



# HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

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August 20, 2025

## **US News & World Report Best High School Rankings**

The 2025 Best High School Rankings are out. HHS exceeded past rankings. In 2023, HHS was ranked #112 in the State of Michigan and #3,252 in the Nation. In 2024, HHS was ranked #153 in the state and #4,547 in the nation. The 2025 rankings put HHS at #69 (top 6%) in the state and #2,196 (top 12%) in the nation.

Often, I hear comments about how HCS should concentrate on academics over athletics. The staff and district work hard to provide academic challenges for all students while also building what we like to call “legacy” programming. We believe both can coexist by setting high expectations for all. The US News & World Report rankings are weighted heavily on Advanced Placement participation and success on passing the AP exams. This year, 81% of all tests earned a passing mark compared to 79% last year when HHS made the AP Honor Roll. The data is clear, HCS offers academic rigor for any student who chooses to challenge themselves. The staff at HHS are outstanding. The community should be extremely proud of the students and staff, I am!

## **Teacher Professional Development**

The staff at Farms Intermediate and the middle school engage in professional development to learn effective strategies regarding the use of formative assessment (check in assessments to gauge where students are in their learning). This is a focus for the 2025-26 school year as we continue to better understand where students are so that we can plan for interventions and lessons that help move learning forward.



## **Outdoor Air Quality**

I have had an inquiry into outdoor air quality and what precautions the district takes on “Red Alert” days. I reached out to the Livingston County Health Department to see if there are any suggested guidelines that schools should follow. After receiving this information, I worked with our building administrators and athletic director to determine how we should handle this concern.

1. Parents can check the air quality at <https://www.airnow.gov/?city=Howell&state=MI&country=USA> and let school office staff know if you do not want your child to participate in outside gym, recess, walks, athletics, field trips, etc. on red alert days.
2. Staff and coaches will be notified of any red alerts so that they can adjust activity and time outdoors.
3. If a purple or maroon alert occurs, all outdoor activities will be cancelled. I understand that this approach is consistent with the MHSAA guidelines for athletics.

## **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. Mary Jo Ferris. 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.

## **Watch For Busses**

Yesterday, two of our busses were hit by cars. Please be patient while picking up or dropping off your students. Remain vigilant about what is going on around you, including staying focused on the road and keeping phones down. Luckily no one was injured.

Also, please remember to slow down when you see children at a bus stop and always abide by the flashing lights of a bus. Together we ensure that our students get to and from school safely.



# Nominations Open: 2025 Volunteer of the Year

## Hartland Living Volunteer of the Year Nominations Open

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Hartland Living Volunteer of the Year! This is the 11th year of recognizing a community member that goes above and beyond in the community. Nominations are open until 12:00 p.m. on September 2 and the form is located here: [bit.ly/VOYnominations2025](https://bit.ly/VOYnominations2025)

Respectfully,

Chuck Hughes

“Kindness is not an act, it’s a reflection of your soul.”

Unknown

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