



# HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

*Charles Hughes, Superintendent*

9525 E. Highland Road  
Howell, Michigan 48843

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

August 26, 2026

## **Hartland High School Ranked by US News & World Report for 2026-27**

Hartland High School recently received notification that they have been ranked #117 out of 678 public high schools in Michigan (#3,081 out of 17,945 public high schools in the United States). Congratulations to the students and staff for their commitment to learning.



## **Vaccinations or Vaccination Waivers**

The district has been notified that we are below the minimum threshold for students with up-to-date vaccinations or waivers on file. State law requires a 5% (\$2.5 million) deduction in foundation allowance for districts failing to meet the standard of 90% vaccination or waiver coverage in the fall and 95% by February. Under the law, districts may exclude students from attending school without either up-to-date vaccinations or a waiver on file. We have no choice but to notify parents that we will be excluding their children if vaccination records are not up to date and in compliance. This notice gives you plenty of notice and time to make all necessary arrangements with doctors or the Livingston County Health Department to obtain a waiver. The district has set the date of September 18, 2026, to either have your child's vaccination records up to date or a waiver on file.



# 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](mailto:ChuckHughes@hartlandschools.us)

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

[RachelBois@hartlandschools.us](mailto:RachelBois@hartlandschools.us)



## HAYAA Night

Tomorrow, August 27, 2026, is the opening Varsity Football game with performances from the high school Band, Pom Team, Cheer Team and more. The game starts at 7:00 p.m. sharp so arrive early. Best wishes to everyone involved as the community comes together under the lights. Go Eagles!

Check out the [athletic calendar](#) to view our athletic competitions scheduled for the fall.

### Gold Out Shirts: Gold Out Game is September 18, 2026

#### [Gold Out Shirt Store:](#)



**The store is open now and will close on September 7, 2026.** You will notice that the Gold Out Committee made a change to shirt distribution this year. **All shirts will be shipped directly from the vendor to the purchaser.** We hope this will make the process easier for everyone by decreasing the possibility of miscommunication during shirt distribution and minimizing disruptions to school offices from shirts that were not picked up.

## Ashley's Friends: Where no child grieves alone.

Ashley's Friends offers a free safe and supportive group experience for children and teens ages 5-18 who have experienced the death of a loved one. The group meets on Monday nights from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. at the Livingston Educational Service Agency at 1425 W. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843. Contact Mary McDonald at 810-599-0178 for more information. There are four sessions available to choose from and every meeting starts with a light family style dinner.

## hARTLand Art Walk Information

A promotional graphic for the hARTLand Art Walk. It features a collage of four artworks: a blue and black abstract sculpture, a snowman with a guitar, a red and yellow dragon, and a classical statue holding a red rose. Text on the right says: "Students in Grades K-12: Will your artwork win a prize at the 2026 hARTLand Art Walk? Enter before August 28 here: www.hartlandartwalk.com". At the bottom left, it says "2026 Dates: September 27 through October 4!". At the bottom right is the "hARTLand ART WALK" logo with a paintbrush.

## REMINDER Hartland Music Hall Roof Replacement Drive

Dear Community,

The Hartland Music Hall was built in 1858 and is a cornerstone building in the Village of Hartland. As with any building, it is in regular need of repair. The Hartland Consolidated Schools Foundation, which was created by John Robert Crouse Sr., owns the Music Hall and the Cromaine Library leases the building from the HCS Foundation.

In the past year, the HCS Foundation has needed to deplete fund surplus to repair the Hall's structural foundation and to offset a portion of the cost to refurbish the pipe organ. This year, it is time for a new roof, as leaks are becoming regular!

This repair has required the HCS Foundation to redirect grants which have been regularly funded by the Foundation over the years. Your help is needed to ensure that activities such as the performance of Handel's *Messiah*, weddings, musical events, theatrical performances, State of the Township addresses, educational programs, community meetings, etc. can continue to occur in this building.

Please spread the word that the Hartland Area Project is running a "roof replacement" campaign to ensure this community asset remains a viable asset for years to come. If you are willing to support this campaign with a monetary donation please visit the [Hartland Area Project Website](#) and then the RED Donation button in the upper right hand corner. Thank you for your consideration and for spreading the word.





## School Districts Undergo Phishing Attacks

As schools across the state gear up and begin the school year, so do phishing attacks on school district employees. School district employees are frequently the target of phishing schemes, and the beginning of this school year is no different. Districts in Michigan, including Hartland, have seen an uptick of phishing in the past couple of weeks, especially those that are already in session. At the end of last week, Hartland was the target of several of these phishing attacks and as a result, district staff were receiving a barrage of very convincing emails.

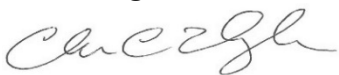
Phishing schemes have become increasingly more and more sophisticated, and with scammers utilizing the power of AI, it is becoming much more difficult for any of us to recognize a phishing scheme from a legitimate email. The majority of our staff are successfully recognizing phishing emails as such, marking them as SPAM, but we did have a few folks who clicked on the links or opened the shared documents in the most recent campaign. This resulted in the “Bad Actor” being able to clone the district staff’s email session, bypassing the need for user credentials and two-factor authentication, which all HCS Staff are required to use. When the “Bad Actor” had access to the staff’s cloned session, they were able to send new emails, impersonating our staff, and making it seem as though these new emails were coming from trusted sources. While many of these impersonated emails were sent to other staff, some were also sent to parents or student emails.

We wanted you to be aware of the situation here at HCS and we ask that you speak with your children about their own email security. Caution should be taken when reading email, and we should always be looking for classic signs of scam emails:

- Check the email domain:
  - Scammers often use public webmail or subtly misspell company names. (ex: @hart1andschools.com). Our emails come from @hartlandschools.us
  - The email may not even come from the correct email address even though the name on the email seems correct.
  - Sometimes the name and email address are correct so it seems like a safe email, but there may be some other aspects about the message that are “off” (see below).
- Urgent or Threatening Language: If the message indicates that immediate action must be taken, it is often a phishing attempt.
- Generic Greetings often are a sign of a phishing attempt: “Dear Sir”, “Dear Customer”, “Dear Friend”
- Suspicious Links in Attachments: By hovering your mouse over a link, you may be able to determine where the link will be taking you. If it doesn’t look right, it very well may not be. Never open unexpected attachments. If you feel like you need to, it is always a better idea to contact the person/company to see if they in fact sent the email in question. (Yes, it takes extra time, but it is far better to be safe than sorry.)
- Spelling and Grammar Errors: Fraudulent messages often contain typos or strange phrasing.

Again, if you feel there may be something off about an email, let it sit there without clicking on anything. If you feel you may really be missing something important, verify by calling if possible. If you discover the alleged sender did not send the email, delete it and if your email program has the capability, report it as SPAM.

Where Eagles Soar,



Chuck Hughes

“Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort.”

Paul J. Meyer

**In Hartland we call this “thoughtful and deliberate”!**

**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.