important historical figures and events.

The experience featured activities such as coloring their own Underground Railroad quilt, listening to speeches by Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, and enjoying songs from that era.

More than 80 parent volunteers assisted with this endeavor. If you are a Hudson resident with a home from the Underground Railroad, we would like for students to see a hiding room next year.

You can reach out to East Woods Intermediate at 330-653-1256 with your contact information.



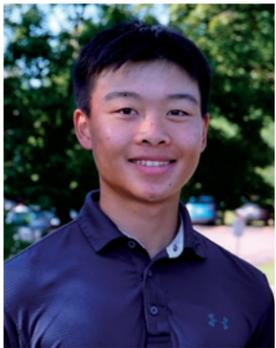
Portrait of an Explorer Day

We had an exciting kick-off across the district for this year's Portrait of an Explorer Days centered around our theme of *Why Not?*

At Ellsworth Hill, students gathered for an assembly where Superintendent Dana Addis had the honor of reading the book *Why Not?* —which encourages students to embrace big possibilities and dreams. Students then played a POE trivia game, in which our first and second graders worked together as Adaptive Problem Solvers, the focus of the day.

Over at McDowell Early Learning, another collaboration was also taking place. Hudson Middle School students teamed up with our littlest Explorers to read the book *Waiting for Wings*.

▶ **Scan to watch Portrait of an Explorer Day**



Hudson High School Junior Earns Perfect Scores on ACT and SAT Exams

We extend a huge congratulations to Junior **Jerry Du**, who recently earned a perfect score of 36 on his ACT exam and a perfect score of 1600 on the SAT!

It is a very rare feat to earn perfect scores on both college entrance exams.

Hudson City Schools Foundation Update

We want to extend a sincere thank you to the Hudson City Schools Foundation, which recently partnered with the district to cover additional costs for our 8th grade students on their trip to Washington D.C.

Funds were provided for a day trip to Mt. Vernon when itinerary adjustments were needed due to the government shutdown, ensuring families faced no extra financial burden.

The HCSF is also proud to announce the success of their inaugural Explorer Grants initiative, which awarded over \$10,000 to educators across pre-K through grade 12, directly benefiting all of our schools throughout the district.



For more information, please visit thehcsf.org

Preschool Registration Begins December 1st

Applications for the Hudson City Schools preschool program will open online on December 1, 2025 at 8 a.m.

The link to the online application will be available on the district website at www.hudson.k12.oh.us. Peer models for the program are selected through a mandatory screening process. Applications will be accepted through December 5 at 4 p.m.

For questions, please contact Principal Jennifer Hall at hallje@hudson.k12.oh.us.

Hudson City Schools Foundation Relaunches Paver Program

Commemorate special moments, honor loved ones, or celebrate Hudson pride with a custom-engraved memorial paver at Hudson Memorial Stadium. Your paver will become a permanent part of campus, reminding future generations of the people and milestones that shape our community.

Depending on the size of the paver and lines of text, the cost ranges from \$250 to \$2,500. All proceeds benefit the Hudson City Schools Foundation, which supports programs in arts, athletics, academics, and alumni relations.



▶ **For more info, scan code or visit thehcsf.org/paver-interest**

330.653.1495 www.hudson.k12.oh.us

For questions regarding this newsletter, please contact reecej@hudson.k12.oh.us.

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