



Focus on Education



VOLUME II 2008

Superintendent....Dr. Jack Leach

he School City of Hobart went through "District Accreditation" on October 15-17, 2007. The Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Team from North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) AdvancED found the School City to be an outstanding district led by a skilled, talented and professional staff, as well as a dedicated, knowledgeable school board. Moreover, involved parents and a supportive community work together to encourage and support student success at all levels. It was found throughout the system that instructional improvement that results in improving student achievement is the highest priority.

To earn and maintain accreditation, districts must demonstrate the following to the QAR Team:

- ★ Meet standards for accreditation;
- ★ Engage in continuous improvement; and
- → Demonstrate quality assurance through internal and external review.

The Quality Assurance Review Team <u>commended</u> the School City of Hobart for the following: Technology

→ The data warehouse (Confluent), student and parent data management system (STI), and district website are state of the art and provide valuable information, data, and communication to all stakeholders.

Professional Development

- → The professional development catalog and calendar on-line are extensively used.
- → The Teachers' College Reading and Writing Project of Columbia University in New York provides mentoring, modeling, on-going training for trainers and offers support in the classroom.
- → The five-day new teacher orientation brings new teachers on-board with district initiatives.

Maximizing Resources (Human, Financial, Facilities, and Equipment)

→ The School City of Hobart is very efficient, effective and creative in utilizing their resources to move the district forward with new initiatives and programs.

Partnerships have been established with the community to share resources.

A Caring School/Community Culture

- → "If it is best for kids, they (school/community) find a way to make it happen."
- → Systematic process for effective communication is in place and utilized.
- → Because the caring culture listens and is responsive to student and staff needs, new programming and initiatives are implemented to impact student achievement.

The Quality Assurance Review Team <u>recommended</u> the School City of Hobart do the following:

- → Fully implement, monitor, and evaluate recent initiatives to ensure increased student achievement.
- → Develop shared leadership to ensure sustainability of current initiatives and focus.
- → Develop a plan to address the issue of class size and provide equity to the emerging diverse student populations.



The Quality Assurance Review Team recommended that the School City of Hobart be awarded full NCA CASI AdvanceD District Accreditation.



There are 296 school corporations in the state of Indiana. There are only 12 corporations that have achieved NCA CASI AdvancED District Accreditation. *Congratulations to the entire School City of Hobart community on such a distinguished achievement!*

Time to Schedule Classes!

Parents increase students' school success when involved in the planning and decision making process! It is time for 8th graders through 11th graders to sign up for next year's classes. Planning a high school course of study can be easy with assistance.

Get involved!

Incoming Freshman Orientation at HHS—(Calling All 8th Graders and Parents)

How does high school life begin? Information on Career Pathways, high school athletics, clubs, vocational training, and other important programs are explained to prepare parents and students for filling out the freshman class schedule.

Appointments are scheduled at freshman orientation for scheduling conferences. Students/Parents February 27 in the HHS Auditorium (6:00—7:00 p.m.)

Scheduling of Classes with 8th graders

Parents and students plan with counselors what courses to take the freshman year. Students/Parents March 3 - March 7 at Hobart Middle School. Appointments are scheduled at freshman orientation.

Scheduling of Classes with Freshmen through Juniors

During February and March students plan with counselors what courses to take. Parents should review all scheduling selections with students. Appointments can be scheduled with counselors for additional assistance at 942-8521.

Crisis Mode -Junior Parent Night for College & Financial Planning

During this workshop, college bound juniors and parents learn the steps to plan for college admission and various methods to pay for school.

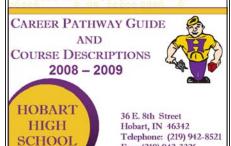
Students/Parents March 20 in the HHS café (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.)

Fax: (219) 942-3326

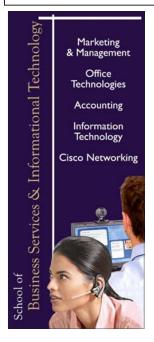
Get Your Career Pathway Guide on the Web Site **Under the Academics Tab or Stop by HHS!**

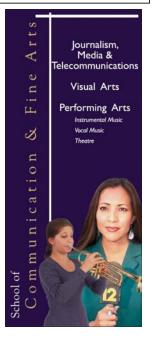
We will deliver educational information to parents, including ways that we can involve you in the children's planning and decision making at key transition points:

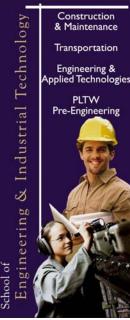
- Academic preparation—including program and course
- Understanding and using test information
- Formulating post-high school plans
- Learning about and obtaining financial aid for college

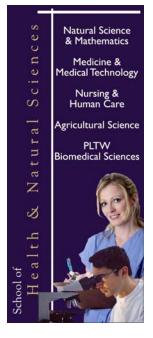


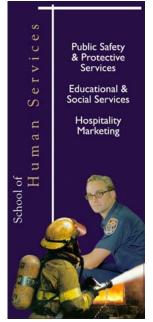
Get Motivated About the Future! Our Career Pathway Guide describes the **Schools of Education** and Career Clusters offered at HHS (see the banners below). Each school describes required classes and electives necessary to go into the chosen career pathway. The back of the guide provides descriptions for classes taught at HHS. What are you waiting for? Let the planning begin!











Emergency Rescue Technology Academy Coming to HHS in the Fall of 2008!

An "Emergency Rescue Technology Academy" will be hosted by Hobart High School, which will be available to all schools in the Porter County Career and Technical Education program starting in the fall of 2008. The course is the collaborative idea developed between Dr. Peggy Buffington and Hobart Fire Department EMS Director, Bob Lamprecht. "It is ironic that I had been talking to our fire chief, William McCorkle, about this class when I saw Dr. Buffington at the Reality Store for middle school students," said Director Lamprecht. She said, "I have an idea for you," and I said, "And I have an idea for you." We both had the same idea.

"The need for the Emergency Rescue Technology Academy comes from statistics which show a shortage of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) in Northwest Indiana and throughout the state. The need also comes from the Hobart Fire Department phone log. Eighty percent of the calls to the fire department are calls for medical assistance. "This class will allow students to be certified as an EMT," Director Lamprecht said. "After they have received training, passed a series of tests, and turned 18 years old, they can receive their certification and qualify for a job as an EMT." The program will encourage further training in college through a partnership among Methodist Hospitals, IVY Tech, and Purdue University. Students will be able to receive up to 7.5 college credits towards an Associates Degree in Paramedic Science. "This class will be a great help for students who also want to pursue a career in any allied health career, the military, or law enforcement," explained Director Lamprecht. "If we can turn out 25 qualified EMT candidates each year, everyone in Northwest Indiana will benefit."



Dir. Lamprecht is a 20 year veteran. He became director of EMS in Jan 2000. He has the rank of Lieutenant. He is a graduate of Indiana University, National Fire Academy, Loyola University Critical Care Paramedic Program, Methodist Hospital Mobile Intensive Care Program, American Heart Association Affiliate Faculty, Nationally Registered Paramedic, State of Indiana Certified Paramedic, Haz-Mat Technician, Firefighter I/II, and past president Local 1641 IAFF. He is also in charge of Firefighter Training.



Talk to counselors to sign-up now for next year!

Making a Difference with Team LEAU

By: Greg Viator, HHS 11th Grader and Student Board Representative

Hobart High School recently implemented a new student out-reach program titled Team LEAD, which is sponsored by the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation. Since its creation, the program has expanded throughout the School City of Hobart. Hobart High School Team Lead students helped train the elementary leaders. The program is aimed at providing positive role models that offer all students a safe learning environment.

All Team LEAD members meet periodically during lunch to discuss past and future Team LEAD events and activities. An important part of the meeting is the sharing of instances when Team LEAD has had a positive impact on fellow students. All names and specific details are confidential between the student and Team LEAD member, but discussing the general situation helps other members learn how different situations are being handled.

Team LEAD member, Nathan Allen, recalled one day after his lunch, a flustered freshman came up to him and needed help. Nathan quickly referred to his training and quickly identified that the student was being bullied. Both Nathan and the student went to see a counselor and the situation was appropriately resolved.

Team LEAD members are also encouraged to apply their skills in the community. Fifth grade Liberty Elementary student Jacob Mummey and Zoe Wilson shared their experience from a Team LEAD trip to St. Mary's Linden House to sing Christmas carols to the elderly.

Although it's still in the early stages, Team LEAD is already showing that Hobart students care and want to make a difference. Through their efforts, Team LEAD will help to encourage a positive atmosphere in the Hobart community.

Liberty Students



"When I was younger I followed everybody else. Now that I've come to Liberty, I've learned how to be leader. I think it's good to eliminate bullying in schools." ~Juan

"Team Lead has kind of changed my life because I am actually getting better grades now. I am helping other kids stop making wrong decisions and keeping more friends out of trouble." ~Gerald

"Team Lead has helped kids not get into as many fights and arguments. It's really a good program and I think we should do it in the little grades because little kids think they are just having fun. We have to teach kids they shouldn't tease, bully or play like that because they could hurt someone and kids don't like it. I liked going to the High School and being able to interact with people from other schools." ~Hunter

Students Speak About
Team LEAD
at a School Board Meeting

George Earle Students



"Team lead is a leadership group. It is a great way to be a better you, and you can then teach others how to be a better them. I would like to talk to other groups of children like the YMCA and share what team lead is all about." ~Terry

"We went Christmas caroling in the GE neighborhoods. One man told us we made his day. We are trying to stop bullying and want to teach kids how to respect others." ~Briana

GROWING LEADERS AT HOBART MIDDLE SCHOOL

A leader is one who stands out among the crowd and points the way for others to follow.

Five officers from Hobart Middle School's National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) will be attending a Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) conference at the Sheraton Chicago Northwest Hotel in Arlington Heights, IL. in February. The conference is hosted by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. LEAD Conferences provide the vehicle for students to apply skills, develop character, learn responsible behavior, enhance communication skills, and take part in activities to strengthen their leadership skills.

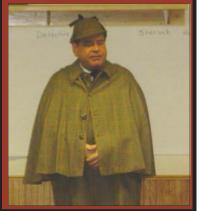
Every spring new students are inducted into NJHS with the knowledge that the purposes of the National Junior Honor Society are to create enthusiasm for scholarship; to stimulate a desire to render service; to promote leadership; to develop character, and to encourage citizenship in secondary schools. The LEAD Conference works in direct correlation with the goals of NJHS.



The officers of NJHS are looking forward to the LEAD conference as they understand that taking the initiative to attend a LEAD Conference will help them develop self-confidence and will hone their leadership skills. They know that leadership is always needed and that leadership is a responsibility of each of our members.

National Junior Honor Society also recognizes the fact that the development of good character is of supreme importance. Without character, no one can respect oneself, nor hope to attain the respect of others.

IT'S MIDDLE SCHOOL (NOT ELEMENTARY), MY DEAR WATSON



Sherlock Holmes traveled through time to HMS to face the most difficult challenge of his career – seventh graders. Mr. Holmes (AKA Robert Lamprecht) entered the room wearing his signature hat and cape and carrying his pipe and magnifying glass. His colleague, Dr. Watson, could not join him but sent his renowned medical bag to add validity to the historic event.

All seventh graders spent part of January reading and studying some of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes (a brilliant detective famous for his <u>intellect</u> and renowned for his skillful use of <u>deductive reasoning</u> and astute <u>observation</u> to solve difficult <u>cases</u>) and the life of his creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. For many of them, it was the first time they had been introduced to the stories of the character whose silhouette was so familiar. Doing research on Doyle, they discovered that the author was as amazing as the character he immortalized over a hundred years ago.

Mr. Lamprecht, the EMS Director of the Hobart Fire Department, has been a Sherlock Holmes enthusiast for much of his life. His passion for the character has been augmented with his collection of authentic Holmes memorabilia which includes several items used in the familiar 1940's series featuring Basil Rathbone. When he discovered students were studying Holmes, he volunteered to bring him to life. "Holmes" enthusiastically discussed his adventures and the clues that led to their successful conclusions.

Before visiting the middle school, Mr. Lamprecht offered a challenge to the students. They could ask him questions about any Sherlock Holmes story or about Doyle, and he would be able to answer the questions accurately. With enthusiasm, students accepted the challenge and did their research. They came with prepared questions (for which they had the answers) and the playful repartee ensued.

By the end of the morning, almost three hundred seventh graders (three groups) met Sherlock Holmes and were given the opportunity to ask him questions. It was a wonderful experience for everyone that illustrated how the school and the community can come together to make learning unforgettable.

The Arts at Liberty!



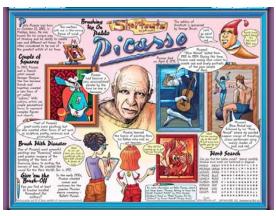
DRAWN TO CARTOONING

Perhaps Charles Schulz said it best when he said, "Try not to have a good time...this is supposed to be educational." Teachers know that one of the keys to teaching is to never let the students know they are having fun while they are learning. Fourth graders from Liberty Elementary, along with the 4th grade high ability class are having fun and learning about cartooning, humor, and non-fiction research. To begin the year, they concentrated on humor, point of view, and character studies through the art and literature of Charles Schulz, creator of the popular Peanuts cartoon. They were able to attend the gallery showing of *Peanuts at Bat: The Art and Life of Charles M. Schulz* at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster. The students were able to examine the full-size artwork of Schulz as well as learn about the timeline of the artist and the syndicated long running cartoon.

Most of the students were clearly excited by the exhibit and related how their own parents had loved the characters created by Schulz. Who could not love Charlie Brown with his eternal optimism, or Linus with his thoughtful philosophy, or Snoopy with his fun-loving personality? Who hasn't had a friend like Lucy, Peppermint Patty, or Schroeder? Excitement was running high during the trip, and was enhanced further with a short cartooning lesson, provided by The Center. Over 90 students sat quietly, markers in hand as a local cartoonist led them through the steps involved in creating a cartoon using simple lines and shapes. Students in turn created drawing after drawing, quietly following her lead. The students left with drawings in hand and a sense of humor in their heart.

Liberty students will be continuing their yearlong study with the help of the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation and The Times newspaper. As a culminating activity, the students will be using technology to research topics & create non-fiction posters based on the work of Jeff Harris, creator of the informative cartoon series called *Shortcuts*. *Shortcuts* are poster-like cartoons containing accurate non-fiction facts sprinkled with humor and puzzles. The Times, through an education business partnership, has donated the newspaper each Tuesday so that students could study the *Shortcut* cartoons. The Hobart Educational Foundation has provided a grant to pay for the trip to The Center for the Performing Arts as well as the art materials needed so that each student can create their own full size *Shortcut* poster.

Liberty students had a great time studying the wit and humor of Charles Schulz and learning how to draw. Two of the websites they recommend are http://www.snoopy.com and http://www.snortcutscomic.com.



"If I were given the opportunity to present a gift to the next generation, it would be the ability for each individual to learn to laugh at himself."-Charles Schulz



DRUM CIRCLE





magine a community where students' creative voices are empowered and shared through impromptu, in-the-moment music, which is played on various percussion instruments. That is what the Liberty Drum Circle provides for its' 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. Liberty Elementary's 3rd grade teacher Nate Lacny takes on the role of a participant/guide in the community as the drum circle's facilitator. This role allows him to guide the students through various rhythmic adventures and games, which ultimately empowers them. Students become invested in the process of the drum circle community. When students feel important to the outcome of the drum circle, they give their best. It benefits everyone working together as a learning community.

When students meet as a drum circle, they practice various lifeskills and learning skills as well. From the music and the games, they learn and practice active listening, cooperation, counting, citizenship, self-expression, creativity, observing, respect for others, and much more. The basic playing of the percussion instruments also allows students to work on coordination and using fine motor skills.

This year is particularly exciting for the Liberty Drum Circle. They were awarded a grant from the School City of Hobart Educational Foundation to purchase drums for the drum circle. This will enable every student that participates in the drum circle to have his or her own percussion instrument, which will take the drum circle experience to a whole new level.

George Earle Is Considered a Top Ten School in the State of Indiana!

In the fall of 2007 George Earle School received notification that they were a "Distinguished Title One School" in the state of Indiana. Title 1 is a federal program that provides funds to improve the academic achievement for educationally disadvantaged students who score below the 50th percentile on standardized tests.

George Earle is considered a top ten school in the entire state based on the improvement of ISTEP+ scores over the last two years.

How did they accomplish this achievement?



The entire George Earle staff, students, and parents are extremely proud of this honor. They have all worked extremely hard to get to where they are now. Several years ago the staff saw a need to improve the writing curriculum. They worked as a team to research the latest practices to help reach every child. Through their research they were introduced to the Teachers' College Writing Workshop instructional approach. Through professional

development, they learned how to best implement this approach throughout the school. It was such a success that the staff didn't hesitate to take on Teachers College Reading Workshop. Since this effort and success, the other elementary schools have been trained in Reading and Writing Workshop.







George Earle School received a banner to proudly hang in the gymnasium and an educational grant. The grant monies will be spent on professional development in the areas of Reading and Writing.

Congratulations to the dedicated staff and students of George Earle!

Looking for next year's students at the KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

The School City of Hobart's Kindergarten Registration will be held April 15^{th} , 16^{th} , and 17^{th} at all of the elementary schools. Times for registration will be 9:00 am -11:00 am and 1:00 pm -3:00 pm. Parents may enroll their child if they are five years old before August 1,2008.

Students enrolled in the School City of Hobart must:

- 1. Live within the legal boundaries of the **School City of Hobart** and live with his parent(s) or guardian(s). **NOTE:** The school corporation boundaries are NOT the same as those for the <u>city</u> of Hobart.
- 2. Provide the original birth certificate giving the exact date of birth so that a duplicate can be filed.
- 3. Provide immunization records.
- 4. Provide three of the following:
 - a. Parent/Guardian must provide an Indiana Driver's License or Indiana State I.D. listing their current Hobart address.
 - b. Proof of home ownership (mortgage papers, letter from real estate agent)
 - c. Two **recent** utility bills showing name and address
 - d. Notarized affidavit signed by landlord
 - e. Copy of a lease or rental agreement
 - f. Notarized affidavit from person whose house you live in
 - g. Notarized affidavit from parent

ABC

Mark your calendar and share this news with neighbors!

JOAN MARTIN ELEMENTARY

CELEBRATES STUDENT LEARNING THROUGH FAMILY NIGHTS

The staff at Joan Martin takes their NCA goals very seriously and strives to include the Joan Martin families in them. Therefore, for the last six years, the staff has created Family Nights!

The staff members for each goal: language, writing, problem solving, and citizenship/safety use their creativeness to develop fun, education activities related to those goals.

We pick a theme and use our imaginations! For example, last year's Reading Family Night was entitled *Treasure a Book* and the children with their parents read pirate/treasure books and wrote reviews, went on a scavenger hunt, played a life-size Candyland game and much more. This year's first Family Night was entitled *Care About Your Community: Career and Safety Family Night*. Our theme was based on going to the movies and each family received a ticket as they entered the school.



The families learned about Internet safety and new and innovative careers. Children were fingerprinted for Child I.D. cards through the Hobart police. Fire and police personnel talked about their jobs.





Of course, prizes and refreshments topped off the night!

We are so pleased that over 150 families attend each of our Family Nights. Parents have told us that it is a fun way to spend time as a family and learn some strategies to help their child be successful.

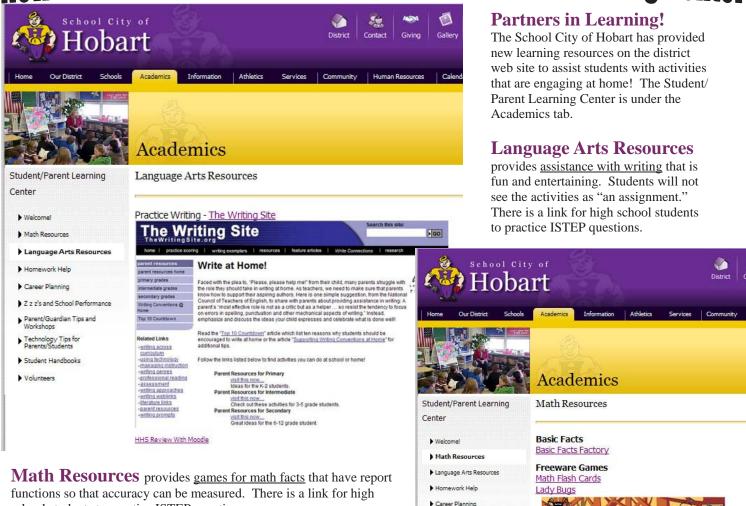


Upcoming Family Nights are: Problem Solving Family Night - February 5 Language Arts Family Night - March 27 Both nights are from 5-7 p.m.





lew Web Site Additions to the Student/Parent Learning Center



More to come!

school students to practice ISTEP questions.

The School City of Hobart will continue to add resources to the Student/ Parent Learning Center to provide strategies and practice that can be easily used anywhere, anytime! Please partner with us by encouraging extra practice with out students.

Practice builds champions!

DON't Forget to Check Progress Online!

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)

Simply go to our Web site at http://www.hobart.k12.in.us and click on this link for this terrific connection.







Z z z's and School Performance Parent/Guardian Tips and

Technology Tips for Parents/Students

Student Handbooks

▶ Volunteers



Math Facts Online Game with Reports

Math Facts Information Math Facts Game









While Hobart High School students have had the opportunity to compete in the Duneland Academic Conference's Quiz Bowl league for the last ten years, this spring, the School City of Hobart will be having the 4th and 5th grade students compete in Hobart's first elementary Quiz Bowl competition. Hobart High School teachers Jon Brumley and Darrin Cline have been working with Anne Casko, the elementary high ability teacher, to bring this academic competition to Hobart's elementary schools.

Quiz bowl is a Jeopardy style competition that encompasses all academic subjects plus trivia. It is a challenging competition that allows high ability students to show what knowledge they have acquired both in and out of school, as well as allow students to work together as a team. The competition itself is run in four rounds. Teams consist of a

minimum of four players, but players may be substituted at the end of any round.

- Round one is toss up questions.
 A buzzer system is utilized.
 When one team member
 buzzes in, they get the first
 opportunity to answer. If they are incorrect, a member of the
 opposing team gets a chance.
- are incorrect, a member of the opposing team gets a chance.
 Round two is the bonus round.
 In this round, teams get a chance to earn additional
- points after they have answered a question correctly.
 Round three is the lightning round and is probably the round best liked by students. Each team works together to answer as many on a list of ten questions given a sixty second time limit.
- Round four is a toss up round similar to round one.
- The high scoring team is the winner.

Hobart High School Quiz Bowl History

- / The Quiz Bowl team competes in the Duneland Academic Conference, whose members includes Hobart, Andrean, LaPorte, Michigan City, Marquette, Chesterton, Merrillville, Portage, Valparaiso, and Crown Point. The competition is tough as Hobart is the smallest of the public schools in this conference.
- √ In 2002, under the direction of Darrin Cline, the team finished third in the state of Indiana.
- √ In 2003, they won the Duneland conference's tournament, dethroning four time returning champion
 Andrean. They culminated that season by finishing ninth in the state.
- √ Mr. Cline is currently the director of the Hobart High School academic teams, while Jon Brumley is in his first year as the Quiz Bowl coach.
- **√** Everyone is invited to attend these competitions. Call a school for a schedule.

Good luck to all Brickie Quiz Bowl participants! Go Brickies!

300000000000000000000000000000 NEW HOBART HIGH SCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS When is the school scheduled to open? The school is scheduled to open January, 2009. When is the last game being played at Brickie Bowl? There will be an announcement of a ceremonial last game at Brickie Bowl. Will there be tours and a dedication of the new high school? There will be tours and a dedication of the new high school. Announcements will be made closer to the opening of the school. Please be sure to check the web site and read the newsletter for the announcement. Are there still opportunities for Campus Beautification such as purchasing a brick, bench, etc? Please contact Rachel Nicoloff at 942-8885 or visit the website at http://www.hobart.k12.in.us

Progress at the New

Hobart High School Campus

Plaza: Ticket booth and piers

Gym with installed **BB** backboards



Baseball

Future "Home of the Brickies"



Athletic Reception Office

Home Side of the Stadium

Great Hall (Café) Softball and entrance to the theatre

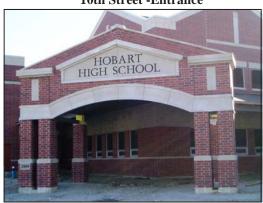




Classroom with ceiling tiles and painted accent wall



10th Street -Entrance



Locker Bay Corridor





Campus Beautification Opportunities Are Available! Contact 942-8885 or Visit Our Web Site: http://www.hobart.k12.in.us





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Mrs. Flora Keslin Principal, Joan Martin Elem.

Mrs. Amy Turley Assist. Principal, Joan Martin

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POSTAL PATRON

HOBART, INDIANA 46342

"Success for All Students"

Edited by:

Dr. Peggy Buffington & Rachel Nicoloff

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!



February 13 JM PTO and 1st Grade Musical 7 p.m.	February 22 HS Band Concert HS Aud. 7 p.m.	March 7 Joan Martin Fun Fair 5:00 p.m.	March 7, 8, 14, 15 @ 7:30 p.m. March 9 @ 3:00 p.m. HS Spring Musical 42nd Street	
March 19 MS Band Concert HS Aud. 7 p.m.	March 21 & 24 No School Easter Weekend	March 26 MS/HS Choir Concert HS Aud. 7 p.m.	March 28 Ridge View Fun Fair 5 - 7 p.m.	April 7 - 11 No School Spring Break
April 17, 18, 19 HS Talent Show HS Aud. 7 p.m.	May 2 HS Prom	May 5 - 9 Teacher Appreciation Week	May 20 Liberty Spring Musical Grades K-2	May 20 MS Band Concert HS Aud. 7 p.m.
May 22 HS Senior Awards	May 22 Liberty Spring Musical Grades 3-5	May 26 Memorial Day No School	May 28 MS/HS Choir Concert HS Aud. 7 pm	May 29 MS Jazz/Pop at the Bandshell
May 29 HS Underclassman Honors Convo. HS Aud. 7 p.m.	May 31 HS Band Concert HS Aud. 7 p.m.	June 4 Last Day of School	June 9-27 HS Summer School Session I	July 7 - 25 HS Summer School Session II