

JANUARY 2024

VIKING VIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOPKINS BOARD OF EDUCATION

"Inspiring and empowering students to develop character and skills to pursue future successes."

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Hopkins Public Schools Community,

Happy New Year! I hope each of you had a joyful holiday season. As we embark on 2024, I am excited to see the hallways and classrooms bustling once again with energy and enthusiasm. Our community thrives on the spirit of learning and growth, I have no doubt that this year will be filled with remarkable achievements and shared successes.

Hopkins Public Schools and our local community share a dynamic partnership that we all should be extremely proud of! Our partnership is built on collaboration, mutual support and shared goals. It provides countless support networks and helps foster an environment where education extends beyond the classroom and allows for integration into the community. This powerful alliance also enables students, staff and community members to collectively work together to create opportunities and lay the foundation towards excellence in our community.

As we approach the midpoint of the 2023-24 school year, it is extremely important to recognize our incredible educators and thank them for their dedication and commitment to the students of Hopkins Public Schools. Their passion and hard work are vital to the success of our collective journey!

Over the next couple of months, I would like to invite you to join me for an informal conversation around school and/or community topic(s) of your choice. The dates, times and locations for each of these events are listed below.

Here's to a fantastic 2024 filled with accomplishments, creativity and positive experiences for everyone in our amazing community!

Scott VanBonn
Superintendent

CREATING CONNECTIONS OVER A CUP OF COFFEE

Monday, January 22, 2024
Dorr Subway
1612 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
8am-10am

Wednesday, January 31, 2024
Piki's Cafe
111 W Main Street
Hopkins, MI 49328
8am-10am



Tuesday, February 20, 2024
Piki's Cafe
111 W Main Street
Hopkins MI 49328
8am-10am

Thursday, February 22, 2024
Dorr Subway
1612 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
8am-10am

HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL PRINCIPAL'S MONTH

Ken Szczepanski-Hopkins High School Principal
Scott Stockwell-Hopkins Middle School Principal
Jessica Robrahn-Hopkins High School Assistant Principal
Amy Mielke-Sycamore Elementary Principal
John Krajewski-Hopkins Elementary Principal
Pat O'Dell-Hopkins Middle School Assistant Principal

*Thank
You
so
much!*



Veteran's Day Ceremony

On Friday, November 10th, Hopkins Public Schools' staff & students joined community members to honor our Veterans.

It was a beautiful display of patriotism that included participation from students of all ages including the music students from both Hopkins and Sycamore Elementary along with elementary and middle school speakers and also groups like the HHS Chamber Choir, the HHS Band, the HHS Color Guard and FFA students.

Hopkins Public Schools would like to thank our keynote speaker, Dr. Ray Keefauver, for spending his morning with us and the Gun Lake Tribal Veterans, as well.

The Hopkins Public School community is grateful for the sacrifice and service of our Veterans not only on Veteran's Day but every day.



OUTSTANDING PEOPLE FOR EDUCATION
NONIMATION FORM

HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FOOTBALL FRENZY & PINK OUT!

Thanks to all of you for your participation in the food and sanitary supplies drive for the Wood TV 8 Football Frenzy. Once again, Hopkins Public Schools has stepped up for those in need in our communities.

We are proud to say that Feeding America- West Michigan needed to get an extra truck out here to handle the donations. The food and products were delivered to our local organization, Project Hope.

HPS delivered the 3rd largest donation amount in the history of Wood TV8 Football Frenzy, 6,663 pounds of donated products!

The annual Pink Out volleyball game and fundraising event followed the Frenzy where funds are raised for the local Wings of Hope Hospice. Together, the volleyball program raised just over \$8,000 to donate. A big thanks to all who make that even great year after year.



Top Band Students Perform at West Michigan Honor Band

Wednesday October 18th, five Hopkins High School Band students traveled to Calvin University to participate in their 17th annual West Michigan Honor Band. Clara Teunissen, Eli Aalderink, Abram Burchardt, Ramona Kamp and Kylie Williams spent the day rehearsing with Dr. Peter Boonshaft and Dr. Tiffany Engle and performed a concert in the evening the same night. We are so proud of the hard work and dedication of these students and for representing the Hopkins Band and Schools in this event.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LOCAL EQUESTRIAN TEAM!

The local Equestrian Team competed at the MIHA State Championships.

Division A District 19 Reserve Champions
Division A Region A Reserve Champions
Division A State Championships - 3rd place



Team members:
Audra Netz
Sierra Emaus
Emma Langlois
Bekah Beilby
Lena Germain
Kassidy VanHorn
Clara Rupp
Rhiannon Brefke
Anika Boeske
Miley Runkel



HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Hopkins FFA Honored by National FFA Organization

Hopkins FFA Advisor, Jessica Couch, was selected to receive the Honorary American FFA Degree.

This award is given to those who advance agricultural education and FFA through outstanding personal commitment. The National FFA Organization works to enhance the lives of youth through agricultural education. Without the efforts of highly dedicated individuals, thousands of young people would not be able to achieve the success that, in turn, contributes directly to the overall well-being of the nation.

The Honorary American FFA Degree is an opportunity to recognize those who have gone beyond valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary long-term difference in the lives of students, inspiring confidence in a new generation of agriculturists. Members of the National FFA Organization's board of directors approved the nomination.

Couch received the award during the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis in November. All recipients received a plaque and medal, and their names will be permanently recorded as recipients of the highest FFA honor.

Four Hopkins chapter members also received high recognition at the National FFA Convention by earning a silver medal and placing 27th in the National Farm and Agribusiness Management Contest. Emily Coffey, Kaden Petroschus, Colby Tucker, and Logan Welch won the state contest which qualified them to represent MI at the national level. The contest consisted of a three hour written exam and a 90 minute team activity to demonstrate their skills.

The National FFA Farm and Agribusiness Management Career Development Event provides competition that fosters information assimilation, critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for successful business management. The skills learned in this event can be used to successfully manage a farm, agribusiness, pursue agricultural business careers and can be applied to personal financial management. The National FFA Farm and Agribusiness Management Career Development Event enhances and encourages opportunities for all participants to receive instruction that develops business management and entrepreneurial skills.

Additionally, the Hopkins FFA Chapter was recognized at the national convention for their outstanding program of activities as a part of the National Chapter Awards program. Hopkins was previously recognized as the state winner back in March at the MI State FFA Convention.



HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CAREER FAIR

On the morning of October 27, 2023, Hopkins MS & HS welcomed approximately 50 career presenters, 14 college representatives, and 4 Military branches to Hopkins Career Fair. Career Fair is an opportunity for our 8th and 11th grade students to explore careers of their interest. Students toured the gym where all the careers, colleges, and military are available to talk to students one-on-one. Presenters represented covered all of the career pathways like Careers in Digital Media, Art Careers, Graphic Design, DNR, Trucking, Digital Marketing Web Content Specialist, Banking, Farming, Education Station, Electrician, Athletic Trainer, Tool & Die, Plumbing, Residential Construction Careers, Engineering, Kendall College of Art & Design, Digital Animation, Welding, Hospitality and many more. Overall it was a very successful day preparing Hopkins students for their future and beyond.



ASCENSION
BORGESS ALLEGAN
HOSPITAL



GORDON FOOD
SERVICE



ARMY



BUIST
ELECTRIC



BRIGHT
TECHNOLOGIES



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Tryouts are open to 4th-12th Grades
Auditions are Wednesday, January 17th from
3:30-8:00pm. Audition packets available in
your school office.



HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS - CURRICULUM

Elementary Schools:

The school year is off to a great start. Teachers and students are working hard to learn the routines and procedures around the Open Court curriculum. Hopkins Elementary and Sycamore Elementary are working through the initial implementation phase of our new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum Open Court. All teachers in grades Kindergarten-fifth grade as well as our specialized instructional teachers have participated in the initial training with an Open Court Specialist and one follow-up training with an Open Court Specialist who worked directly with teachers in the classroom to model pacing and routines. Teachers also participated in three hours of District Provided Professional Development (DPPD) on October 31st. During those three hours teachers honed in their skills around foundational skills, comprehension strategies and writing. Teachers across both elementaries are working collaboratively to ensure the curriculum is implemented with fidelity. Also, the K-5 IXL pilot has been extended through the 2nd trimester. (March 8, 2024)

Additionally, I will be working with the elementary teachers to update the K-5 reports cards to reflect the common core state standards with "I can statements" that align to the new rigor of the Open Court curriculum. However, the changes will not be reflected in this year's report card. With that being said, parents may see additional comments or attachments with the report card to explain the discrepancies between the report card language and the tools being utilized for assessments.

Middle School: The middle school English Language Arts (ELA) department will be piloting two new programs this year. First, they will pilot Amplify ELA starting in the 2nd trimester. Amplify ELA is a blended English Language Arts curriculum designed specifically for grades 6–8. With Amplify ELA, students will dive into a wide range of rich and diverse texts with embedded strategic routines and interactions to develop the critical capacities to strengthen their vocabulary, knowledge, and skills around literacy. Students will engage in dynamic texts, lively classroom discussions, and participate in meaningful digital experiences. The middle school teachers will pilot Studysync during the 3rd trimester, which is the companion to the K-5 curriculum Open Court. Also, the 6-8 IXL pilot has been extended through the 2nd trimester. (March 8, 2024)

High School: The high school hosted a successful Career Fair on October 27th. The high school gymnasium was packed full of career and technical educational options, along with many post secondary colleges and universities onsite for students to visit. Hopkins high students, who participate in Future Farmers of America (FFA), a leadership organization that is based on the principles of agriculture, traveled to the national convention in Indianapolis in October to witness their teacher, Jessica Couch, who was recognized for her leadership within the FFA community with an Honorary American Degree.

Karmin Bourdo

Director of Instruction, Hopkins Public Schools

SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY

New Years Greetings from Sycamore Elementary!

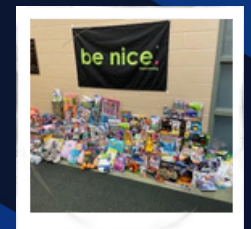
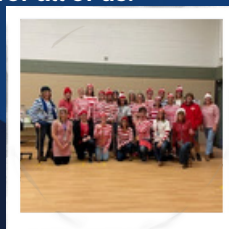
This fall was packed with learning and fun and we have so much to celebrate. First, I want to celebrate that Sycamore was ranked #44 of 45,236 elementary schools in the state. This ranking is based on state assessments in ELA and math. Most of the top schools were from large counties like Kent, Oakland, and Wayne. Sycamore Elementary was the only school identified in Allegan County in the top 50. I'm so proud of the staff that work diligently with our students to make sure they are growing and receiving the best education possible.

Mixed in with learning has been a lot of fun. From the entire staff dressing up like Waldo, to VIP birthday lunches, and National apple eating day the Sycamore staff and students are enjoying time together. Two of our favorite things are portrayed in one picture. We celebrate Be Nice with our students every month. We also love being part of a district that supports the epic Toy Drive for Helen DeVos Hospital. These are the kinds of things that make being part of the community so special.

I can't wait to see what 2024 brings for all of us!

Happy New Year!

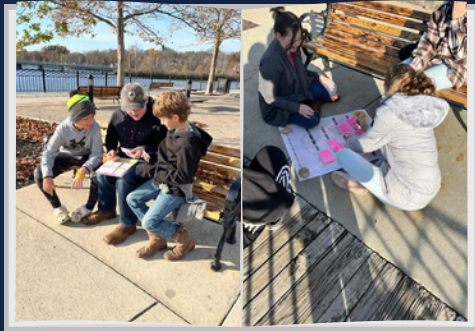
Amy Mielke, Sycamore Principal



HOPKINS ELEMENTARY

Change Sings

Little Read Lakeshore and Allegan Area ESA hosted a field trip for 5th grade students across the county in early November. Hopkins Elementary students traveled to downtown Allegan for a morning of meaningful activities. All of the day's activities centered around Amanda Gorman's picture book *Change Sings: a Children's Anthem*. Students watched a dance performance by Hope College student dancers in the historic Griswold Auditorium and then participated in a walking tour of the city where stations were set up with games and art activities centering around the themes of change, love, hope, dreams and voice. It was a beautiful day filled with positive messages about the power of reading and positivity in a world that is constantly changing.



Cultural Day

Third graders from Hopkins Elementary School (HES) had a wonderful time participating in Cultural Day, on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. This cultural presentation was created and delivered by the Gun Lake Tribe (Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians). Our third grade students learned about the rich and diverse traditions, beliefs and history of the Tribe. This opportunity allowed students to build community and spend time with their friends from Sycamore Elementary and Wayland Union Schools. Learners were able to practice traditional hunting methods, speak Pottawatomi and learn about the Tribe's history. Students enjoyed the traditional art, music, food and dancing that were incorporated into the day. We deepened our understanding of the history, teachings, and traditions of our neighbors from the Gun Lake Tribe.



Battle of the Books

HES is busy preparing for our first ever Battle of the Books competition! We will have three teams that are composed of third, fourth and fifth graders. Students will be reading six books and will become "experts" on those books. Teams meet once per week to practice answering comprehension questions about their expert book(s.) The "Battle of the Books" competition will be held on Saturday, February 24th at the Plainwell Performing Arts Center. HES teams will compete against elementary school teams from Plainwell, Otsego and Sycamore Elementary.



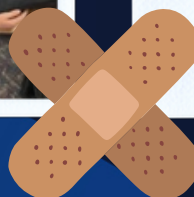
HMS 5K FUN RUN 2023

The middle school students ran the annual 5k Fun Run (3.1 mile race). It was $\frac{2}{3}$ successful as only two grades were able to complete the race. 7th graders were rained out. The 6th and 8th graders were able to complete their races, and did an amazing job in doing so. These two grades had some lightning fast times. The boys record was shattered by 8th grade, Cash Moored with a time of 18:22. The 8th grade girl winner was Shyanna Buskirk with a time of 23:42. Ayden Whitefoot came through the line first for the 6th grade boys with a rocking time of 21:31. Emerie VanBonn (6th grade girl) came through the line second with a time of 21:40. Overall ALL of the kids did amazing! Some students ran for friendly competition, to achieve a goal, or to just have fun while socializing with their friends. Congrats to all who finished.



First Aid Skills

EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS IN MR. CROSS'S FIRST AID SKILLS EXPLORATORY CLASS SPENT SOME TIME LEARNING ABOUT HEAD, NECK, AND SPINAL INJURIES. THEY LEARNED HOW TO IMMOBILIZE PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED SPINAL INJURIES, INCLUDING THE USE OF C-COLLARS AND BACKBOARDS. IN ADDITION TO TEACHING, MR. CROSS IS A PART-TIME EMT-BASIC WITH WAYLAND AREA EMS. HOPKINS IS LOCATED WITHIN WAEMS'S SERVICE AREA, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THEM FOR PERIODICALLY LOANING US EQUIPMENT FOR THIS CLASS. STUDENTS ARE SEEN PRACTICING "LOG-ROLLING," WHERE PATIENTS ARE TEAM-LIFTED ONTO THE BACKBOARD TO PREVENT FURTHER INJURY, AS WELL AS SAFELY CARRYING AN IMMOBILIZED PATIENT.



FALL 2023

ALL CONFERENCE

SPORT		
Cross Country	Jaeden Harshberger	AC
Cross Country	Kambria Moored	AC
Cross Country	Allison Breining	AC
Cross Country	Lillian Dewey	AC
Cross Country	Jack Estelle	AC
Cross Country	Isaiah Robinson	HM
Cross Country	Kenyon Katje	HM
Football	Aaron Arnsman	AC
Football	Landen Klinge	AC
Football	Avery Pavlak	AC
Football	Connor Ainsworth	HM
Soccer	Nick Schultz	AC
Soccer	Abram Burchardt	AC
Soccer	Micah Estelle	HM
Soccer	Andrew Hoffer	HM
Volleyball	Kate Cleypool	AC
Volleyball	Ellie Sebright	AC
Volleyball	Lily Iciek	HM
Volleyball	Kylee Sykes	HM
Girls Golf	Kayla Szubinski	AC
Girls Golf	Cobie Palmboos	HM
Girls Golf	Katie Taylor	HM

For up to date athletic schedules please see
hopkinsathletics.org



The Hopkins Public School District Board of Education complies with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its educational programs or activities, including employment opportunities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, Hopkins Public Schools, 400 Clark Street, Hopkins, MI 49328 – 269 793-7261

Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a disabled person to be able to participate in activities.

HHS - FOOD SERVICE

Did you know that Hopkins Public Schools participates in the Michigan Farm to School program? Farm to School enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food, and local food producers. Our produce orders are picked and packed by the farmers on Monday and delivered to our school on Wednesday for immediate use. Hopkins students have enjoyed a variety of apples, watermelon, rainbow carrots, corn on the cob, pears, peaches, and peppers. Ask a Hopkins student about their wonderful fresh fruit and vegetable options!

Fruit Haven Orchards
Crisp Country Acres
Cinzori Farms

Schultz Fruitridge Farm
Molter Produce
Cronenwett Farms

Birdsong Farms



HHS - TRANSPORTATION

The Vikings Bus Garage Has a New Look and New Buses!

The Hopkins Transportation department started the school year with construction crews working hard to finish our new bus canopy structure and infrastructure upgrades. Work began in August to construct a 168' long canopy to keep our drivers safer and protect our fleet. Bus drivers are required to complete an extensive pre-trip safety assessment of their bus interior and exterior each time they use it, this canopy provides a covered space with upgraded lighting for drivers to perform this important task. It will also reduce snow and ice removal from the buses in the winter time.

Hopkins received federal grant funds through the Clean School Bus Program to cover the cost of three electric buses and the charging stations to power them. The electric buses arrived mid September and it is estimated they will save the district \$15,200 per year in fuel and maintenance costs compared to a diesel bus. The new Electric buses look just like our diesel buses as they are from the same manufacturer with the same body style. One of the biggest benefits our drivers have noticed is the electric buses do not have engine noise like the diesel buses, making it easier to hear and communicate with our students on the bus. In fact, the Electric buses are so quiet they are required to have a humming noise generated when they travel below 25mph so people can hear the bus coming. We can travel 95 miles on a full charge and it takes 1-3 hours to fully charge the bus.



POSTAL PATRON
BOX HOLDER
RURAL ROUTE

Report 24-003

**NOTICE OF MEETING SCHEDULE OF THE
HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
2024**

[Mondays at 6pm]

January 15, 2024	Regular/Organizational Meeting
February 5, 2024	Work Session/Meeting
February 20, 2024	Regular Meeting (Tuesday)
March 18, 2024	Regular Meeting @ Sycamore Elementary
April 22, 2024	Regular Meeting
May 6, 2024	Work Session/Meeting
May 20, 2024	Regular Meeting
June 17, 2024	Budget Hearing @5:45pm
June 17, 2024	Regular Meeting
July 15, 2024	Regular/Organizational Meeting
August 19, 2024	Regular Meeting
September 16, 2024	Regular Meeting
October 21, 2024	Regular Meeting
November 18, 2024	Regular Meeting @ Sycamore Elementary
December 16, 2024	Regular Meeting
January 20, 2025	Regular/Organizational Meeting

Board Finance Committee meets 30 minutes prior to regular meetings on the third Monday of each month.

*Meeting sites unless otherwise noted are at:
Hopkins Elementary School
400 Clark Street
Hopkins, Michigan

Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a disabled person to be able to participate in this activity. Any individual with a handicap or disability that requires special accommodations for attendance at the meeting is requested to notify the Secretary of the Board or the Superintendent of Schools, ten days prior to the meeting, so reasonable accommodations can be made.

Minutes of the Board of Education meetings are on file at the Administration Office, 400 Clark Street, Hopkins, Michigan. To request information, call 269-793-7261 or visit.

Regular Office Hours: 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. daily

Summer Office Hours: 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Monday – Thursday
CLOSED Friday

DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions about specific school operations, policies, or activities, please refer to this list.

ADMINISTRATION 269-793-7261
400 Clark Street, Hopkins MI 49328
Superintendent – Scott VanBonn
Director of Instruction-Karmin Bourdo
Director of Finance & Operations – Katie Jager

HOPKINS HIGH SCHOOL 269-793-7616
333 Clark Street, Hopkins, MI 49328
Principal – Ken Szczepanski
Assistant Principal – Jessica Robrahn

HOPKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL 269-793-7407
215 Clark Street, Hopkins, MI 49328
Principal – Scott Stockwell
Assistant Principal- Patrick O'Dell

HOPKINS ELEMENTARY 269-793-7286
400 Clark Street, Hopkins, MI 49328
Principal -John Krajewski

SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY 616-681-9189
2163 142nd Avenue, Dorr, MI 49323
Principal – Amy Mielke

TRANSPORTATION 269-793-7121
2746 22ND Street, Hopkins, MI 49328
Transportation – Jennifer Frank

MAINTENANCE, GROUNDS & CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR
Kyle Bockheim-269-793-7616

FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR 269-793-7082
Rhonda Sapp

SPECIAL EDUCATION 269-793-7261
400 Clark Street, Hopkins, MI 49328
Special Education Director – Rachel Modderman

HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Members of the Board of Education would like to keep lines of communications open with the community they serve. Please feel free to call with your comments and concerns.

Karen Ryan, President 269-793-9287
Jessica Johnston, Vice President 616-617-4789
Andrea Buist, Treasurer 616-307-1665
Stephanie Wilson, Secretary 269-806-2920
Traci Rhoades, Trustee 269-908-0992
Roger Holtz, Trustee 616-318-5465
Ian Gibson, Trustee 616-299-2499

