



# YOUNG VIKINGS

Volume 17 Issue 9

Jan. 9, 2026

Dear School Families,

After much reflection, I am writing to share that I will be retiring at the end of this school year after 33 years of service in education, many of which have been spent with this incredible school community.

Serving as your elementary principal has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Every day, I have been inspired by the joy, curiosity, and resilience of our students; the dedication and compassion of our staff; and the trust and partnership of our families. Together, we have celebrated milestones, faced challenges, and grown stronger as a community focused on what matters most—our children.

I am deeply grateful for the relationships built over the years and for the privilege of watching so many students begin their educational journeys. These moments and memories will stay with me always. While this decision comes with mixed emotions, I know it is the right time to step into the next chapter with a full heart and immense pride in all that we have accomplished together.

Please know that our school remains in very capable hands, and I am confident that the strong foundation we have built will continue to support students and families for years to come.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your children's lives and for the kindness, support, and encouragement you have shown me throughout my career. This community will always hold a special place in my heart.

With sincere gratitude,

Amy English

## Treat Day....

Treat day is every Tuesday. One treat for .75 cents or three treats for \$2.00. This happens at the very beginning of the day. Proceeds help with "March is Reading Month" activities.

## OFFICE CONTACTS:

Phone: 616-681-9189  
Fax: 888-557-7919  
Email: [kelltals@hpsvikings.org](mailto:kelltals@hpsvikings.org)

## Hearing & Vision Screening

Allegan County Health Dept. will be here the week of January 19 to provide their annual screenings to our students. These grades receive hearing: Kdg, 2nd & 4th grades. These grades receive vision: 1st, 3rd & 5th. SRP students receive both.

**NOTE: If you prefer your child NOT receive this service, please contact the office by January, 16.**

## Early Dismissal

Our next early dismissal will be Friday, January 16, 2026. It is an 11:10 dismissal. Be certain to make arrangements for this day.

The next Board of Education meeting is Monday, January 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Hopkins Elementary School.

2025-2026 Bittersweet Ski Club passes for Adults & Students are available at the school offices. Contact Kim Bollone with any program questions: [kimboll@hpsvikings.org](mailto:kimboll@hpsvikings.org)

**Popcorn....Our next popcorn day is Friday, January 23. Same great price of 50 cents a bag!**



The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes") that are protected by Federal civil rights laws in its programs and activities.

**Hey you!**  
**JOIN THE CHOIR!!!**  
 4TH AND 5TH GRADE CHOIR CLUB  
 STARTING JANUARY 2026!  
 SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY  
 Every Tuesday after school  
 3:00-4:00PM 1/6 -2/17  
 HOPKINS ELEMENTARY  
 Every Thursday after school  
 3:00-4:00PM 1/8 -2/19  
 Combined Rehearsal: 2/23  
 Performance: 2/24  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION  
 EMAIL OR SEE MRS. SCRIPPS  
 sign up by scanning →  
 sarascr@hpsvikings.org

**Some Dates to Remember:**

- Five weeks until Midwinter Break (2/13)**
- Five weeks until Valentine's Day (2/14)**
- Nine and a half weeks until St. Patrick's Day (3/17)**
- Twelve weeks until Spring Break (4/3)**
- Just over twelve weeks until Easter (4/5)**



**Art Show**

*Just a note that the art show will happen during parent/teacher conferences in March! Be certain to give yourself extra time to check it out.*  
 NOTE: This will take place of the spring music/art expo.

Positive Message Day....think happy thoughts, smiley faces, any positive thought to bring positivity to our school!  
 Our next positive message day: Wed., Jan. 21, 2026

Suggestions given by the Allegan County Health Dept. of **"When to Keep Your Child Home":**

- \*Severely Ill
- \*Fever: Temp. of 100.4F or greater AND behavior changes or other signs and symptoms (keep home until 24 hours fever-free, without use of fever-reducing meds)
- \*Diarrhea: no loose stools for 24 hrs. prior to returning==
- \*Vomiting: no vomiting episodes for 24 hrs. prior to returning==
- \*Rash: with fever or change in behavior==
- \*Skin sores (weeping sores that can't be covered with waterproof dressing)
- \*Certain Communicable Diseases: may need to be excluded

==These are general recommendations only. Consult physician or local public health department.

**CHILDREN WHO REGULARLY ATTEND SCHOOL BENEFIT FROM ACTIVITIES DONE IN CLASS**

Some kids want to skip school because of unfinished homework. For homework help and ideas visit this link.

- 1** Going to school regularly helps children learn how to finish the tasks they start.
- 2** Some children find it hard to get out of bed in the morning. For more information visit this link for tips.
- 3** Children who attend school every day or miss at most 1 day a month, are more likely to be ready for the next grade.
- 4** Regular attendance at school helps children learn good study habits.  
Your child can still go to school even if they have a simple cold.
- 5** Visit this link to learn how to spot the difference between a cold and the flu.

Here is the link to cut and paste:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rccP0vwIJc>

**Proper Clothing Rules:**  
**60 degrees or more...short sleeves**  
**50-59 degrees....long sleeves**  
**Less than 50 degrees....coat**

**News from H.O.P.E.**

Check us out at Sycamore H.O.P.E. on face book or email [sycamorehope@gmail.com](mailto:sycamorehope@gmail.com)  
 Next H.O.P.E. meeting is on Thursday, January 15 at 7:45 a.m.

Our half days for the 2025-26 school year are:



- \*Friday, January 16
- \*Thursday, February 12
- \*Thursday, March 5
- \*Friday, March 6
- \*Friday, March 27
- \*Tuesday, June 2
- \*Wednesday, June 3

**These are 11:10 dismissals.**  
**MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR CHILD(REN) THESE DAYS!!!**