



HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Charles Hughes, Superintendent

9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, Michigan 48843

Telephone (810) 626-2100
Fax (810) 626-2101

Weekly Update

September 17, 2026

Gold Out Friday Night

The annual Gold Out game will be played Friday night as the Eagles host the Brighton Bulldogs. Please consider coming out and supporting the Eagles (football, cheer, pom, band, etc.) After the game stay and enjoy the fireworks show. See you Friday night!

[Gold Out Promo](#)

Chronic Absenteeism

Parents, the research is clear, students missing more than 10% of the school year see their achievement negatively affected. Often when having conversations with parents about the high number of absences, parents are shocked because they did not perceive that their child had missed so many days. As a school district, we are obligated by law to address chronic absenteeism. If your child begins to establish a pattern of poor attendance, you will hear from the school, building administration and eventually our Dean of Students, Mrs. Lori Clay. If absences continue, the district will submit truancy documents to the county truancy officer, Deputy Thompson. Please make school a priority for the 178 days that we are in session.

The Unintended Consequences of Missing School

- Students must engage in make-up work
- Students miss new learning and never get to experience the lesson used to present this material
- Coming to school late or leaving school early creates a disruption for students and teachers
- Students miss additional learning opportunities such as field trips, assemblies, etc.

Helpful Hints for Keeping Students in School

- Schedule doctor and other appointments outside of the school day.
- If you must, schedule appointments early in the morning or late in the day so that only a half day is missed.
- Keep track of absences in Parent Connection / Parent Portal. Stay current in the number of days missed.
- Keep the perspective that school is in session only 178 out of 365 days in the year. This leaves 187 days to take care of other things like appointments, vacation, etc.
- If your child is healthy, just “say no” when they ask to stay home.
- If you find yourself in need of help getting your child to school, just ask your child’s principal.

High School Highlights

[Football v. John Glenn](#)
[Boys Soccer v. Dearborn](#)
[Student News](#)

Hartland Leadership Program with Sensei Sam: “Reason – Respect – Responsibility”

This is not a program. Instead, it is an intentional common district-wide culture: This is just how we do it here.

This is just how we do it at Farms. This is just how we do it in Hartland. From our culture comes:

- Emotional Strength
- Habits
- Connection
- Character

You will have a culture whether you want to or not. Is your culture intentional? Or is it accidental?

(Sep/Oct) Lesson #1 – The most important thing: How we treat and take care of each other

- “We are Hartland!” This is just how we do it here. I have your back.
- I cannot succeed in today’s world by myself
- I always stand up for myself and others
- The solution to bullying: The adults stop the big stuff. I must stop the small stuff.
- Not in my school. (I will never be a bystander). No more drama or controlling behavior.

(Nov/Dec) Lesson #2 - Courage

- Breaking through the only two obstacles to success - My fears and limiting beliefs
- Courage, self-esteem and confidence are developed by doing scary and hard things
- Learn to reduce/deal with stress and anxiety by making a decision/choice
- There is no problem bigger than me. Bring it on!

(Jan/Feb) Lesson #3 - Discipline

- Learning to work hard all the time. You cannot pick and choose in life.
- Motivation does not work, only habits do
- Hard work beats brains and talent all the time
- No one outworks me. Work Hard/Play Hard

(Mar/Apr) Lesson #4 - Humility

- Humility brings it full circle – Friendship and Leadership skills
- Developing Strong Meaningful Relationships
- Humility is the final key to leadership and having more friends than I ever imagined
- Like - Trust – Respect (Curiosity, Understanding, Connection)
- I can change my school. I can change the world.

Your part –

1. Learn and live the lessons and culture right next to and with your students
2. Repetition of the TT/Q/Trig every morning with the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Responsibility shift to students– Their behavior, performance, relationships
4. Just do the first step of – NOTICE – Choose - Act
5. Finally – catch them doing something right!

The most important things to me is – How we treat and take care of each other. We are Hartland . . . this is just how we do it here.

Michigan Gun Safety Laws

Michigan law requires me to share the information below. Please take the time to read this information in the link below, if it applies to your household.

- **HB 5450-51 (PA 257-58 of 2024)**
 - MDHHS must develop info & materials for parents on safe storage laws
 - Schools must share info with parents annually with this information
 - [Michigan Gun Secure Storage Law](#)

Families are encouraged to review these resources and learn more about Michigan’s Safe Storage Law:

- [What is the Secure Storage Law in Michigan](#)
- [Safe Storage Notice](#)
- Find free or low-cost gun locks and safes through [Project Safe Child](#)
- Additional resources and information can be found on the Michigan Department of Education’s [Safe Storage Law Webpage](#)

HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

SINKING FUND REPLACEMENT IS ON THE BALLOT

What Is It?

On Tuesday, November 3, 2026, voters will be asked to replace the current 0.5 mill sinking fund millage that is set to expire in 2026 and extend the levy from 2027-2036. This levy provides approximately \$900,000 annually to fund

- Facility & Infrastructure Improvements
- Safety and Security Measures
- Technology Devices and Infrastructure
- Student Transportation & Utility Vehicles



Why Is This Important?

The State of Michigan does not provide funding for school building construction or repair. Instead, school facility upgrades are funded through voter-approved millages. The sinking fund millage ensures:

- Facilities Remain Safe & Up to Date
- Emergency Repairs Can Be Addressed Without Disrupting Instructional Budgets
- Maintaining Infrastructure Protects the Community's Prior Investment in School Buildings
- Students & Staff Benefit from High-Quality Learning Environments

How Has the Existing Sinking Fund Been Spent?

Since initially approved in 2016, the sinking fund has provided the resources necessary to make critical infrastructure improvements while preserving the general fund for direct educational purposes.

Building Improvements:

- HVAC/Electrical/Mechanical Upgrades
- Pool Upgrades
- Paving
- Exterior & Interior Doors
- Building Signage

Safety:

- Fire Alarm at Middle School
- Exterior Wall Replacement at Lakes Elementary
- Pool Stairs
- Fencing

Why Does the Ballot Reference an Increase & Not a Renewal?

The law changed in 2017 and 2023 to expand the allowable use of sinking funds to include security, technology and vehicle upgrades. In order to take advantage of the expanded use of funds, the ballot language legally must reference an increase of 0.5 mills, because technically we are putting a different proposal on the ballot rather than 'renewing' the existing sinking fund.

Questions?

Chuck Hughes, Superintendent – 810-626-2100

ChuckHughes@hartlandschools.us

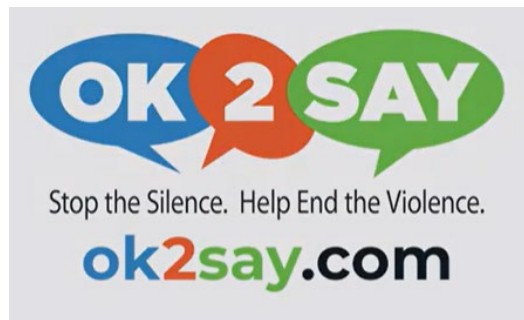
Rachel Bois, Chief Financial Officer – 810-626-2124

RachelBois@hartlandschools.us



Okay2Say

This is a reminder that one of the best ways to ensure that the district is a safe and engaging environment is to always remember that if you SEE SOMETHING, or HEAR SOMETHING, SAY AND DO SOMETHING. The Michigan State Police help us by offering an anonymous way to report concerns. Just visit the OKAY2SAY website.



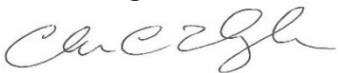
Bus Drivers Still Needed

We are working hard to recruit bus drivers. Right now, we are short route drivers and looking to fill all positions. We are at times able to create morning and afternoon positions with district work in the middle of the day for individuals looking for more hours. Please see the flyer at the end of this Update and contact the Transportation Supervisor at 810-626-2175 to discuss possibilities. We need you!



Hartland Transportation Team and Mechanics. Thank you for your work during the stormy Thursday. You Rock!

Where Eagles Soar,



Chuck Hughes

“Be as kind as you can, to as many people as you can, as often as you can.
Imagine what the world would look like if we all made this our motto.”

Anonymous

Notice of Web Accessibility: In order to remain compliant with web accessibility when sharing this Weekly Update, any public service announcement shared with me must be forwarded with a link that I can include in the text for people to view information if they choose to do so.

HARTLAND TRANSPORTATION NOW HIRING BUS DRIVERS

Join a team that values family, flexibility, and making a difference every day.



HEAR FROM OUR DRIVERS



“

Tara Minton

Hartland Driver • 3 Years

I love working with kids. Seeing them every day and being part of their routine is the best part of my job. The schedule matches my own kids' schedules perfectly, allowing me to be present for my family. I also get to work alongside great people who make coming to work enjoyable and who I know I can count on.

”



“

Harvey Archer

Hartland Driver • 2 Years

I truly enjoy the students on the bus and being a part of the community. This job is perfect for anyone looking for a fulfilling role after retirement or for someone looking for a full-time position. The office staff is top-notch, and my fellow drivers are a pleasure to work with as well.

”



“

Bill Kreeger

Hartland Driver • 2 Years

The best thing about being a driver is getting to know the kids and hearing how their day is going. It keeps me in tune with the schools and the community.

”



UP TO

\$5,000

SIGN ON
BONUS!



FULL-TIME POSITIONS

- Starting wages of \$21.30 up to \$23.65 per hour.
- Paid Health Benefits or \$5,000 Cash In-Lieu
- Paid Holidays, Personal Days & Sick Days
- Drivers are guaranteed minimum 20 hours with the option to get up to 40 hours a week.



PART-TIME POSITIONS

- Flexible days available
- Starting wage at \$21.30/hr.
- \$10 for each AM and or PM route driven.
- Up to \$2,000 attendance bonus starting in the 2nd year driving with Hartland.



GIVE US A CALL TODAY

*to see how
bus driving would
fit in your life!*



**HARTLAND
TRANSPORTATION**

Come Drive With Us!



810-626-2175



livingstonesa.org