

Newsletter for Parents

Volume XIII Issue I

HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL, CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA

October 2008

Special Points of Interest

- PSAT, Oct. 15 at HHS
- ACT Test, Oct. 25
- Regional College Fair, Oct. 27 at Ches. Confer Ctr., 6-8 p.m.
- ASVAB, Nov. 3 at HHS
- SAT Test, Nov. 1 & Dec. 6
- Senior pictures due to yearbook staff, Nov. 30
- English I I SOL, Oct. 20-24

Welcome from Dr. Koonce

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year. I am happy to report Hickory High School is fully accredited according to the Standards of Accreditation for Virginia Public Schools. We also attained AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) according to the No Child Left Behind federal initiative.

Even with the opening of Grassfield High School and rezoning that went into effect last school year, we still have a population of more than 2000 students.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have a concern, suggestion, or a need for additional information. The faculty and staff look forward to a successful school year as all of us work together to *Soar to Excellence*.

Sincerely,
Woodley J. Koonce III, Ed.D.
Principal

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Edline Hickory High Home Page Website

www.edline.net/pages/Hickory_High

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

Administrative Team

Mrs. C. Sperelakis-Babb – AP for 9th Grade
Mr. R. Harrell – AP for 10th Grade
Mr. D. Joppy – AP for 11th Grade
Mrs. A. Turner – AP for 12th Grade
Mr. J. Wecht – AP of Instruction
Mr. P. Anderson – AP for Bldg./Maint.

REMINDER TO PARENTS

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

Guidance Department

Mrs. B. Sims – Director/Test Coordinator
Mrs. J. Wills – A-D
Miss L. Gipson – E-K
Mrs. E. Schatz – L-Re
Mrs. K. Culpeper – Rh-Z
Mr. B. Markin – Vocational
Mrs. D. Smith – ACCESS
Mrs. C. Holmes – Student Asst.
Mrs. N. Bullen – SOL Test Clerk
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.

Welcome from HHS PTSA

Welcome Back to Hickory High School! The PTSA Board is looking forward to being a part of another exciting school year by supporting our students, parents, and staff at Hickory High School. We had a very successful year last year. We completed the bench project at the front of our school and we provided six-\$500 scholarships for our graduating seniors. We also provided volunteers with hours totaling over 100,000!

There are many opportunities for our parents to support our efforts for this year. We encourage all students and

parents to join the PTSA. These funds help with our scholarship program, school projects, and the After Prom Party. Volunteering is another area we can always use help. Complete the volunteer form that came home with your students or give me a call.

Thank you for your commitment to HHS and its students!!

Karen Warren
PTSA President, 482-3907

HHS PTSA Volunteers Needed!

Hickory schools are known for their great parent support and participation. HHS PTSA is looking for your help volunteering this school year. Please complete and send back the Volunteer sign-up sheet that came home with your child. You can also send an email to socerfan@cox.net to let us know you are interested. Volunteering is a great way to know what is happening at HHS.



Carol Warner 482-7163
Cheryl Weimer 482-6675

Below are two volunteer opportunities:

Varsity Football Ticket Sales for the following dates:
Thurs. & Fri., Sept. 25 & 26 (HHS vs Great Bridge)
Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 2 & 3 (HHS vs Grassfield)
Fri., Oct. 24 (HHS vs Nansemond River)
Fri., Oct. 31 (HHS vs Deep Creek)

Tickets are sold in the Commons area during all lunch hours 11:45 am—2:15 pm

Volunteers are needed for the Main Office, Attendance Office and Guidance Office this school year.



Log In Your PTSA Volunteer Hours

Even though you are signing in to the school through the Lobby Guard System, you must still sign in & out in the Volunteer Sign In Book at the Security Desk when volunteering during school hours. While the security system records volunteer hours, it does not specify the reason. At the end of the year we need specific reasons for the hours. Don't forget to include driving time to and from school. All other hours should be submitted on a Volunteer Log Sheet to the PTSA mailbox in the Main

Office. 2008-2009 hours began March 16, 2008. Please do not forget to submit your time. Additional log sheets are available in the Volunteer Sign In Book at the Security Desk, the Main Office, and the school website.

Please feel free to submit log sheets monthly. Our goal is **100,000 + hours**. Fill out our log sheets and help us achieve our goal.

Volunteers for School Beautification

The Beautification Committee is looking for parent volunteers to help with interior painting, window cleaning, and landscaping around the school throughout the school year.

For more information
Contact Alfredia Turner
Assistant Principal
421-4295



HHS 2009 After Prom Party

All Parents are welcome to be involved!

HHS PTSA is sponsoring the HHS Annual After Prom Party in an effort to provide a substance-free celebration for its 2009 graduating class and their guests. This is promoted in conjunction with the "Celebrate Life" program and aimed at keeping our students off the highways following the Prom. The

After Prom Party is **FREE** and funded only by the generosity of community businesses and individuals.

To continue this tradition, we need your help. There are various activities and many opportunities to support this wholesome, safe alternative.

After Prom Co-Chairs:

Balenda Nelson 482-6354
Karen Newman 546-7566



Kick Off Meeting – Monday October 13, 6:30 pm in the Media Center

Follow-up meetings scheduled for November 17 and December 8

Volunteers needed for all committees (Decorating, Food, Prizes, T-Shirts, Butter Braids, Correspondence)

HHS After Prom Spirit Nights

Unique Pizza & Subs – Every Monday – ALL Day, Take Out & Delivery

Hanbury Shopping Center

Say "HHS After Prom" and 10% of your purchases will go to After Prom!



HHS Decals

After Prom sells HHS Decals \$2 each **GET YOURS NOW!**
These decals are great for scrapbooks and all your vehicles

Butter Braids Sales

Don't miss out on this fantastic frozen pastry dough product. Great for the holidays! Order forms will be available in the HHS Main Office or via fax or email October 13. Prepaid orders must be submitted to the

Main Office by Wednesday, October 29. Orders will be available for pick up November 17 from 5-7:30 pm

Contact Cathy Barrick 546-5445
or Karen Newman 546-7566

Partnership with Harris Teeter, Food Lion, & Farm Fresh for After Prom

Harris Teeter will give a percentage of all sales of Harris Teeter brand products AND all prescriptions in any HT pharmacy to our PTSA. These funds will help with After Prom. Please register your VIC card by asking your cashier to look up the code for you and link the card or register online at www.Harristeeter.com. Link your card today.



Join us this year in an easy way to make money for the HHS PTSA. Go online to www.foodlion.com to register your MVP card in the Lion Shop & Share program. This program will give a percentage of your purchases to the PTSA! These funds will be used to help with After Prom.



Turn in your Farm Fresh receipts to the Main Office and help the PTSA earn money.

Info: Balenda Nelson 482-6354
Or Karen Newman 546-7566
newmak02@cox.net

PTSA 2008-2009 Membership

DO Remember to JOIN PTSA! Students are eligible to be MEMBERS as well as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors, and friends!

Help us achieve 100% membership!! PTSA membership is only \$5.

Craft Show

Saturday, November 8, 2008
For more information
Contact Judi Pickrell 482-2556
jpickrell@verizon.net



Teacher Appreciation Week

Mark your calendars now for 2009 Teacher Appreciation Week coming in May 2009. If you would like to help, contact Mickey Jennings 718-4179
mickey.jennings@cox.net

HHS Spirit Night

Celebrate Spirit Night at the Edinburgh Chick-fil-A Wednesday, October 8, from 5-8 pm. Wear HHS



apparel and a percentage of your purchases will go to Hickory High School! Support your school!!

ACCESS Program Assists Seniors

Need help getting through the college admission and financial aid process? Juniors, seniors, and their parents may take advantage of the ACCESS program to walk them through the process. ACCESS, Assistance with College Admission + Financial Aid Process, provides an advisor, Ms. Smith, to assist juniors and seniors.

ACCESS is a nonprofit organization supported by the local community, and its goal is to help young people go to college. To get assistance, students should stop by the ACCESS office located in the guidance area. Ms. Smith is available every Monday and Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. or on the Internet at dsmith@accesscollege.org.

The following services are available through ACCESS:

- Researching colleges
- Completing college applications
- Registering for SAT/ACT
- Providing fee waivers and fee payments for SAT/ACT & college applications (income eligibility required)
- Applying for financial aid
- Filing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

*Don't let getting into college be a mystery!
Help is available with ACCESS*



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, 2008.

The English 11 Writing SOL tests will be given Oct. 20-24, 2008. The test has two parts: multiple choice and direct writing. Both parts are required for a diploma.

Mark Calendars for PSAT Testing Date

The PSAT standardized test will be given during the school day October 15, 2008. Students eligible to take the test are sophomores and juniors.

There will be NO COST to sophomores. The cost for juniors is \$15, and checks should be made payable to Hickory High School.

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. Scores earned in the sophomore year do NOT count toward the scholarship competition.

Taking the PSAT in the sophomore year is an excellent way to prepare for the scholarship competition and the SAT. On the day of testing, students must bring two #2 pencils, a calculator, and a photo ID. Registration for juniors will be held during lunches, September 29-October 3.

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 10, 3:50—5:20 p.m.

Saturday, October 11, 8:30—11:30 a.m.

Friday, October 17, 3:50—5:20 p.m.

Saturday, October 18, 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 2008 SAT testing schedule is as follows:

- Test date, Nov. 1 (registration deadline, Sept. 26, late registration deadline, Oct. 10)
- Test date, Dec. 6 (registration deadline, Nov. 5, late registration deadline, Nov. 18)

The 2008 ACT test schedule is as follows:

- Test date, Oct. 25 (registration deadline, Sept. 19, late registration deadline, Oct. 3)
- Test date, Dec. 13 (registration deadline, Nov. 7, 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 at Monday, November 3, 2008, 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 Monday, November 3, 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 27, 2008. 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

This year National Honor Society meetings will be held in the Auditorium immediately after school the second Wednesday of each month. In order to wear the special NHS cord and stole at graduation, current members must pay \$10 dues, complete two NHS sponsored community service projects by May 1, 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.

Juniors who are eligible to join NHS will receive applications in the mail in early October. Applications must be filled out and turned in to Mr. Chamberlin by October 22. 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 25.

Please feel free to contact any NHS sponsor with any community service projects or ideas you may have.

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.

Yearbook Staff Needs Senior Information

The early bird senior patron ad deadline is October 8. The regular deadline is November 12. Visit www.theyearbookcompany.com for more details.

Senior make-up pictures are September 22. Appointment cards have been mailed to seniors' homes. If your senior needs to change their appointment time or sign up for an appointment time, they may sign up in the main office starting September 15. If you are interested in viewing or ordering proofs, there is a \$20 sitting fee. (Checks should be made payable to Lifetouch.) There is no sitting fee if your senior just wishes to be photographed to be in the yearbook.

If your senior wants to appear in the composite picture, they must be photographed by Lifetouch.

Senior pictures are due to Mrs. Ruddick by November 30.

The yearbook is doing a special section featuring senior baby pictures. They are due to Mrs. Ruddick by November 30. Please make a copy of your picture, as the yearbook staff cannot guarantee its return, but we will try.

Underclassmen picture days are September 23 & 24.

Freshman News

On Tuesday, August 19, HHS hosted its first Annual Freshmen Orientation and Ice Cream Social. Approximately 500 students and parents were welcomed by Dr. Koonce, the administrative team, and the PTSA. Susan Wilson and Brenna Meserve (Freshmen Transition Team Members) presented the 9th grade "survival guide" which covered topics such as time management, the 4x4 block schedule, and organizational strategies. Following the presentation, students and parents were invited to tour the building. SCA members were available throughout

the building to answer questions. Carvel ice cream sundaes were distributed and enjoyed by all.

Reminders:

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

Help FBLA Recycle

Future Business Leaders of America is continuing to collect empty printer ink and toner cartridges, old cell phones, and old Apple MP3 players 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 Monday 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 19, 2008, 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.

Tuesday, September 23, 2008, Edline Student Activation Codes were issued in homerooms. Please encourage students to protect their codes, since they will use them for the 2008-09 school year. If duplicates are needed, 1st semester (B-day) homeroom teachers will provide them.

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.

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

