

# Hacker Middle School December Newsletter

Welcome to December - I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was enjoyable! We are now in the home stretch of the first semester and a lot of learning to fit in during the next 2 ½ weeks. Please find information for the month of December included below.

## Important Upcoming Dates

- December 10<sup>th</sup> – Wear Your Ugly Holiday Sweater Day
- December 15<sup>th</sup> – Wear Your Merry Mask Day
- December 17<sup>th</sup> – Dress Like an Elf Day
- December 18<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester
- December 21<sup>st</sup> – January 5<sup>th</sup> - No School (Christmas Break)
- January 5<sup>th</sup> - No School (Staff Professional Development Day)
- January 6<sup>th</sup> - School Resumes / Start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

## **Food Drive Results**

A big thank you to all who contributed to our food drive. Hacker Middle School collected 983.2 pounds of food as part of our “Closing the Hunger Gap” partnership with Alliance Title. Mrs. Cathey’s fifth grade class and Mrs. Muilenburg’s sixth grade class were the top contributors and won a cookie party in acknowledgement of their contributions. All students and staff should be proud of their efforts to help those local families in need!

## **Virtual After School Activities**

We continue to offer a variety of virtual after school activities for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant. Students have the ability participate in the following:

- Academic Tutoring (Monday – Thursday 3:30-5:30)
- Cooking Club (Beginning – Tuesday 4:30-5:30; Advanced – (Thursday 4:30-5:30)
- Art Club (Wednesday & Thursday 3:30-4:30)
- **New** Astronomy Club (Every other Wednesday 3:30-4:30)
- Book Club (Monday & Tuesday 3:30-4:30)
- **New** Chess Club (Wednesday 3:30-4:30)
- **New** Digital Escape Room (Tuesday 3:30-4:30)
- **New** Kindness Club (Tuesday & Wednesday 3:30-4:30)
- Newsletter Club (Wednesday 4:30-5:30)
- STEM Club (Tuesday 4:30-5:30)
- Yearbook Club (Tuesday 3:30-4:30)

We will continue to rotate clubs and add new ones throughout the year. If your student is interested, please sign them up using the form at this link:

<https://forms.gle/o5DDYYAuNddz4XmK9>

## **Contact Information**

Please take a moment to review your contact information in PowerSchool via your Parent Portal and ensure we have the most up to date information in the event we need to contact you or your student's emergency contacts. We have had more incidents than I can count recently of not being able to reach parents and guardians when needed because of inaccurate phone numbers in the system. Please also make sure to update this information in both the Update Demographics and Emergency Messaging tabs to ensure you receive important communications.

## **COVID Update**

Though we are all tired of hearing about COVID, I do want to take a moment to thank everyone for their patience, support and communication during this time. We knew going into this school year there were going to be challenges, but all things considered we have been very fortunate at Hacker regarding COVID infections. While wearing masks, social distancing through the hybrid schedule, and an increase in sanitization efforts have certainly helped, I feel that perhaps the most impactful factor is the diligence with which our families have monitored their students for symptoms and communicated with us regarding exposure and quarantining. As a reminder, we ask that students who demonstrate new or increased symptoms stay home and anyone who has been exposed to a COVID positive person quarantine for 14 days (this time may change soon per the CDC). Please call us if you have questions.

With all of us working together, we will get through this relatively unscathed and hopefully return to a sense of normalcy sooner rather than later.

## **Final Thoughts**

As the end of the semester nears and the promise of Christmas break is on the horizon, I want to wish you and your families all a very happy holiday season. Please take care of yourself, your family and each other!

Sincerely,  
Lonni Smith  
Principal