

HTHS Parent e-Newsletter



October

Important Dates:

- October 4 - 8:00am - PTO meeting - HTHS Cafeteria
- October 12 - Teacher Professional Development Day - No school for students
- October 12 - Football game at home vs. Shades Valley
- October 15-16 - FALL BREAK - Schools Closed
- October 21 - 1:00 - Practice ACT for students enrolled in ACT Prep class
- October 23 - 6:30pm - "Making it Count" meeting for freshmen & parents - HTHS auditorium
- October 23 - 6:30pm - College Financial Aid meeting for parents of juniors and seniors - HTHS library
- October 26, 27, 28 - Fall Play, "Pygmalion"
- October 27 - ACT administration
- October 27 - PLAN administration for sophomores
- October 29 - Senior Day

As I was driving through Trussville the other day, I passed by the old junior high and noticed the sign on the brick wall at the baseball field. It says, "Hewitt-Trussville, A Tradition of Excellence." I loved seeing that, as it is a public display of what has always been and what we are currently about! Thanks to the many of you who are finding ways to get "plugged in" here at HTHS - it's important for you and for your children!

Having a terrific time at school,

Jennifer Hogan

October marks the beginning of the *Perfect Attendance Incentive Program*

Students who have perfect attendance will be eligible to win various prizes!

Perfect Attendance means that....

1. The student is on time to every class. NO TARDIES!!
2. The student is in school every day (school event is only exception for this program)
3. The student is in every class, every day
4. No disciplinary matters (detentions, dress code violations, referrals to office, bus citations)

Students who have perfect attendance for the month will be entered into a drawing for \$25.

One winner will be chosen from each grade level. The senior student who wins will receive a pass to leave campus one day for lunch.

The first period class with the highest attendance percentage for the month will receive a Chick-Fil-A breakfast!

Excused Absences

The following question has been brought up by several parents, and I wanted to make sure we were clear about what it states in the parent-student handbook.

Q: "Do I need to take my child to the doctor if he or she is out sick?"

A: A parent note the next day stating that the child was sick will be counted as an excused absence. If the student is out for 5 or more consecutive days, a doctor's note will be needed to excuse the absence.

Fall Break

Teachers and will be working hard on Friday, October 12th while the students are out of school. The theme for this year's professional development is "Learning Luau," and the teachers will be presenting workshops for each other based on their own input. Remember, there is no school on October 15th and 16th for anyone. Enjoy your time together as a family!

Two informative and important workshops offered for parents!

On October 23rd, the counseling department will be sponsoring two different workshops at HTHS.

The freshmen and parents of freshmen will be in the auditorium for a presentation called, "Making It Count."



Making High School Count provides first-semester high school freshmen with important information on how to recognize their potential for future success and make the most of their high school experience. This 50-minute, interactive, assembly-style presentation helps students realize the choices they make as early as freshman year can impact their opportunities upon graduation.

This FREE program is offered from August through December. A full-color workbook is provided for students to follow along during the presentation and to take with them as a future resource.

The program shows students how to:

- Make an effective transition into high school.
- Realize the importance of grades in achieving their future goals.
- Build important skills through meaningful involvement in extracurricular activities.
- Develop study skills that will make their study time more effective.
- Implement test-taking strategies that enable them to get better grades.



A college financial aid workshop will be offered in the HTHS library for parents of juniors and seniors. A representative from UAB will be on hand to answer any questions parents may have about financial aid for college.

Extra Tutoring and Resources Available at HTHS

Mu Alpha Theta members and sponsors are in the HTHS library every Tuesday and Thursday morning for math tutoring. This is a free service! Also, the computer lab in room 181 is available and supervised Monday through Thursday afternoons until 5:00.

STI Home

If you are checking grades in STI Home, you will be glad to know that there is a link on the school website which will take you directly to the login page. Additionally, when you check grades, be sure to use the link on the STI page called "Current Class Averages." That link will give you the current grade in each class as well as provide a link so that you can see each grade on each assignment.

Roundtable Discussion

Thanks to everyone who attended the Roundtable on September 26th. We will have another one during the next nine-week grading period.

Eight Questions to Ask Your Child About His Day at School

1. Tell me about the best part of your day.
2. What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
3. Did any of your classmates do anything funny?
4. Tell me about what you read in class.
5. Do you think math [or any subject] is too easy or too hard?
6. What's the biggest difference in your classes between this year and last year?
7. Who did you sit with at lunch?
8. Can you show me something you learned (or did) today?

Senior Day

On October 29th, we will host our first Senior Day of the year. We have lots of activities planned for the class of 2008! The fall play by our theatre department is *Pygmalion*, and the senior class will get to see it that morning. Also, many college representatives will give a presentation and be available to answer questions. Lunch will be provided for the seniors, and we will have entertainment and a guest speaker for them after lunch. Attendance for the day is worth a test grade in their English classes, so make sure your Senior is on time to school that day! Their peers have been working hard to prepare for the play, and much planning and effort has been put into making it a fun and educational day.

Two Reasons to join the PTO!

1. You can put your skills and talents to good use!
2. You will be a role model for your child by getting involved with the school and demonstrating the importance of an education.

And why is a high school diploma so important?

Consider this: High school dropouts have a life span that is nine years shorter than people who graduate. Dropouts are more likely to face poverty, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

If a student drops out of high school, the chances of running afoul of the law increase.

Nationally, 68 percent of state prison inmates are dropouts.

Typically high school dropouts earn \$19,000 a year. High school graduates earn \$28,000 a year on average.

Show your Husky Spirit!

We would like to ask all parents, community members, and businesses in Trussville to show your support for HTHS and the Huskies by "wearing red on Fridays." *With as much community pride we have, let's show it by wearing RED every Friday during football season!*