

School City of Hobart Focus On Education

Message from the School City of Hobart Board of School Trustees



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Dear Community Members:

On behalf of the Board of School Trustees, Hobart teachers, administrators, and staff, it is a pleasure to present this exciting issue of Focus on Education. The theme of this newsletter is **"Connecting the Past, Building the Future."**

Inside you will find illustrations and plans for the new Hobart High School. These plans are the product of years of collaboration among numerous members of our community including students, parents, teachers, administrators, board members, and community leaders. Even though much has been accomplished, more than three years of work remains. We must finalize plan details, select materials, obtain competitive bids, and, of course, finish construction before our students can attend classes at the new high school. Unfortunately, the project was delayed four months as a result of an order issued by the governor delaying construction of all new schools. Subsequently, the commissioner appointed to the Department of Local Government Finance reduced our project budget by \$6.5 million dollars. Even though the new school was badly needed, no state funds were required, and its cost would cause no increase to the current debt service tax rate, state officials made a decision contrary to the interests and wishes of our community.

Hobart is fortunate that citizens in the community willingly support our schools. People in Hobart stay connected in many ways and are proud of the school district's rich traditions and history. A guiding principle while developing plans for the new high school has been to respect our history as we plan for the future. We are **"Connecting the Past and Building the Future."** In order to provide exceptional educational opportunities for our students in a fiscally responsible manner, the Board supports a plan which incorporates all high school facilities, including athletics, at one location.

Illustrations of the site plan and building features may be viewed on pages 6 and 7 of this issue. The first and second floor plans for the academic wings, the Great Hall, and the Project Media Resource Areas are shown, as well as exterior views of the school and plans for athletic fields. The high school student's TOTAL EXPERIENCE will be filled with numerous opportunities to explore, excel, achieve, and develop intellectually and physically. Our goal extends far beyond the "bricks and mortar" of the building. We seek to create an environment filled with opportunities for academic learning and interactive experiences which form the foundation for a productive life well beyond graduation.

Equally important is the plan for improving facilities available to middle school students. Construction of the new Hobart High School will enable our community to establish a new home for Hobart Middle School. Plans include moving Hobart Middle School to the current high school location. Prior to that move, the existing high school will be renovated to create an environment appropriate for middle school students.

While much attention has been focused on the new high school, rest assured that learning and achievement at the elementary and middle schools continue to be priorities and are highlighted in many of the articles in this issue.

Thank you for your continued support in educating the children of our community.

Board of School Trustees, School City of Hobart



**THE NEW HHS CAMPUS
CONNECTING THE PAST...BUILDING THE FUTURE**

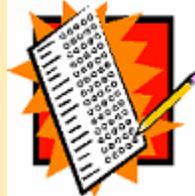
How Is My Child Doing at School?

Get Connected and Become an Informed Parent/Guardian With STIHome+

The School City of Hobart is proud to announce that the student management software, **STI**, (Software Technology, Inc.) is ready to be launched for use to enhance the connection between home and school. **STIHome+** puts the power of the Internet to work for parents/guardians and their child. Parents/Guardians can access important information about their child directly from their computer, anytime, anywhere.

STIHome allows parents and students from home to:

- Check grades
- Note attendance
- Review class schedules
- Confirm assignments
- Inspect discipline reports
- Enter course requests (in high school)



Parents/Guardians may obtain instructions for **STIHome+**, as well as their child's confidential ID and password from their school to get started. The School City of Hobart's Technology Department is happy to help parents/guardians with live demonstrations or if technical difficulties are experienced. Contact Joan Storey or Debbie Matthys at 942-1388 for assistance.

STIHome+ gives parents/guardians the tools they need to stay in-touch.

Please help us by continuing to nurture and ensure that every child grows and learns to their potential. Together, we can continue to work so that every school year is as wonderful as the year before.



The web site for this terrific new connection is <http://stihome.hobart.k12.in.us>

You may also access **STIHome+** from each school's web site. Look for the link! Detailed directions may be downloaded from the website.

YOU can make a difference in a child's life by being an informed parent/guardian in every way that is afforded to you!

International Connections for Media Fair

School City of Hobart students are heading to Orlando, Florida to receive awards for the International Student Media Fair. Of the twelve projects entered in May 2005, seven projects have been selected to receive awards this October.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Liberty Elementary:

- Students:** Ashley & Becca
Project: *Polar Bears*
 Kate & Jessica *Days in the Life of the Pterodactyls*
 Avery & Ben *Bowling*
 Christine Pallotta-Reder & Carrie Spinks Sponsors

Hobart Middle School:

- Students:** Kirsten
 Amber & Kirsten
 Emily, Ashley, & Corrine
 Lisa Wilkison & Chris King Sponsors
Project: *Natural Disasters*
Tips for Being a Successful Student
Let's Get Real: The Truth About Bullying

Hobart High School:

- Students:** Chris, Kirsten, & Amber
 Lisa Wilkison Sponsor
Project: *A Tale of Two Students*





Connecting in the Courtyard Liberty Elementary



Brain research has shown that an important component in helping students learn is to present learning opportunities in a calm, threat-free environment. Thanks to Mrs. Laura Walton and the Liberty PTO landscaping committee, such a place has been created in the Liberty Elementary Courtyard. It is now a very calm and beautiful place to go. Because the Liberty courtyard is enclosed on all sides by the school, it is also a safe place where students can work on class work, read books and engage in many other learning activities sitting outside on tables, benches or on the grass by the pond.



"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world: indeed it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

The PTO landscaping committee began planning the improvements to the courtyard last spring. Mrs. Walton shared the plans with many local businesses and received donations to help with the project. Donations of shrubs, plants, mulch, landscaping stones and wood for the tables and benches were given to the team by the generous owners and managers from local businesses.

The work began last spring and continued through the heat of the summer. It was not an unusual sight on any day this past summer to see parents digging and planting while their own children (ages 2-8) colored in coloring books, played with trucks or rode their big wheels around. It was truly a family affair. When asked about the many hours she volunteered for this project, Mrs. Walton responded, "I am doing this for my own children, their classmates and the staff. I want them to have the opportunity to learn and explore out here in a nice inviting environment."



THANK YOU! *Thank You!* **THANK YOU!** *Thank You!*
THANK YOU! **Thank You!** **Thank You!** **THANK YOU!**



The students and staff appreciate the donations received and all of the hours that Mrs. Walton and her team worked improving our courtyard. It has been used frequently already this school year for many activities: teachers reading to classes, students reading independently, kindergarteners practicing shapes with sidewalk chalk, lunchtime picnics, and even staff meetings. **THANK YOU!**
Thank You! **Thank You!** **Thank You!** *Thank You!*

H.H.S. AND THE U.S. MILITARY RECONNECT

By Lisa Waldrop, HHS Senior

Hobart High School has brought back the United States Army **J**unior **R**eserve **O**fficer's **T**raining **C**orps after 28 years of absence. Student requests and interest inspired Principal, David Spitzer, and Director of Guidance, Jim Kammer, to visit many JROTC



programs already existing in the area. All military departments were researched and considered; however, Principal David Spitzer felt the Army JROTC was the best choice.

The Army's Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps has changed greatly since it began in 1916 as a source of enlistment. Now the main objective of Army JROTC is a program based on citizenship dedicated to the moral, physical, and mental boost of America's youth. Sergeant

Simpson's students aim to be better overall citizens. Also equally important is the student's self-esteem.

First Sergeant Kerry Simpson instructs the Army JROTC course at Hobart High School. Students who participate at HHS benefit from an ordered classroom environment as well as hands on activities. Any student of Hobart High School can enter the Army JROTC program. The course is one class period per day all year. Students study leadership qualities and roles, the rank structure, drill and ceremony, marching, safety and firing of air rifles, first aid, map reading,

The course is structured to positively influence and motivate students. Not only do students receive grades for work done, but they also continue to perform a task until they succeed. It is not pass or fail; it is a matter of accomplishing the task correctly to move on to the next level. For every task a student completes, he or she is rewarded with a ribbon for their uniform.

geography, history, government, and have physical training one day a week. If a student chooses to enter the armed forces, each year completed in the program counts as a year of training. Each week they undergo a routine uniform inspection. Hobart's Army JROTC students also perform community service. So far, classes painted the JROTC building and

participated in Hobart High's service-learning project during the week of ISTEP testing.

Leadership roles are distributed throughout the class. Sergeant Simpson placed Jason Coker and Brad Durbin in leadership roles, First Sergeant and Captain of their class. Both students plan on entering military at some point in their life; however, Brad would like to experience college for a few years first rather than enter directly out of school as Jason plans to do. They feel right at home in the Army ROTC program indicating that "it is the high point of their day." Senior Brad Durbin has already accomplished one main goal. "I feel better about myself," he says.

Outside of the classroom Hobart's JROTC students can join three different teams, the color guard, rifle, and or drill team. These activities meet after school Monday through Thursday for approximately one hour. Teams will go to competitions in the area to represent HHS. The color guard will also present the national, state, and Army flags during the national anthem at many home sporting events.

We salute

and

welcome back

Hobart's own

Army JROTC



Connecting WITH THE HOBART POLICE DEPARTMENT

D.A.R.E.

Officer of the year is a tireless Crusader



By Vance Johnson, H.P.D.

When Jack Grennes joined the Hobart Police Department in 1996, he never imagined it would lead to his appointment to a position he feels so passionate about. But he achieved his goal. Jack serves as his agency's D.A.R.E. Officer. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education.

It's difficult to walk around Hobart without running into young people who know and respond affectionately to Officer Grennes. During the city's annual Lakefront Halloween Parade, where young trick-or-treaters can safely collect their candy, Officer Grennes is often

loaded down with his favorite snack, Butterfinger candy bars. Kids chase him down to forfeit their own because they know how much he likes them. Grennes can always be found at the 4th of July parade and other similar functions on his department mountain bike. He supervises the department's bike program and is a certified I.L.E.A. instructor for police bicycle operation.

For all these reasons, no one was surprised that Officer Jack Grennes was awarded Indiana's "D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year" award at their annual conference in Columbus, Indiana.

The School City of Hobart is proud of Officer Grennes and the young lives he continues to touch every day.

Prior to his appointment as the department's D.A.R.E. Officer, patrol officer Grennes all too often witnessed the unfortunate and many times tragic results of kids involved with drugs and alcohol. As most police officers know, kids with too much time on their hands and with little or no supervision often turn to drugs and alcohol to fill that void. Throw in peer pressure and many of these kids stand almost no chance at all, but Grennes believes the D.A.R.E. program works.

This school year Grennes is taking D.A.R.E. to Hobart Middle School. "Any positive interaction between kids and law enforcement can only benefit them and us," Grennes said.

"Jack Grennes cares more about kids than anybody I know."

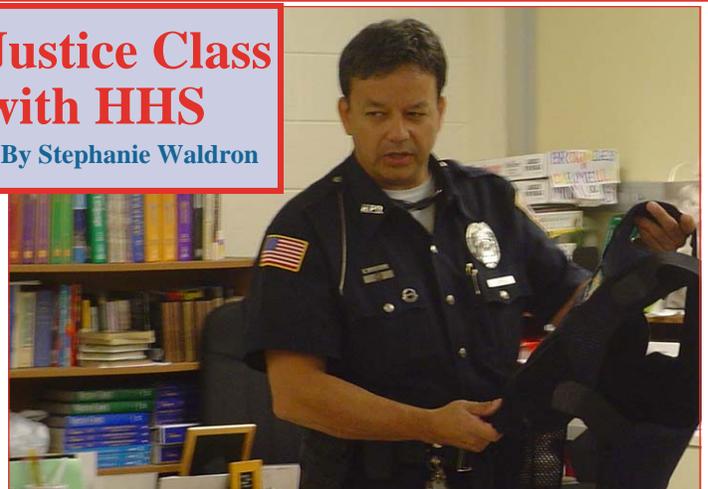
Detective Jeff White

Detective Jeff White, former commander of the department's Special Services Division, said that a few years ago all specialty programs were being looked at pretty hard and D.A.R.E. was facing the chopping block. Officer Grennes made a heartfelt and passionate plea for the program and with some minor modifications, the program continues today.

Hobart High School is offering a new class this year, Law Enforcement and Homeland Security. It will be taught by Officer Jack Grennes. The law enforcement class is for Juniors and Seniors who are interested in pursuing a career within criminal justice or just interested in learning more about this broad field. Some of the topics that will be covered in this two quarter class include crime scene investigation, the judicial system, terrorism, and homeland security. The curriculum for the class is exciting and varied with presentations, computer programs, guest speakers, and field trips.

Criminal Justice Class Connects with HHS

By Stephanie Waldron

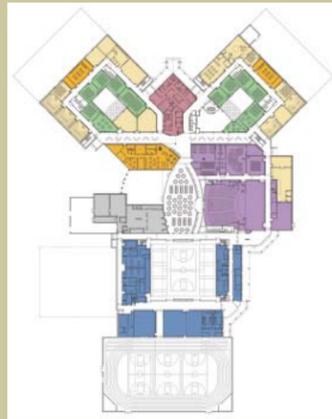


Officer Grennes is certified as a vocational teacher based on his experience as a police officer. He has been a police officer for the City of Hobart for nine years. Many children know Officer Grennes as this city's D.A.R.E. officer, a position he has held for six years. Grennes' other responsibilities for the police department include Training Instructor for the Law Enforcement Training Council, Certified Evidence Technician, and Certified Mountain Bike Instructor.

This law enforcement class is a cooperative effort between the school administration and the Hobart Police Department. "It has created a bridge of communication between the local police department and the students at the high school," said Chief Snedecor. He also believes the students taking this class will have an edge over other students when they continue their study of law enforcement in college.



The New Hobart High School Campus

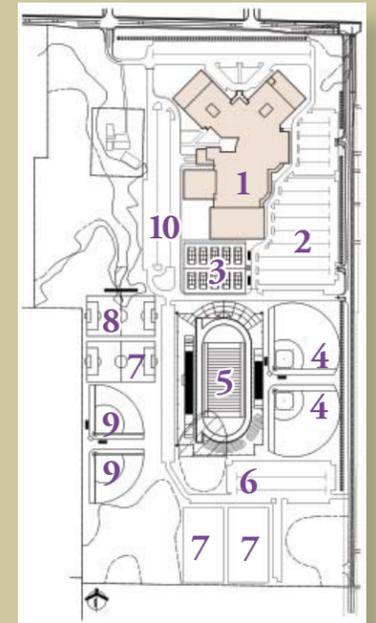


First Floor Plan

- Classrooms
- Resource Area & Media Hub
- Administration
- Performing Arts
- Mechanics & Kitchen
- Gymnasium



Second Floor Plan



Site Plan

1. High School
2. Student Parking
3. Tennis Courts
4. Baseball Fields
5. New Football Stadium
6. Event Parking
7. Practice Fields
8. Soccer Field
9. Softball Field
10. Bus Drop Off



Auditorium Entry



Outdoor Dining



Gymnasium Entry



Resource Area

The high school student's **TOTAL EXPERIENCE** will be enhanced with numerous opportunities to explore, excel, achieve, and develop both physically and mentally.



Great Hall

Mission Statement
The primary mission of Hobart High School is to provide a positive, safe learning environment in which all students have the opportunity to acquire the skills, knowledge, and behaviors needed to be productive citizens in an ever-changing world.

TIME OUT FOR READING

Connections READING



On September 8 at 10:00 a.m., everyone celebrated reading. Students, parents, staff, administrators, community leaders, and the children were caught with “Their Nose in a Book.” This was the theme of this year’s Northwest Indiana Literacy Coalition. Staff members wore red noses as they read to children.

One of our School Improvement goals is to improve our children’s reading skills. We are accomplishing this goal through research-based literacy strategies.

The staff at **Joan Martin** firmly believes that we have an obligation to inspire ongoing curiosity and love of learning. Through read-alouds, our staff shares their love of words and exposes the secrets in texts and stories. They capture the fascination of each child through many different stories and poems. This is a wonderful way for children to hear the rich language of stories and texts they cannot yet read on their own or might never have chosen to read. Reading aloud – in all grades – has long been viewed as a critical factor in producing successful readers as well as learners who are interested in reading.

We also want our children to experience immediate and early success as a reader so we often recognize and celebrate their expertise. **TIME OUT FOR READING** helped our students see and feel the power of reading.



THE 80% CLUB AT GEORGE EARLE **Connects** THE DOTS

The School City of Hobart has set 80% as the minimum for mastery of the Indiana Academic



Standards. Mastery of these standards is indicated on elementary report cards. Fifth grade teachers, Karen Kasiak and Beth York of George Earle, have an

80% Club that gives extra time and instruction for students who are not meeting the Indiana Standards at 80% or higher. The club meets during the week for one hour after school and is based on individual academic performance and need. Mrs. Kasiak and Mrs. York noted that providing additional time and reteaching opportunities gives students tools to score higher on assignments, quizzes, or tests. Pre-test help sessions are popular and open to all children.

The bonus of the 80% Club is direct instruction for students in a small group setting.



Mrs. Kasiak and Mrs. York are encouraged by the improvement of grades and the focus students place on their achievement.

We commend Mrs. York and Mrs. Kasiak for their effort to improve student achievement, as well as the George Earle students who are taking advantage of every possible learning opportunity!





The TrigStar Program Contest is an annual high school mathematics competition sponsored by the National Society of Professional Surveyors based on the practical application of Trigonometry. The program recognizes the best students from high schools throughout the nation. This past year, 17 schools participated in the TrigStar in Indiana.

William Young, a graduate from Hobart High School's class of 2005, competed in the National TrigStar exam earlier this summer and took third place **nationally**.

William, who has won the **state contest three years in a row**, received a \$500 scholarship award from the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS). William again achieved a score of 100 on the State TrigStar Exam, which was sponsored at Hobart High School by Jeff Gustke, PLS. William completed the exam in an amazing 26 minutes and 43 seconds. As state winner, William was awarded a \$1000 savings bond from ISPLS, and was offered one year's tuition if

enrolled in the Vincennes University Surveying Technology program, courtesy of Vincennes University. Additionally, he was awarded a \$100 savings bond from the Northwest Chapter of the Indiana Society of Professional Surveyors (ISPLS). Mrs. Jackie Rogers, William's math teacher, was awarded a \$500 cash award from ISPLS. She also received a similar award from NSPS. The School City of Hobart congratulates William and Mrs. Rogers for their success!



WILLIAM YOUNG OF HOBART HIGH SCHOOL
Three time Indiana **TRIGSTAR** Winner
with his Math Teacher, **MRS. JACKIE ROGERS**.

HMS Connects With Our Forefathers

Last summer, HMS students and parents, led by Mrs. Nancy Mast, traveled to Washington, D.C., New York City, and Philadelphia to explore American monuments and historical sites. This seven-day, whirlwind tour served as an introduction to U.S. History. The selected itinerary focused on historical and cultural sites in both cities along with a stop in Philadelphia. This trip was designed to provide seventh grade students with experiences that would better prepare them to study U.S. History as eighth graders. They toured sites that will be studied in depth in the following school year. They walked the paths of their forefathers and will draw from these memories as they study The Constitution, Paul Revere's Ride, the establishment of Washington, D.C., and the importance of Ellis Island. They will be able to close their eyes and say to themselves, "I remember..." Students are seen seated at the Statue of Liberty.



HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: Take 5 for Life!

Ridge View fifth grade students will be participating in a new program called *Take 5 for Life*. Students in the fifth grade will learn about health, fitness and feeling good about themselves.

Take 5's goals for kids are:



- Making healthy life choices
- Feeling good about oneself
- Getting rest
- Eating healthy
- Being active

Healthy Choices for a Healthy Lifestyle



Take 5 is a walking program. All students will be assessed before the program begins, and then they will be given pedometers to log every step they take at school. How did Hobart's fifth grade students get involved in this program? Deb Pillarella, exercise program manager, and Phrosinin Samis, exercise specialist, spearhead the Fitness Pointe's initiative that is supported by St. Mary's Hospital, Hobart's Mayor, and the School City of Hobart. "The program was created to give something back to the community and because obesity and diabetes are coming to the forefront in little kids," Samis said.

This is a ten-week program for the fifth grade students at Ridge View and the other elementary schools in Hobart.

Phase 1 of the program includes:

- Pre-program assessment
- Classroom teachers trained on program implementation
- Parent permission to participate in the program
- Student contract agreements to honestly participate in the program
- Distribution of program materials and equipment

Children will then enter **Phase II**, which is the program implementation. This will last for ten weeks. They will:

- Log daily steps
- Receive weekly educational handouts
- Participate in a mid-program essay—"What the *Take 5 Program* has done for me and how I'll use it in my life"
- Conduct a mid-program follow up

Phase III of the program consists of data collection and evaluations:

- Exercise professionals conduct post-program assessments
- Exercise professionals collect program evaluations



Phase IV of the program analyzes the data and will identify the at-risk population. All information will be shared with parents every "step" of the way.



Phase V is the program follow-up. The students will be rewarded along with the school that walked the most steps. A Fit Trip certificate will be awarded to the students as well. By the end of the program we hope to make our students aware that they have the power to make healthy choices for a healthy lifestyle.

The program is free to the School City of Hobart fifth grade students. What better way is there to make our kids more aware of a healthy productive life style than by educating them while they are young?

HOBART HIGH SCHOOL *Connects* WITH THE COMMUNITY



The 2nd Annual Hobart High School Civic Service Project started on Tuesday, Sept. 20 and lasted until Thursday, Sept. 22. Approximately 350 students volunteered in the community during this special project. Most of the students participating in the variety of community service projects were upper classman not taking the state mandated GQE (graduation qualifying exam).

An assortment of projects completed by student volunteers during the 3 days included painting fences at the Post Office downtown and at the Hobart Pool; beautification projects at the Hobart Pool, City Ball Park and along Highway 6; and working with the elderly at Brentwood Assisted Living and Miller's Merry Manor.

DECA (an organization of marketing students) contacted many businesses in the area securing donations for lunches for the two days. On Wednesday before going back to school for classes, the volunteers enjoyed a buffet lunch at the community center and an hour of music from a DJ. Principal Spitzer and students from the high school would not have been able to complete this project or have lunch without the generosity and support of our local merchants.



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND/NOTICE TO PARENTS Professional Qualifications of Teachers

As a parent/guardian of a student in the School City of Hobart, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers, and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the Indiana Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the Indiana Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please call Dr. Rich Edwards, Assistant Superintendent, at 219-942-8885.

AHERA

In accordance with the provisions of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), the School City of Hobart hereby provides annual notification to occupants of our buildings and to the community of the availability of the Asbestos Inspections and Management Plan for review. Extensive asbestos inspections and testing procedures have been conducted and the findings indicate that, although some asbestos has been detected, we do not have a substantial problem. The inspections are made in order to determine that safe conditions exist at all locations. The management plan may be reviewed anytime during regular school hours. A copy may be found in the principal's office at each school or in the Office of Support Services.

Another provision of the regulation is to inform workers and building occupants of asbestos inspections, response actions, and post-response action activities. Inspections and periodic surveillance are conducted twice each year. No abatement or response actions are planned at any school at this time.

Any questions regarding the plan should be directed to the Support Services Office at 219-947-2413.

SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART
32 East Seventh Street
Hobart, Indiana 46342
(219) 942-8885
NEWSLETTER

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HOBART, INDIANA 46342

“Success for All Students”

Edited by:

*Dr. Peggy Buffington
 &
 Rachel Nicoloff*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

Check your school calendar for conferences & early dismissals	November 17, 18, 19, 20 Hobart High School Fall Play	November 24 & 25 Thanksgiving Break 
December 7th HS/MS Holiday Choral Concert HS Auditorium 7 pm	December 8th Professional Dev. Day MS/HS dismissed 10:30 am Elem. dismissed 11:10 am	December 10th High School Semi-Formal Dance
December 13th Liberty K-2nd Graders Winter Performance Ridge View Christmas Program	December 14th HS Band Concert HS Auditorium 7 pm	December 14th Liberty 3rd-5th Graders Winter Performance
December 15th Joan Martin 2nd Graders Holiday Musical 7 pm	December 15th MS Band Concert HS Auditorium 7 pm 	Dec.23rd to Jan. 6th Winter Break

School City of Hobart web site: www.hobart.k12.in.us