



Hermiston High School | 600 South First Street, Hermiston, Oregon | 541.667.6100

Principal: Tom Spoo | Assistant Principals: Scott Depew, Michael Thomas, Ericka Keefauver

District Athletic Director: Larry Usher

From the DawgHouse to Your House

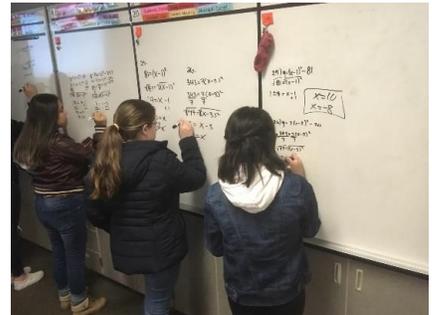
New Monthly Digital Newsletter

Dear Parents, Students, Staff & Community Members:

Welcome to the first edition of our monthly digital newsletter, which we will post on our website and social media. The intent of this newsletter is to do a better job of informing our stakeholders of things we are working on at Hermiston High School, as well as providing information on a range of subjects from multiple departments.

We believe that, while there are always areas for improvement, we must also celebrate our successes. Case in point: our recent graduation rates showed us **improving by 8.3%** for the 2017-18 school year; I would also add that this is the fourth year in a row that we have shown improvement.

An area that we want to improve is attendance. Our findings reveal that attendance and grades are positively and significantly related. While our overall attendance rates compare well with the state average, we see a real need for improvement. As a building, we are implementing strategies to help with this area. As many of you might be aware, we recently made staffing changes here at HHS to better facilitate and track attendance.



- We have hired an additional attendance secretary to increase communication with home.
- We will track data more closely to identify students who are missing classes.
- We are putting more emphasis on being in school every day.

Attendance is an area where we need your help. Unless your child is sick or there is an emergency, your child should be here at school.

UPCOMING DATES

2.8.19 Wizard of Oz - 7 p.m.
2.9.19 Saturday Support
2.9.19 Wizard of Oz - 7 p.m.
2.12.19 VIP Day

2.15.19 Snow Make-Up Day
2.13.19 Senior Class Meeting
2.18.19 Presidents Day - NO SCHOOL
3.2.19 Booster Club Dinner & Auction - 5 p.m

Point of Interest: Engagement Through Accessing Background Knowledge

It is an inescapable fact that students come to our classes every day, every month, and every year with differing levels of depth and richness in the background experience and knowledge that support their learning. This inequity can have a severe impact on the progress of students who come to our classes without an adequate background to take full advantage of the concepts and skills we want to teach them.

Students who come to school with a lack of background knowledge will have to work harder and take longer to learn what is asked of them. They will often have to revert to memorization when students with fuller, richer background knowledge can rely on connections with what they already know to provide context and store new knowledge in memory.

Teachers are committed to the success of all students, regardless of background, family situation, or economic circumstance. We understand that by thoughtfully and consistently attending to building academic background knowledge, we can ensure that all students have a chance for learning success. Many students, who come without the academic background knowledge, have rich background knowledge in areas not always recognized and valued in academic settings. We want to honor and, where possible, integrate these aspects of student knowledge in the hope of nurturing their commitment and convincing them to value what we need them to learn.

From the HHS Business Department

Ever thinking ahead, the HHS Business Department continues to push into the future each year to ensure that our students are exposed to and learn to operate the technology that is used in the business world outside of our halls. We have undergone recent technology and facility upgrades in our student-run businesses, upgraded to the latest computer software and hardware in our technology and skills-based classes, and are implementing these tools into rigorous and rewarding learning opportunities. It would not be an exaggeration to say that our business students are some of the best prepared high school students in the state for what they will encounter in their lives. We are proud of the commitment and dedication of our school district and teachers show on a daily basis to ensure that these students can go forth and meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Knowing or even suspecting that your child is in an unhealthy relationship can be both frustrating and frightening, but as a parent, you are critical in helping your child develop healthy relationships. You can provide life-saving support if they are in an abusive relationship. Remember dating abuse can occur in any relationship, regardless of the gender identities involved. As a parent, your instinct is to help your child in whatever way you can. Please visit www.loveisrespect.org for more information.

FEBRUARY 11 - 15 IS RESPECT WEEK

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 IS WEAR ORANGE DAY IN UNITY!

Attention, Seniors!

You should have ordered your cap and gown by now. Go to www.tricitiesgraduation.com or pick up an order form in the Counseling Office. Place orders before the end of March to avoid extra shipping costs.

It is scholarship season! Check the high school website for scholarships regularly so you do not miss out on opportunities.