



School City of
Hobart

Focus on Education



SPRING 2009

Superintendent.....Dr. Peggy Buffington

In the book *Failure is Not an Option*, the author cites a conversation between a grandfather and grandson. "Grandfather, what is the purpose of life?" After a long time in thought, the elderly man looked up and said, "Grandson, children are the purpose of life. We were once children and someone cared for us; now it is our turn to care." The School City of Hobart believes that we are all part of a big family who can **"Be There"** to help one another be successful. As a community, whether a parent, teacher, city official, business owner, or next door neighbor, we must have an environment that inspires our children to aspire. Note, I did not say to give our children aspirations. I said, **"Inspire Them to Aspire."** Children must understand that they are not entitled to whatever they desire by simply wanting or asking. This sense of entitlement fosters children who do not goal set and accept responsibility. Children must have aspirations and a work ethic to be successful. Together, we can instill important values and lessons in life to help every child achieve great outcomes!

How can we make a difference in the lives of our children? Over the past two decades and much research, The Quaglia Institute has determined that there are **"8 Conditions That Make a Difference"** in student aspirations. These conditions are highlighted in the chart to the right and explained in greater detail on our web site. Please visit the *Superintendent's Brickie Network* to listen or download podcasts on these conditions: www.hobart.k12.in.us. Which condition(s) can you lend a hand in making a difference?

As we strive to help our children be the best they can be, the School City of Hobart has great opportunities for children and families. This newsletter is but a sample of our mission to make a difference. On pages 2 and 3 learn about programs for our youngest children: Parents As Teachers, the new Pre-school, and Kindergarten Round-up. Pages 4 and 5 provide information for the new spring ISTEP+, the Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE), and Tips for Paying for College. Pages 6 and 7 announce the opening of the Frank Kurth Field House to the public and the Hobart Educational Foundation's "A New Day" poster campaign and other events they sponsor like the Hobart Senior Citizen Recognition Event at HHS. Pages 8 and 9 layout the renovation plans of the New Hobart Middle School. Pages 11 -15 share a glimpse of how each one of our schools uniquely contribute to the "Success for All Students!"

8 Conditions

- Belonging**
Feeling like you are a part of a group, while knowing you are special for who you are.
- Heroes**
Having someone who believes in you and who is there when you need them.
- Sense Of Accomplishment**
Being recognized for many different types of success, including hard work and being a good person.
- Fun & Excitement**
Enjoying what you are doing, whether at work, school, or play.
- Curiosity & Creativity**
Asking "why?" and "why not?" about the world around you.
- Spirit Of Adventure**
Being excited to try new things, even when you are not sure if you will be good at them.
- Leadership & Responsibility**
Making your own decisions and accepting responsibility for your choices.
- Confidence To Take Action**
Setting goals and taking the steps you need to reach them.



*From the Board of School Trustees, Administrators, Teachers and Support Services
We Wish You a Great School Year! Excellent Opportunities Await Students and You!*

THE Brickie Kidz preschool

Registration March 18, 2009

Hobart High School is home to the new "Brickie Kidz Preschool! Hobart residents may register their child to attend the preschool. If your child will be 4 years old on or before August 1st of the upcoming school year, your child is eligible to attend the Brickie Kidz Preschool. The school will be taught by Mrs. Randa Zoladz and H.H.S. junior and senior Career and Technical Education students. Classes will run from September 1, 2009 through May 27, 2010 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The morning class will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and an afternoon class will be held from 11:45 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. There will be 15 children in each class, and they will be filled on a first come-first served basis. Parents must provide transportation for their children..

Registration will be held on Wednesday, March 18th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the main office of Hobart High School, 2211 E. 10th Street, Hobart, IN. The registration fee is a non-refundable \$10.00 payment with a monthly rate of \$50.00. (Payments will be made in the high school main office.)

Children enrolling in the School City of Hobart Brickie Kidz Preschool must:

1. Live within the legal boundaries of the **School City of Hobart** and live with his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).

NOTE: The school corporation boundaries are NOT the same as those for the city 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:

- Parent/Guardian **must** provide an Indiana Driver's License or Indiana State I.D. listing their current Hobart address.
- Proof of home ownership (mortgage papers, letter from real estate agent)
- Two **recent** utility bills showing name and address
- Notarized affidavit signed by landlord
- Copy of a lease or rental agreement
- Notarized affidavit from person whose house you live in
- Notarized affidavit from parent

The new Brickie Kidz Preschool is a component of the Education & Early Childhood class that is offered at HHS in conjunction with the Porter County Career & Technical Education Center.

High school students who are considering a career in education will find this program an excellent place to start. They will experience direct interaction with children and be supervised under a licensed teacher. They will learn teaching techniques by preparing and supervising planned activities that will enhance young children's physical, emotional, social and intellectual development. They will definitely be in front of the learning curve when they start college because of the experiences that they will have in this class. By enrolling in this class for two years, high school students may earn the required clock hours needed to qualify for the National Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.



Kindergarten Round-Up

The School City of Hobart will hold Kindergarten Round-Up on April 14th, 15th, & 16th at all of the elementary schools from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parents may enroll their child if he/she will be 5 years old before August 1, 2009 and live within the legal boundaries of the **School City of Hobart** with his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).

NOTE: The school corporation boundaries are NOT the same as those for the city of Hobart.

Parents must:

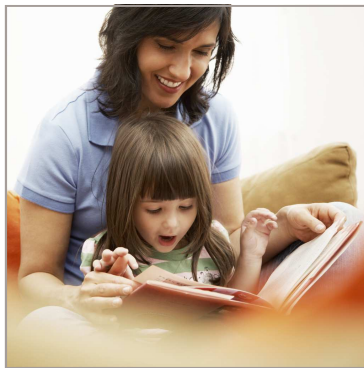
- provide the original birth certificate giving the exact date of birth so that a duplicate can be filed.
- provide immunization records.

-provide **three** of the following:

- Parent/Guardian **must** provide an Indiana Driver's License or Indiana State I.D. listing their current Hobart address.
- Proof of home ownership (mortgage papers, letter from real estate agent)
- Two **recent** utility bills showing name and address
- Notarized affidavit signed by landlord
- Copy of a lease or rental agreement
- Notarized affidavit from person whose house you live in
- Notarized affidavit from parent

The School City of Hobart Welcomes

Parents as Teachers (P.A.T.)



4 Components of P.A.T.

- Personal/home visits by certified Parent Educators
- Parent-child group meetings about early childhood development and parenting
- Developmental and health screenings for young children
- Linkages and referrals to community networks and resources

**P.A.T.
IS
FREE**

The School City of Hobart is thrilled to announce the beginning of a new venture that will benefit our youngest children and parents of Hobart. Parents as Teachers will officially begin services this March for children ages 0-3.

“The mission of Parents as Teachers is to provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.”

Parents as Teachers is a **FREE** and voluntary opportunity for families with children between the ages of 0-3. Home visits, playgroups, early screenings, and referrals are all a part of P.A.T. in Hobart. Prenatal education is available as well.

The School City of Hobart has been working closely with T.J. Holsen, Development Director of Parents as Teachers of Lake County. He will continue to assist during this exciting implementation phase. We will begin by servicing 20 families in Hobart. Our goal is to provide one parent educator per elementary school for a total of four.

If you would like to become involved in The School City of Hobart Parents as Teachers effort, please contact Dr. Peggy Buffington or Shannon O'Brien at 942-8885 for more information. There will be numerous ways to volunteer and donate to this wonderful cause. Our hope is to offer service to ages 3-5 as more donations are received.

Parents As Teachers will host an Open House in their new home. It will be held at Hobart High School near the Brickie Kidz Preschool on April 30th from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

If you have a child under the age of 3, please join us by contacting our new P.A.T. Coordinator, Mrs. Lynne Stark at 942-8521 ext. 8192 or lstark@hobart.k12.in.us.



Meet our New Parent Educator - Mrs. Lynne Stark



The School City of Hobart is proud to welcome back Lynne Stark as our first parent educator. She taught 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades at Joan Martin Elementary School from 1995-2000, and is very excited to turn the vision of this project into a reality. Mrs. Starke is eager to work with families to discover the potential of so many young children in Hobart. We are thrilled to have her back to implement and grow Parents as Teachers. Mrs. Stark comes to us with a

variety of early childhood experiences and a concrete understanding of the developmental years in the life of a young child. She will work with parents to help their children reach these milestones.

Most recently, Mrs. Starke has held the position of field supervisor for Purdue University. She has collaborated with student teachers to help them become effective teachers. She is also a dedicated mother with three young children of her own!

This will be an incredible journey for the parents and youngest children of Hobart as they begin working with Mrs. Stark.

Special Thanks to our Donors!

- Main Source Bank
- Hobart Educational Foundation
- The Community Fund
- Legacy Foundation
- Local Philanthropist

High Expectations! Work! Accomplishments!

NEW! ISTEP+ Has Moved to the Spring

In Indiana, students in grades 3 through 8 will take the ISTEP+ test this spring. The spring test includes questions on English/language arts and mathematics at each grade, as well as science at grades 4 & 6 and social studies at grades 5 & 7. The spring test has two parts:

- ✓ March 2nd—11th, students will complete part one, which includes essays and other questions that will ask them to write a response.
- ✓ April 27th— May 6th— students will take part two, which includes multiple-choice questions.

NEW! Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) Changes

As part of Indiana's high school diploma requirements, students will need to pass Indiana's Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE). Starting this year, the GQE includes smaller tests called End of Course Assessments (ECAs). Students will take the ECAs after completing courses in Algebra I, Algebra II, Biology I, English 10, and English 11. Some students take Algebra I in 8th grade or even earlier, students may take that part of the GQE this year. Students completing the GQE will test May 4th—June 3, 2009. Students must pass ECAs in order to graduate!

Study Tips for Students

1. Go to School
2. Get Organized
3. Do Your Homework
4. Don't Wait to Get Help
5. Work Hard
6. Play Smart
7. Read for Fun



Be Successful Each Day!

The ISTEP+ Parent Network Recommends 10 Tips for Parents

1. Have high expectations
2. Check grades (*see below*)
3. Talk to teachers
4. Don't buckle on homework. and have your child complete assignments.
5. Ask for help
6. Math matters
7. Get involved in your child's life
8. Plan for the future
9. Lead by example
10. Learn more

Web Sites For Help

1. ISTEP+ Parent Network
<http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/parentnetwork/>
2. ISTEP+ and GQE Samples
<http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/publications2.html>
3. School City of Hobart's Tip Site
<http://hobart.schoolwires.com/141210113141222640/site/default.asp>

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)

Quick links



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



COLLEGE SAVINGS TIPS-MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY PENNY

Tip 1: UPromise. com

The School City of Hobart believes that each of our students have the ability to successfully attend college. Don't let finances stop your child from attending college. A college 529 plan may not be in the budget, but using UPromise allows you to put every penny towards savings for college. UPromise is free and just takes a few minutes to complete the application process to begin saving. To take advantage of UPromise, one must order online using UPromise. Shop your favorite stores that offer 1-25% savings toward the purchase. The

1-25% savings is then transferred to the UPromise account to be used as a college savings account. Monies can accumulate to be used towards a college or technical school. Coupons, free shipping and 'deal of the week' offers are standard. Family and friends can also sign up and devote their UPromise savings to the student of their choice. Get the whole family involved in saving for your child's future!! Find out more by visiting UPromise at <http://upromise.com>.

Make every online purchase count for college.

You can get 1-25% of your eligible spending back in your Upromise account, plus access to coupon codes, free shipping offers and special deals. It's as easy as it is rewarding.

Here's how it works:

1

Start at upromise.com.

Visit upromise.com and then click on "Shop Online" to visit our online shopping page. There you'll find many easy ways to shop and earn college savings:



Tip 2: 21st Century Scholars Program

Your child could complete a 4 year college degree tuition free.

Attention: Parents of 6th, 7th, or 8th graders!!

You must apply for this opportunity!!!



Why Was 21st Century Scholars Program Established In 1990?

- Ensure that all Indiana families could afford a college education for their children.
- Guarantee eligible students up to four years of undergraduate college tuition at any participating public college or university in Indiana.

Who Can Apply For The Program?

If you can answer yes to all these questions, then you may apply.

- Be a resident of Indiana as both an applicant, an award recipient and a U.S. Citizen.
- Be a student in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.
- Meet program income guidelines or be in foster care.
- Attend a charter school, freeway school or other Indiana school recognized by the Department of Education.
- Make a commitment to fulfill the Scholars Program.

What Are The Income Guidelines?

Income guidelines as stated on the 2008-2009 21st Century Scholars Application:

*For each additional person in the household, add \$6,660.

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
2	\$25,900
3	\$32,560
4	\$39,220
5	\$45,880
6	\$52,540

What Is The Scholars Pledge?

- I will graduate with an Indiana High School Diploma
- I will achieve a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- I will not use illegal drugs or alcohol, or commit a crime.
- I will apply for admission to an eligible Indiana college, university or proprietary school as a high school senior.

How Do I Find More Information About The Program?

Application information can be found at <http://www.in.gov/ssaci/2345.htm>, or request information from your child's guidance counselor at Hobart Middle School. Please call 942-8541.



[http:// www.in.gov](http://www.in.gov)

Residents of Hobart are invited to take advantage of the track at the new Hobart High School Frank Kurth Fieldhouse.



Who is eligible?

This invitation is for Hobart residents only. There is no charge to use the facility, simply show your driver's license or state ID as proof of residency. Locker rooms are available for your convenience.

What: Exercising on the new track at the new Hobart High School Frank Kurth Fieldhouse

Who: Hobart Residents

When: Starting February 2, 2009

Where: New Hobart High School Field House-Door 17

Why: Be fit and live a healthy lifestyle.

Schedule -

Labor Day to Memorial Day
(excludes the holidays)

5:50 a.m.—7:20 a.m.

5:50 p.m.—7:20 p.m.



* Exception-Athletic competitions and inclement weather may force the closing of evening hours. Please watch for signage.



American Cancer Society
Relay For Life®
Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.



Hobart H.S. Key Club is partnering with the American Cancer Society in hosting the Relay for Life of Hobart.

This is the 25th year for *Relay for Life* events, but the FIRST EVER IN HOBART! The event will be held on May 29th-May 30th at the Brickie Bowl. For first time Relay participants, the event begins at 6 p.m. with a survivor ceremony and then progresses through the night with fun activities, and of course, WALKING. The Committee still needs volunteers to join many of the sub-committees. Some of the areas that volunteers are needed include: Event Development—luminaria, entertainment, activities, PR, food coordination; Team Development—seeking commitment from community members for participation in the Relay; Survivorship Development—seeking survivor recruitment and logistics of activities; Fundraising Development—seeking sponsors for the Relay and all activities related. If you are interested in volunteering or wanting to help sponsor in any way, please contact Kari Roach at Hobart H.S., 942-8521 ext. 8165. Regular committee meetings are held every other Monday at Hobart High School in the Brickie Stop.

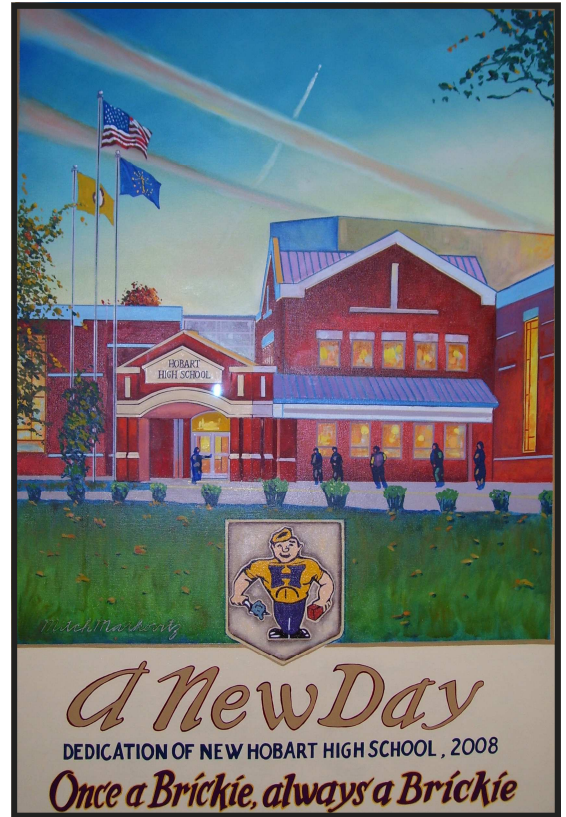
School City of Hobart Educational Foundation Paving the Way



The Hobart Educational Foundation is proud to announce the commission of an original work of art to commemorate the dedication of the new Hobart High School. The oil painting, by Mitch Markovitz, is entitled "A New Day" and depicts the front of the new school building in bright, bold colors. The oil, which is reminiscent of the South Shore style, was presented to the School City of Hobart, and hung in the front hall of the new high school, where students, staff, and visitors can admire it.

Poster-sized copies (23x36) of this painting are available for purchase. Unsigned copies are \$30 each; those with the artist's signature are \$35. These beautiful prints make wonderful gifts for Brickies, current or former students and teachers, or anyone interested in Hobart history. They are available from the School City of Hobart Administration Office, 32 E. 7th Street, 942-8885, or from Fran Hamilton at the High School, 2211 E. 10th Street, 942-8521.

In other news: This spring, the Foundation will award classroom grants to School City of Hobart teachers, as well as college scholarships to two graduating seniors majoring in education. The Foundation will also host the Hall of Scholars Banquet for the top 15 seniors in the graduating class of 2009, as well as sponsor the Outstanding Educator Award Luncheon with the Hobart Chamber of Commerce.



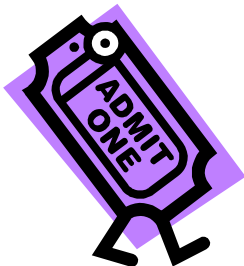
The Foundation, along with other community organizations and businesses, has made a 3-year commitment to help support the Parents As Teachers (PAT) program in our community described on page 3 of this newsletter. The focus of this program is to support and enhance childhood growth from birth to kindergarten, and to help parents strengthen their families through home visits, interactive play time and demonstrations. Participating families receive books, activities, and both group and one-to-one support and instruction.

The Hobart Educational Foundation continues to work to further educational opportunities for students and staff, while promoting community partnerships for the benefit of School City of Hobart. Anyone interested in more information about the Foundation can visit the website through the School City of Hobart page or call 942-8885. If you would like to be considered for a Board of Directors position with the Hobart Educational Foundation, **please** contact Dale Polomchak, Nominating Committee Chair, at 942-2183 (daytime) and 942-9862 (evening) or for an application.

Hobart Senior Citizen Recognition Event

Sponsored by The Hobart Educational Foundation and The Hobart High School Performing Arts Department

- What: HHS's Performing Arts Center Presents the Spring Musical "Anything Goes."
 When: Sunday, March 15th — Senior Citizens will be admitted this day FREE of charge.
 Time: 2:00 Reception in the Great Hall of Hobart High School for Hobart's Senior Citizens.
 3:00 Musical "Anything Goes" in the new theatre.
 How: Reservations are requested. To RSVP, or with questions, please contact Cathy Nelson at HHS: 942-8521 ext. 8159 or Linda Buzinec: 406-1924.



Mission Statement

Our daily commitment at Hobart Middle School is to reach our personal best by applying lifeskills, achieving academic success, and demonstrating a strong work ethic to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

The New Hobart Middle School



Aerial of New Hobart Middle School



VISIONING A New Hobart Middle School

How does a high school become a middle school? The New Hobart Middle School will be moving into a modernized facility to allow for the implementation of the latest concepts relating to the needs of middle school students.

Inside the building many changes will be taking place. Classrooms, science labs and faculty planning areas have been organized around grade levels and teams. Exploratory labs for elective programs will be outfitted with new equipment appropriate to the curriculum for middle school programs.

Hobart Middle School students will also benefit by using the assets of the existing building. In particular the gymnasium, athletic areas, auditorium, and pool will continue to serve the new middle school and the greater Hobart community.

Site improvements will allow for the safe integration of bus loading, parent drop-off and pedestrian access. Parking for visitors, staff, and school events has been reorganized to provide students with a secure open play area. New landscaping, canopies and the elimination of on-street parking along 8th Street will rejuvenate the image of the campus and building.

Corgan Field will support outdoor activity requirements of the physical education and athletic programs.

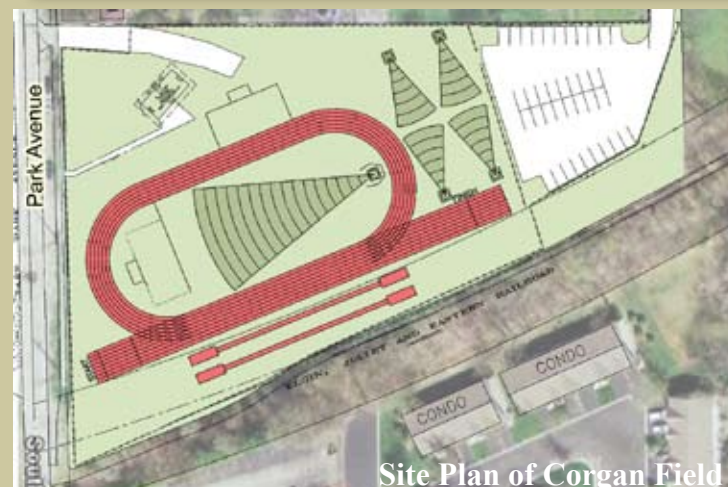
Hobart Middle School summary of highlights:

- Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grades
- 1000 Student Capacity
- New Administrative Area
- New Student Services Areas
- Integration of New Technologies, Equipment and Labs
- Updated Media Center
- Renovated Classrooms and Science Labs
- New Band, and Updated Music and Choral Facilities
- New Art and Family Consumer Science Labs
- Increased Building Security to Monitor and Control Building Access

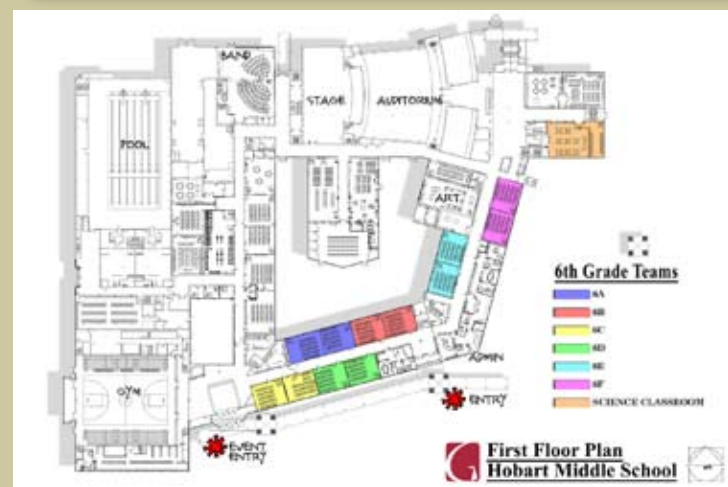


Site Plan of New Hobart Middle School

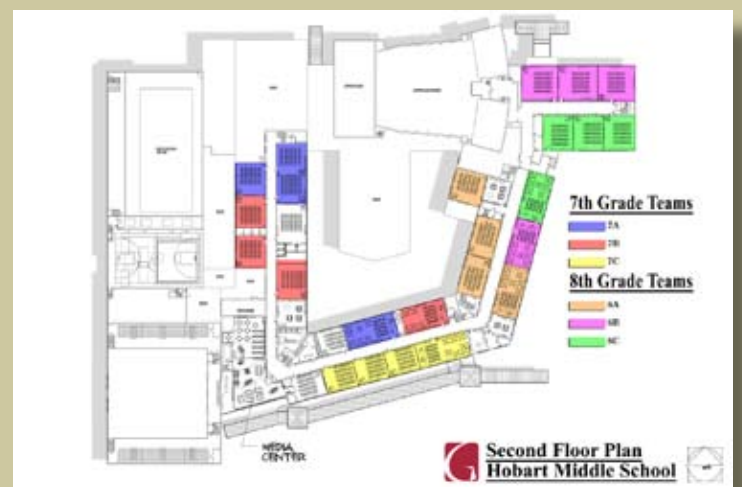
"Once a Brickie, Always a Brickie!"



Site Plan of Corgan Field



First Floor Plan
Hobart Middle School



Second Floor Plan
Hobart Middle School

Hobart Middle School Prepares Students For the Future!

The middle school years are a time of exploration, when students refine and increase their skills, find new interests, and begin to decide how to use their abilities to prepare for the future. Hobart Middle School is helping students prepare to continue their education and beyond through a variety of programs and services.

English Language Learners: Mrs. Marissa Madrigal is the new director of the English as a Second Language program. All middle school students, for whom English is not their first language, take a state test in the spring called LAS LINKS to measure English proficiency. Those students, who qualify, receive direct instruction individually or in small groups. Mrs. Madrigal also consults with teachers on the best way to help increase English fluency. As students advance in the program, Mrs. Madrigal continues to conference with students, teachers and parents to help the students to be successful.

Planning for the Future: Indiana's Department of Education, is now requiring that each student complete a graduation plan starting in grade 6. The graduation plan includes specific activities at each grade level to help students learn about the three diploma options offered in the State of Indiana. The plan will be reviewed each year and parents have been asked to pledge their support of their child's education by signing a graduation promise.

As a component to the graduation plans, Hobart Middle School guidance counselors have been meeting with classes and helping the students to understand that the choices they make now will impact the options they have for their futures.

An Indiana Department of Education grant permitted Hobart to hire a part time 6th grade counselor. Mrs. Peggy Orchard has been busy visiting 6th grade classrooms each month with activities designed to help students look at their own interests and abilities and develop new ones. So far, students have investigated learning styles, career paths, and high school diploma options. Sessions in the spring semester will focus on multiple intelligences, peer relationships, study and organization skills, and problem-solving/conflict resolution skills.

Mrs. Sarah Smenyak and Mr. Joseph Monacy have been meeting with 7th and 8th grade students, taking a look at graduation requirements, high school class choices and college admission requirements. In the spring, 8th grade students will begin scheduling their high school classes with the high school guidance counselors. They will also be taking a deeper look at their career and college interests.

Alternative School: For students who are having a hard time meeting the school's academic and behavioral requirements, Hobart Middle School's Alternative program aims to help these students get back on track. Taught by Mr. Dave Grabczak, the students in the Alternative Program receive small group instruction in their core classes and work on a point and level system to earn their way out of the program and back into the regular classroom. Since the group is kept small, the students can work on the behaviors that kept them from being successful in the past and the skills that will help them to increase positive behaviors so they will have a successful future.

Enriched Classes: Hobart Middle School is also helping prepare students through high ability groupings. Students are selected for Enriched Language Arts and Enriched Math classes based on ISTEP+ scores, NWEA scores, classroom grades and teacher recommendation. In these enriched classes, students are able to go beyond the basics and challenge their higher-level thinking and problem solving skills, as well as work above grade level. By challenging these students now, they are being prepared for rigorous high school course work and goals such as an Indiana Academic Honors Diploma upon graduation and entrance into selective college programs.



6th graders working together during "Hat Day"

Through these programs and the continued focus on academics, Hobart Middle School continues to ***"Prepare Students For the Future."*** Learn more about how to help your child be successful in school and life at ***Learn More Indiana:*** <http://www.learnmoreindiana.org>.





Ridge View RAZ Kids

Ridge View Elementary K-2 teachers are very excited about implementing a new computer program called **RAZ Kids**. RAZ Kids is a supplemental online reading program that works very well with Ridge View's existing Reading Workshop program. RAZ kids offers students the opportunity to login on the computer and read just-right leveled books that are both entertaining and educational.

This program offers children multiple opportunities for learning. For students it offers the following:

- Builds fluency and comprehension
- Offers leveled entertaining and educational books at just right levels
- Provides opportunities for students to read in both fiction and non-fiction
- Gives opportunities to practice online test taking skills
- Builds independent learning practices as they follow program management procedures
- Exposes children to multicultural poetry, songs and stories
- Offers many opportunities to learn about topics in science and social studies

For teachers it provides the following:

- Reports for progress monitoring and assessment
- Engaged learning during on-going reading and comprehension practice
- Focused instruction time during pull out sessions

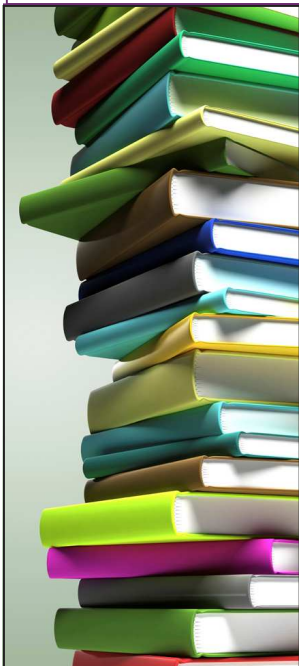
The teachers and students love RAZ Kids and what it has to offer. Here is what they are saying:

- McKenna *"It is fun and you have to read a lot. You have to take a quiz."*
- Alex *"It's fun and it teaches you how to read. You learn a lot. It teaches you how to learn."*
- Jace *"I like really hard tests because when you practice you get better. When I move up in the level, there are more non-fiction books. The harder the books get, the better you get to read."*
- Darjae *"It helps you learn reading. It's fun and you can read about real animals."*
- Selena *"It's not boring because you get to read a book and take a quiz. I like reading books."*



Reading
is fun
online!

The teachers who work with RAZ Kids are Mrs. Pontney, Mrs. Bernal and Title I Teacher, Mrs. O'Neill. They all agree that this program really works. Ridge View students enjoy the program, and the teachers enjoy seeing the progress the children are making as they explore books online.



Ridge View Team LEAD Holiday Book Exchange

During the month of December, Ridge View's Team LEAD, sponsored by Edie McGuire and Julie Carden, held a Holiday Book Exchange for grades K-5. The Team LEAD students wanted to do something special for all Ridge View students during the holiday season. The students began to brainstorm some wonderful ideas that would not require students to spend any money! Team LEAD decided that one of the best gifts to receive was a book. Therefore, the students decided to hold a book exchange. Anyone who brought in a book was given a Team LEAD "Book Buck." The week before Christmas break, Team LEAD opened the Book Exchange Store where all students could cash in their "Book Bucks" for a new book.

The book exchange store was very successful. During the month of December students in grades K-5 brought in over 200 books. Each child that brought in a book went home for the holiday break with new (pre-owned) books to read. The book exchange was so successful that Team LEAD has decided to hold a summer book exchange. This is a great way to get new books in the hands of our students for summer vacation with absolutely no cost!

Congratulations to Ridge View's Team LEAD!

George Earle Connects the Dots for Community Planning

At the end of October, Mrs. Anderson and Miss Wilkison met Mr. Sergio Mendoza, the former City Planner of Hobart who now works for the state of Indiana. Mr. Mendoza was a speaker at a third grade teachers' meeting. He expressed a desire to come into schools to teach children about planning a community. Mrs. Anderson and Miss Wilkison quickly accepted his offer and scheduled him to visit their school on November 19, 2008.

A city planner's job is to help citizens build a great community. They work with neighborhood groups, the mayor, the police, engineers, business owners, and many others to make the community the best place to live. City planners make sure cities are built in ways so that roads can fit all of the traffic created; neighborhoods still have parks and playgrounds; trees and wildlife have places to grow; stores are available to find the products and services people need; residents can find good jobs; and everyone has a chance to live in a nice house or apartment.

Mr. Mendoza worked with small groups of students and allowed them to be city planners. Each student received three buildings to place in a spot on a watershed board. When all the buildings were in position, the children discussed reasons to locate the buildings in these places. They could move misplaced buildings to new locations upon discovering evidence for better placement.

Finally, the children discussed the things they had learned. First, you must "see and agree" in order to plan a city. Planners think ahead. Also, it is important to remember that decisions are not just up to you, but are made for all the people. Learning to work together was an important lesson.

The following are some of the students' ideas about city planning: you just can't put anything anywhere; beware of flooding; fire departments should be near hospitals and schools; industrial parks should not be near hospitals, schools, or houses; gas stations should not be near lakes; stores should be close to homes so that people can walk to them and save gas; factories should not be near schools; and schools need lots of land and grass.



Everyone agreed that planning a city's growth was a lot of fun!

Joan Martin Students and Staff Make a Difference

The students and staff at Joan Martin Elementary have a long tradition of finding ways to share their good fortunes with others. Community service projects help define the culture of Joan Martin, and the students are proud of participating and making a difference for other people. Many clubs and classrooms come up with ideas and plans to help the community. The following is a list of projects that have been completed or are in the planning stages just this school year:

Hoops for Heart: This program is done every other year in physical education as a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Students in grades 2 -5 collect money from family and friends to help fight against heart disease and strokes. Hoops for Heart is a fun and effective way to teach heart-healthy living and the importance of physical activity. The students practice basketball skills and learn about the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship. This unit is completed in 5 weeks of physical education classes and ends with a dribbling and shooting contest with prizes for the students. This year the students collected \$1657.

Humane Society Donations: The students in the school store club work daily to organize, inventory, market and sell the school store items. At the beginning of the year they voted to send their profits to the Humane Society. Each month they have been able to send at least \$50 to help the animals. Also, at Christmas time, this very caring group of students voted to purchase a snowsuit for a young boy who they had learned could not afford one for the winter.

Christmas Food Baskets: This is an annual project led by the student council and PTO in which the entire school gets involved. Food items are collected and money is donated to help out our own Joan Martin families in need through the holidays. The amount of food items and money collected is amazing. This year 38 families were helped and received an estimated amount of \$3500 worth of groceries. These families were very appreciative of the help.

Hearts for Riley: Every February the student council sells Riley's Hearts for 50 cents each. The money collected is sent to Riley's Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. This project is especially important to our students since we have had many students over the years who have been patients and have been helped at Riley's. It is quite a sight to see all the hearts displayed across the front entrance of the school and beyond. Last year the staff agreed to put on a Staff Talent Show if the students met their goal. It was exceeded, and \$3,494.51 was donated.

Hobart Food Pantry: The fourth grade classes decided to help out the Hobart Food Pantry this past holiday season. They set a goal of \$2 per fourth grader and exceeded it. They sent \$258 to the food pantry. Each dollar helped buy 5 meals.

Visiting Local Nursing Homes: The Joan Martin choir visited two nursing homes in December to help share joy with the residents. The students returned from Miller's Merry Manor and the Sterling House with feelings of joy and fulfillment that they had put smiles on many faces with their music.

Purple Put-Ups: This is a new project being led and promoted by the students in Team LEAD. They are challenging the students at Joan Martin to use "put-ups" to help make others feel good. Any student caught giving a put-up will be entered into a drawing for special prizes. The Team LEAD students came up with a great list of prizes and the winners will be announced on the announcements. The students believe this will help promote the positive school spirit at Joan Martin.

Joan Martin School Has a Big Heart!



Liberty's Natural Discovery - Using the Past and the Present to Enhance the Future

This school year, Liberty Elementary 4th graders have been visiting the natural areas in Northwest Indiana to understand the past, appreciate the present, and learn to protect the future of our small part of the world. Through partnerships with the Indiana Dunes State Park, The National Lakeshore, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Barker Mansion, and Camp Tecumseh, fourth graders will learn the value of the history of Indiana. From the prehistoric and glacial age in which the land and great lakes were formed, to the future needs of this valuable and diversely rich area, students experience it all. Beginning in September, students participated in classroom activities with field experiences to the National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park to learn about the Native Americans and settlers who tamed this great wilderness. They saw first-hand the vast varieties of plants and animals that make this area distinct. A field experience to the Barker Mansion (Michigan City) increased the students' knowledge of the progress of major industry and its positive and negative effects on the environment. Over the course of the remainder of this school year, the students will focus on topics such as glaciers and their effects, habitats throughout the seasons, maple sugar syrup making, as well as an overnight pioneer experience at Camp Tecumseh, located in Brookston, Indiana. As a culminating experience, the students will learn what an important role they have in protecting this fragile environment. In June, they will participate in a service project at the Indiana Dunes State Park where they will plant marram grass, spread mulch on walking trails, and clean up the trash left behind by others. The students' knowledge of the biodiversity and their newfound vocabulary will reflect their awareness of the past and present, as well as define their roles in the future.



Your Text
Here

Brickie Pride Campus Beautification

The School City of Hobart envisions a living testament to our commitment of academic excellence and invites the community to participate in a program called "Brickie Pride Campus Beautification." Whether you would like to purchase an engraved brick paver, designate a tree or a bench, donate a monetary gift for campus beautification at the new high school or be a visitor, please know that the gift of TIME to support and assist the high school with so many of its endeavors is of equal or greater value. *Brickie Pride Campus Beautification* is available on our website, www.hobart.k12.in.us under "Information," then "Giving." You may also contact Rachel Nicoloff at rnicoloff@hobart.k12.in.us or 219-942-8885.



Human Body Systems Course Begins at Hobart High School

The Human Body Systems (HBS) Class Work — Preparing for Future Careers

Students at Hobart High School that completed the Principals of Biomedical Sciences course taught last year are now beginning the second course in the PLTW Biomedical Science: Human Body Systems taught by Mrs. Heidi Krouse. Not only are students able to practice real life medical procedures, they are also preparing for a future career in the health care industry. With a projection from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics of 30.3 percent growth in the health services sector by 2014, PLTW students who follow this track will be well prepared for careers in a booming job market.

Hands On Experience

The Biomedical Sciences™ program uses a combination of activity-based, project-based and problem-based (APPB) learning styles to engage students. APPB learning doesn't just create an exciting environment where the possibilities of a medical field come to life, but it also teaches students to:

- Solve problems
- Lead teams
- Understand real-world problems
- Conduct research
- Collaborate in teams
- Analyze data

Human Body Systems

Students in this class examine the processes, structures, and interactions of the human body systems to learn how they work together to maintain homeostasis (internal balance) and good health. Using real-world cases, students take the role of biomedical professionals and work together to solve medical mysteries. Hands-on projects include the following: designing experiments, investigating the structures and functions of body systems, and using data acquisition software to monitor body functions such as muscle movement, reflex and voluntary actions, and respiratory operation. Important concepts covered in the course are communication, transport of substances, locomotion, metabolic processes, defenses, and protection. *HHS students are definitely leading the way.*



Learn more by visiting
the web sites:

<http://www.hobart.k12.in.us>

<http://www.pltw.org>



CREATING TOMORROW TODAY A FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

HHS Participates in the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission By Jake Lindsey, HHS Student

On December 6, 2008, the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) held a forum on the future of Northwest Indiana. NIRPC is a planning commission agency for Lake, Porter, and La Porte counties. It involves elected officials from throughout the region dealing primarily with the issues of transportation and the environment. The forum was open to people living, working, or involved in the region in any way, shape, or form. Four of our own Hobart High School (HHS) students attended the event, which took place at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville. HHS teacher Colin May, along with senior Dianne Toth, junior Jake Lindsey, and sophomores Brandon Green and Ben Ollen, participated and expressed their opinions. As people first entered the room, they were split up into randomly assigned groups, and then seated at tables consisting of about eight to ten people. To begin the day, the groups first learned about one another and shared general concerns that they each held for the future of Northwest Indiana (NWI). While doing this, they also completed a map activity highlighting their most valued places in the region. Next, a presentation was given on the history of NIRPC and its purpose of setting goals for the future. After that, the almost 500 people attending this event came up with opportunities and challenges facing NWI. Each table wrote ideas on index cards that were collected and sent to the "Dream Team." The "Dream Team" was a group of people responsible for putting all of the information gathered at the event into one collective piece of information to summarize the goals decided at the forum. Next, people wrote down "visions" of their ideal picture of NWI in 2040. As the day went on, polls were taken using 21st century wireless technology, allowing for instantaneous feedback and results from about 500 people in one room. After a brief lunch, groups were further split up into more specialized areas such as commerce, environmental planning, or regional transportation. Finally at the end, the "Dream Team" showed the results of the day's forum and published this information in a report that is available for all to see at www.nirpc.org/.



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“Success for All Students”

Edited by:

*Dr. Peggy Buffington
 &
 Mrs. Rachel Nicoloff*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!



Hobart High School Musical		ANYTHING GOES by Cole Porter		March 13, 14, 20, 21 @ 7:30 p.m. and March 15th @ 3:00 p.m. in the new high school auditorium
March 24th MS Choir Concert HS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.	March 25th HS Choir Concert HS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.	March 26th MS Band Concert HS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.	April 23rd, 24th & 25th HHS Talent Show HS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.	
May 19th Middle School Band Awards Concert HHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.	May 21st Middle School Choir Concert HS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.	May 27th High School Choir Concert HS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.	June 10th Last Day of School for Students	June 11th Hobart High School Graduation

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