



January 2022

**IMPORTANT
EVENTS****January 11**

First Day of Second Semester

January 17Martin Luther King, Jr. Day –
No School**January 18**

Student Late Start, 8:50 a.m. start

January 21

Blood Drive, 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

January 22D211 Honors Choir
Palatine HS, 4:00 p.m.**January 28**Dance Show
Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.**January 29**Dance Show
Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.**February 1**Student Late Start
8:50 a.m. start**February 3**Latino Parent Night
Media Center, 6:00 p.m.**February 12**D211 Honors Orchestra Concert
Palatine High School, 7:00 p.m.**February 15**Student Late Start
8:50 a.m. start**FROM THE PRINCIPAL: MICHAEL ALTHER****Welcome to 8th grade parents**

With this issue, we welcome the parents of the Class of 2026 to our Hoffman Estates High School community. For the rest of this school year, the parents of our incoming freshman students will receive this newsletter. We are also excited to welcome our new Hawks, who have the opportunity to learn about and become familiar with Hoffman Estates High School during the following opportunities in the Spring and Summer:

Bridging the Gap: *incoming freshman orientation during April and May*

Summer School 2022: *opportunities to enroll in academic courses and athletic camps*

Freshman Kick-off 2022: *first meeting of the entire class of 2026! (Friday, August 5th)*

In just a few months, your student will join the Hawk family and begin their journey with us towards lifelong success. The changes and opportunities that they will experience will help them build the knowledge and skills necessary to meet their goals. We also begin our partnership with you; our parents, as we establish the open community and collaboration between our school and your home. We realize that you are an integral part of the education process and encourage you to participate in as many school events and activities as you can. In addition to this newsletter, I encourage you to regularly check the [HEHS website](#), which includes a specific section for parents of the Class of 2026 and to follow us on Twitter (@HoffmanHS) for up to the minute information on academics, activities, and athletics at HEHS.

Our staff is dedicated to helping you and your student make the most of the next four years at HEHS. We have amazing educators who dedicate their time and energy to ensuring that your student achieves their highest potential. Our student body is defined by acceptance, tolerance, and respect for each other's differences. Our students are engaged, involved, and consistently demonstrate success both inside and outside of the classroom. Our entire staff honestly can't wait for your son or daughter to be one of our students in the Fall of 2022.

In preparation for writing this newsletter, I asked a few current students about their favorite things about HEHS. They told me multiple stories about "amazing, supportive teachers," "fun and engaging classes," and "tons of opportunities to get involved in activities, athletics, and fine arts." They also said that they feel "safe, respected, and valued" here. I am confident that your son or daughter will experience the same things starting in August. I also want to tell you about my favorite thing about HEHS. You know that our mascot is a hawk, but you may not know that we use the term SOAR (*like a hawk*) to define who we are and what we expect from each person in our building. SOAR stands for some of the most important values and behaviors that we expect. The S stands for 'show respect,' the O for 'own your actions,' the A for 'accept differences,' and the R for 'realize your potential.' I expect our students and staff to demonstrate these every single day.

If you have questions about academic, activities, or athletic opportunities for your son or daughter at HEHS, please feel free to contact us at any time. You can find pertinent information on our school website or call the school directly. We recommend that you direct questions about enrollment, course selection, or curriculum to the Student Services department (847-755-5630), questions about athletic teams or summer camps to the Athletic department (847-755-5771), and questions regarding activities or fine arts to the Activity Director (847-755-5613). Thank you in advance for working together with our staff to provide the best high school experience for your student.

Sincerely,

Michael Alther
Principal

If you require assistance while visiting our school, please contact the principal's office at (847) 755-5600.

February 15

Parent Principal Meeting
Media Center, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

February 19

Winter Formal, Main Gym
7:00-9:00 p.m.

February 21

Presidents' Day – No School

February 26

Purdue National Chain Reaction
Competition
HEHS, 9:00 a.m.

H.E.L.P. Trivia Night
Moretti's Unique Venues, 6:00 p.m.

Off-Campus Lunch

Junior and Senior students with parental permission may have off-campus privileges which allow the student to leave campus during their lunch period. If students previously did not have off-campus privileges for the first semester, students may pick up an off-campus form from the Attendance Office for second semester off-campus privileges. Forms are due to the Intervention Office by January 18, 2022 and require a parent/guardian signature.

Off-campus privileges are revocable if students are not meeting behavioral and/or academic expectations. Below are some examples that may lead to a student's off-campus privileges being revoked.

- Failure to abide by all school rules
- Excessive absences and or tardiness to class
- Inadequate academic performance
- Any misconduct related to leaving or while off-campus
- Any reason which leads the student's parent or administrator to feel that it is not in the student's best interest to retain the off-campus privilege. Parents or guardians may revoke their permission for Off-Campus privileges at any time by contacting their student's administrator in the Intervention Office.

Students that did not meet behavioral or academic expectations for the first semester may have their off-campus privileges revoked for the second semester and must meet with their Administrator to seek off-campus privileges again.

NOTE: Students returning from Off-Campus Lunch are *NOT* allowed to bring food back onto campus.

SENIOR EXEMPTIONS:

Senior 2nd Semester Final Exam Exemption

With final exams back this school year, District 211 will again allow graduating seniors to exempt from their second semester final exams if they meet the following criteria:

- have at least a "C" average in the course
- have less than six absences from the class
- have no truancies from the class
- have not been suspended from the class
- are not incomplete on required assignments

Seniors not qualifying for the exemption will be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies but will not receive a diploma on that day. Senior finals will be administered concurrently with all other scheduled final exams on May 25, 26 and 27. Diplomas will be given to students required to take final exams following the processing of final grades.

Summer School

As you make your plans for summer, make sure you keep in mind the following dates for summer school:

First Semester: June 7th – June 28th

Second Semester: June 29th – July 21st

Please note that summer school courses will run Monday-Thursday each week.

Summer School course registration dates are forthcoming. Upon receiving Summer School registration dates, students are encouraged to register for desired classes early. Current students with a request in Infinite Campus for enrollment in summer school driver education will be mailed home additional information in the spring regarding obtaining a driving permit and registering for the class. Enrollment in a summer school behind the wheel course is limited and students will need to present a driving permit before registering for the class.

SAFELY NAVIGATING THE PARKING LOT OF HEHS

Student Drop-Off Reminder

Morning student drop-off prior to 7:15 a.m. should occur just to the east of the bus lane. At 7:15 a.m. student drop-off by bus concludes and you may use the bus lanes to drop your student on the sidewalk nearest the building.

Student Pick-Up Reminder

Evening student pick-up can occur in the bus lanes except for the following times:

3:50 – 4:10 p.m. and 5:05 – 5:25 p.m.

*Athlete pick-up is preferred at Door 10 (Athletic Entrance)



The Board of Education has approved a revision to the 2022-2023 school year calendar due to November 8, 2022 being an Election holiday. The Board also revised the summer school 2022, 2023 and 2024 summer school calendars in accordance with new legislation in recognition of the Juneteenth Nation Day of Freedom. Revised full calendars are available online at www.d211.org.



Principal's SPOTLIGHT



One of the most common questions that parents ask me is “*what can I do as a parent to increase my child’s academic success?*” You may think that the answer is highly specific based on that student’s skills and strengths, but it’s actually a very simple answer. My response to this question is: “*Ensure that your student is in attendance for school every day and emphasize that they are on time to every class.*” The most helpful thing that you can do as a parent is to ensure that your student attends every one of their classes at Hoffman Estates High School every single day. That’s the simple truth. Encouraging good attendance and promptness are two of the most powerful ways that you can prepare your student for success in life after high school. We all want to set up good patterns of behavior for future college and career success.

You likely already know that research tells us that when you make school attendance a priority for your family, your student will have higher academic achievement, feel a stronger sense of community at school, have the opportunity to participate in engaging instructional activities, and have higher levels of social-emotional health. What you may not know is how detrimental even a few absences a month and being routinely tardy can be to your student’s success. There have been thousands of scientific studies completed on the importance of attendance, and the results are clear: having an absence rate of 10% or more is what educators define as the ‘**breaking point.**’ If your student misses more than 10%, or eighteen school days, during a school year, we see strong negative effects in their academic performance and social-emotional health. What may surprise you is that many parents don’t know that their students miss this much school whether it be entire classes or portions of classes related to one being tardy.

As we begin a new semester and a new year, we would like to closely partner with you to ensure that your student is in attendance and on time. As a member of the Hoffman Estates Learning Community, we ask that you partner with us in order to support attendance and promptness through #HawksHelp.

#HawksHelp is mindset we want to reinforce together and it includes the understanding that Hawks help each other in many ways. Be on the lookout for more information in your email after the new year.