



School City of  
**Hobart**

*Focus on Education*



SPRING 2010

Superintendent.....Dr. Peggy Buffington



**“Learning with Attitude”** is what this edition of Focus on Education explores in the School City of Hobart (SCOH) for 2010! While our country has struggled with the economy, the generosity of our community to those in need has been very evident through the work of the Food Pantry, The Giving Tree, the Police Department, and the many other kind deeds done by our schools and civic groups in the city of Hobart. Our community gets an A+ for their attitude in learning and succeeding to provide assistance and joy to so many people!

You may have recently heard that Governor Daniels announced a 300 million dollar cut to K-12 education. The School City of Hobart is currently facing some difficult times due to this unfortunate decision. This reduces our budget by a million dollars in state tuition for the general fund. We will continue to persevere and work to overcome this financial setback. Our goal is to not cut programs and to continue to be leaders in innovative offerings that serve our children! Solutions to reduce our budget include administrative cuts, energy saving initiatives, insurance options, and classified staff adjustments. However, these initiatives will not be enough. As in every school corporation, salary is the largest line in the general fund which means that additional changes to personnel are inevitable. We will be making faculty adjustments and filling class sizes to their potential. The district will accomplish this by consolidating grades one through five into three elementary schools instead of four and opening one of our elementary schools for kindergarten only. This measure allows us to maximize teachers at every grade level.

Starting next school year, George Earle Elementary School will become our new Early Learning Center. All School City of Hobart pre-birth through kindergarten programs will now be at one location. We know the importance of early childhood development. The benefits of drawing from our experts in one place offer many advantages and resources to our youngest citizens and their parents. What does this mean for current attendance practices? All kindergarten students in the School City of Hobart will attend the George Earle Elementary Early Learning Center, and current first through fifth grade George Earle students will be attending our other elementary schools. With only three buildings offering first through fifth grade academics, we will be able to equally distribute our reading experts for extra help to our students. In addition, we plan to provide magnet classes for second through fifth graders that will meet every day for High Ability (Gifted and Talented) with these changes. Finally, our wireless technology tools will continue to be tested and put to great use by the naturals – our students!

There has been much thought and work put into solving this financial burden. It is easy to get down in such difficult times or when pursuing a goal or doing something new. It truly is all about Learning with Attitude! Having a great attitude is a choice! We tell our students every morning at the end of Project Wisdom stories ([www.projectwisdom.com](http://www.projectwisdom.com)) as their day begins “Make it a Great Day or Not, The Choice is Yours!” Please join us in remaining positive and “Learning with Attitude.” The School City of Hobart wishes you many GREAT days in 2010!

**Focus on Education Features:**

- ◆ Learn about the Week of the Young Child in the School City of Hobart and the new George Earle Elementary Early Learning Center on pages 2 -3.
- ◆ Check out the latest technology students use such as Learn 360 and Odyssey on page 4, as well as High Tech Tools Meets High Tech Learners in SCOH on page 5.
- ◆ Speaking about Learning with Attitude, you will not want to miss *The Talent Code* found on pages 6 -7. The School City of Hobart examines how talent is grown by examining the talent of four HHS students and the latest in brain research. As parents and guardians, can you help your children learn and grow talent to be successful? Absolutely! Whether it be reading or problem solving, singing or competing athletically, this article explores how anyone can unlock *The Talent Code*!
- ◆ ISTEP+ is one measure of how students perform. Our students need to take these tests seriously and show Learning with Attitude! Refer to page 8 for the dates of these very important standardized tests and ways to prepare and assist your children on how to do their personal best!
- ◆ Sometimes a NEW Attitude is all it takes! Check out family opportunities on page 9 that are offered!
- ◆ Middle school students are changing their attitude on learning, goal setting, and dealing with peer pressure with Afternoons Rock at Hobart Middle School on page 10.
- ◆ The Senior Citizen’s Beat offers priceless events such as technology tips, book clubs, health screening, and free entertainment on page 11.
- ◆ Contact information and additional calendar events are on page 12.

***The School City of Hobart wishes you many GREAT days in 2010!***

# week of the young child woyc

April  
11-17,  
2010

## “Early Years Are Learning Years”™

The School City of Hobart and area preschools in conjunction with the City of Hobart are pleased to announce the first annual *Week of the Young Child*. This week will focus on our youngest citizens in Hobart.

We will offer events that focus on ages prenatal-age 5. We would like to encourage families with young children to participate in as many activities as possible.

### The themes of the week include:

- Play: Where learning begins
- Embracing diversity
- Teaching and Teachers matter
- Investing in Young Children
- Prevent the Achievement gap

“Children come into this world with a natural inclination to sing, to dance, to create.”

### Ready-Set-Go!

The School City of Hobart will continue to collaborate with our *Ready-Set-Go* group, the preschools in Hobart, to bring WOYC to Hobart. Our early childhood partners bring a wealth of knowledge to this important venture along with all of our kindergarten teachers and Parents as Teacher educators.

This “Early Learning” group meets regularly to share ideas to help meet the needs of our children in meaningful ways. Look for these educators and caregivers during the week!



### Bring Hobart Together for Children! Celebrate the Week of the Young Child

Early childhood education is vital to our community. Children need a strong early learning foundation to succeed in school, and go on to succeed in life.

You can make a difference by supporting early literacy, reaching out and working with teachers and parents who help young children get a great start, and supporting policies that provide high-quality early learning opportunities for all young children.

### Tentative Schedule of Events

#### Monday, April 12th

Kick-off for WOYC– Dr. Buffington & Mayor Snedecor *Count Bubbles at the Lakefront* at 10:00 a.m. Bring your bubbles, or celebrate right where you are! Hobart Library offers Storytime at 6 p.m.

#### Tuesday, April 13th

*Let's Shop Together* at Strack and Van Til between the hours of 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday, April 14th

*Early Years in Hobart, Make it-Take it, Literacy Room, On the Move, etc.* at George Earle Elementary 5-7:00 p.m.

#### Thursday, April 15th

*Playtime at the Park* at Mundell Field Rain Place-YMCA 10:00-11:30 a.m.

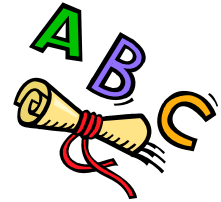
#### Friday, April 16th

*P.A.T. Open Play* (with parent ) HHS-Room 1113 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

# Introducing:



## The School City of Hobart's Early Learning Center at George Earle Elementary



The School City of Hobart is providing the foundation for future success by starting an early learning center that is focused on Hobart's youngest citizens. The district is committed to providing opportunities for learning from the very beginnings of life! Our plan is to provide a special school for important early childhood programs in one building. This new center will be home to Parents As Teachers, Ready Set Go Preschool Network, Early Childhood Development classes, and Full Day Kindergarten. **Introducing the School City of Hobart's Early Learning Center at George Earle Elementary!** Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, all kindergarten students in the district will be attending the School City of Hobart's new Early Learning Center at George Earle for **Full Day Kindergarten**. George Earle's current 1st-5th graders will be attending our other elementary schools. We are committed to every aspect of giving our students the best start!



### KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP & SCREENING

#### 2010 Kindergarten Kickoff Night:



Tour George Earle, Meet the Kindergarten Faculty, Learn about Curriculum, Bring Your Child for Some Learning Fun, and Get Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on March 9th at 6:00 p.m.  
*Come meet Dr. Seuss*

#### Kindergarten Round-Up Registration:

The School City of Hobart's Kindergarten Registration will be held on April 13, 14 and 15. Choose one day to come.

**Where:** George Earle School

**Times:** 9:00-11:00 a.m. & 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**Enrollment Requirements:** School City of Hobart parents may enroll their child if they are five years old on or before August 1, 2010.

**Parent/Guardian will need to provide the following documents:** an Indiana Driver's License or Indiana State I.D. listing their current Hobart address and 2 additional proofs of residency (i.e. utility bills/mortgage papers) & custody papers if necessary. They must also provide their child's original birth certificate and immunization records.

**Please bring your calendar to pick a day for kindergarten screening.**



### Catch Them Before They Fall

Students benefit when their teachers monitor their progress carefully, catch them when they begin to fall behind in reading, and provide interventions to get them back on track as soon as possible.

**Janice A. Dole**  
Children's Literacy Initiative

### Full Day Kindergarten Program Characteristics

Full-day kindergarten for learners in the School City of Hobart incorporates the components of what research has shown to be an effective program which includes the following:

- ✓ An exploratory environment with a focus on learning through play and brain-based activity.
- ✓ Language development and appropriate literacy experiences.
- ✓ Differentiation to meet the varying needs of kindergarten students.
- ✓ A balance of small group, large group, and individual activities.
- ✓ Assessments of students' progress through close teacher observation and systematic collection and examination of students' work.
- ✓ Development of social skills.
- ✓ Partnerships with parents to share information about their children to build understanding of parent and teacher roles, to emphasize reading to children in school and at home, and to set the stage for increasing parent-teacher partnerships.
- ✓ Visit our web site to learn about the kindergarten curriculum:  
<http://hobart.schoolwires.com/kindergarten>

# Always Challenging, Always Achieving!

School City of Hobart has new software that helps personalize the learning experience for every student, whether at school or at home.

**Compass Learning Odyssey** is our new web-based program which offers activities to support students as they work through instructional content. Online materials differ for each student at each grade level. Elementary and middle school offers unique learning paths based on NWEA scores. Teachers can also prepare lessons and tutorials for students. The activities can consist of lesson extensions for remediation. At the high school level, Compass Learning Odyssey can be used for credit recovery.

## What is available to students at school and at home?

Students have access to Brain Buzzers, LA extensions, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and Thematic Projects. The curriculum that is offered to your child is at his/her grade level. As your child completes assignments the program will monitor the progress and adjust levels according to the students needs. The image below shows a picture of the student's curriculum once they login. It is their very own backpack chalked full of learning opportunities!

## How does one get started?

Elementary logins are based on the child's ID number. A student will enter his/her ID number for the login and pass code at the elementary level (this is the same ID number that is used for STI Home+). Middle and high school students will use their ID numbers for the login and the 4 digit PIN as the password.

Web site: [www.compasslearningodyssey.com](http://www.compasslearningodyssey.com)! OR click on the Student/Parent Learning Center from the School City of Hobart's front webpage [www.hobart.k12.in.us](http://www.hobart.k12.in.us).



**Do you need assistance with this program at home?**  
Call the School City of Hobart Technology Department at 942-1388. If you do not have technology at home to support this program, talk to your school's principal about open computer lab times at your school!



**LOGIN INFORMATION**  
[www.learn360.com](http://www.learn360.com) OR  
on the front page of [www.hobart.k12.in.us](http://www.hobart.k12.in.us)

Elementary Students: Use their ID numbers for their logins with no password.  
Middle School and High School Students: Use their ID numbers for their login and PIN for the password.

**What is Learn 360?**  
Learn360 is a new web-based program that allows teachers and students to stream and download thousands of videos, video clips, audio files (MP3), images, vocabulary resources, speeches, newsreels, and other digital media for the K-12 classroom and homework assignments. Access is available from school or home and all content is searchable by keyword, subject area, state standard, media type and more. **Favorite resources are from the most trusted and award-winning educational content partners including:** A&E, The History Channel, A&E Classroom, The Biography Channel, National Geographic, Arthur, PBS, Between the Lions, Media 4 Math, and Encyclopedia Britannica.



# High Tech Tools for High Tech Learners



Students and staff at the School City of Hobart have been immersed into a world of high-tech tools over the past two years in order to keep up with modern trends and experience learning in new and exciting ways. From tablets and projectors to student response systems, classrooms are using the latest in educational technology to meet the standards of the high-tech world.

## TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM—COOL TOOLS FOR LEARNING WITH ATTITUDE!

All classrooms are equipped with ceiling-mounted projectors allowing teachers to share their computer screens with their students. 4th grade teachers at George Earle, Mrs. Suzanne Hathaway and Mrs. Anne Appleton, have been using projectors daily to look at maps and videos of historic events, model writing techniques and skills, and even play Jeopardy for classroom review. Teachers across the district also use their projectors to show videos from Learn 360 (*see previous page*), a streaming online video service that offers educational content for all subject areas.



*“I use the projector a lot in the classroom. It is nice to be able to pull up resources from the Internet to help engage students in lessons.” -Christina Jamison, 2nd Grade Teacher at George Earle*



Tablets and responders are a big hit in all of the Hobart schools! The tablets are mobile devices that allow teachers to move around their rooms freely while still controlling their computers. Additionally, the Interactive Workspace software that accompanies the tablets gives access to engaging and interactive tools that assist in learning. The responders are a favorite with students. These handheld devices allow students to actively respond to a teacher’s questions or even take entire quizzes with instant feedback on what has been learned. Mr. Matt Whiteman, Hobart Middle School Teacher, uses responders regularly in his class to gauge student comprehension and get feedback on lessons.

*“I use our new projector and tablet to assist in writing. The students are able to watch as I form the letters and they can do the same on their dry erase boards. This also allows me to walk around the classroom and observe the student work...” -Rhonda Crouch, Kindergarten Teacher at George Earle*

Perhaps the most popular of the high-tech tools are the wireless laptops. The new wireless technology incorporated into each building supports approximately 2300 laptops across the district, providing all students access anywhere, anytime! The laptops are used in many different ways including word processing, Internet research, media production, and much more! It also gives students the ability to access the numerous software pieces offered at Hobart like Odyssey Compass Learning, Read 180 and RAZ Kids.



*“I love the new technology. It really helps save time and more people participate. People say what they really think on the clickers.” -Kaylee Gubricky, 7th Grade Student*  
*“I actually like that the schools are becoming up-to-date. My favorite is the responders because we can say if we understand the subject or not.” -Juan Lamar, 7th Grade Student*

## Book Corner

# The Talent Code

What do Hobart High School students Kelsey Sopko, Frankie Porras, Jonathan Mock, and Kylee Miller have in common? They have home grown talent! That's right—they have grown their talent. Each one of these students have incredibly long days filled with hard work. Hitting the books and going to practice is routine! When one studies these talented young people, they will discover that these students engage in deep practice as suggested in the book *The Talent Code* by Daniel Coyle. As well as teachers and coaches, parents play a crucial role in helping their children grow talent whether in academics, sports, or performing arts. **Talent is practice, and practice is talent. Simply put, talent is made!** Check out our featured students from HHS and how they have developed their talents, as well as a book review of *The Talent Code* to inspire you in helping your child grow talent!

"I am willing to guarantee that you will not read a more important and useful book in 2009, or any other year."  
—TOM PETERS, coauthor of *In Search of Excellence*



GREATNESS ISN'T BORN.  
IT'S GROWN. HERE'S HOW.

DANIEL COYLE  
author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Lance Armstrong's War*

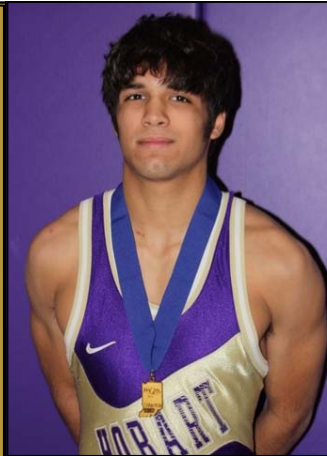


Kylee Miller is an honor student currently ranked number one in her class with a 4.43 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. She is taking Advanced Placement psychology, calculus and English, along with honors Spanish V, this semester. Kylee is a member of National Honor Society, and serves as class president for senior council and attorney general for Youth in Government. She is active in Spanish Club, Psychology Club and the Team Lead mentoring group. She participates in Booster Club, Key Club and Academic Super

Bowl. A four-year varsity soccer player, Miller was chosen team captain this year. She ran varsity cross-country the past three years and will run track this year, most likely the 800-meter, one-mile and 4-x-4 relay events. Another of her favorite extracurricular activities is singing. Miller sings with Wolfgang, HHS's female vocal ensemble, directed by Mr. Dean Wolff, the school's director of choirs. The ensemble rehearses twice a week and performs in the community. Mr. Wolff says, "Kylee is seldom without a book, usually a textbook or reading assignment, and she makes the most of any free time. For instance, on the bus to performances, Kylee is usually reading; she still takes part in conversation, etc., but almost always has a book. When we have down time at jobs, she is often curled up in a chair somewhere - reading. She and another of our students, Abby Lams, frequently discuss assignments, class work and such. At Wolfgang practices, Kylee seems to concentrate and remains focused for long periods of time. When learning new music, we tend to break it down into short segments. Kylee and Abby are our most visually expressive kids when going through that process. I wish I had pictures of their facial expressions when they are concentrating on learning a new section, and then again when they master it. Kylee's dream is to attend Stanford. No doubt, Kylee Miller will be successful wherever she lands!

Kylee's expressions are those of determination, and the more difficult the music, the more obvious the expression. **Kylee is one who does not mind repeating these sections over and over.**

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Frankie Porras has had an outstanding career at Hobart High School! In the senior class, he ranks 19 out of 291 students with a 3.91 GPA. He is a fun loving, easy going person who loves his music and a little singing with the guys! But do not let his easy going ways fool you! In football, Frankie played corner back and wide receiver. He belongs to several clubs including the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), National Honor Society, and the St. Bridget Parish Council. What is

Frankie really known for? He is an OUTSTANDING wrestler! Frankie was a state-qualifier as a freshman. His sophomore year brought achievements such as a state runner up and an All American at the Sophomore Nationals, placing 5th in the country. His junior year produced a 40-1 record along with his first State Wrestling Championship. He followed that up with another 5th place in the Junior Nationals. Frankie was also an All American in the Fargo Freestyle Nationals, placing 8th. Frankie has won the Mishawaka 32 team tourney. He is a three time champ at the Harvest Classic, a three time Conference Champ, a four time Sectionals Champ and a four time Lake County Champion. He is currently 32-0 this season, and has a career record of 152-12. Coach Steve Balash explains how Frankie has grown his talent. He says, "Frankie is like another coach on the mat! When he drills hard with another partner, I can hear him giving the guy coaching tips - he practices and teaches at the same time - repeating what you have to do to be successful! He never stops going hard in a practice and always goes the extra mile in terms of work ethic! He has the courage to push past the pain! Frankie's future plans call for more wrestling next year at Purdue University with a full ride scholarship.

*Frankie perfects his talent because he leaves his comfort zone and mentally challenges himself to reach that goal through focus, deep concentration and persistent practice!"*

## WHAT IS THE SECRET OF TALENT? HOW DO WE UNLOCK IT?

Journalist and New York Times bestselling author Daniel Coyle visited nine of the world's greatest talent hotbeds — tiny places that produce huge amounts of talent, from a small music camp in upstate New York to an elementary school in California to the baseball fields of the Caribbean. He found that there's a pattern common to all of them — certain methods of training, motivation, and coaching. This pattern, which has to do with how the brain acquires skill, gives us a new way to think about talent — as well as new tools with which we can unlock our own talents and those of our children.

**GOT MYELIN?** We all do --- it's in our brain. Coyle describes how the brain reacts when a person develops a new skill. Performing an action involves firing an electrical signal through a neural pathway; each time this happens, it thickens the myelin sheath that surrounds nerve fibers like the rubber coating on electrical wires. The thicker the myelin sheath around a neural pathway, the more easily and effectively we use it. You can grow the myelin sheath with repeated practice. TALENT equals growing skills through repeated practice. "Perfect practice makes perfect." **DEEP PRACTICE!** "To understand how deep practice works, it's first useful to consider the unexpected but crucial importance of errors in the learning process. It is a strange concept that we normally try to avoid --- namely mistakes —however, we can turn them into skills. Finding and fixing those errors and mistakes triggers perfecting skills." **PERSISTENCE!** Practice over and over again helps the brain grow the skill. This focused resilience results in talent. Reading more yields better readers and 3-Point shooting over and over again results in making the shot effortlessly. These are great examples of practice makes perfect. Working hard grows talent! **Learn more at [www.talentcode.com](http://www.talentcode.com) or [hobart.schoolwires.com/bookcorner](http://hobart.schoolwires.com/bookcorner). You can also view a great video clip on these web sites!**



**Kelsey Sopko** is a winner of the Vincennes University 3-Point Shootout this past January 1, 2010. The competition was held at Valparaiso University, where Kelsey finished 1<sup>st</sup> out of 27 shooters from area schools. "She likes to work at whatever she does. She works extremely hard and she wants to be good at everything she does," Brickies coach Mike Hamacher said. Sopko has earned 13 varsity letters in athletics, playing varsity since her freshman year in four different sports. She earned 3 letters in soccer where she received All-Conference in the Northwest Crossroads Conference, All-Area recognition,

and Academic All-State in 2009. She was also named "team captain" of the HHS soccer team in 2009. Kelsey earned 3 letters in cross country where she received All-Conference 1<sup>st</sup> Team honors in the Northwest Crossroads Conference in 2006 and 2008. She also received the honors of All-Area and All-State Honorable Mention in 2006, 2007, and 2008. She was named "team captain" of the cross country team and holds a school record for lowest time. Kelsey earned 3 letters in track between 2006-2008. She qualified for Regionals in 2007 and 2008 in the mile run. Kelsey earned 4 letters in basketball, where she received Northwest Crossroads Conference All-Conference 1<sup>st</sup> Team honors and All-Area recognition in 2008-2009. She contributed to back-to-back Northwest Crossroads Conference championships for the girls' basketball team in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. Kelsey was named the Schepel Buick "Athlete of the Week" for the Prep Sports Report on Lakeshore Television in recognition of her 16-point performance versus #6 ranked Portage in November of 2009. Coach Hamacher says, "Kelsey is an extraordinary kid with great drive, determination, character, and heart. She has received so many honors and awards for her hard work and effort. I have a strong suspicion that she is only getting started. I feel privileged to have coached her and look forward to seeing her future success." Kelsey also sports a 3.53 GPA. She is a member of school clubs such as Booster Club and Team LEAD. She juggles her academics, athletics, a part-time job at Subway, spending time with her family, and preparing for college. Kelsey enjoys hanging out with her mom and reading when she has spare time. She is looking forward to attending Ball State University, where she intends on studying Secondary Education.

*"She's got that mentality that she won't quit, she won't give up. She's relentless --- practicing, practicing, practicing."*



**Jon Mock**, a senior at Hobart High School, has spent this past year as the student representative of the School City of Hobart Board of School Trustees. This position required a level of dedication to service that was most extraordinary for a high school student. He never missed the regularly scheduled evening meetings and his behavior was that of a professional young adult. Jon has been taking business and marketing education classes since his freshman year, when he affectionately earned the one syllable nickname— Jonmock. As one of the most successful business/marketing students, he has served as DECA President this year

and last year serving as DECA Vice President. He has a keen sense of organization and loves numbers. He excels with Microsoft Office's Excel. He has organized so many spreadsheets efficiently that the School City of Hobart's central office asks him to create, collect and analyze data for many events such as the H1N1 clinics and senior citizen events. He also has developed a method for keeping track of HHS interns for Mrs. Roach, Business Department Chair. Last year when we began the moving process to the new high school, he appointed himself "in charge" of moving the business department, setting up our new storage facilities and establishing the *Brickie Stop* in the new building for DECA cookie sales. All of this is clear evidence of his planning and organizational capabilities. With his leadership, the business department at HHS is thriving! If you ask Jon who he most admired as a child, he would tell you "Donald Trump", not Spiderman! It is easy to imagine Jon as a first grader with a brief case! During high school he has been very involved in other activities besides DECA, which include Key Club, Relay for Life Committee 2009 & 2010, Brickie Branch Credit Union volunteer, and the Girl's Basketball Manager for 3 years. Next year he will be attending Manchester College, where he received a \$40,000 Academic Scholarship for four years. Of course, he will be majoring in Accounting—what he has planned to do for most of his life.

*Jon is in the zone when he is studying numbers, looking at patterns, and correcting errors in order to improve.*

# Student Achievement and Success

## It's our students' time to shine! - ISTEP+ and ECA Exams



School City of Hobart students have been learning and preparing through the year studying curriculum based on the Indiana Academic Standards and now it's time for the students to show off their knowledge and learning with attitude! Here's what you as a parent and your student need to know to be successful on the ISTEP+ and ECA Exams.

### SPRING 2010 ISTEP+ TESTING SCHEDULE

EXAM	DATES	GRADES
ISTEP+ Applied Skills Tests	March 1st –10th	Grades 3-8
ISTEP+ Multiple Choice Tests	April 27th– May 5th	Grades 3-8
ISTEP+ GQE Retest Exam	March 9th-11th	Students in Grades 11-12 who have not passed
ECA– End of Course Assessments	April 26th—June 5th	Students in Algebra I, English 10, and Biology

#### Preparation for the ISTEP+ Tests: Parent and Student Responsibilities

It is imperative that your child is ready for these tests. With any test, children that eat breakfast and have a good night of rest before an exam will always out perform a child that doesn't. **Indiana students MUST PASS the ISTEP+ tests to graduate in the state of Indiana. Students that don't pass in grades 3-8 are predetermined in the state to not graduate high school.** The best preparation for performing well on these tests is to complete school work and homework each day. Teachers design the curriculum based on the same standards on which the students will be tested. Support your child at home by talking to your children about doing their personal best. Talk to them about asking questions if they don't understand and checking over their work before turning it in as well as tests. This work leads to success and achievement on the Indiana State tests and ensures each student will graduate from high school.



#### What are Applied Skills Tests? March 1st-10th

Applied Skills tests contain open ended questions or prompts requiring students to write. Students will need to explain their answer as they complete English/Language Arts items and Mathematics. Additionally, grades 4 and 6 will be tested over Science standards and grades 5 and 7 will complete items covering the Indiana Academic Standards for Social Studies. The Department of Education has informed schools that the Applied Skills items will be at a "Depth of Knowledge of 3". This means that students will be asked to analyze and explain their answers to receive full credit. To prepare, students can practice at home by explaining common chores, directions and steps while playing video games or building with toys using sequential words and complete sentences. Have your child write and use the words; first, second, next and lastly, for example, are sequential words. The sentences should be used to explain the steps taken to complete a task or in a story. This provides additional preparation for your child to succeed.



#### What are Multiple Choice Tests? April 27th-May 5th

Multiple choice items will cover all Indiana Academic Standards. Students are asked to choose the best answer from multiple responses. Third–eighth grade students will complete the multiple choice tests on Mathematics, English/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies items.

#### GQE Testing at Hobart High School-11th and 12th Graders

11th and 12th graders who have not passed the ISTEP Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) will again test March 9th-11th. Students must pass the GQE to graduate! To assist these students, review sessions will be held at Hobart High School after school prior to the March testing dates. Students who attend the review can pass the test!

**End of Course Assessments (ECA)-Students in Algebra I, English 10, and Biology-**Students enrolled in Algebra I, English 10 and Biology must pass the ECA tests to qualify for graduation from high school. The student passing rate on these exams is reflective of the student's ability to master the course work at school. The first step for students to pass and graduate from high school is completing and understanding the course work at HHS.

#### ISTEP+ and ECA Resources

##### School City of Hobart Website:

<http://hobart.schoolwires.com/istepandeca>

##### IDOE ISTEP+ and ECA Blueprints:

[http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/istep\\_blueprints.html](http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/istep_blueprints.html) &

[http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/eca\\_blueprints.html](http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/eca_blueprints.html)

##### IDOE Sample Items:

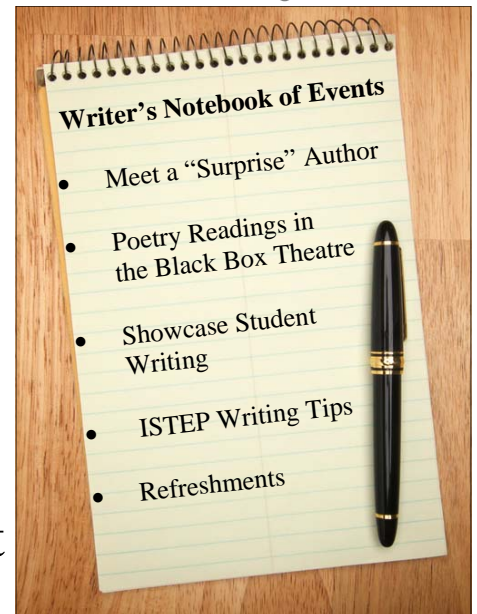
<http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/publications.html#3>



# Events for a NEW Attitude!

## A Writing Kind of Day!

**Who:** All Students and Parents  
**What:** Writing Showcase Night  
**When:** February 23, 2010  
**Time:** 6-8:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Hobart High School  
**Why:** Celebrate Writing



Sponsored by the School City of Hobart & the HHS National Honor Society

### *Manda's Story*



Manda Spitler

"... Despite the loss of his daughter, Mann perseveres to help others. I am one of those people he touched. He is the first person who has actually given me a reason to stop my bad habits." Anonymous student

*Come and listen to Mann Spitler's compelling story!*

*No one ever thinks they will grow up to be an addict!  
No parent ever thinks their child will become an addict!*  
As an elementary student, a child firmly believes they will always say no to drugs or alcohol! As parents of teenagers, parents trust their adolescents to make the right choices. What do kids need to equip themselves for saying no? What are the signs that parents are missing? Do not miss this powerful presentation!

**Who:** Students and Parents in Grades 5-12

**What:** Fighting the Addiction Beast

**When:** March 29th

**Time:** 6:00-7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Hobart High School, Board Room

**Why:** Mann Spitler and his wife Phyllis lost their daughter Manda when she injected herself with a lethal dose of heroin.

He tells Manda's Story to every group who invites him. He says, "The purpose of verbally detailing her addiction and subsequent death is to prevent drug abuse and addiction. As

much as I would like to personally protect every young person from addiction to drugs, I can't. But, Manda's Story can help them protect themselves. It also stimulates parents to take the specific actions needed to protect their children."

# Hobart YMCA and HMS Team Up For Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana

Afternoons R.O.C.K. is an exciting afterschool drug/alcohol and tobacco prevention program that runs two days a week from 2:45-5:15 at Hobart Middle School. The course runs for nine weeks and is open to all Hobart Middle School students ages 10-14. Students receive homework help, get physical exercise, and work on an interactive drug, alcohol, and tobacco curriculum. The classes feature many guest speakers for students to pose questions on goal setting and how to be successful in life. Those who complete the program receive strategies for how to say NO, deal with peer pressures, and begin achieving personal goals. In addition, they receive prizes and a party to wrap up the series. The program is funded by the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction and is free to students.

For questions regarding Afternoons R.O.C.K., please contact Mrs. Peggy Orchard, Director of Guidance Counseling at Hobart Middle School 219-942-8541. porchard@hobart.k12.in.us

For additional information contact: Hobart Family YMCA Mr. Jeff Renn 219-942-2183 jrenn@hobartymca.org www.rock.indiana.edu

The acronym "R.O.C.K." represents the mission of the program to provide Recreation, Object lessons, Culture and values and Knowledge through focused and supportive prevention activities designed to teach youth about social and media influences, conflict resolution and refusal/resistance skills, gang and violence prevention and the structuring of leisure time to be free of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.



## What can parents/guardians do?

As a parent, your role in drug prevention is crucial. According to antidrug.com, two-thirds of teens say that losing their parents' respect and pride is one of the main reasons they don't smoke marijuana or use other drugs.

As a role model, setting an example with your healthy lifestyle is important in conveying the important message of being drug free. Healthy coping mechanisms, lifestyle choices, and staying away from drugs and alcohol are all part of setting a good example. Between the years of 10-14, an individual goes through many changes physiologically, socially, and emotionally. During this difficult transition, youth may use drugs to cope with these changes and attempt to fit in with their peers.

If you are struggling with these issues, please contact the following hotlines for more information:

- Federal Addictions Hotline** 800-662-4357
- Problem Gamblers Hotline** 800-664-8448
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline** 800-273-TALK (8255)

Getting involved in your child's life is important to show that you care, and to monitor changes in lifestyle. Having dinner together and finding a common interest or activity to pursue together are both ways to strengthen your relationship. Make firm and consistent rules so that your child knows you care. Be aware of the different types of drugs and symptoms of drug use. Finally, be proactive and aware: know who, what, when, and where your child will be. Know your child's friends and their parents.

For more tips, visit:  
[www.theantidrug.com/advice/](http://www.theantidrug.com/advice/)  
[www.familyfirst.net/parenting/center.asp](http://www.familyfirst.net/parenting/center.asp)  
[www.family.samhsa.gov/talk](http://www.family.samhsa.gov/talk)

[www.health.org](http://www.health.org)  
[www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org)  
[www.kidshealth.org/parent/](http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/)

What students are saying about Afternoons R.O.C.K."

*I am committed to staying healthy, being drug free, and getting good grades. Joe*

*Afternoons R.O.C.K. rocks! Payton & Ryanna*

*I am committed to being a good big sister, good daughter, and good granddaughter. Jessica*

*More than anything else I want to avoid a reputation of being a druggie. Anonymous R.O.C.K. participant*

*I really liked the guest speakers. Trevor*



# Senior Citizens Beat!



The School City of Hobart invites senior citizens from the community of Hobart to join us for some entertainment, health, and educational events! Entertainment events for Hobart's Senior Citizens are made possible by the generous support of the Maria M. Reiner Senior Citizens Trust, a fund of the Legacy Foundation, Lake County's Community Foundation. In addition, all programs are sponsored by the School City of Hobart in conjunction with the HHS Performing Arts Department, the HHS Emergency Rescue Technology Academy, the Technology Department, the Hobart Kiwanis, and the HHS Key Club.

**Please join us for these FREE entertainment, health screening, and educational opportunities.**



## HEALTH

Blood Pressure Screening at HHS will be held every Wednesday from 8-9 a.m. when school is in session. Enter through door #1 & proceed to the Great Hall.

Residents of Hobart are invited to take advantage of the track at the Hobart High School Frank Kurth Fieldhouse. Simply show your driver's license or state ID as proof of residency. Monday-Thursday 5:50 a.m.-7:20 a.m. & 5:50 p.m.-7:20 p.m. when school is in session. Athletic competitions and inclement weather may force the closing of evening hours. Please watch for signage. Walk-ins welcome! No registration required.



## ENTERTAINMENT at Hobart High School

### Musical: THE WIZ

March 17

5:30 p.m. Refreshments | 6:30 p.m. show

### Spring Choral Concert

March 30

5:00 p.m. Refreshments | 6:00 p.m. show

### Spring Band Concert, Purdue Jazz Band featured with HHS and HMS Jazz Bands

April 30

6:00 p.m. Refreshments | 7:00 p.m. show

### Registration required.

Please call the Senior Citizen Hotline at 219-947-7777 to register.



## COMPUTER CLUB



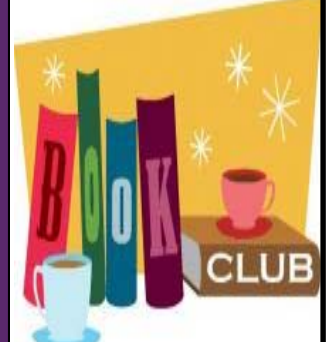
## EDUCATION

### Technology & FAQs

### Book Club

Register by calling Jan Green at 219-942-1388 ext. 8952.

More details will follow after you register.



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

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**Mr. Ted Zembala**  
 Business Manager  
**Mrs. Deborah Matthys**  
 Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
**Mrs. Shannon O'Brien**  
 Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
**Mr. Felix Perry**  
 Director of Support Services  
**Mr. David Spitzer**  
 Principal, Hobart High School  
**Mrs. Carolie Warren**  
 Assistant Principal, Hobart High School  
**Mr. Brent Martinson**  
 Assistant Principal, Hobart High School  
**Mrs. Denise Galovic**  
 Principal, Hobart Middle School  
**Mrs. Sharon Blaszkievicz**  
 Assistant Principal, Hobart Middle School  
**Mrs. Kacey Allen**  
 Principal, George Earle Elementary  
**Mrs. Debra Misecko**  
 Principal, Joan Martin Elementary  
**Mrs. Amy Turley**  
 Assistant Principal, Joan Martin Elementary  
**Mrs. Sara Gutierrez**  
 Principal, Liberty Elementary  
**Mrs. Mary Beth Ginalski**  
 Principal, Ridge View Elementary  
**Mr. Russell Mellon**  
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**Mr. Christopher King**  
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# POSTAL PATRON

## HOBART, INDIANA 46342

**“Success for All Students”**

*Edited by:*

*Dr. Peggy Buffington  
 &  
 Rachel Nicoloff*

### UPCOMING EVENTS!

<b>Free to Senior Citizens</b> Blood Pressure Screening Walk the track at HHS See page 11	<b>HHS Band Concert</b> February 19th @ 7 p.m. Hobart High School Theatre	<b>Middle School 6th Grade Band Winter Concert</b> Feb. 25th @ 7 p.m. Hobart Middle School Auditorium	<b>Middle School Choir Concert</b> March 10th M.S. Auditorium 7:00 p.m.	<b>HS Performing Arts</b> <b>THE WIZ</b> March 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 HHS Theatre March 17-Senior Citizen show (See page 11)
<b>Middle School 7th &amp; 8th Grade Band Spring Concert</b> March 23rd @ 7 p.m. HMS Auditorium	<b>High School Choir Concert</b> March 31st @ 7 p.m. Hobart High School Theatre	<b>HHS Talent Show</b> April 15th & 16th @ 7 p.m. Hobart High School Theatre	<b>George Earle Fun Fair</b> April 23rd 6:00 p.m.	<b>Hobart Jazz Bands &amp; Purdue Jazz Band Concert</b> April 30th @ 7 p.m. Hobart High School Theatre
<b>Middle School 6th Grade Band Concert</b> May 6th @ 7 p.m. HMS Auditorium	<b>Middle School Choir Concert</b> May 11th M.S. Auditorium 7:00 p.m.	<b>HS Performing Arts Children's Show</b> May 12, 13, 16	<b>Middle School Band Awards Concert</b>	<b>HHS</b> Sign up for Dual Credit Classes— <b>FREE COLLEGE</b> — Don't forget to sign up for 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Scholars
<b>HHS Band Concert</b> May 21st @ 7 p.m. Hobart High School Theatre	<b>High School Choir Concert</b> May 26th @ 7 p.m. Hobart High School Theatre	<b>Middle School Jazz Band at Bandshell</b> May 27th	Senior Honors Convo May 27th @ 7 p.m. Hobart High School Theatre	Visit our website at: <a href="http://www.hobart.k12.in.us">www.hobart.k12.in.us</a>



The School City of Hobart does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or individuals with disabilities, including limited English proficiency.



Hobart High School is named a “Best Buy” by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.