



HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Charles Hughes, Superintendent

9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, Michigan 48843

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

September 2, 2026

Chain of Command When A Concern Arises

Each year, I remind parents to reach out to school personnel in the order noted below (chain of command) when there is a concern. Often individuals contact me directly about their concerns. In most cases, I send them back to the individuals who can best help them. Please refer to the following chart for whom to contact:

Classroom Concern:

Teacher
Counselor/Asst. Principal
Building Principal
Superintendent

Athletic Concern:

Coach
Athletic Director
Building Principal
Assistant Superintendent
of Student Services
Superintendent

Student Nutrition Concern:

Student Nutrition Director
Building Principal
Chief Financial Officer
Superintendent

Transportation Concern:

Bus Driver
Transportation Supervisor
Chief Financial Officer
Superintendent

Child Care Concern:

Child Care Teacher
Child Care Director
Director of Community Education
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
Superintendent

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 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.



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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



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.

Vote for The Hartland Living Volunteer of the Year

Volunteer of the Year voting is open until September 11, 2026. There are five outstanding nominees for the 12th year of Volunteer of the Year, and now we need your vote! Public voting takes place August 31 - September 11, 2026 at at our [voting website](#). One nominee will be highlighted each day on the Hartland Living Facebook page beginning Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Read about each one and cast your vote carefully, as only one vote per voter is allowed. Voting is not anonymous (your email address verifies your one vote).

Hartland Living Volunteer of the Year Nominees:

VOTE NOW AT:
bit.ly/VOYvoting2026

The poster features five photographs of nominees: a man in a baseball cap and sunglasses, a woman in a red and white patterned dress, a family of four, a woman smiling, and a man in a police uniform with two children. At the bottom, it says 'VOTING OPEN UNTIL 9/11' and includes the Hartland Living logo with social media icons for Facebook, X, and Instagram.

VOTING OPEN UNTIL 9/11

HARTLAND LIVING
Community Outreach
www.hartlandliving.com

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 Weekly Update and contact the Transportation Supervisor to discuss possibilities. We need you!

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.

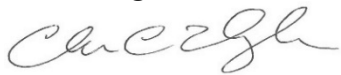
Phishing schemes have become increasingly more and more sophisticated, and with scammers utilizing the power of AI, it is becoming much more difficult for any of us to recognize a phishing scheme from a legitimate email. The vast majority of our staff are successfully recognizing phishing emails as such, 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: @hartlandschools.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

“Leadership is not the power to command but the courage to serve.”

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 options 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