

# THE BROWN BEAR NECESSITIES

The Official Newsletter of  
Hannah Marie Brown Elementary School (est. 2021)



## Principal Ponderings by Megan Sensibaugh, a "beary" proud Principal

It is hard to believe that it is December already! We are wrapping up MAP testing for Kinder - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. I am so proud of the growth our students are making. Thank you for supporting your students and our school academic goals!

As a reminder, WE LOVE HAVING VOLUNTEERS on campus! If you would like to volunteer with academic supports, lunch/recess supervision, making copies for teachers, PTA events or more... please reach out to the PTA, the front office, or your child's teacher.

As we close our first semester of the 2025/26 school year, I want to take a moment and thank our community for supporting our attendance initiatives and remind you that if a student is absent, a note from a doctor is best, but please follow the link on our website to excuse student absences. As a reminder, classes can earn rewards when all students (and the teacher!) are present for the day. In addition, all extracurricular activities and events will be tied to attendance (Raiders' Day, Field Day, Field Trips, Clubs, etc.). We want our Bears to understand the importance of being on time and present each day—because a student's most important job is to be ready to learn!



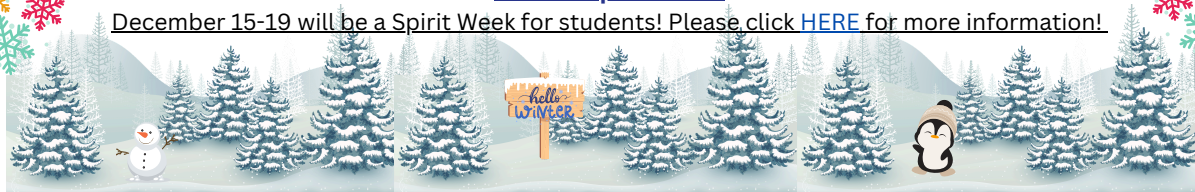
**GIVE YOUR BROWN BEAR STUDENT A BIRTHDAY SHOUT OUT!**  
DIGITAL BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

## MRS. SUMSION'S CORNER!

Welcome to December! We have many exciting events happening around the school, and I'm looking forward to the next few weeks. With the colder weather, we're noticing more jackets and sweatshirts being left behind. Please be sure your child's name or initials are written on any outer layers they may remove during the day. (Remember: if students wear their jackets in class, they must be SSA-approved.) Labeling items will help us quickly identify and return anything that ends up in Lost and Found. As we head into this busy season, please also remind children to wash their hands regularly and keep their hands to themselves so everyone stays healthy and can enjoy all the upcoming activities—and then a well-earned Winter Break!

### Winter Spirit Week

December 15-19 will be a Spirit Week for students! Please click [HERE](#) for more information!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

12/8/25  
Kindness T-Shirt Day

12/10/25  
Student of the Month Lunch

12/15/25  
Kindness T-Shirt Day

**Spirit Day: Winter/Holiday  
Hair**  
Wear your hair like a  
character, make it look  
frozen, get creative!

12/16/25  
**Spirit Day: Winter/Holiday  
Characters**  
Wear shirts/sweatshirts  
with characters or dress as  
one!

12/17/25  
SOT Meeting at 4pm

**Spirit Day: Winter Hats and  
Scarves**

12/18/25  
**Spirit Day: Gingerbread and  
Candy Cane Day. Dress like a  
gingerbread or candy cane!**  
(Wear brown or red and  
white)

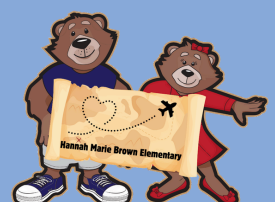
12/19/25  
End of the Second Grading  
Period

**Spirit Day: Pajama Day, no  
slippers**

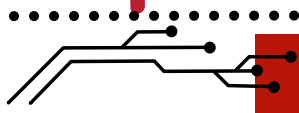
12/22/25-12/2/25  
Winter Break

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**Contact Info**  
[Hannahmariebrownelementaryschool.com](http://Hannahmariebrownelementaryschool.com)  
[Hannah Marie Brown Facebook Page](#)



# THE SPECIALIST SPOT



## MRS. BENNETT'S MEGABYTES



As the holiday season approaches, our class is buzzing with excitement and learning! Students are wrapping up the calendar year by sharpening their skills, spreading kindness online, and staying curious—just like the spirit of the season encourages.

Over the past few weeks, we've been exploring several important computer science foundations that help students become strong digital learners and creative problem solvers. Students have been practicing how to "debug" — a key computer science skill that teaches them to slow down, check their work, and fix mistakes step-by-step. They're also applying problem-solving strategies to tackle challenges with confidence and persistence.

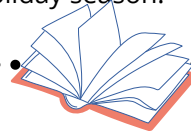
We've introduced the basics of Google Slides, and students are learning how to add text, images, and design elements to create simple, clear presentations. These are skills they'll use across all subject areas as they grow as digital creators.

We continue to emphasize what it means to leave a positive digital footprint. Students are learning how their online actions matter, how to communicate kindly and responsibly, and how to make safe choices when using technology—skills that are essential in today's connected world.

As we head into the holiday season, please stay healthy, enjoy time with friends and family, and take time to rest and recharge. Just like in computer science, where we learn to "debug" our programs, this time of year is a great reminder to "debug" those germs too—wash hands, get plenty of sleep, and stay healthy!

I am so proud of our Brown Bears and hope everyone enjoys a warm, joyful, holiday season!

## LIBRARY TID BITS FROM MRS. GEHLKEN



### \*End of 2025 Book Returns:

We need your help! With winter break right around the corner, please ask your child about their books and encourage them to get all overdue items back to the library prior to December 19th. Let's start 2026 with all of our school's library books accounted for! [Click here to see the December 2025 / January 2026 library class schedule.](#) Note: Overdue books can be returned any day, not just on library day!

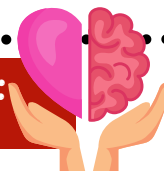
### \*Books/subjects we explored during the month of November:

Kindergarten - A selection of Pete the Cat books; There Was a Turkey on the Farm; Grow Grateful; turkeys; being thankful/grateful

1st-5th Grades - A selection of new books; The Flower Man (wordless picture book); The Girl and the Bicycle (wordless picture book); Pepper and Me; A Love Letter to My Library; The Day the Books Disappeared; This is a Book; The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore



## WHAT IN THE WORLD IS UP WITH HANSON: PE AND BEHAVIOR UPDATES!



I hope you are having a wonderful time celebrating the holidays! P.E. is in full force, students from all grade levels took part in various activities, drills and even games in our first unit of volleyball! Our next unit will be football, to align with the NFL playoffs. I want to stress that students will not partake in any forms of physical contact in this unit as I have planned various safe activities, obstacle courses, trick shots and even a Punt, Pass & Kick competition that I know the students will all benefit from.

Lastly, the Zen Den is open! Students who earn the Golden Ticket from their teachers will get a chance to visit the room for a limited time as a reward. Students can earn this right through various reasons such as work completion, being respectful in the hallways, most improved, etc. If your student comes home with a Golden Ticket please make sure to celebrate with them in their accomplishment. Thank you again and see you around the school!



**LITERACY NEWS YOU CAN USE WITH MRS. O'FARRELL**



Hello, Hannah Marie Brown Elementary families! My name is Lauren O'Farrell, and many of you know me as a 2nd grade teacher. However, I am excited to be taking on the new role of the Read by Grade 3 Literacy Specialist here at Hanna Marie Brown. In this role, I will be supporting our students and teachers to ensure all children have the skills and foundation necessary to become strong, confident readers. I am passionate about fostering a love for reading and am excited to partner with you to help our students achieve their full potential.



**HIGHLIGHTS IN ART FROM MRS. PIERCE**



Wow! It has been busy in art class over the last couple of weeks. Every student in Kindergarten through 5th grade has learned clay techniques, used those skills to create pieces to keep, and sent them into the kiln to bake. We are now using glaze to give them their glassy finish. Their shiny masterpieces will look fantastic and will be given back during the last week of school before break.

Thank you to the parent helpers who have come into the art room to help during this busy time. If you would like to volunteer (must be CCSD badged) in the art room, in the new year, please message me on Class Dojo. Thanks!



**GATE UPDATES FROM MRS. ROSAS**

3rd graders have finished their engineering unit by designing and building a complex Rubik's Cube mosaic. They also worked together to complete a virtual STEM case focused on animal behaviors. Next, they will begin an interesting science unit on weather and climate.

4th grade is well into their matter and energy unit. They have been exploring atoms and molecules inside matter with many experiments, Gizmo interactives, and models.

In 5th grade, we are tracking our brackets in the NV Knockout competition. Students created their own imaginative animals with adaptations for classroom battles. Now, we are learning all about the plant process of photosynthesis and tracking food webs within ecosystems.

**SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL) IN STYLE WITH MRS. TREADAWAY**



For the month of November, we focused on gratitude! One way to think about gratitude is "choosing to appreciate the people and things in our lives." Practicing gratitude can increase our well-being and even our happiness! Gratitude is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students Be Well. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like emotion regulation, positive self-talk, and stress-management.

Also, here is the Character Strong website for families that explains more about Character Strong and even has a playlist of all the songs students are learning at school! Happy Holidays!

<https://www.characterstrong.com/familystrong>



Are you looking for exciting ways for your students and families to get involved in the community? The City of Henderson offers an incredible range of youth programs, outdoor adventures, enrichment classes, and recreational sports designed to inspire learning, teamwork, and fun beyond the school day! These programs are a wonderful opportunity for students to build confidence, discover new interests, stay active, and connect with peers in a positive community setting. Don't miss out on the chance to explore, learn, and grow right here in our community! Check out all the opportunities at [Henderson Happenings!](https://www.hendersonhappenings.com)