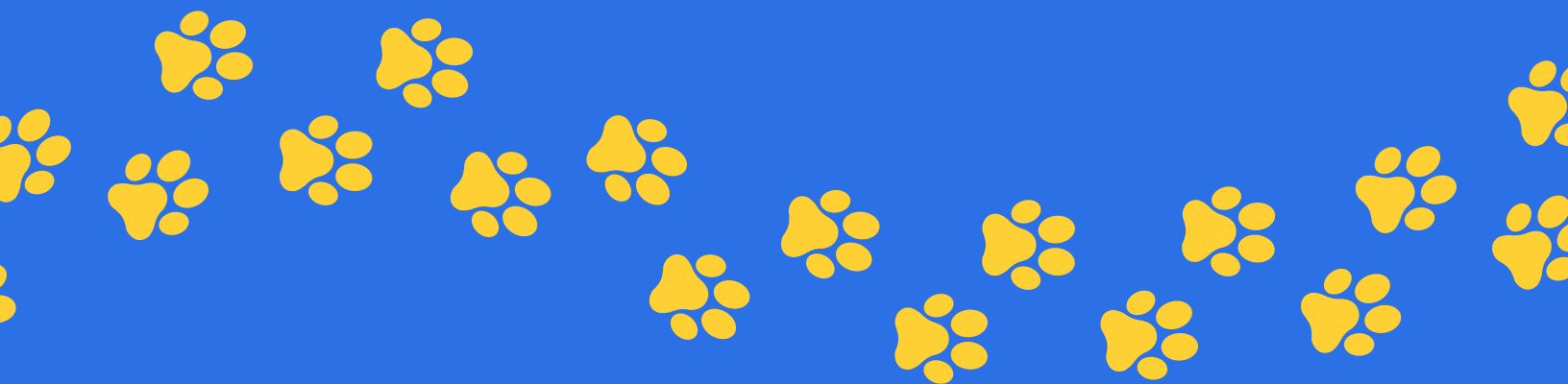




# HGSES Newsletter

*Fall 2024 Edition*



# From the Principal...



Hello Parents and Guardians,

It has certainly been an honor to join the school staff and community at Hickory Grove Sharon Elementary School as your child's principal. My goal is to build on the strong foundation already in place and work collaboratively with teachers, parents, and students to ensure a successful and enjoyable school year. I have enjoyed getting to know so many of our students and watching them throughout the day in their classrooms, cafeteria, and recess. With over thirty years of experience as a teacher, coach, and administrator, I can honestly say this has been one of the most exciting and enjoyable starts to the school year.

We are currently having Parent/Teacher conferences and I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher. It's important that parents and teachers develop a good working relationship early in the school year. This is a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress and set goals for the school year.

Throughout the school year, I would like for everyone to stay connected with school news and events. We are working on our new School webpage and continuously updating our school's Facebook page with all types of school information and events. In 3rd-6th grade, our teachers are posting classroom assignments and instructional activities on Canvas. If you have not visited your child's Canvas page, I encourage you to do so.

Thank you to all of our families, students, teachers, and staff for a wonderful start to the school year. If you should have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Keith McSwain, Principal

## Important Dates

October 2 – National Custodian Day

Oct. 3 – Parent / Teacher  
Conferences 3:00 – 6:00,  
Title One Annual Meeting

October 4 – 11:30 dismissal for  
students / Parent Conference  
12:00 – 3:00

Oct 7 – 11 – Intercession Week

Oct 14 – Teacher Workday

Oct 25 – 4th Grade Field Trip  
(KMSP)



Nov 5 – General Election (no school)  
Please go out and vote!

Nov 8 – Veteran's Day Program

Nov 27 – 29 – Thanksgiving Break

Dec 5 – Winter Program

Dec 20 – Half Day

Dec 23– Jan 3 – Winter Break

Nov 1 – 4k/5k Field Trip  
(Black's Peaches)

Nov 4 – Fall for Reading

# PTO



Our PTO met on September 24th at 2:45 in the HGSE library. We discussed upcoming events and are looking forward to some great times with our students!

We will have a Domino's Spirit Night on the third Tuesday of each month. A percentage of all proceeds on this night will be donated to the HGSE PTO.

Our upcoming Domino Spirit Nights for this fall are October 15th, November 19th, and December 17th.

On Monday, November 4th, our PTO will have pizza and two-liter sodas available for purchase at our Fall For Reading event! Don't worry about dinner that evening. PTO has got you covered!

We are looking for business sponsors for our monthly Birthday Lunch, which will consist of a free ice cream for each student who celebrates their birthday during that month. If you'd like to sponsor, please let us know. The sponsorship cost is \$100 and your business will be acknowledged on our school's social media pages for being willing to help us celebrate these students' special day each month!

We are also excited to announce that our Spirit Rock is ready to reserve for the 2024-2025 school year! This is a fun way to celebrate our students by publicizing birthdays, accomplishments, celebrations, and congratulatory messages. The Spirit Rock is located near the main entrance of HGSE. Please contact Mary Ashley Gilfillan ([mgilfillan@york.k12.sc.us](mailto:mgilfillan@york.k12.sc.us)) or the HGSE office(803-925-2116) to reserve the Spirit Rock for your child's special day. If you are interested in being a part of our PTO please contact Michelle Sanders ([misanders@york.k12.sc.us](mailto:misanders@york.k12.sc.us)) for more information.



# MERIT



On September 26, fifth and sixth grades will be going to the SC Museum in Columbia. We are looking forward to a STEAM class and planetarium show. CogAT Testing is quickly approaching October 15-18 in grades (3-6). Students are referred by teachers and parents to take the assessment. Referrals are due by Sept. 27. In grades three and four, guest speakers will visit our classroom on October 30 to demonstrate experimental archaeology hands-on activities including making cordage and pump drills using craft supplies. In addition, third and fourth grade students will be going to the Schiele Museum November 6. They will need to bring a bag lunch or order one from the cafeteria. MERIT students in grades (4-6) will present The Fallen Soldier Table during the Veteran's Day program on November 8.



# Nurse



## District Medication Policy

1. Medication must be brought to the school nurse by a responsible adult. (Do not send with a child.)
2. Medication should be administered by a parent/guardian before or after school hours, when possible.
3. All prescribed medications must be provided to the school in a current, original labeled container issued by the pharmacist who filled the prescription and accompanied a District form, signed by parent and physician.
4. Starting doses of a medication that a child has never taken before should not be given first at school.
5. Over-the-counter medications should be brought to the school nurse by a parent in a new, un-opened bottle. A form will be provided for the parent to complete.

## Immunization Certificates

If your child had any vaccinations at their physician's office or Health Department over the summer; please send in a copy of their up-dated South Carolina Certificate of Immunization. Completed certificates should be printed by the physician's office or Health Department. It also must be signed by someone at that office.

All students are required to have an up-dated S.C Certificate of Immunization indicating proof of the TDaP vaccine on file prior to beginning 7th grade. Any questions regarding the status of your child's vaccinations should be directed to your child's physician or Health Department.

# Art



These are the students that will be on display at the Sharon Post Office and the Broad River Wellness Office.

## Broad Well Wellness Office:

Salleyann Gilfillan – Long 6  
Natalie Harrison – Clemence 5  
Molly Hasty – Hullett 4  
Hannah Hinson – Meadows 3  
Oliver Sims – Taylor 2  
Josey Sherer – Crews 1  
Sydney Davis – Ledford K

## Sharon Post Office:

Ronan Haynes – Jackson K  
Rayven Fowler – Hancock K  
Thalia Karraker – Ledford K  
Castiel Waters – Gordon 1  
Nataliegh Greene – Crews 1  
Wyatt Wray – Krell 1  
Kinleigh Mefford – Taylor 2  
Gabriella Blakely – Yants 2  
Christian Gilfillan – Caveny 2  
Emmalynn Neiger – Farrie 3  
Harvest Gregg – Clemence 3  
Hank Campbell – Meadows 3  
Blakely Kearley – Hullett 4  
Aliyah Medrano – Tharp 4  
Annabell Clack – Efird 4  
Jason Gutierrez – Blackwell 5  
Gracelyn Rhodes – Ashe 5  
Trent Wilkins – Clemence 5  
Camden Davis – Long 6  
Jaxson Laney – Howe 6



# Guidance



School has gotten off to a great start! In classroom guidance, students are learning about the connection of colors and feelings. We even did a little “magic” to demonstrate this. They learned how to manage angry feeling appropriately, the difference in Big and Little Deals and how to respond appropriately.

Students are also learning the importance of a positive can-do mindset! Students learn that mindsets are built slowly, over time, from the beliefs we have about ourselves, others, the world around us, and what we are able to do. They learned specific strategies for developing positive, can do mindsets.

Students are encouraged to wear Orange October 16th for Unity Day. Unity Day is an annual even occurring during National Bullying Prevention Month in October that promotes joining together to create healthier communities through kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. It was started by PACER’S National Bullying Prevention Center in 2011 and is now celebrated around the world.

Red Ribbon Week will be October 28th–Nov.1. This year marks the 36th anniversary of the first official celebration of Red Ribbon Week. The even has grown into the country’s largest anti-drug endeavor. Encouraging youngster to turn away from drugs is still the main emphasis, but giving them the tools to make other healthy choices is now a component. Classroom guidance lessons will focus on preventing bullying and making good choices for ourselves and others.

- Oct. 28th Monday: Saddle Up Against Drugs–Wear Western Clothes
- Oct. 29th Tuesday: Don’t Get Mixed Up in Drugs–Wear Mismatched socks and/or clothes
- Oct. 30th Wednesday: Be ALL YOU can be...Drug Free–Wear Camouflage or Green and Brown
- Oct. 31st Thursday: Drugs and a Trick, Not a Treat–Wear Costumes (Nothing scary, no masks/props)
- Nov.1st Friday: Don’t let Drugs Sneak up on You–Wear sneakers or your favorite shoes



# PE



Students in Pre-K-2nd Grade will be learning underhand toss through a variety of games such as corn hole, ladder ball, bowling and many more. Students will also be participating in our Motor Lab. Motor Lab helps out students to learn how to cross their midline with a variety of different stations centered around how to do this.

Students in 3rd-6th Grade will be learning how to play the game of handball. Students will learn the rules and scoring system of this Olympic game. Students will also be learning this month the rules and team strategies of flag football which is also an Olympic sport in the next summer Olympics.



## Fitness Club

Fitness Club Schedule: Monday,  
Tuesday, Thursday, and  
Friday 7:20-7:40

September 30th – October 4th  
6th Grade

October 7th-11th Fall Break

October 14th – 18th 5th Grade

October 21st – 25th 6th Grade

October 28th – November 1st  
5th Grade



# Library



Happy October HGS Families,

We kicked off our Connected as Readers Reading Challenge last month for our 3rd-6th graders. The lists have been shared with the students at school. If you need an electronic copy, please let me know. Students can read a book, take a quiz and get a prize from me in the library. Read all 12 this year and attend a reading celebration at the end of the school year.

Thanks for helping your 4K-2nd grade students learn to be responsible for library books. Most of them are returning their books each week so that they are able to get a new one. Remind them to keep library books in their bookbags so that they will have them at school each day.

The book fair is coming soon! The book fair is scheduled for November 4th -8th. We will be open during our Hall Crawl so that families can visit the fair together. If you would like to volunteer to help, just email me at [shcomer@york.k12.sc.us](mailto:shcomer@york.k12.sc.us).

Thanks for all you do for our school and students,

Sherri Comer  
HGS Media Specialist

# Music



What an exciting start to the school year! We have been playing games, learning how to play new instruments, and using Quaver music daily! In Pre-K -2nd, we have been working on how to keep a steady beat with our new beat buddy "Beatrice the Steady Beet". Stay tuned for more information about our upcoming performances.



# Band



Our 6th grade Beginning Band has had a great start to the school year! We have learned basics of music theory, instrument assembly and maintenance, and has made our first sounds. Stay up to date with through checking the Weekly Information Sheet (WIS) via email and Remind 101.



A decorative border of pumpkins with various carved faces surrounds the text. The pumpkins are orange with green stems and are arranged in a continuous line around the page.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to announce a fun and creative fund raiser/competition this Halloween season. All families are invited to participate in a pumpkin decorating contest. The guidelines for the decorating contest are:

- Acquire a pumpkin of any size. Pumpkins may be any size and real or fake.
- Appropriately decorate the pumpkin (paint, carve, clothe, etc.)
- You may have multiple pumpkins in your display but no more than 2 large pumpkins in one display. You may also include smaller pumpkins if you wish.
- Student's name is written on the back on the pumpkin at the bottom.

The cost for entering this contest will be \$5 per pumpkin display. Entering fee must be turned in by October 29th. (Send with your child and this completed form).

A first, second, and third place prize will be awarded after the displays have been judged by our expert panel of pumpkin judges. Prize amounts will depend on the number of participants. All proceeds made will be designated for future HGS field trips.

Pumpkin displays will need to be delivered no later than Wednesday, October 30th. Judging will take place on Thursday, October 31st. Winners will be notified that afternoon.

Thank you,

Hickory Grove-Sharon Elementary School.

---

If you would like to participate please complete the information below and send the bottom portion of this form back with your child by October 29th and the \$5 entry fee.  
Student Name:

---

Parent Contact information:

---





# YCHS/FDJTC Fall Fest

**Saturday, October 26**

**10 am - 2 pm**

**Free Admission!**

**Wear your Halloween costume!**

**Trunk-or-Treat (11-12), Haunted Hallway, Petting Zoo,  
Face Painting, Food, Children's Activities, Costume  
Contest (1:00), & More!**

.....  
**Hot Dog & Hamburger Plates for Sale**

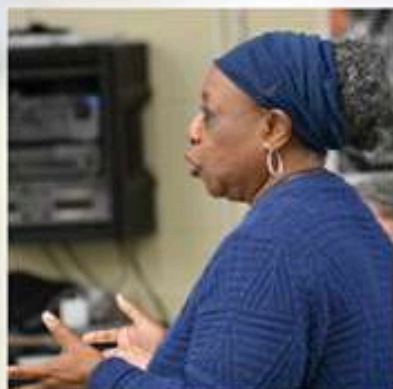
.....  
**Skills USA 5K at 9 am**

<https://runsignup.com/Race/SC/York/IgniteYourPotentialK>  
.....

**Floyd D. Johnson Technology Center - 275 E Alexander Love Hwy**  
**Enter from Lincoln Rd. Side of Building**



# STRATEGIC CHANGE AGENDA - 2022-2027



## MISSION

Our mission is to cultivate a service-oriented community of learners who strive for personal growth and excellence as communicators, collaborators, creators, and critical thinkers.

## VISION

To Learn, Serve, and Give as One

## BELIEFS

- Learning is a life-long, ever-changing process for students and staff.
- Each child is unique and should have the opportunity to reach his/her full potential.
- A safe, orderly, and nurturing environment is essential for learning.
- Education is a collaborative effort between schools and the community.
- Technology is a tool that should be leveraged to enhance the teaching and learning process.
- Teaching and learning should be relevant, individualized, and intentional to equip students for success.

## COMMITMENTS

1. We will foster and maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff.
2. We will establish and nurture trusting and caring relationships with students, families, community members, and colleagues.
3. We will provide quality learning experiences to meet the individual needs of students.
4. We will embrace a commitment to continuous learning for students and staff.
5. We will partner and collaborate with students, families, and the community to enhance educational experiences.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[WWW.YORK.K12.SC.US/MISSION](http://WWW.YORK.K12.SC.US/MISSION)