

THE BROWN BEAR NECESSITIES

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



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

Happy New Year! I'm excited to begin this new year and hope you are, too! The start of the year is a great time to help students set goals and reflect on their habits. During morning announcements, we will discuss what students are doing well and where they can improve. This might include continuing strong habits like completing math homework or setting goals for reading minutes by keeping a book nearby or creating a dedicated reading space at home. Setting aside time for Exact Path is another way students can strengthen skills. The new year is the perfect time to build positive routines!

As a school, we reflect on our progress and areas for growth. Last month's MAP assessment gave us valuable insight into student, classroom, and school-wide performance, and we are proud of our strong growth and achievement. We will continue refining our practices to improve even more. For details about our School Improvement Plan, please join us at our next SOT meeting.

We are excited to share positive attendance news! Our on-time attendance rate is 94%, and our chronic absenteeism rate is 9.7%. Students are considered chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of school days, including absences and tardies, with medical notes being the only exception. Our goal is to increase on-time attendance to over 95% and reduce chronic absenteeism to below 5%. Consistent attendance is essential for academic success and a strong sense of belonging. As a reminder, participation in extracurricular activities is tied to attendance this year—students who are chronically absent may be restricted from events such as Field Day, Raiders' Day, field trips, and more.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we begin this new year together!

MRS. SUMSION'S CORNER!

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and joyful Winter Break and is ready for another exciting month of learning. This month, WIDA ACCESS testing will begin for identified English Language Learner (ELL) students. ACCESS for ELLs is an English language proficiency assessment that measures students' academic English language skills. Eligible students will participate so we can better understand their progress and continue to support their growth in developing English language skills. As we prepare for upcoming state assessments in the coming months, consistent attendance and arriving at school on time each day are especially important. This helps ensure students are ready to learn and able to show all they know. We are excited to welcome everyone back and look forward to an incredible month of learning ahead!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WELCOME BACK!

1/13/26
Reflections Projects Due

1/12/26
Kindness T-Shirt Day

1/13/26
Reflections Projects Due

1/14/26
Student of the Month Lunch

PTA AOK Family Night

1/16/26
Free Dress Day

1/19/26
No School: Martin Luther
King Jr. Day

1/20/26
PTA General Meeting 9:00
am in the MPR

1/21/26
SOT Meeting

1/23/26
UNLV GAME 7:00 pm - 9:00
pm

1/26/26
No School: Staff
Development Day

702-799-2250

**10 Chapata Drive
HD, NV 89012**

Office Hours: 7:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

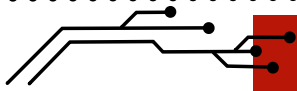
Contact Info

Hannahmariebrownelementaryschool.com

[Hannah Marie Brown Facebook Page](#)



THE SPECIALIST SPOT



MRS. BENNETT'S MEGABYTES



Welcome back, families! We are excited to jump into a brand-new year of learning, creating, and growing. As we start 2025, students are already off to a great start exploring new skills and building confidence with technology.

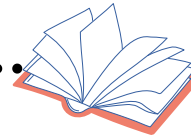
We continue to practice smart digital citizenship every day. Students are learning how to protect their personal information, make safe online choices, recognize trustworthy websites, and report anything that doesn't feel right. These skills help students build healthy digital habits that will last a lifetime.

This month, we are continuing our introduction to Canva, an easy-to-use design tool that lets students create posters, cards, presentations, and more. Students will learn the basics—choosing templates, adding images, layering elements, and using text creatively. Canva gives our students a chance to express themselves and discover that technology is a powerful tool for imagination and storytelling.

Even though we love learning with technology, we also talk about the value of stepping away from screens. Being “unplugged” helps our brains rest, encourages face-to-face conversations, supports creativity, and gives students time to play, move, and explore the world around them. Finding balance is an important part of digital well-being!

Here's to a wonderful year filled with creativity, curiosity, and safe, balanced tech use. Thank you for supporting your students as they grow into responsible and confident digital learners!

LIBRARY TID BITS FROM MRS. GEHLKEN



Library Homework - It is part of your student's homework to return their books during their scheduled library class. If your student has books that are more than three weeks late, we will do our best to send you a Dojo message or send a paper notice home with your student. We appreciate your help in encouraging your student to locate and return overdue books in a timely manner. If books go home, all students have been told to put them back in their backpacks when done reading so they always have them to read and return when at school. [Click here to see the January 2026 Library class schedule.](#)

Spring Book Fair - The library's spring Scholastic Book Fair will be held February 10-18, 2026. Watch for more details, links, and information coming soon via ClassDojo.

Nevada Young Readers' Award 2026 - The countdown to reading and studying this year's Nevada Young Readers' Award nominated books has begun. Students will soon be “hired” as book judges and vote for their favorite of eight, fabulous titles. Our Hannah Marie Brown votes - along with other student votes from across the entire state of Nevada - will be counted to determine this year's state winner! The nominated books and updates will be shared here each month as we complete the process. Stay tuned!



GATE UPDATES FROM MRS. ROSAS

Happy new year everyone! GATE students are all continuing their science units in January. 5th graders will continue studying the interactions in ecosystems through Gizmo activities, projects, and documentaries. 4th grade will focus on thermal energy and begin experimenting with heat transfer methods. And 3rd graders will continue tracking weather in different cities around the world as we use mini-lessons to understand seasons and climate zones.



LITERACY NEWS YOU CAN USE WITH MRS. O'FARRELL



Got the January blues? Beat the winter slump with fun, cozy January literacy activities that you and your child(ren) can do together!

- Themed Story Time: Read books about snow, animals, or winter adventures. Act out the stories to build comprehension.
- Winter Journals: Have kids write daily entries about their winter break, or create a shared family journal.
- Recipe Readers: Cook together, with kids reading recipes, measuring, and following instructions.
- Letter Writing: Write letters or thank-you notes to family, friends, or even teachers
- Paper Snowflakes: Cut out snowflakes and write letters or sight words on them for kids to find and identify.



HIGHLIGHTS IN ART FROM MRS. PIERCE



Happy 2026! I loved seeing all the creative art pieces students made in the first half of this school year, and am looking forward to what they will make next. Starting back, all students will be learning about using texture in art. Our school was lucky to have a large donation of wall-paper samples donated. 5th, 4th, and 3rd graders will be using various types of textured paper to create collages. Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders will use various household items, and even some toys, to paint texture.



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



I hope you had 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!

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



Happy New Year Families! For the month of December we focused on empathy. To connect your child's understanding of empathy at home, you could review the definition of empathy as a family, which is; "empathy is understanding and connecting with other people's feelings."

As a family, try and find a time to sit in a circle together and celebrate all the ways you have seen each other practice empathy. Remember to practice empathy as you listen to each other. Here are some prompts you can use in your family discussion. "What is one way a family member has shown you empathy lately?" or "Share about a time when you felt like someone really listened to you." Have a great month!



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!](#)