

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Haverhill Public Schools



December 10, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DR. MARGARET MAROTTA

As you are likely aware, the COVID-19 positive rate across the state continues to escalate. Both local and state public health departments report that the situation is changing rapidly. Last week Haverhill's Percent Positivity rose to 7.21%. This was Haverhill's highest positivity rate this school year, placing us in the "Red" under the Department of Public Health's revised color system. The higher the percent positive is, the more concerning it is. One threshold for the percent positive being "too high" is 5%. Fortunately, our school committee acted proactively. During an emergency meeting held on November 23, 2020, the decision was made to move the school system entirely remote for the week of November 30, 2020. Beginning with the week of December 7, 2020, we returned our preschool to grade eight Cohort C, high needs students, to in-person learning.

The impact of the high rates of the virus in our community is clearly visible in our staff and student data, although there has been very limited spread within our schools. As of December 8, 2020, the school department has 15 positive staff members, and an additional 38 staff members quarantined due to being a close contact of a positive person. The school system has created a COVID-19 Dashboard, tracking positive cases and quarantine rates in staff and students. The dashboard is located on the district's website <https://www.haverhill-ps.org/> and is updated each Friday.

Our Joint Coronavirus Response Team (JCVRT) continues to meet weekly in order to monitor the changing health data so we can be thoughtful and informed in our decision-making. This evening, December 10, 2020, at 7:00 pm, there will be a remote school committee meeting. The agenda includes updates on COVID-19 and a discussion about our district-wide learning model moving forward. I will update families following the meeting on any changes to the present plan to return to hybrid learning on December 14, 2020.

Like you, I look forward to the day when we can return to our more traditional routines in more traditional spaces. While we wait for more favorable conditions, including access to vaccines, rapid test results, and timely comprehensive contact tracing, we can all contribute to our path to safely reopening our school buildings by remaining vigilant in protecting ourselves and our families against the virus. Celebrating with those in your own household, proper mask-wearing, social distancing, hand washing, and remaining home when we don't feel quite right are everyday practices. These precautions should be applied when at home, in school, and in public.

I wish each of you a safe, healthy, and joyful December.

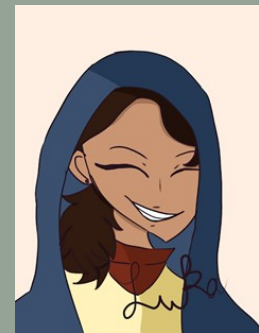
Warmest regards and Happy Holiday,

Margaret

Featured Artists



*Keysi Jimenez
Consentino Middle School—RLA
Grade 8*



*Angelina Rivera
J.G. Whittier - RLA
Grade 6*



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HAVERHILL PROMISE

The Campaign for Grade Level Reading

“Reading Takes Us Places”

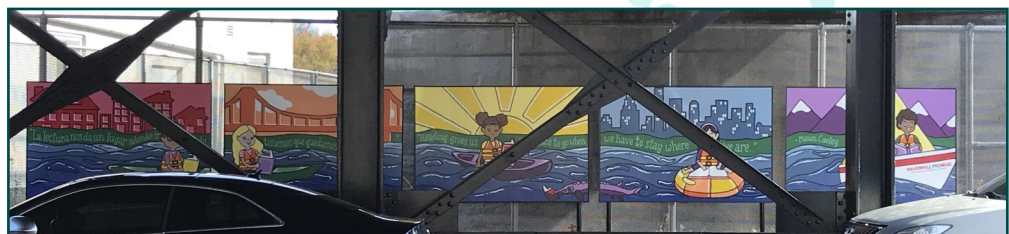
A Community Mural by Haverhill’s Young Readers

Research shows that twenty minutes of daily reading practice is enough to stem learning loss during school interruptions like closures, vacations and summer break. When the Covid-19 pandemic forced Haverhill schools to close their doors in the Spring, Haverhill Promise sought out a creative way to incentivize daily reading and keep our students on track. The Haverhill Promise City-Wide Reading Challenge ran from March 2020 through the end of the school year, with over 750 students of all ages tracking their daily reading for a chance to win prizes each week.

At the end of the summer, students who participated in at least six weeks of the thirteen-week challenge were invited to help paint a section of a colorful 5-panel mural depicting children floating down the Merrimack River reading. More than fifty children joined staff and volunteers on the lawn of Creative Haverhill’s soon-to-be Cogswell ArtSpace for socially-distant painting sessions at the end of August. These young readers and artists did a wonderful job completing the mural, and their signatures can be found at the base of the panel they worked on. Thanks to the partnership of Creative Haverhill and the cooperation of the MBTA, the mural, entitled “Reading Takes Us Places” was officially completed and installed in November 2020 beneath the train bridge at the “grand entrance” to Downtown Haverhill. It features a quote by Mason Cooley in both Spanish and English which reads, “La lectura nos da un lugar adonde ir cuando tenemos que quedarnos donde estamos/Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.”

Congratulations to the reading challenge participants, and hats off to the hundreds of Haverhill families who have made daily reading a priority in their homes amid the chaos of this pandemic.

“Like” Haverhill Promise on Facebook or email team@haverhillpromise.com for more information.



Help Your Child Succeed in Elementary School: *Build the Habit of Good Attendance*

DID YOU KNOW?

- Participation in early education programs, like preschool and Head Start, lead to better attendance in kindergarten.
- Starting in kindergarten, missing 10% of school (or just 2 days every month) can make it harder to learn to read and cause children to fall behind in school.
- Good attendance, whether class is held in person or remotely, can help children do well in school, and eventually in the workplace and in college.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Communicate with the School

- Contact your child's teacher(s) and let them know how to reach you.
- Get and post your child's class schedule and log in information on the refrigerator or your child's desk.
- Practice logging in to virtual classes and make a plan for supporting learning for children. Contact the school if you need help logging in.
- Ask about the school's attendance policy.

Make School Attendance a Priority

- Establish routines for bedtime, waking up and showing up for class.
- Identify a quiet place for your child to do school work. If you have multiple children, make a schedule. Or ask your school or community agencies if they have created places for distance learning, or if noise-canceling headsets are available for students.
- Develop back-up plans for getting your child to school or logging in to the computer if you can't be there to help. Find a family member, neighbor or older child who can help over the phone or who can help while wearing a mask and maintaining physical distance. Community-based organizations might also be able to help.
- When school is in session, avoid extended family trips and non-urgent medical appointments.
- Ask your child's teacher about attendance and tell the teacher any concerns you have.

Help Your Child Stay Healthy and Engaged

- Monitor your child's attendance and participation; and contact the teacher to address any concerns.
- Make sure your child gets the flu vaccine and other required shots.
- Find out if your child feels safe from bullies. Make sure that school discipline policies don't lead to your child becoming disengaged or pushed out of school. If these are problems, work with your school to find a solution.
- If your child seems bored or anxious about school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Ask for help when you need it. School staff, after-school program providers, and other parents or community agencies are available to help families access online learning, obtain food or housing and address other experiences that make it difficult to attend and participate.

Developed in partnership with ConnectEd, Families in Schools, and Parent Institute for Quality Education.
Visit www.attendanceworks.org for more downloadable resources.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

BRADFORD K - 4
978-374-2443

CONSENTINO MIDDLE 5 - 8
978-374-5775

GOLDEN HILL K - 4
978-374-5794

GREENLEAF ACADEMY 5 - 12
978-374-3487

HHS 9-12
978-374-5700 MAIN

HUNKING K - 8
978-374-5787

MOODY PRE - K
978-374-3459

NETTLE MIDDLE 5 - 8
978-374-5792

PENTUCKET LAKE K - 4
978-374-2421

SILVER HILL K - 5
978-374-3448

TEACH AT BARTLETT K - 12
978-469-8735

TILTON LOWER K - 3
978-374-3475

TILTON UPPER 4 - 5
978-374-3482

WALNUT SQUARE K - 2
978-374-3471

J.G. WHITTIER MIDDLE 5 - 8
978-374-5782

**CENTRAL OFFICE
AT CITY HALL**
978-374-3400

SPECIAL EDUCATION
978-374-3435

**REGISTRATION CENTER
AT BURNHAM**
978-420-1951

**TRANSPORTATION
DEPT. AT BURNHAM**
978-420-1921

J.G. WHITTIER MIDDLE

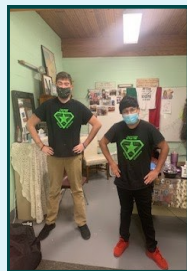


As we close in on the end of the craziest year that anyone can remember, the staff at J.G. Whittier Middle School continues to put the best interest of their students at the forefront. There have been some changes at the school. Tim Betty became the Principal after six years as the Assistant Principal. The school also welcomed a new Assistant Principal, Cathy Koch, who joins JGW after two years as an Assistant Principal in Ayer/Shirley and many more years as an administrator and middle school teacher. JGW also welcomed back Jon Newell as the Student Support Coordinator after he was hired in January of this year. He has been an integral part in supporting the new administrative team! The Poets have also been fortunate to welcome four new teachers and eleven new staff members in total.

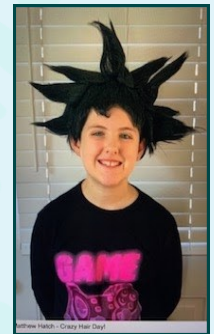
While there has been change in the building, one thing has remained the same: the dedication and commitment that the Teachers and Staff show to their students. It began over the summer with the sixth straight year of Summer Home Visits. This has been an incredibly successful endeavor, which started in the summer of 2015. Over the first five summers, there were a total of 170 home visits conducted. Based on the current circumstances this summer, it was unknown if visits could even be conducted, let alone whether families would want to participate. Fortunately, following appropriate safety guidelines and conducting the visits outside, this summer was by far the busiest and most successful summer of home visits yet, with a total of 52 visits in August!



The positive connections that our students and families built through these home visits translated right into the classroom, starting at the beginning of the school year. Seeing teachers and staff interact with their students, both in-person and remotely, has been inspiring and uplifting after all of the uncertainty we all faced in the spring. While this has been a stressful and trying time for all, it is encouraging and inspiring to see our staff and families work together to ensure the success of all of our students.



J.G. Whittier has always prioritized positive relationships with families and the community and its students' social-emotional well-being. Now is a time that these attributes are needed more than ever. Just recently (the week of November 16th), JGW had it's first "Spirit Week" of the year, which involved students in the hybrid model, the Remote Learning Academy, and staff.



As we have entered the holiday season, JGW was thrilled to conduct its 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Feast to bring families together and help feed those that needed it. The event looked much different than last year when we hosted approximately 300+ people in our cafeteria and had a "family style" meal. This year, with the help of some generous donations from Covanta, Ocasio's Martial Arts, the JGW PTO, and other community and family members, we were able to purchase individually wrapped "Thanksgiving like" meals prepared by Market Basket and hold a drive-thru service on Tuesday, November 24th

where families came and picked up meals. For those families that could not make it to the school, we delivered meals as well. In total, we are very proud that 25 staff members volunteered their time to distribute 560 meals to our families!



We want to thank our JGW staff and families for their continued hard work, commitment, and dedication to working together to provide a learning environment that is safe and supportive and prioritizes each individual student's success. We hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday season! We will see you in the New Year (and it can't come soon enough)!!



GRAB 'N 'GO FOOD SITES

Consentino: 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Haverhill High School: 3:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

C.D. Hunking: 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

J.G. Whittier: 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Paul Nettle: 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Tilton Upper: 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Tilton Elementary: 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

These sites run Monday-Friday

Anyone who visits one of our food sites and has child(ren) under 18 may get breakfast and lunch. No ID required and we provide enough meals for the weekends on Fridays! Guardians/parents may pick up for children (child does not need to be present) and they also do not need to attend Haverhill Public Schools.

December 28th, 29th, and 30th only the Consentino, Nettle, Whittier, and Hunking sites will be open. Hours will be 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

CLASS OF 2034

Do you have a child that will be turning 5 by August 31, 2021? HPS is now gladly accepting applications in person or online for the 2021-2022 school year.

Applications can be picked up in person at The Parent Resource Center or please call the registration office at (978) 420-1951 if you would like one emailed to you.

HPS Parent Resource Center

45 FOUNTAIN STREET – 1ST FLOOR
HAVERHILL, MA 01830

Phone: 978-420-1951

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Please check the HPS website for any additional information.

<https://www.haverhill-ps.org/registration/>

HAVERHILL YMCA

A MESSAGE FROM THE
REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TRACY FULLER

We are thrilled to be a collaborative partner with the Haverhill School District in providing Academic Support Programming. Our remote learning pods provide small groups with staff assigned to each group to help support their remote learning, provide enrichment activities such as swimming and gymnastics, and offer brain breaks. This program has just shy of 200 participants in the program, and we offer flexible pricing to families. Here is a quote from a parent:

“My daughter Gabriella started this week in the school-age pod. At pickup, she tells me how amazing her day was and all the activities she did. Such a great way to end my work-day with a happy child talking about her day at the Y. Yesterday, she received mittens and a hat from a YMCA donor. That is such a wonderful gesture. She loved it!

On a personal note: The first-week transition from her previous provider exceeded my expectations! I’m so happy Gabriella is a part of the YMCA family! Everyone is so nice and supportive.

Thank you for all of your hard work.”



REMOTE LEARNING ACADEMY

JEN RUBERA, DIRECTOR OF REMOTE LEARNING

UPCOMING EVENTS:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
HHS PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
6:00PM-7:30PM REMOTE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020
K-8 CLOSE TRIMESTER 1

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020
GREENLEAF PARENT SUPPORT MEETING
7:00PM-8:00PM GOOGLE MEET

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020
HHS CHORUS & BAND CONCERT
'TIS THE SEASON
7:00PM - LIVE ON YOUTUBE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020
EARLY RELEASE - WINTER RECESS
K-8 TRIMESTER 1 REPORT CARDS
HHS TERM 1 PROGRESS REPORTS
- ISSUED IN PARENT PORTAL

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020
THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2021**
NO SCHOOL-WINTER RECESS

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021
WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021
K-8 TEACHER PARENT CONFERENCES

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021
NO SCHOOL
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021
HHS TERM 2 PROGRESS REPORTS
ISSUED IN PARENT PORTAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021
PSAT EXAM
HAVERHILL HIGH SCHOOL

PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR SCHOOL AND THE DISTRICT WEBPAGE CALENDAR FOR ADDITIONAL DATES AND EVENTS



The Remote Learning Academy has been working hard to learn and grow! Students learned

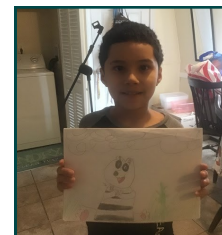
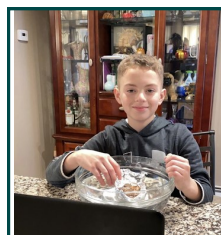
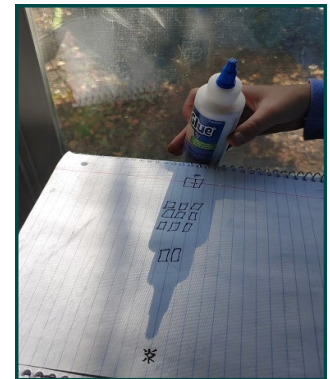
the routines and expectations of an online learning community and have adjusted to new norms while participating in synchronous and asynchronous lessons. Synchronous lessons are live lessons, and students learn with their teacher and peers while attending Google Meets. Asynchronous lessons are lessons that students can complete at their own pace.

The Remote Learning Academy is proud of our educators and students for their creativity and dedication. For example, students designed posters about a country they researched during social studies with Ms. Harding at Nettle. During art class with Ms. Bailey, students created self-portraits using objects around their home. In grade 6, students at JGW and Hunking participated in "The Penny Boat Challenge" while learning about density during science with

Mrs. Simes. Students cheered each other on throughout this project, and the winner was able to hold 110 pennies on his boat before it took on water!

The RLA is grateful for our collaboration with families to help students develop remote learning habits. Providing a quiet workspace, troubleshooting technology, and helping students attend Google Meets are some of the many ways families have supported remote learning. Thank you!

The RLA is on Facebook! Follow us @hpsrla for any news, resources, and updates. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/hpsrla/>



Kid's Corner



HOLIDAY COOKIE DECORATING CONTEST

Family Fun Time! If you're running out of ideas to keep the kids occupied on the cold weekends or during winter recess, get your family to bake cookies and compete in our HPS Holiday Cookie Decorating Contest.

Here's how it works:

- Make (or buy) cookies. Sugar & Gingerbread cookie recipes are below.
- Decorate them as you wish.
- Take a photo.
- Email the photo (just one photo), along with your name, school and grade, to Jennifer.Silva@haverhill-ps.org
- Winner of the contest will have their cookie's photo featured in the January 2021 Newsletter.

Trivia

Question: As the Disney princess with the fewest lines, how many lines did Aurora ("Sleeping Beauty") have in total?

Question: What team won the first NBA game?

Question: What is the warmest sea on Earth?

Answers will be provided in January's Newsletter

Sugar Cookies Recipe

<https://www.food.com/recipe/eloises-easy-sugar-cookies-82945>

Gingerbread Buddies Recipe

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/gingerbread-buddies/>

Winter Word Search

G	S	N	O	S	G	L	O	V	E	S	S	K	Z
H	T	A	F	I	R	E	P	L	A	C	E	M	R
A	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	I	R	S	T	H	J
T	T	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	L	A	O	A
B	O	O	T	S	I	U	I	S	A	E	K	C	N
O	F	R	A	C	S	D	C	O	L	D	S	K	U
G	R	A	E	S	N	O	W	F	A	L	L	E	A
E	O	S	A	S	M	I	T	T	E	N	S	Y	R
G	Z	S	N	O	W	B	O	A	R	D	S	N	Y
G	E	O	R	E	F	R	O	S	T	Y	A	O	W
N	N	A	M	W	O	N	S	S	K	I	I	N	G
O	O	D	O	A	B	L	I	Z	Z	A	R	D	A
G	D	H	F	N	H	I	B	E	R	N	A	T	E
C	G	R	N	O	I	T	A	C	A	V	O	A	A

HOLIDAY
FROSTY
FIREPLACE
BLIZZARD
SNOWFALL
VACATION
HIBERNATE
DECEMBER
SCARF
SNOWBOARD
FROZEN
HOCKEY
JANUARY
SKATES
SLED
COLD
MITTENS
SKIING
HAT
EGGNOG
ICE
GLOVES
SNOWMAN
BOOTS

Nurses Corner



Many of the recommendations from MDPH and CDC focus on preventative measures that are standard for any flu or cold virus. These simple precautions will help prevent the spread of the flu and other respiratory illnesses such as Coronavirus:

- Please cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, using a tissue or the inside of your elbow
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and warm water frequently or use hand sanitizer when washing is not an option
- Maintain 6 feet physical distancing
- If you have a fever or feel sick, stay home and call your healthcare provider

Get the flu vaccine – it is not too late! Find more information on the flu and where to get a flu vaccine here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/what-should-i-know-about-flu>

These precautions should be everyday practices - applied when at home, in school, and in public.

**Haverhill Public Schools
Mission Statement**

The Haverhill Public School system is dedicated to ensuring each learner meets or exceeds rigorous academic standards to become citizens with integrity, skills, and the resources to succeed in the global community.

**Employment
Opportunities**

- ⇒ **Haverhill-ps.org**
- ⇒ **Departments**
- ⇒ **Human Resources**
- ⇒ **Current Employment Opportunities**

Job vacancies and postings for all positions are available on our website. Job opportunities are posted as vacancies become available and will remain on the website until positions are filled. Applicants may access application information and forms from our website or visit the Human Resource Office at the School Department located at 4 Summer Street Room 104, Haverhill, MA 01830 - EOE

Follow Us On Social Media

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@haverhillpublicschools

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haverhill_public_schools

Twitter

@havschools



Haverhill School Committee

Haverhill School Committee Approved Meeting Schedule

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Thursday, January 28, 2021

All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be broadcast over HCTV and WHAV until further notice. The full meeting recording will be posted on the HCTV and HPS websites the following day.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Baker issued an Emergency Order temporarily suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Public bodies otherwise governed by the OML are temporarily relieved from the requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."

*For additional information please visit the School Committee Department on our website:
<https://www.haverhill-ps.org/school-committee>*



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