

Newsletter for Parents

Volume XIV Issue I

HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL, CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA

October 2009

Special Points of Interest

- PSAT, Oct. 13 & 14 at HHS
- ACT Test, Oct. 23
- Regional College Fair, Oct. 26 at Ches. Confer Ctr., 6-8 p.m.
- ASVAB, Nov. 10 at HHS
- SAT Test, Nov. 7 & Dec. 5
- Senior pictures due to yearbook staff, Nov. 30
- English I I SOL, Oct. 19-22

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REMINDER TO PARENTS

Parents are reminded that flowers, balloons, and restaurant food deliveries to students cannot be accepted in the main office.

Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. We are looking forward to a very exciting and rewarding school year. We are pleased to have you as partners in this new school year. Hickory High School is the best because of our great students and our outstanding faculty and staff. We are proud to be among the fully accredited Chesapeake Public Schools.

As this school year unfolds, we encourage you to continue to be a part of your child's educational endeavors and our school activities. Remember, together we can make a difference. Thanks for all you do for your child and for our school.

If you have a concern, suggestion or a need for additional information, please do not hesitate to call. The faculty and staff look forward to a successful school year as all of us work towards Soaring to Excellence.

Sincerely,

Alfredia C. Turner

Asst. Principal in Charge until Dr. Koonce Returns

Administrative Team

Mrs. C. Sperelakis-Babb – AP for 9th Grade

Mr. R. Hopkins – AP for 10th Grade

Mr. D. Joppy – AP for 11th Grade

Mr. J. Wecht – AP of Instruction

Mr. P. Anderson – AP for 12th Grade & Bldg./Maint.

Please contact the appropriate administrator or guidance staff liaison as listed if you need assistance.

Guidance Department

Mrs. K. Culpeper – Director/Test Coordinator

Mrs. J. Wills – A-D

Miss L. Gipson – E-K

Mrs. E. Schatz – L-Re

Mrs. G. Moss – Ro-Z

Mr. B. Markin – Vocational

Mrs. D. Smith – ACCESS

Mrs. C. Holmes – Student Asst.

Mrs. J. Newman - Secretary

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Hickory High School is to prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed to become productive, responsible, and innovative members of the global community by providing a quality education and extra-curricular activities within a safe learning environment through partnerships among parents, teachers, and community.

ACCESS News

Junior Year Checklist:

September

- Review your high school coursework and activity plans, keeping in mind that colleges look for the following:
 - Challenging coursework
 - Strong GPA
 - Involvement in extracurricular activities
 - Volunteer work
- Make an appointment to see your ACCESS Advisor.
- Put together a list of 10 colleges that you would like to attend. Plan to apply to 3-5 schools.
- Discuss your college options with your parents/guardians, high school counselor, and ACCESS Advisor.
- Study and register for the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) to be eligible for the National Merit Scholarship (**test set for Oct. 13 & 14 cost \$13**).
- Obtain dates and locations of college fairs and “parent nights” in your local area.
- Return Fee Waiver Application to your ACCESS Advisor.

October

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT (remember your calculator).
- Attend the **Chesapeake College Fair on October 26** at 6 pm at the Chesapeake Conference Center.

November

- Begin to read international news stories from the daily newspaper. This will enhance your vocabulary and reading comprehension for the SAT/ACT.

Senior Year Checklist:

September

- Schedule an appointment with your ACCESS Advisor. Get a Fee Waiver Application.
- Register for the SAT and/or ACT.
- Visit any colleges you have not had a chance to visit.
- Request all college and scholarship information.
- Make a list of deadlines for college applications, scholarships, and financial aid applications.

October/ November

- Take SAT and/or ACT.
- Begin preparing college applications and scholarship applications, paying close attention to individual deadlines and early decision dates.
- Attend **ACCESS Financial Aid Workshop on November 16 at 6 pm**.



Yearbook News

Underclassmen make-up pictures will be November 2.

Club picture day is November 24.

Senior pictures are due to the yearbook staff by November 30. Senior baby pictures are also due to the yearbook staff by November 30. Late pictures will not be accepted.



Yearbooks are on sale. Visit www.jostens.com for more information. Order early to get the early bird price.

The final deadline for senior patron ads is November 11. Visit www.theyearbookcompany.com to download an order form.

Guidance Updates: Please Take Note

Emergency blue cards do not update a student's record in the guidance office. Parents are requested to submit a new utility bill to Jean Newman, guidance secretary, to make address changes. Notify the secretary or counselors of changes in emergency contact or phone numbers.

Seniors requesting transcripts are reminded to allow a two-week notice for counselors. This time assures that deadlines will be met in a timely fashion.

Remediation for SOL's is set for September 22-October 13, 2009.

The English 11 Writing SOL tests will be given Oct. 19-22, 2009. The test has two parts: multiple choice and direct writing. Both parts are required for a diploma.

Mark Calendars for PSAT Testing Date

PSAT Registration – September 28-October 2, 2009

Sophomores and juniors wanting to take the PSAT must register with counselors during lunches, September 28-October 2. All students registering to take the PSAT must pay the \$13 fee at time of registration. It is important to note that the PSAT is given once a year. Taking it in the junior year is the **ONLY** way to compete for a National Merit Scholarship.

PSAT Testing – October 13-14, 2009

The PSAT will be administered on October 13 and 14 to all students that registered and paid the \$13 fee to take the test. October 13 will be dedicated to completing the demographics section of the test, and October 14 will be the actual administration of the test. Students should plan to be at school and on time for first block both days.

Preparing for the SAT and ACT

The SAT and ACT testing programs provide colleges with a standardized assessment of high school students. Preparing for these tests should improve student performance. The HHS SAT Prep Fall Workshop for juniors and seniors who have pre-registered will be held the following dates:

Friday, October 16, 3:50—5:20 p.m.

Saturday, October 17, 8:30—11:30 a.m.

Friday, October 23, 3:50—5:20 p.m.

Saturday, October 24, 8:30—11:30 a.m.

See Mrs. Winter-Traynor in Room 128 for information.

Another SAT Prep Workshop will be held in the spring. Each session in the workshop covers different material, such as general test-taking strategies, as well as, tips for the math, writing, reading and essay sections. Students will practice taking sample tests. Bring paper, a pen or pencil, and a calculator.



The 2009 SAT testing schedule is as follows:

- Test date, Nov. 7 (registration deadline, Oct. 1, late registration deadline, Oct. 15)
- Test date, Dec. 5 (registration deadline, Oct. 30, late registration deadline, Nov. 12)

The 2009 ACT test schedule is as follows:

- Test date, Oct. 24 (registration deadline, Sept. 18, late registration deadline, Oct. 2)
- Test date, Dec 12 (registration deadline, Nov. 6, late registration, Nov. 20)

Additional information is available at www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org. Juniors and seniors may qualify for a fee waiver to take these tests. For Fee Waiver Applications or assistance with registration, see Ms. Dana Smith, ACCESS Advisor.

ASVAB Test Given at Hickory High

"Students discover which occupations would best suit their aptitude."

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Test will be given Tuesday, November 10, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Students interested in discovering which occupations, civilian or military, would best suit them are encouraged to take this test.

Although this test is administered by the military, there is absolutely NO commitment to military

service expected of students who take this test. Since Tuesday, November 10, is a teacher workday, school will not be in session for students. Students taking the ASVAB test are expected to provide their own transportation to and from Hickory High School on that day.

To register for the test, see Mr. Markin in the guidance office.

College Fair Available to All Students

The Regional College Fair will be held at the Chesapeake Conference Center Monday, October 26, 2009. Over one hundred colleges and universities will be represented that evening from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

All students and parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Planning for the next step in a student's educational career should begin early to evaluate the opportunities that are available

National Honor Society News

Senior members of NHS are reminded that in order to wear the special NHS cord and stole at graduation members must pay \$10 dues, complete a total of 10 community service hours with proper documentation submitted on time, participate in the annual Potato Feast, sell two Potato Feast tickets, maintain a 3.4 GPA, and have no incidences of ISS, OSS, or cheating this year. At least 5 documented community service hours must be submitted by January 19, 2010 and the remaining 5 must be submitted by May 3, 2010. See any club sponsor for the required form or pick one up from the NHS club board.



Juniors and seniors who meet the GPA requirement but are not currently members of NHS will receive applications for membership in early October. Please note that incomplete applications and late applications will not be accepted. The induction ceremony for new members will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium November 23.

As always, students are encouraged to regularly check the NHS bulletin board located in the English hallway for important announcements and select service project opportunities.

Absence from School

By School Board policy, excused absences are granted for illness, death in the family, inclement weather, and religious holidays. All other absences are considered unexcused.

When parents need a student to miss school for other reasons, such as college visits, family events, etc., permission must be secured from the designated

assistant principal two weeks before the event. Once approved, students will be given a form to take to his/her teachers.

Also, students having doctor appointments should request a note from the doctor so the absence can be marked excused by the attendance clerk upon their return to school.



Freshman News

On Tuesday, September 1, HHS hosted its Annual First Flight Freshmen Orientation. Approximately 600 students and parents were welcomed by Mrs. Turner, the administrative team, the athletic director, the PE department chair, the Student Activities Coordinator, the SCA sponsor, and the PTSA. The Hickory High School Cheerleaders, Hilites, Chorus, and Drumline performed. Following the presentation, students and parents were invited to tour the building. Students were available throughout the building to answer questions.

Reminders:

- Set up a work area for your student with all necessary supplies
- Read and review the back-to-school packet and the student handbook
- Question students daily about homework and other assignments
- Encourage students to use their planner
- Check Edline regularly
- Contact teachers when you have concerns
- Encourage students to be involved through clubs and activities

Stay informed using www.hickoryhawks.com

Monitor electronic devices

Help FBLA Recycle

Future Business Leaders of America is continuing to collect empty printer ink and toner cartridges to recycle and earn money for our treasury. If you would

like to donate to our cause and help our environment, please drop items off at the Main Office of Hickory High School c/o FBLA.

Study Hall Program

Hickory High School is committed to high academic standards for the entire student population. One way to ensure success is by offering a study hall program.

Study hall gives students the opportunity for



quiet study time and faculty tutoring at no cost. The program runs Tuesday through Thursday from 3:45 until 4:30 p.m. Bus transportation is provided.

Contact Mr. Duvall at 421-4295 for further information.

Edline Update

On August 28, 2009, along with schedules, Edline Parent Activation Codes were mailed home.

- If you do not have the code, please call the Guidance Department at 421-7194. Your code will be mailed home for security protection.
- You may come to the Guidance Office to pick up your code, but be sure to bring identification.
- If a second Parent Code is needed, a second address must already be registered. Requests may be made by calling Guidance. The request will be verified as appropriate and reported to Edline. Once the code is issued, it will be mailed to the second address.
- New registrations will have Parent Activation Codes mailed when issued by Edline.

Instructions for lost account numbers and passwords are available on the website. A help video is posted at www.hickoryhawks.com. Any technology issues should be emailed to Theresa Bray.

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

Sophomores and juniors who may be interested in attending a month-long Visual and Performing Arts or Academic and Mentorship program at an area university next summer, please go to the website indicated below for more information.

The site will not be updated until October, but the information does not change much from year to year.

Please leave Miss Schatz a note in Guidance by the end of October, if you want to be considered for one of these highly selective programs; or feel free to call 421-7194 for questions or information.

www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Govschools/SRGS

HHS PTSA VOLUNTEER INFO

Thank you for continuing to offer your support to Hickory High School through **Volunteering**.

Please remember: In addition to signing into the school through the Lobby Guard System, you must still sign in & out using the Volunteer Sign In Book at the Security desk to log your **Volunteer Hours**.

Other **Volunteer Hours** may be submitted by filling out a **Volunteer Log Sheet** and submitting it to the **PTSA mailbox** in the Main Office, or by sending an email to soccerfan@cox.net. Don't forget to include your driving time to and from school. Log sheets are available on the school website, from the Volunteer Sign In Book at the Security Desk and the Main Office. Our goal is **100,000 +** hours for 2009-2010.

PTSA Plant Sale Volunteers Needed

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PLANT AND FLOWER BULB PICK UP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 for two shifts

4:00 PM - 5:45 PM

and

5:30 PM - 7:15 PM

PLEASE CONTACT SUSAN EVERINGHAM AT 546-5615 OR HickoryHawks@cox.net



HHS 2010 After Prom Party All Parents are Welcome to be Involved!

First after prom meeting is Monday, October 12, 6:30 pm in the Media Center.

Parents with students of all grade levels are invited to participate. Please come help plan the biggest party of the year!!! It takes many volunteers to make this happen.

If you have questions, please contact: Cathy Barrick 546-5445 or ksbarrick@aol.com

Or Susan Ropp 482-2637 or roppslr@cox.net



PTSA Membership

Thank You to the HHS Faculty, Staff, Parents, and Students who have already joined HHS PTSA!! Please send in your \$5.00 and join the PTSA. The money raised helps toward student scholarships.

Any questions, please contact **Carolyn Warner @ 482-7163**

PTSA 2009-2010 SCHOOL Support Programs

Join us this year in an easy way to make money for the HHS PTSA.

Harris Teeter will give a percentage of all sales of Harris Teeter brand products AND all prescriptions purchased in any Harris Teeter pharmacy to our PTSA. We will use these funds for programs to benefit your child. Please register your VIC card in one of three ways: ask your cashier to link your VIC card with code **4762**, ask your cashier to look up the code for you and link the card or register on-line at www.harristeeter.com. Please link your card today!



The HHS PTSA will also be fundraising with **Food Lion**. Just go to www.foodlion.com to register your MVP cards in the Lion Shop & Share program. This program will give a percentage of your purchases to the PTSA! These funds will in turn be used for projects that will benefit your child.



One other easy way to help the HHS PTSA raise funds is with **Farm Fresh**. Please save your Farm Fresh receipts and turn them in to the main office so Hickory High School can earn benefits from the Farm Fresh ABC Program. This program will provide free educational equipment to Hickory High school!



HPAT, Hickory Parents Association of Theatre

Welcomes you to the 2009-2010 theatre season at Hickory High School!

ALL PARENTS of students participating and/or interested in the drama program at HHS are invited to attend our monthly meetings held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in Drama Room 183. Visit our website, www.hawktheatre.com, for information about meetings and upcoming events. HPAT membership is \$5 per family per year.

HPAT sponsored fundraisers include:

- Chick-Fil-A biscuit sales on Friday mornings
contact Tricia Cathey @ 421-0064
- STAR grams – sold on theatre nights
- STICKERS – contact Mrs. Wood, HHS Teacher

WATCH for other opportunities to support the arts at Hickory High School.

Mickey Jennings, HPAT President

ITS, International Theatre Society,

... is the student theatre organization. New members will be inducted into ITS in a ceremony held in the HHS Auditorium on Monday, October 20, with a reception by HPAT following the ceremony.

President: Brooke Edwards
 1st VP: Crystal Vaughan
 2nd VP: Tyler Martinez
 Treasurer: Grace Early
 Secretary: Mindy Galford
 Clerk: Sydney Jones
 Historian: Rachel Fiery
 HPAT Delegates: Noah Bilinski & Mary Weber



DID YOU KNOW that Hickory High School has the **ONLY ITS Troupe** in the City of Chesapeake. And that we competed for the ITS Nationals in February 2008 and sent 17 students to ITS Nationals in Lincoln, Nebraska?!

Trick or Treat so Tots Can Eat

ITS is sponsoring **TRICK or TREAT so Tots Can Eat** October 1 through October 31. EVERYONE is asked to participate by sending in non perishable foods to be donated to the local Food Bank on Saturday, November 1. Look for other ITS collection points outside HHS, AND for HHS ITS Students who will be canvassing neighborhoods collecting donations (food or \$\$) on Halloween Night!!

*Please **TREAT THEM Right!***



Important Phone Numbers to Remember

Hickory High School	421-4295
HHS Guidance Department	421-7194
HHS Guidance Fax Number	421-4041
HHS Attendance	421-7363
Bus Transportation	547-1617

