

# BULLDOG BULLETIN

## HANCOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL



December 2022- End of Trimester 1

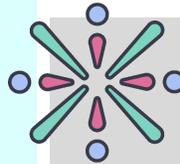
It's hard to believe that we are already a third of the way through the school year now, as we just finished Trimester 1! Students just got their new schedules for Trimester 2, and we are looking to give each student a fresh start in the new trimester.

During Trimester 1 we had several different guest speakers come in and talk to our students. Our goal with these speakers is to expose students to more than they would get in the classroom by inviting in experts from different areas with a wealth of knowledge and experiences to share with our students. Here are a few highlights of our guests:

- Blaise Winter** (former NFL Football player) motivational speech about overcoming adversity
- Jennifer Kelley** (Houghton County Clerk) described the election process and the next week we hosted our own election on Nov 8
- Nicole Dempsey** (MI State Police) spoke about internet safety
- Veterans Day Program** with Mr. Hauswirth and Coach Ohtonen

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if there is anything I can do to help your student!

Sincerely,  
Hannah Impola - Hancock Middle School Principal



### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES IN TRIMESTER 2:

**DECEMBER 7:**  
HALF DAY SCHOOL

**DECEMBER 20:**  
LAST DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK

**DECEMBER 21-JANUARY 3:**  
NO SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS BREAK

**JANUARY 4:**  
BACK TO SCHOOL!

**JANUARY 18:**  
HALF DAY SCHOOL

**Advisory Winners:**  
**PAPER WAR CHAMPS**  
Mrs. Kero's Advisory  
**ATTENDANCE AWARD**  
Ms. Murphy's Advisory

## Welcome!

### Hancock Middle School welcomes Mrs. Meyers!

Mrs. Meyers is a MI Tech graduate who has traveled the world with her husband (in the Air Force) and her 3 kids. Not only does she have an engineering degree in addition to a teaching degree, she has a wide variety of experiences and knowledge that will help her to make a positive impact with our students and school. Mrs. Meyers has a lot of energy and loves to be active. We look forward to welcoming her and her family to our community and getting to know her at school!

### "Thank you" to Mr. Schowengerdt.

We would like to thank Mr. Schowengerdt for the hard work and the time he gave to our students and the school during Trimester 1.

## Congrats to our Students of the Trimester

### 6th Grade:

Tally Storm

### 7th Grade:

Allie Hammerstrom

### 8th Grade:

Emily Oja

### Attendance:

Please be sure to call Mrs. Bernard if your student is absent!

### After School Tutoring

Available every day in the HS Room 117 after school until 5:00.

Please take advantage of this opportunity!

### Quote of the Month:

"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today."

-H. Jackson Brown Jr

### Power School

Do you have a PowerSchool account? With PowerSchool you can easily access your students grades and contact teachers if necessary. Contact Mrs. Bernard in the office if you would like to get an account set up!

## PBIS

On November 15, we had an afternoon of celebrating student achievement and successes we have seen in the school so far this year. We started with an assembly where we talked about our PBIS goals and the progress we are making towards our goals so far. We then recognized students for good attendance, perfect attendance and Student of the Trimester awards.

Our goal for Trimester 1 was to improve student attendance. Last year during Trimester 1 only 59% of our students attending 90% of the school days or more. Our goal was to increase the number of students attending 90% of school days (missing 5 or fewer days) to 75%. We surpassed our goal and had 84% of students attend 90% of school days! This number includes 22 students who had perfect attendance!

For trimester 2, we will continue to focus on attendance; the best way to learn is to be in school! We are also adding a second goal, pertaining to behaviors. At the end of Trimester 1 we were averaging 1.41 minor referrals per day. Our goal is to reduce this number to 1 minor referral per day over the course of Trimester 2.

In order to help lower minor referrals, we will be teaching lessons in Advisory a few days a week pertaining to different character traits. So far, we have spent 3 weeks teaching about Empathy. The next 3 weeks will be spending time talking about Personal Responsibility. Looking ahead, we will be talking about Decision Making Skills next.

### Why Attendance Matters

By 6th grade, chronic absenteeism (missing 10% (18 days) of school or more) is the leading indicator that a student will drop out of HS. There are many learning opportunities that happen every day in school that extend far beyond material covered in core classes. The ability to get along with others, work together, be reliable, prepared, perseverance, and problem solving skills are all things that can be learned through regular attendance. We know that absences will happen, the key is to limiting them as much as possible.

### Common Myths:

#### 1. Absences are only a problem when unexcused.

Any absence, whether excused or not, denies a student the opportunity to learn.

#### 2. Sporadic absences aren't as bad as consecutive absences.

All absences lead to gaps in learning and eventually add up.

#### 3. Attendance only matters in High School.

Patterns created in MS carry on into the HS. It can be very difficult to change once a habit is created.