

HARTSBURG-EMDEN CUSD NO. 21

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Terry Wisniewski, Superintendent

After 13 years of writing newsletters for Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21, this will be my last one. I have to admit, approaching the task knowing this will be my final newsletter article has proven to be more challenging than I expected. My first year in the District, the current Senior Class was in Kindergarten. Over that time, I have met many different individuals and established many relationships. Relationships provide such a wide variety of opportunities for personal growth, self-discovery, service, and challenges. In a few articles, I wrote about Relationships being the “Fourth R.” Interacting with individuals who have different perspectives, ideas, and ways of thinking, expands a person’s thinking and therefore a person’s life. I have always tried to be approachable, responsive, and available to address the concerns and questions of many people over the years. I have actively listened to others’ perspectives, concerns, and feedback. Even when I disagreed with viewpoints, I attempted to show compassion, empathy, and respect to others. Many relationships over the years have developed beyond my administrator role and have developed into bonds that I will treasure for life. Because of those relationships, I have a fond connection to the Hartsburg-Emden School District. I will miss it greatly.

I really feel that I have had the immense privilege of serving this remarkable community, and it has been an honor beyond what I can express in words. The journey shared with so many wonderful individuals has been nothing short of extraordinary. It has been marked with moments of triumph, growth, and learning. We have also had our times of frustration, sorrow, and loss. “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” – Martin Luther King Jr. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the countless memories we have created in both the good and challenging times. I am thankful to have worked with outstanding school boards, staff members, administrators, teachers, and support personnel; your dedication, passion, and commitment to the Hartem students has been the driving force behind its successes. Students, you are the heart and soul of our school district, and it has been a privilege to witness many of you grow over the years. I continue to have every confidence that you will continue to shine brightly wherever your paths may lead. The parents, guardians, and community members have shown such unwavering support, collaboration, and engagement. Your partnership has been invaluable, and I am deeply grateful for your trust and involvement.

As I prepare to embark on the next chapter of my journey, I want to express with sincerity and heartfelt emotion, I will deeply miss and affectionately remember the Hartem Stags always. The relationships we have forged, the memories we have shared, and the impact we have made together will forever hold a special place in my heart. Although I may be leaving my role as Superintendent, please know that my commitment to the values and mission of our school district remains unwavering: “Hartsburg-Emden Community Unit School District provides an empowering and collaborative environment allowing students to reach their full potential.” Many of you know that I have never really liked the word or the concept of saying “goodbye.” Often the word “goodbye” is used to denote closure in such a permanent way. I believe relationships have no such closure. Our relationships with God, family, friends, and others; stand the test of times and our place here on this earth. I always sign all my emails with “Later,” to indicate, until we talk or meet again. So, as I bid you farewell, know that I do so with a profound sense of gratitude and optimism for the future of Hartsburg-Emden School District. Though I may no longer be in the role of Superintendent, I am confident that you will continue to thrive, evolve, and inspire generations to come. Again, THANK YOU, from the bottom of my heart, for the privilege of serving as your Superintendent. Warmest regards; Later, Terry L. Wisniewski

I also want to extend my warmest congratulations to the graduating class of 2024. We are immensely proud of each and every one of them and their accomplishments. You have worked tirelessly to reach this milestone, and we are excited to see where your futures will take you. To each of our graduates, we hope that you have gained valuable knowledge and skills during your time with us. We have no doubt that you will continue to grow and flourish in your future endeavors. Remember, you always are welcome here. Once a Stag, you are always a Stag!!

MAY BREAKFAST/LUNCH PRICES

Student Breakfast \$40.00

Student Reduced Breakfast \$6.00

Student Lunch \$56.05

Student Reduced Lunch \$7.60

Students at Hartsburg-Emden Jr./Sr. High School will need to pay for seconds. Entrées are \$1.00, vegetable/fruit/chips are \$.50, Italian Ice is \$.75 and milk is \$.50.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Cory Brown, Principal

Hello Hartem Families!

This has been a pretty pleasant spring! While it's been very windy, the temperatures have been nice. I'm still waiting on motorcycle weather but I'm not driving in snow. The good news is that we have had plenty of rain for our farmers and more mushroom hunters.

Junior High track has really added some members this year and has about 30 students on the team. They have been working hard at practice and been competing in some meets and tournaments. They are competing in the Logan County tournament at the time of this newsletter writing so hopefully we will be bringing home some hardware. Please look out for them running on the road for longer distances. Coach Vetter and Coach Werner have been very proud of this year's team.

Coach Awe and the Girls Softball team are getting games in when weather allows them too. We look forward to Senior night on April 29th. Check the schedule and check out a game with us at Luther Field.

The Spring Concert will be held on May 8th at 5:30pm. Please come out and see what Mr. Popper and Mrs. Jordan have been working with the students to present. It will be an entertaining night for the whole community.

For the month of April, the Students of the Month were Clayton O'Donoghue (9th grade) and Rhett Zinser (5th grade). Here are some comments from the staff members that nominated them. "Clayton has stepped things up in the 2nd semester. He is focused, asks questions, and helps explain things to his peers during group discussions.." "Rhett works very hard at his academic work, and he is always looking to grow to get better." Congratulations to both students!

Here are some dates of interest coming up. May 1st is the Hartem FFA banquet at the Emden Community House. High School graduation will be at 3pm on Saturday, May 11th. Thursday, May 23rd, is 8th grade promotion at 6pm. High School finals will take place on May 23rd and 24th with the district dismissing students at 2:00 pm both days. May 24th is the last day for student attendance!

This year has flown by so quickly. I can't believe that students are going to be done in a month. Thank you very much for letting me be part of your lives and your students' lives. I'd like to thank all the employees in the district for a great year. Thank you teachers for all the hours of planning, teaching, grading, and communicating with families over the past year. Thank you to the Custodians, Bus Drivers, Kitchen Staff, and Office Staff for everything that you do and the hard work you put in everyday. Thank you to Mr. Wisniewski for his hours of hard work and showing me the ropes. Congratulations to him for his years of service to the district. I can not thank him enough for all his help and support these last three years. Thank you to all the parents for your hard work you do behind the scenes. Last, thank you to all the community members for their support.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.



DEAN OF STUDENTS MESSAGE

Tanya Zerbonia, Dean of Students

Wow! It is May. The end-of-the-year craziness is beginning- Prom, Graduation, Promotion, and Parties. This is the best time of the school year when students can see their hard work paying off. We will celebrate the graduates and welcome yet another class of alumni. Eighth-grade students will be off to high school.

We are working on a transition plan for the fifth graders who will be joining the Jr. High next year. While we have not ironed out the details, we would like to introduce expectations for academics, behavior and schedules. In the past, these students have been moved over to the Jr / Sr High School with little guidance and we would like to change that. There will be a preliminary orientation in May but a larger one to follow in August.

The Solar Eclipse was a great success! Our students were able to safely watch the eclipse and hopefully learned some science. The weather cooperated and everyone enjoyed a couple hours outdoors. The senior class was on a plane and got to watch the shadows created by the eclipse cover the Earth. Hopefully, this is an experience that the students will remember for a long time.

LIBRARY NEWS

Nichole Folkman, Librarian

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who participated in the book fair in any way! We were able to purchase ALL of the books from the teacher wish boxes! Book fair is the only dedicated budget to get teachers new books for their classroom libraries– thanks for helping add to the books available to all students! Every child also got to select a book to keep from the budget books at the fair. Using donations like the one from the Elks below, I was able to get our profit for the book fair just over the 50% mark! We look forward to our next book fair next fall!

Donations

Elks- \$300

This donation was used to purchase new and replacement books for the school library from the book fair. Replacement books are ones that have been well-loved that need new copies because they have been so popular!

Please remember that I am VERY behind but will continue updating each month! Some of these are going to be from up to 2 years ago (or more??) **Please reach out to Mrs. Folkman if you are a former student of hers and you have a happy life event to share!** Mrs. Folkman wants to honor that happy event with a book in the school library!
(nfolkman@hartem.org)

Salt and Sugar in honor of the marriage of Kaylee and Michael Lowery

One of a Kind in honor of the life of Sherri Mester

Yearbook News

Make sure to order your 2023-2024 yearbook before Spring Break to save! Yearbooks are \$40 until Spring Break, but will be \$45 afterwards. You can contact Mrs. Folkman nfolkman@hartem.org to purchase a book OR order online from www.yearbookforever.com.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Elizabeth Hilgert, Student Coordinator/Guidance Counselor

As we find ourselves racing towards the end of another semester, it is remarkable how swiftly time has passed. Yet, in the midst of this rapid pace, it's essential to recognize that we still have one month left in the academic year. Let's make the most of it. Let's maintain our focus and dedication, ensuring that neither our grades nor our attendance slip in these final weeks. Remember, your teachers are here to support you every step of the way. Don't hesitate to reach out for assistance with your academic endeavors or any challenges you may encounter. With persistence and determination, there's still ample opportunity to raise your grades and finish the semester on a strong note.

As the approach of summer is upon us, it is an ideal time to look ahead and plan for the future. Whether it is exploring potential college campuses, participating in academic or sports camps, or engaging in volunteer and community service activities, the summer months offer a wealth of opportunities for personal growth and exploration. These experiences not only deepen your understanding of your interests and passions but also foster self-confidence and nurture essential life skills. Therefore, let's welcome the season with enthusiasm, grasp each opportunity for personal growth, and construct the groundwork for a future filled with purpose and fulfillment.

CLASS OF 2024

In just a few short weeks, you'll be donning your cap and gown, marking the culmination of your high school journey. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you. Graduation isn't just a ceremony; it's a milestone, a testament to your dedication and perseverance. It's the gateway to the next chapter of your life's narrative, a journey filled with endless possibilities and untapped potential.

Remember, graduation is not the culmination of your education; rather, it is the beginning of a lifelong

journey of learning and self-discovery. Every encounter, every experience is an opportunity to expand your horizons and deepen your understanding of the world around you. Wherever your path may lead, may you embark upon it with courage, determination, and an insatiable thirst for knowledge.

As you stand on the edge of this new beginning, I have one small piece of advice: dare to dream, dare to challenge yourself, and your beliefs. Look within and recognize the boundless potential that resides within you. Yes, there will be hurdles along the way, but let them serve as stepping stones rather than stumbling blocks. Embrace the discomfort that comes with growth, for it is through overcoming adversity that we emerge stronger and more resilient.

So, to the remarkable individuals that make up the Class of 2024, I offer my sincere congratulations. May your future be filled with success, fulfillment, and endless possibilities--here's to the next chapter of your extraordinary journey!

HARTEM ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Matthew Stoltzenburg, Athletic Director

The weather is finally warming up and the Stags' are trying to do the same as our spring seasons come down the home stretch.

The junior high track teams are in the Logan County Conference Meet at LCHS on April 24. They will participate in the sectional on May 4.

Our high school softball team is in midseason form and will have their senior night on Monday, April 29 vs Edinburg. Their regional starts on May 13.

The bass fishing team will compete in sectionals on May 2nd and hopefully reach the state tournament on May 17 + 18.

Spring Sports Awards Night will be on Monday, May 20 at 5:30 in the high school gym. We will be honoring the junior high track teams, the high school softball team, and the high school bass fishing squad. We will also recognize our coop teams. Hope to see everyone there.

As we come to a close on the 2023-2024 athletic year, I would once again like to thank all the student-athletes, their parents, our coaches, the administration, our school board, and both communities of Hartsburg and Emden for their efforts in making our school and its athletic programs successful. It has been an honor to serve as your

athletic director these last 17 years and I hope to stay in touch with the Hartem community.



HARTEM FFA

Sara Barton

Hartem FFA had a great April! We attended Section 14 Livestock Judging, had our annual greenhouse plant sale, and attended the Section 14 FFA Banquet. On Wednesday May 1st, we will celebrate the FFA year at our annual Chapter FFA Banquet that will be at 6pm at the Emden Community House. We will wrap up the calendar year on Friday, May 3rd by hosting an "Ag Day" for the whole district! Students will get to interact with a petting zoo, learn about tractor safety, and create a craft.

Alumni Banquet

Ron Spencer

The 95th* Annual Hartsburg-Emden High School Alumni Banquet will begin at 6:30pm on June 8, 2024. This year the banquet will be held at the Community House in Emden, Illinois. The banquet will be catered by the Dovetail Inn. Invitations to the banquet will be sent out in early May. Anyone who does not receive an invitation, but would like to attend the banquet... may send a request via email to Ron Spencer at coach_spencer@hotmail.com or FB IM.

Anniversary classes being honored this year include: 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019 and the Senior Class of 2024. All HARTEM Alumni are welcome to join us regardless of anniversary year! The winner of the "Wall of Fame" award will be selected and announced at the banquet. This year the award will be represented in the category of Distinguished Alumni. Please mail nomination letters to Ron Spencer, 8923 Blooming Grove Road, Bloomington, IL 61705.

IESA Sportsmanship Award

Ms. Zerbonia, Coach Hayes and Coach Spencer were on hand to receive the IESA Division Sportsmanship Award on April 23rd in Bloomington, on behalf of Hartem. Congrats to everyone for helping us achieve this honor!



Hartem Lincoln Chess Coop

Kent Hieronymus, Coach

The Hartem and Lincoln Chess Coop was a very big success this year. The two schools blended together to make a competitive team. We had 17 students in total on the team. Our team missed going to the state tournament by only one place! We play in the newly formed Midwest Central Illinois Chess League. Mr. Hieronymus is the league president. The current league schools are Hartem Lincoln, Greenview, Franklin, Notre Dame LaSalette, Moline, and Olympia. We will probably add at least two schools out of the following schools: AC Central, Petersburg Porta, Cornerstone Academy, and Christian Life Academy.

Junior Beta Induction

Lynn Curry, Sponsor

Congratulations to the members of the Hartem Junior Beta Club that were inducted on Thursday, April 11th. The National Beta Club is a student honor society that honors students based on academic achievement, excellent character and good citizenship. The National Beta Club recognizes outstanding achievement, promotes character and social responsibility, encourages service involvement to school and community, fosters leadership skills,

grants scholarships, and provides a setting for students to develop interpersonal skills.

Congratulations to the following 6th graders who were inducted into Junior Beta: Brinley Ballance, William Boerma, Courtney Cecil, MacKenna Dellow, Owen Ferguson, Brody Schleder, Addie Wetherell, Raef Whitted, and Ryan Wrage.



Sr. Beta Induction

John Robinson

The Senior Beta Club inducted seven members at their ceremony on April 11th. The inductees are Bella Grabowski, Alexis Cannon, Dani Dueringer, Emma Eeten, Allie Greleck, Cambelle Hopkins, and Lexi Wetherell. Congratulations to our new members!



Spanish Classes go to Lunch at El Mazatlan

Kent Hieronymus

All our Spanish classes went to "El Maz" in Lincoln on April 17. The students practiced how to converse in a restaurant situation. They did very well and most ordered what they wanted to get correctly. The waiters and staff at El Maz were very helpful and engaged the students in their ordering. The Mexican style food at El Maz is very excellent and authentic. We plan on going back again next year!

Class of 2026 Fundraiser

Jennifer Hayes, Co-Sponsor

****HOG RAFFLE****

FILL YOUR FREEZER FOR THE Summer Cook-Outs!!

The Class of 2026 is selling raffle tickets! The winner will win ½ a hog for your freezer to be picked up at the ATLANTA LOCKER the week of May 20th-24th. All processing is paid in full. All you need to do is pick it up. Cuts include pork chops, bacon, sausage, roast, and more. Tickets \$5.00 each or (3) tickets for \$10. We will be officially selling them May 5th – May 19th (2) Names will be Drawn Monday May 20th ! Help Support the Class of 2026 and fill your freezer for all those Summer Cook-Outs!

Kids Heart Challenge

(Formally Jump Rope for Heart)

Jennifer Hayes, Lead Teacher

Thank you to everyone who donated to the students of Emden Elementary School in our fundraiser for the American Heart Association! As a school we collected

\$2,682.68

Our fundraiser ran for three weeks and ended with a Jump Rope Event on Friday March 22nd before we left for Spring Break! Thanks to all the volunteers that helped make the day so much fun and for supporting such a great cause!



MAY 2024

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 K-2 Field Trip @ Peoria Children's Museum 9-2:30 FFA Chapter Banquet @ Emden Comm. House 6:00	2 HSSB vs Eureka 4:30 Bass- Sect. TBA	3 8th Grade Holocaust Field Trip Ag Day @ HS 1:00-3:00	4 JHTRK-Sect. TBA
5 BACCALAUREATE @ St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Emden 9:00am	6 HSSB @ Athens 4:30	7 HSSB vs PORTA 4:30	8 JH/HS Spring Concert @ HS Gym 5:30	9 Graduation practice	10 HSSB @ Blue Ridge 4:30 JHTRK-State TBA	11 HS Graduation 3:00 @ HS Gym JHTRK-State TBA
12	13 HSSB-1A Reg. TBA	14 HSSB-1A Reg. TBA 5th Grade Field Trip @ Peoria Chiefs	15 HSSB-1A Reg. TBA	16 4th Grade Field Trip @ Little Brow Dairy Farm	17 HSSB-1A TBA Bass-State TBA	18 HSSB-1A Reg. TBA Bass-State TBA
19	20 Spring Sports Awards @ HS Gym 5:30	21 HSSB-1A Sect. TBA	22 HSSB-1A Sect. TBA	23 Promotion practice 2:00 Dismissal HS Finals 8th Grade Promotion 6:00	24 2:00 Dismissal HS Finals Qtr. 4 Report Cards/Sem. 2 HSSB-1A Sect. TBA	25 HSSB-1A Sect. TBA
26	27 NO SCHOOL HSSB- 1A Super Sect. TBA	28 Teacher's Institute	29	30	31 HSSB-1A State TBA	

MAY 2024

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Breakfast Menu			1 Breakfast pizza Fruit Juice	2 Assorted muffins Fruit Juice	3 Frittata omelet Toast Fruit Juice	4
5	6 Poptarts Fruit Juice	7 Yogurt w/strawberries Toast Fruit Juice	8 Biscuit w/sausage gravy Fruit Juice	9 French toast sticks Sausage links Fruit Juice	10 Tater bites Toast Fruit Juice	11
12	13 Pancake and sausage on a stick Fruit Juice	14 Coffee cake Fruit Juice	15 JH/HS:Brown sugar cinnamon oatmeal Toast GS: Frudel Sausage link Fruit Juice	16 Assorted cereal Toast Fruit Juice	17 Donuts Fruit Juice	18
19	20 Nutri-grain bar Fruit Juice	21 Breakfast cookie Fruit Juice	22 Cook's Choice	23 Cook's Choice	24 Cook's Choice	25
26	27 NO SCHOOL	28 Teacher's Institute	29	30	31	

MAY 2024

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Lunch Menu			1 Chicken strips Mac and cheese Mix fruit Jello Rice krispy treat	2 Bosco sticks Marinara sauce Lettuce salad Cottage cheese Applesauce Pudding w/vanilla waffers	3 Quesadilla pizza Lettuce salad Sour cream/salsa Pineapple	4
5	6 Crisпитos Cheese sauce Mix veggies Rice Refried beans Pears	7 Popcorn chicken Mash potatoes w/gravy Corn Peaches	8 Chicken bacon wrap Lettuce/cheese Ranch dressing Pasta salad Chips Applesauce Cookies	9 Loaded tater tots Chicken/beef Sour cream/salsa Cheese sauce	10 Hamburger or Hot Dogs Bake beans Pasta salad Chips Mandarin oranges Cookies	11
12	13 Hot ham and cheese on bun Potato smiles Green beans Pineapple	14 Walking tacos Cheese/lettuce Sour cream/salsa Corn Mix fruit Graham crackers w/icing	15 BBQ pulled pork on bun Bake beans Cole slaw Cottage cheese Applesauce	16 Sloppy joe Nacho chips w/cheese Sour cream/salsa Lettuce Mandarin oranges Jello	17 Italian sub sandwich Fresh veggies Italian pasta salad Chips Peaches Brownies	18
19	20 Chicken Day Tater tots/fries Potato smiles Peaches	21 Corn dog Vinegar fries Funnel cake Lemonade Frozen fruit cup	22 Cook's Choice	23 Cook's Choice	24 Cook's Choice	25
26	27 NO SCHOOL	28 Teacher's Institute	29	30	31	

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