

the NEST

News from Hawk Nation

Volume Three Issue 3 - Spring 2026

Hillsboro R-3 School District www.hsdr3.org

FROM THE DESK OF DR. JON ISAACSON

Dear Hillsboro R-3 Families, Community Members, and Partners,



As we enter the final stretch of the school year, there is a different kind of energy across Hillsboro R-3. It is a season filled with milestones.

For our students, this time brings some of the most meaningful experiences of their journey. Prom, graduation, performances, competitions, and end-of-year celebrations all mark important transitions. For our seniors and their families, it is a time of pride and reflection as they prepare to take the next step.

For others, it marks another year of growth, friendships, and learning.In the middle of a very busy season, it is important to slow down and take it in.

These moments go quickly. A final game, a concert, a classroom celebration, or even a simple conversation in the hallway can become a lasting memory.

There is also a great deal to celebrate across our district.Our archery program has achieved incredible success this season. Our high school team earned both the Bullseye and the 3D State Championships, and our junior high team finished second at the state level. This is an outstanding accomplishment and a reflection of the dedication of our student archers, coaches, and families.

Our students also continue to excel in the arts. At the Jefferson College High School Art Exhibition, several students were recognized for their work. We are proud of all who participated and represented Hillsboro R-3 so well.

Our Agriculture and Career and Technical Education programs continue to create real opportunities for students. Several juniors and seniors recently earned their OSHA 10 Hour Certifications through our partnership with Concrete Strategies. This allows students to enter the workforce with essential safety credentials already in place.

We are also proud to celebrate Reece Ernst on his signing with the Sydenstricker Nobbe Partners Career Academy.

We are also proud to recognize two individuals who represent the very best of Hillsboro R-3: Ashley McNail, District Teacher of the Year, and Justin Lawson, Support Staff Person of the Year. Ashley and Justin demonstrate the commitment and care that make a difference for students every day. We are grateful for their leadership and proud to celebrate their work.

As we close out the school year, I encourage everyone to reflecton how far our students have come. Not all growth is measured in grades. It is seen in confidence, perseverance, relationships, and progress made each day.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, our staff,
and our schools. Let's finish the 2025-2026 school year strong and take time to appreciate everything that makes this time of year special.



IN THIS ISSUE

02 **MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**
Dr. Jon Isaacson, Superintendent of Schools

04 **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
Mr. John Linhorst, President of the Board

05 **CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT**
Mrs. Melissa Hildebrand, Ed.S., Associate Superintendent

06 **DISTRICT OPERATIONS**
Dr. Clay LaRue, Assistant Superintendent District Operations

08 **GRANT AND COMMUNITY NEWS**
Mr. Scott Readnour, District School /Community Relations/Grant Writing Coordinator

09 **FOUNDATION NEWS**
Hillsboro R-3 Public Schools Foundation News

10 **DISTRICT WINNERS**
Teacher of the Year/Support Staff Person of the Year

11-30 **BUILDING NEWS**
ECC. Primary, Elementary, Intermediate, Junior High, High School, and Learning Center

31-32 **BRIDLE RIDGE ACRES FARM & FFA**
Bridle Ridge Acres Agriculture Farm Program

33-36 **HAWKS ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES**
Athletics/Specials/Clubs

HILLSBORO R-3 BOARD OF EDUCATION

PRESIDENT: John Linhorst | linhorst_john@hsdr3.org
VICE PRESIDENT: Angie Oshia | oshia_angie@hsdr3.org
TREASURER: Diane Scanga | scanga_diane@hsdr3.org
DIRECTOR: Erick Stephenson | stephenson_erick@hsdr3.org
DIRECTOR: Stephanie Cage | cage_stephanie@hsdr3.org
DIRECTOR: Tina Thebeau | thebeau_tina@hsdr3.org
DIRECTOR: Ryan Read | read_ryan@hsdr3.org
SECRETARY: Betsy Noack | noack_betsy@hsdr3.org

CONTACT US

www.hsdr3.org
Hillsboro R-III Administration Office: (636) 789-0060
Hillsboro Primary (Early Childhood & grades Kdg & 1): (636) 789-0050
Hillsboro Elementary (grades 2 & 3): (636) 789-0040
Hillsboro Intermediate (grades 4, 5 & 6): (636) 789-0030
Hillsboro Junior High (grades 7 & 8): (636) 789-0020
Hillsboro High School (grades 9, 10, 11, 12): (636) 789-0010
Hillsboro Learning Center: (636) 789-0086
District Registrar: (636) 789-0007 | fax: (636) 789-4316
Hillsboro Transportation: (636) 789-0081
Hillsboro Technology: (636) 789-0077

ADMINISTRATORS

Amy Phillips-Early Childhood Principal
Shannon Murray - Primary Principal
Eric Detweiler - Elementary Principal
Leslie Marchetti - Intermediate Principal
Dr. Bill Murphy - Junior High Principal
Mark Groner - High School Principal

Dr. Jon Isaacson - Superintendent
Melissa Hildebrand - Associate Superintendent
Dr. Clay LaRue - Assistant Superintendent, District Operations
Matt Whitehead - Executive Director of Special Services
Patrick Quinn - Director of Communications & Strategic Engagement

the NEST | SPRING ISSUE 2026

COVER : HILLSBORO JH TO JEFFERSON COLLEGE ATS
PHOTO BY Berry Ijames

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



John Linhorst
Hillsboro R-3 Board President

Hello and welcome from the Board of Education to the Spring 2026 edition of The NEST. As we conclude another successful academic year, we take this opportunity to celebrate important milestones and reflect on the progress made across our district.

We extend our congratulations to the graduating Class of 2026. Their hard work and perseverance have prepared them well for what lies ahead, and we are proud of all they have accomplished.

This year also marked the first full year of our Early Childhood Center. Welcoming our youngest Hawk learners this year has been a meaningful step forward for our community, and we are grateful for the dedication of our staff in building a strong foundation for continued success.

We would also like to thank our teachers, support staff, administrators, families, and community members for their continued commitment to our students. Your collective efforts make Hillsboro R-3 a place where our students can learn and grow.

As the school year comes to a close, we reflect on a successful academic year with pride, and look forward to next fall with anxious anticipation. On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you for your continued support. With Hawk Pride, we invite you to enjoy this edition of The NEST | News from Hawk Nation.

YouTube

Watch Live or Later on YouTube

Upcoming Meetings:
Thursday, May 28, 2026
Thursday, June 25, 2026

VonArx Engineering
636-797-8425
www.vonarxengineering.com

BUTLER SUPPLY
Dedicated To Our Customers' Success
butlersupply.com

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR HILLSBORO R-III SPONSORS



MFB Ghirardi Agency
Auto • Home • Life • Business
10620 Business 21, Hillsboro, MO 63050
636-797-5800 JeffersonCountyInsurance.com

GO HAWKS! GO HAWKS! GO HAWKS!

LEGACY SERVICE AND SUPPLY
WWW.LEGACYSERVICEANDSUPPLY.COM
314-775-4793

CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENTS *News*

Paving the Pathway to Post-Secondary Success



Melissa Hildebrand, Ed. S.
Associate Superintendent

The district is committed to providing our students with opportunities to get a headstart on their college education while saving money through our dual credit/dual enrollment programs. Through partnership with Jefferson College, these programs allow high school students to take college-level courses and earn credits that count towards both their high school diploma and college degree, often at a fraction of the cost of traditional college tuition. This provides an incredible opportunity for students and their families to save on future college expenses while still enrolled in high school. During the 2024-2025 school year students earned 1,332 hours of dual credit and 964 hours of dual enrollment credit, with 14 students earning an Associates Degree while graduating from high school. Hillsboro High School students earned the most dual enrollment hours and the most Associate's Degrees in Jefferson County. This is a tremendous accomplishment and we continue to experience growth in both opportunities.

In addition to early college programs, Hillsboro R-III offers a range of career and technical education (CTE) courses designed to prepare students for successful futures. This year, 83 students are enrolled in the Area Technical School, where they gain hands-on experience in various fields. Furthermore, there are 934 enrollments in one or more of our district's Career Technical Education courses.

These courses provide students with essential, practical skills that translate directly into the workforce, helping them become well-rounded and career-ready. Our CTE programs empower students to pursue diverse career paths immediately after high school or further their education with a competitive edge.

We are proud to provide programs that create significant financial savings for our families while ensuring students are better prepared for their futures. The dual credit, dual enrollment, and CTE opportunities available today can save our students thousands of dollars and prepare them with critical skills, giving them a tremendous advantage as they embark on their college and career journeys.

We encourage parents, community members, and local businesses to support and celebrate these initiatives as we continue to invest in the bright futures of our students.Our commitment to offering dual credit, dual enrollment, and CTE opportunities reflects our dedication to fostering educational excellence and making higher education accessible for all students in our district.

Ameritime®
Educating Educators About Their Money
(314) 432-9540 • Crystal City, MO
WWW.AMERITIME.NET

Hawks
2026-27

LINK TO 2026-27 DISTRICT CALENDAR

DISTRICT OPERATIONS *News*

Transportation Update - DOT Bus Inspection Results



Dr. Clay LaRue
Assistant Superintendent,
District Operations

On March 20, 2026, the district successfully completed its annual Department of Transportation Bus Inspection. We are proud to share that the Transportation Department achieved an outstanding 98.1% pass rate, with only one bus not meeting inspection standards due to a faulty tailpipe bracket. This accomplishment reflects the team's strong commitment to safety and reliability for our students. We extend our sincere thanks to Transportation Director Jim Brooks, District Lead Mechanic Mark Dobell, and the drivers who assisted during the inspection-tion for their hard work and dedication to ensuring the safe transportation of our students.

Enhancement Grant - Culinary and FACS Lab Renovations

This past summer, Mrs. Hildebrand and Mr. Readhour applied for the DESE Enhancement Grant, the same grant program that previously helped fund the greenhouse at the district's farm for the agriculture program. We are excited to share that the district was awarded the grant for a second time in the amount of $191,398.50. These funds supported the remodeling of the high school FACS room and the creation of a fully equipped culinary lab. The design work was completed by Steve Bacon of Bacon Commercial Design and Session Fixture Company, with construction completed by Brockmiller Construction. The project has recently been finished and has received occupancy approval from the City of Hillsboro and the Hillsboro Fire Department.

Summer Outlook

As we look ahead to summer, our maintenance schedule is quickly filling up with several important projects across the district. Planned work includes two roof replacements—one at the junior high and one at the primary school—as well as concrete repairs at the front entrance of the high school. We will also be repainting the junior high gym and several classrooms to stay on track with our ongoing maintenance painting cycle. In addition, an asphalt overlay will begin near the school data center and extend along Hawk Drive to the entrance of the junior high parking lot. A major highlight this summer will be the full replacement of the high school's original HVAC system, which will require the building to be closed during construction. As a result, 5–12 summer school will be relocated to the junior high to allow for completion of the renovation. For more details, please see the accompanying News article.





LORENE HOLST
SIDNEY FLORENCE
REAL ESTATE
Lorene: 314.681.4723
Sidney: 636.543.4673
Main Key Realty
636.937.7727
Mainkey.net



The Dietrich Family



FARMHOUSE
Style Boutique
101 Main Street
Festus, MO 63028
636-465-0633
Hours: Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-4
Closed Mondays



Dar-E-Kreme
636-285-3288

GRANT & COMMUNITY *News*

$720,000+ and Growing

The Hillsboro R-3 School District continues to build strong momentum through grant funding, community partnerships, and a focus on expanding opportunities for our students.

Over the past three years, the district has secured **more than $720,000** in grant funding to support programs, facilities, and resources that benefit students each day. We are especially grateful for the continued support of **FFA, FCS Financial, DESE, Jefferson Foundation, the Innovative Technology Education Fund, and Walmart**. Most recently, **Walmart Spark Good** awarded an additional **$1,000** to support **Hawk families in need**, helping provide essential items and assistance so barriers outside the classroom do not stand in the way of success.

We are also continuing to expand opportunities through ongoing grant work. Our **Agriculture program** remains an area of growth, with a focus on **hands-on learning at our district farm and greenhouse**. Additional efforts include pursuing funding for updated learning spaces, including **Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) labs, Early Childhood resources**, and improved student screening tools—provided at no cost to families.

None of this work happens without the support of O**ur Community**. Together, we are creating opportunities for our students today and building a stronger future for **Hillsboro R-3**.

Welcoming Tina Thebeau to the Board of Education

The Hillsboro R-3 School District Board would like to welcome Tina Thebeau as its newest member. A Hillsboro High School Class of 1980 graduate, Tina has deep roots in the district, where she, her husband, and their two children all graduated. She began her career teaching English at DeSoto High School before returning to Hillsboro, where she taught at the junior high from 1998 to 2008. During that time, she founded and coached the Junior High Spirettes (now Jr. Hawkettes) and served as yearbook advisor. She later spent ten years as an administrator at Festus Middle School before retiring in 2018.



Tina's family remained actively involved in Hillsboro schools. Her daughter, Christina (Class of 2006), participated in athletics, choir, and academic programs, and was later inducted into the Hillsboro High School Hall of Fame. Her son, Jacob (Class of 2013), was active in multiple sports, band, and student leadership, including Missouri Boys' State. Outside of school, Tina and her husband stay active in their church and community, where they volunteer their time and support local initiatives. Tina's lifelong commitment to education and service, along with her strong ties to the community, make her a valuable addition to the Board of Education.

Hillsboro R-III Public Schools

Foundation News

Helping Hawks Soar!

Stars & Scholars Gala: Supporting the Future of Hillsboro R-3

The Hillsboro R-III Public Schools Foundation, in partnership with the Hillsboro Community Civic Club, will host its first-ever **Stars & Scholars Gala** on Saturday, June 27, 2026. This special event will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence while bringing our community together in support of Hillsboro R-3 students. The purpose of the Gala is to raise seed funding for a Foundation endowment that will provide long-term support for students, staff, and programs across the district.

A Night to Celebrate
The evening will feature a catered dinner, live and silent auctions, student performances by the Hillsboro High School band and choir, and a closing fireworks display.

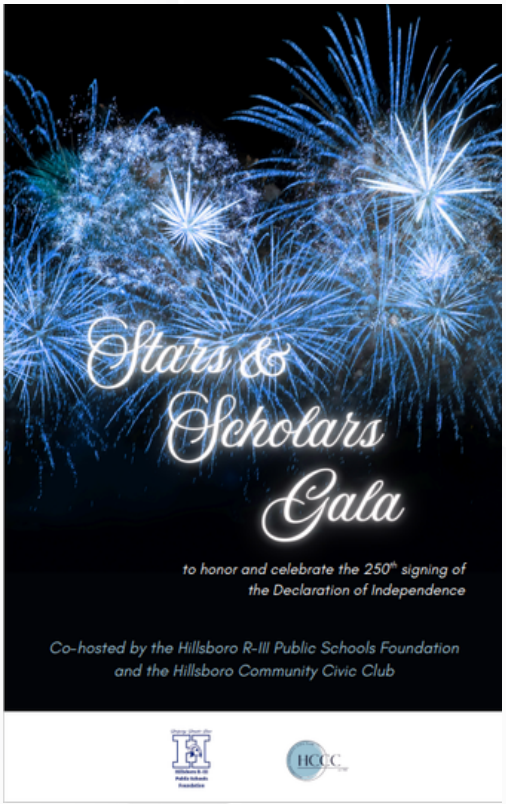
Ways to Participate
There are several ways for individuals and groups to be involved:

- Individual Tickets: $75
- Table of Eight: $600
- VIP Tables: $2,000 (includes premium seating, program recognition, and additional perks)

Sponsorship Opportunities
Community partners and local businesses can support the event through:

- Premiere Sponsorships ($1,000 each): Decor, Beverage, Dinner, or Entertainment
- Program Advertising: Full, half, or quarter-page ads
- Foundation Sponsorship Levels: $250 to $1,500

Join Us
The Stars & Scholars Gala is an opportunity to come together as a community and invest in the future of our students. Whether attending, sponsoring, or supporting in another way, your involvement will help make a lasting impact. For more information, please contact the Hillsboro R-III Public Schools Foundation at readnour_scott@hsdr3.org.



SCAN ME

#HawksHelpingHawks

To donate to the
Hillsboro R-3 Public Schools Foundation

DISTRICT WINNERS

District Teacher of the Year: Ashley McNail



Mrs. Ashley McNail has been named Hillsboro R-3 School District Teacher of the Year, honoring her strong impact on students, families, and colleagues.

Nominators praised her dedication to building meaningful relationships and creating a welcoming, supportive classroom where students feel comfortable and motivated to succeed. One shared that she "puts a smile on everyone's face" and ensures students feel confident and understood.

Her caring approach fosters engagement and meaningful learning, especially in her 8th Grade ELA and Creative Writing classes, where she encourages creativity and self-expression.

Beyond the classroom, she supports students through NJHS, attends events, and volunteers as a chaperone for activities like the HOCO Bash and 8th Grade Formal.

We are grateful for her dedication and proud to have her in our Junior High. Congratulations, Mrs. McNail!



Support Staff Member of the Year: Justin Lawson

Hillsboro R-3 proudly recognizes Justin Lawson as the District's Support Staff Member of the Year.

For five years, Justin has served as the district's primary HVAC technician, maintaining over 900,000 square feet of learning space and ensuring safe, comfortable environments for students and staff.

From daily maintenance and repairs to supporting a large-scale HVAC replacement project, Justin consistently goes above and beyond. He has also provided leadership during team transitions, mentoring others and offering steady support.

Justin's dedication, expertise, and commitment make him truly deserving of this honor.

HILLSBORO EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER News



Hillsboro Early Childhood: Healthy Habits Start Here

Our students at Hillsboro Early Childhood kicked off their second semester with a focus on developing healthy habits. They participated in a variety of hands-on activities surrounding hygiene, nutrition, and safety. Students even took part in an engaging presentation from **Kid Smiles Pediatric Dentistry**, where they learned all about proper dental health.

Hillsboro Early Childhood also partnered with the district's **Parents as Teachers** program to offer a Very Hungry Caterpillar themed Group Connection. During the event, parents received tips and tricks focused on ways they can encourage their child to make healthy eating habits. Children in attendance had an opportunity to taste-test and rate a variety of nutritional snacks as well as enter an attendance raffle for a Very Hungry Caterpillar themed basket donated by Guardian Hawks PTO.













Hip Hip Hooray! It's the 100th Day!

Hillsboro Early Childhood recently celebrated their 100th day of school. Classrooms were buzzing with excitement as students marked this important milestone by dressing up as if they were 100 years old and participating in fun lessons and activities surrounding the number 100. It was a fun way to mark the progress and accomplishments of our students!



HILLSBORO EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER News

Promoting Literacy through Partnerships

Hillsboro Early Childhood and Parents as Teachers teamed up with Hillsboro Primary for a week-long celebration in honor of **Read Across America Week**. Students were given an opportunity to bring their favorite stories to life by dressing up as beloved book characters. Families were also encouraged to join us for an evening filled with fun literacy-based activities including crafts, games, and guest readers. It was an exciting week filled with reinforcing a love for literacy while also highlighting the importance of home-school partnerships to promote lifelong readers.





Hillsboro Early Childhood Puts Their Imaginations in Motion

After exploring the various forms of transportation, students engaged in imaginative play surrounding the various transportation-related career fields. They pretended to operate car washes, conduct trains, repair vehicles, construct bridges, and design roadways. This purposeful play was designed to deepen their understanding and appreciation of how these essential jobs help people travel safely and efficiently from place to place while also fostering their creativity.













HILLSBORO EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER News



From Scales to Tails: Hillsboro Early Childhood Brings Learning to Life

Students at Hillsboro Early Childhood had so much fun learning about reptiles and other wild animals that they decided to continue the fun with a real-life reptile experience. Students had an opportunity to get up close with a variety of reptiles and other wild animals including snakes, alligators, tarantulas, and even a scorpion. Don't worry! There were plenty of ways to join in on the fun for those of us who preferred to keep our distance.





















Hawks

HILLSBORO PRIMARY *News*

Celebrating Characters During Read Across America Week

Read Across America Week was filled with creativity and fun as students and staff celebrated Character Day!

Everyone had the chance to dress up as their favorite book characters, bringing beloved stories to life in colorful and imaginative ways. Popular choices included If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Curious George, Where's Waldo?, Cat in the Hat, and many other unique and creative characters.

Students paraded around the primary school in their costumes, sharing their favorite books and stories with classmates and teachers. The excitement and enthusiasm were contagious, making it a joyful celebration of reading and imagination.

Character Day reminded us all that books can inspire creativity, bring stories to life, and connect our school community through a love of reading. It was a wonderful way to celebrate stories, characters, and the joy of reading!











Celebrating the 100th Day of School

Hillsboro Primary School was filled with excitement as students celebrated the 100th Day of School in creative style. Many dressed as 100-year-olds, while others wore shirts decorated with 100 items, showcasing their creativity.

Classroom activities focused on the number 100, with students practicing counting, writing, and exploring different ways to make 100. The day highlighted both fun and learning, celebrating how much students have accomplished so far this year.

It was a joyful day full of creativity, laughter, and 100 times the fun!



HILLSBORO PRIMARY *News*

Family Literacy Night Brings Stories to Life



Our recent Family Literacy Night was a joyful celebration of reading, creativity, and community. Students and families enjoyed an evening filled with engaging activities while exploring the newly remodeled library.

A highlight of the night was a fantastic lineup of guest readers, including Dr. Jon Isaacson, Jon Linhorst, Dr. Cathy Freeman and Cailey Freeman, the Cat in the Hat, Patrick Quinn, and Tracy Sturm. Each reader brought stories to life in a fun and memorable way, inspiring both children and adults to share in the magic of reading.

In addition to storytime, families participated in literacy bingo for prizes, created their own books and bookmarks, and took photos with Clifford and the Cat in the Hat. Attendance prizes and refreshments added to the excitement, making the evening both fun and welcoming for all.

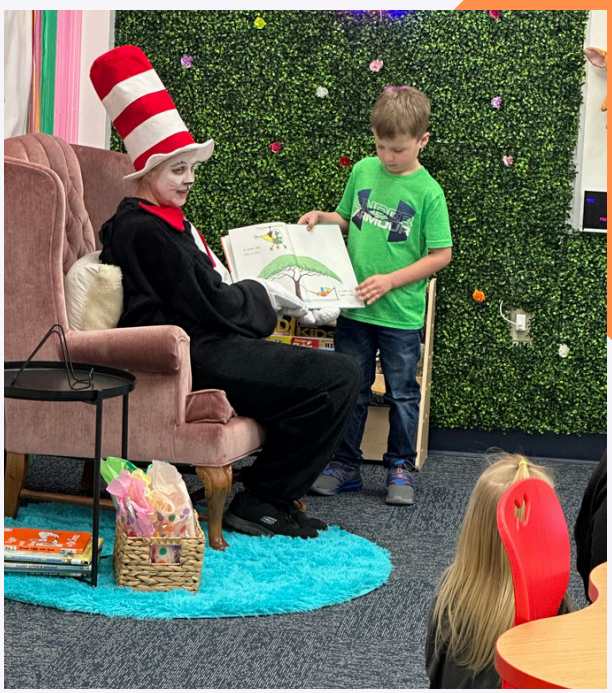


Family Literacy Night was a wonderful reminder that reading is not only educational but also a joyful experience that brings people together. The event created lasting memories and reinforced the importance of literacy while celebrating the strong connection between school and community.











HILLSBORO PRIMARY *News*

A "Lucky" Day of Hands-On Learning for First Graders



Our first graders in Ms. Jarvis' room had a busy and "lucky" day filled with fun, hands-on learning activities!

The day kicked off with a procedural writing where students explored the steps of "How To Catch a Leprechaun." Working in teams, they designed blueprints and built creative leprechaun traps, practicing teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity along the way.

The learning continued in math, where students brought numbers to life by sorting and graphing the marshmallows in Lucky Charms cereal. This tasty activity helped them practice counting, categorizing, and interpreting data in a fun, interactive way.

It was a day full of imagination, collaboration, and hands-on learning—proving that schoolwork can be both educational and magically fun!









Teacher of the Year

We are proud to recognize Ms. Audra Day as Hillsboro Primary's Teacher of the Year. With over 24 years of experience, she creates a supportive, inclusive classroom where every child is challenged and encouraged to succeed.

Ms. Day builds strong relationships with students and families, communicates openly, and goes above and beyond to meet individual needs. Her classroom fosters both academic and personal growth, helping students gain confidence, independence, and a love for learning.

We are grateful for the lasting impact she makes on our school community each day.



Support Staff Person of the Year

We are proud to honor Mrs. Mel Wigger as this year's Support Staff Person of the Year. As a paraprofessional, she goes above and beyond to support and uplift her students with patience, compassion, and care.

She creates a safe, welcoming environment where every child feels valued, celebrating successes and helping students grow in confidence and independence. Even during difficult times, she remains a steady, caring presence.

We are grateful for the lasting impact she makes on our students and school community.

#HawkPride

SUMMER -CAMPS-

Jefferson College









ADDITIONAL CAMPS MAY BE OFFERED!

LEARN MORE →

Jefferson College **You Belong *Here!***



Jefferson College has a full schedule of college credit courses this summer. Whether you are just starting your college journey or looking to save money and time towards your degree, check out our catalog of in-person and online classes today. Plus- it's never to early to start planning for Fall!

Intersession (3-week) classes begin **May 18**

Summer classes begin **June 8**

Fall classes begin **August 24**

www.jeffco.edu/go

HILLSBORO ELEMENTARY *News*

Hands-On Learning: Students Explore Clay in Art Specials

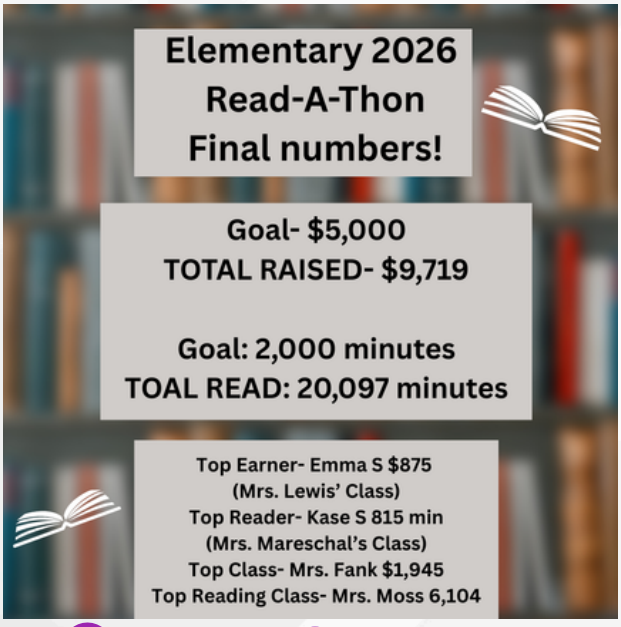
Third grade students recently had the opportunity to create clay projects as part of their art class, one of the Specials rotations offered to all second and third graders. The hands-on activity allowed students to explore their creativity while developing artistic skills, giving them a chance to bring their ideas to life through clay.



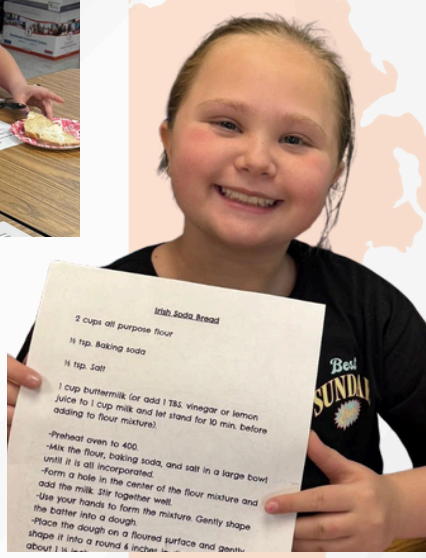



Annual Read-A-Thon

Each year our school library hosts a read-a-thon to help encourage students to pick up a book and read. Students are encouraged to read both in school and at home. This also serves as a fundraiser for our library, as students gather donations for pages read. Here are this year's final results.







Baking Up Learning: A Taste of Ireland

Mrs. Gosling's reading classes have been immersed in the magic of Ireland! From analyzing non-fiction passages to getting lost in the whimsical tale of a girl meeting a leprechaun, the students have explored the country from every angle. The highlight was a virtual tour where they marveled at Ireland's sweeping scenery, vibrant music, and ancient legends. To bring their lessons to life, the students put their functional reading skills to the test with a traditional soda bread recipe—ending the day by indulging in warm, buttered slices of their hard work.

HILLSBORO ELEMENTARY News

Weather Wonders with Leah Hill



In February, second-grade students welcomed a special guest, meteorologist Leah Hill from Channel 4 News. Her visit sparked excitement and curiosity as students learned about everything from sunny skies to severe storms.

Hill explained how meteorologists track weather patterns and use tools to predict forecasts, with students especially interested in thunderstorms, tornadoes, and snowstorms. She also emphasized weather safety, teaching students how to stay safe during dangerous conditions, and the importance of listening to weather warnings.

Beyond science and safety, Hill inspired students by sharing her journey and encouraging an interest in science and math. Her visit left students with a deeper understanding of weather—and maybe even dreams of future careers in meteorology.



Hawks

DOUBLE D'S PIZZERIA
Great Food
and
Fundraising Opportunities
www.ddpizzeria.com
314-472-7600

DIRECT DRYWALL
HANGING - TAPING - PAINTING
DOUG CAMPBELL
314-808-6771

Hawks
HILLSBORO R3
A Destination School District

COMMUNITY PRIDE
At First State Community Bank, community is not only in our name, it is in everything we do. Supporting the communities we serve is more than just a mission, it's our passion. We will strive to support growth and progress in our community.
Success Starts Here.
First State Community Bank
HILLSBORO | (636) 789-4499 | fscb.com | Member FDIC

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR HILLSBORO R-III SPONSORS





CROSBY DOOR LLC
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

WE SERVE. YOU'LL SEE!

REGIONAL EYECARE
636-586-7770
www.regionaleyecare.com

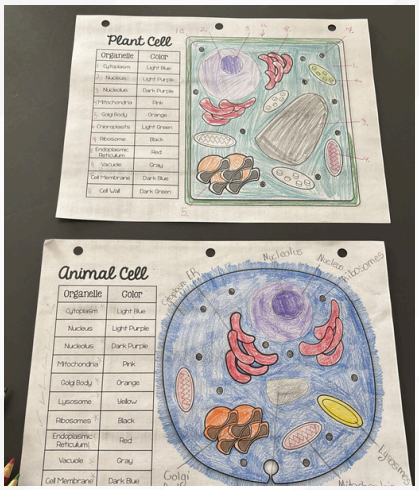
HILLSBORO INTERMEDIATE *News*

A Deliciously Educational Treat: Making Edible Plant and Animal Cells

Imagine a lesson where you can literally eat your homework—and it's not just permitted, but encouraged! Our **6th Grade Students** created edible models of plant and animal cells. It was a fantastic, hands-on activity that brought biology to life, making complex concepts tangible, memorable, and, most importantly, delicious. The Core Concept: Why Edible Cells?

Traditional 2D diagrams can be difficult for students to visualize in three dimensions. Building a 3D model, especially one where each organelle is a distinct, tasty treat, helps solidify understanding of cell structure, function, and the differences between eukaryotic cell types.



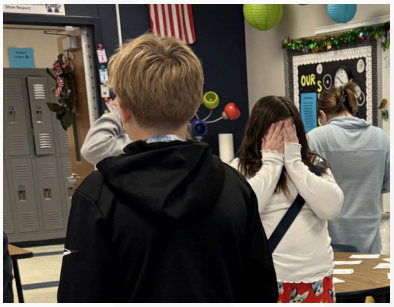




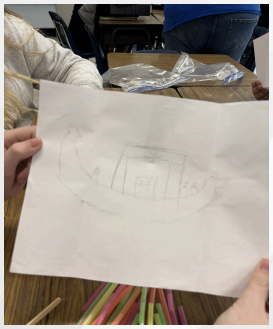
ELA: Personification in Action

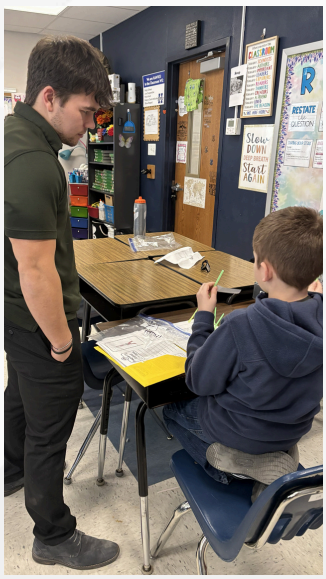
Students worked together in teams, finding creative ways to show their understanding of personification. They assigned human characteristics to inanimate objects and abstract ideas. This collaborative exercise not only reinforced a key literary device but also challenged them to think metaphorically and translate abstract concepts into tangible, engaging performances and artwork.











History in Hand: Testing Egyptian Reed Boats

Our history lesson went beyond the textbook as students experienced the engineering and hard work that went into ancient **Egyptian creations**. Students built models of Egyptian Reed Boats to see first-hand the labor and design challenges involved in creating these vessels. They then tested their boats in water, carrying items similar to what the Egyptian people would have needed to transport.

This hands-on project provided a direct, tactile connection to the past, offering profound insight into the ingenuity and material constraints of ancient civilization.

HILLSBORO INTERMEDIATE *News*

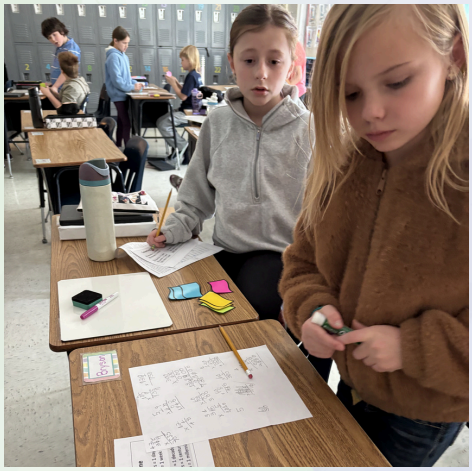
Math Practice in Action



Math Bingo and **Capture the Flag** to transform practice sessions from solitary desk work into energetic team challenges.

Capture the Flag encourages students to complete math problems quickly and accurately to build up points for their team. The pressure of the timer and the team dynamic motivates them to apply their knowledge with speed and precision.

Math Bingo offers a fun and low-stakes way to check their math answers as they work out problems. Each correct answer corresponds to a number on their card, adding a game element to what is essentially a self-correction and practice session. These methods ensure that learning is active, social, and immediately reinforced.



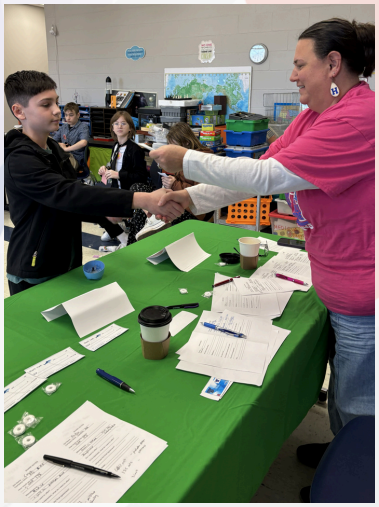


GATE Innovation Challenge: From Idea to "Shark Tank" Pitch

Ever wonder what it would be like to make a creation for Shark Tank? Our GATE class in Mrs. Perry's room did just that. After creating a design protocol and building a solid business model, they presented it to the judges. The judges would then decide if they would invest in their product. The students developed creative solutions to everyday problems, demonstrating critical thinking, entrepreneurship, and presentation skills in a high-stakes, yet fun, environment.







HILLSBORO INTERMEDIATE *News*

IXL Rewards

Students were recognized for their hard work in IXL, a program that strengthens essential skills in math and ELA. It was impressive to see the number of skills mastered, the growth achieved, and the dedication students have shown in their continued practice and learning.





SOAR Time Recognition

Students who consistently show strong effort and positive behavior—academically and socially—are recognized during SOAR Time. Each week, up to four students per class earn time in the gym during the final 20 minutes of the day.

This positive reinforcement system celebrates effort, citizenship, and growth, helping students connect their choices to meaningful rewards while motivating them to do their best.



Teacher of the Year:
Mrs. Bridget Weibel

Hawks

Hawk Pride



Support Staff Person of the Year:
Mr. Devin Whitley



HILLSBORO INTERMEDIATE *News*



Future Chef Challenge: Cooking Up Confidence and Creativity

Our culinary stars took center stage at the **2nd Annual Future Chef Challenge** at Hillsboro Intermediate School, where this year's theme, **Passport to Flavo**r, inspired students to create and present original dishes. Contestants **Audrey Blum, Carter Felio, Mya Jones, Samuel Kholostov, and Claire Mitchell** planned, costed, and prepared recipes ranging from family traditions to globally inspired cuisine.

The competition went beyond great taste—students demonstrated knowledge of nutrition, food safety, and presentation while answering questions from judges, including district staff and an executive chef from Sodexo. Standout dishes included Tex-Mex chicken enchiladas, a Ukrainian chicken recipe, and a ramen dish with hard-boiled eggs.

In the end, Audrey Blum earned first place with her "**MeMaw's World Famous Rigatoni**," advancing to the national competition against nearly 500 students. Congratulations to all participants for showcasing creativity, skill, and real-world learning in action!









Choirs Performing at the Ambush Game

The spirit of school pride resonated throughout the stadium as **Rockin Hawks and Treble Markers** choirs took to the stage before and during the annual **Ambush Game**. This high-energy event provided a magnificent platform for our young singers to demonstrate their collaborative skills and musical excellence, adding a layer of sophisticated entertainment to the competitive atmosphere of the game. It was a proud moment for the students, the music department, and the entire school community.





ROBERTS • WOOTEN • ZIMMER



A Full Service LAW FIRM You Can Trust



Kevin C. Roberts



Charles R. Wooten



Justin L. Cardwell



Jonathan W. Doss



Matthew J. Leonard



Ramie K. Ruble

www.RobertsWootenZimmer.com

The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.

Personal Injury * Medical Malpractice * Wrongful Death * Workers Compensation * Real Estate * Social Security Disability * Business Law
Criminal * Traffic * Estate Planning and Probate

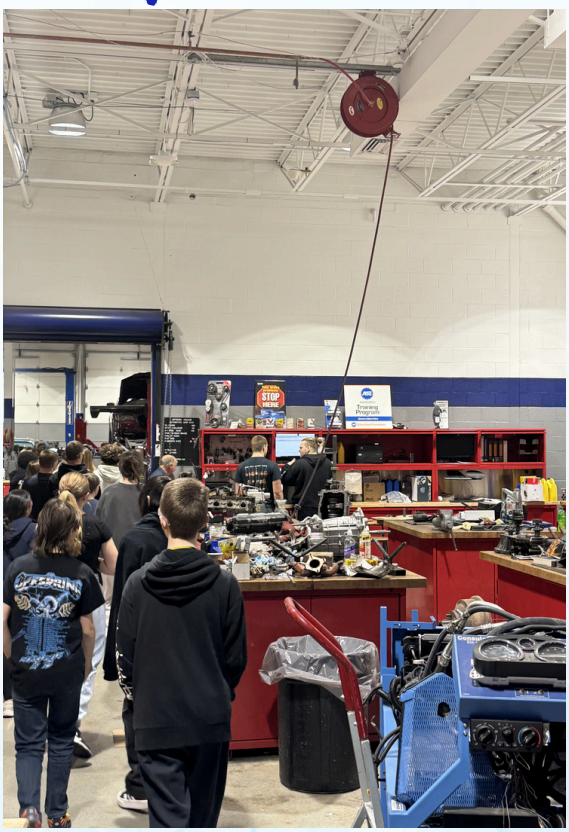
10438 Business 21 -P.O. Box 888, Hillsboro, Missouri 63050

(636) 797–2693

HILLSBORO JUNIOR HIGH *News*

Focused On The Future…

Our 8th Grade students had the opportunity to tour the Area Technical School (ATS) at Jefferson College last month. This experience gives our students a peek into programs of study that are available to them in High School, and also outlines the requirements to be eligible for the program. Providing this information at the Junior High level introduces high need career paths they might not otherwise have considered, and motivates students to meet the eligibility requirements.







A Great Debate

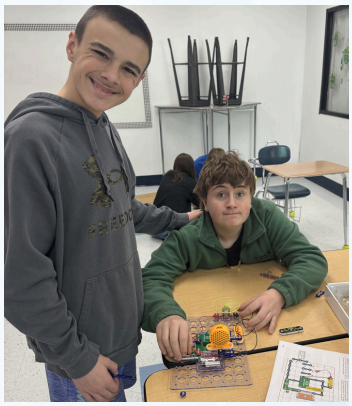
Our teachers continue to create engaging and interactive learning experiences that bring content to life. Recently, 8th grade Social Studies teacher Mr. Collins challenged his students with a dynamic class debate centered on the creation of the Constitution, viewed through the perspectives of the Founding Fathers of the United States.

Students were tasked with researching key historical figures who played a role in shaping our nation's legislative system. They then used evidence from Acts and laws of the time period to defend their assigned viewpoints, strengthening both their research and critical thinking skills.

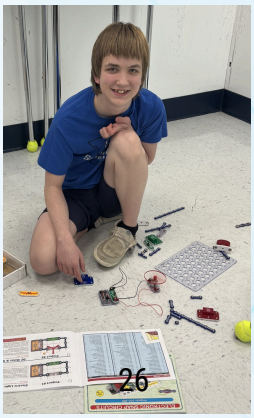
Through this immersive activity, students weren't just learning about history—they were actively stepping into it.











It's Electric!

Mrs. Franklin's 7th grade science class was buzzing with energy this quarter. Students used Snap Circuits to learn more about how electric current, resistance, and voltage act when different variables are introduced to a circuit. The lesson was electrifying!

HILLSBORO JUNIOR HIGH *News*

Community Service

Our National Junior Honor Society hosted a food drive and friendly competition among our classes at school. Thanks to their efforts, NJHS students collected over 1,000 canned and boxed food items for the Hillsboro Food Pantry. Thank you, HJH Community, for your support!





Quiz Bowl

Quiz bowl is a game in which teams compete to answer questions from all areas of knowledge, including history, literature, science, fine arts, current events, popular culture, sports, and more. Hillsboro Junior High fields two teams for Quiz Bowl, one for 7th grade and one for 8th grade. The Jefferson County Quiz Bowl included teams from 8 different districts. Our 8th Grade Team took 3rd place after a double-overtime thriller!





Glow Dance

Hillsboro Junior High Student Council hosted their annual Glow Dance in February. The STUCO students do all the planning, advertising, and preparation for the event. This year over 150 students attended and danced the night away!











HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL *News*





HHS Culinary Classrooms Reopen with Major Upgrades

This month, Hillsboro High School culinary students celebrated the reopening of their FACS classrooms, now featuring a fully renovated domestic cooking lab and a brand-new commercial kitchen.

The updated cooking lab offers a more open design, allowing students to move efficiently between six kitchen stations and enhancing the overall learning experience. The addition of the commercial kitchen provides advanced culinary students with hands-on opportunities to develop real-world skills that can lead directly to careers in the food service industry.

These much-needed upgrades were made possible through a combination of grant funding and district support, reflecting a continued investment in career-ready learning opportunities for our students.





Teacher and Support Staff of the Year Announced

Hillsboro High School proudly recognizes Social Studies teacher and alumnus **Mr. Robert Anderson** as **Teacher of the Year**. In a special moment for the school community, his mother, **Patti Anderson**, a custodian at HHS, was named Support Staff Member of the Year.

Both are longtime, dedicated employees who are highly respected by students and staff alike. Congratulations to Mr. Anderson and Ms. Anderson, and thank you both for your outstanding service to Hillsboro High School.

Sophomore Class Ring Ceremony

On April 2, a group of sophomores and their families gathered early at **Hillsboro High School** to take part in the annual **Class Ring Ceremony**. Representatives from Jostens were on hand to deliver the unique class rings, which were then presented to students during a meaningful ceremony led by sophomore class leaders.

Class rings remain a time-honored tradition and a lasting source of pride for both students and their families. The event concluded with a group photo alongside Principal Mark Groner, commemorating this special milestone.



HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL *News*

HHS Students Gain Lifesaving CPR Skills

Each spring, students in Health class at Hillsboro High School learn how to perform CPR—a valuable, lifesaving skill and a graduation requirement.

Health teacher Justin Horn partners with local paramedics to ensure all students receive proper, hands-on training. Through this experience, students gain the knowledge and confidence needed to respond in emergency situations and potentially save lives.





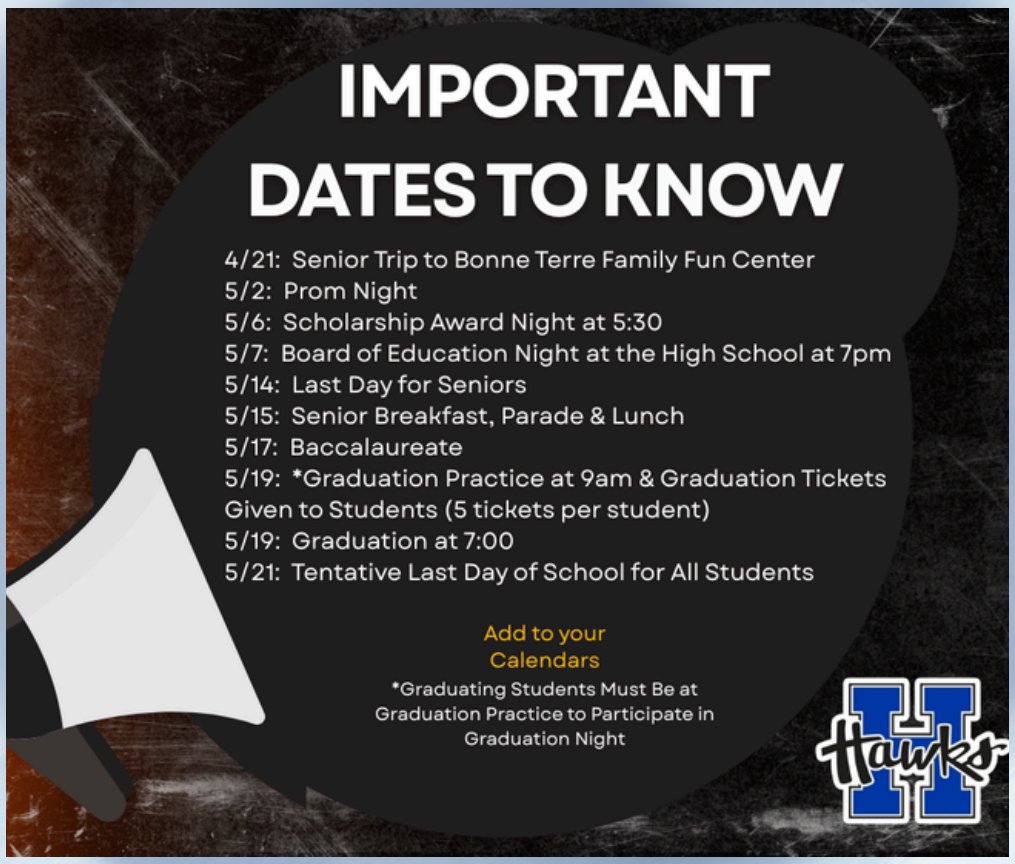
Hawks

CPR





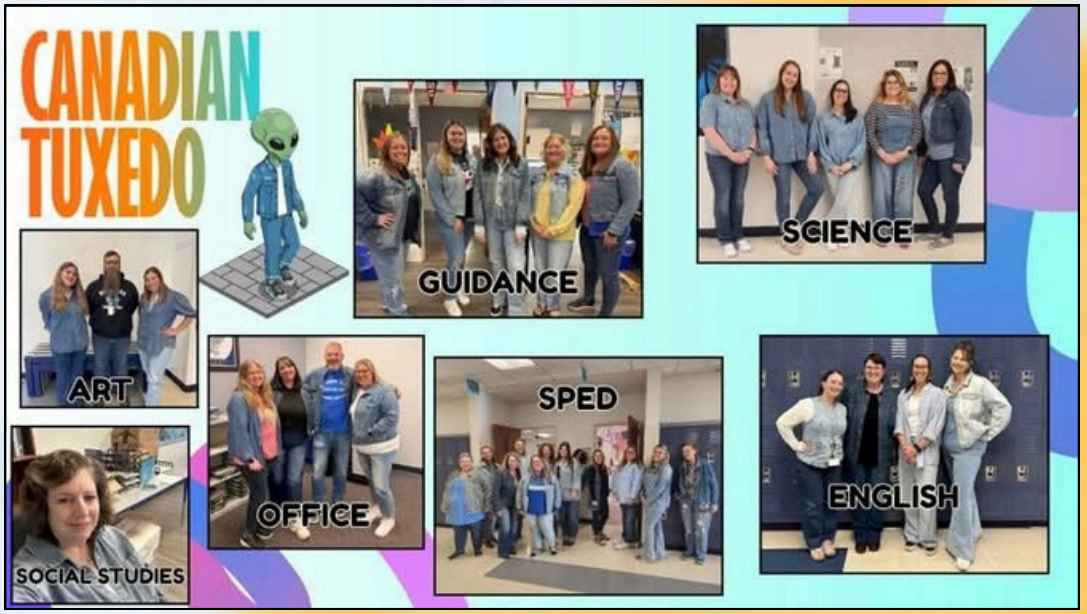
HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL *News*



Super Secret Staff Spirit Week

Staff members had some fun returning from spring break with a “Super Secret” Spirit Week. The twist? Students had to guess each day’s theme as staff members showed up dressed for the occasion.

As the week went on, the themes became more creative and outrageous, building excitement and camaraderie among staff while adding a fun element for students. Themes included Socks with Sandals, Canadian Tuxedo, Wear What You Wore in High School, Royals, and Little White Lies.



HILLSBORO AGRICULTURAL FARM *News*

Bridle Ridge Acres



National FFA week kicked off our spring semester. FFA students hosted ag trivia, a drive your tractor to school day and brought some of our farm residents over to visit with the high school



We were happy to host the Jefferson County 4H **Profamers** group. They learned about reproduction in their project animals and even got to ultrasound some of our pregnant goats.



Learning at the farm does not stop with our high schoolers! We stay very busy with visits from our other district buildings in the spring. Our high school students take the lead and help make sure our younger hawks have a great time and learn something new.



FFA students have been busy bring the farm farms across the district and have been participating in many different building activites including the Intermediate Character Breakfast.

HILLSBORO AGRICULTURAL FARM News

Bridle Ridge Acres



FFA members compete in many different Career Development Events. These CDE's are competitive, hands-on contests are designed to apply classroom content to real-world agricultural scenarios as students compete against other FFA members to test their knowledge and technical skills. This year, we had students compete in Poultry, Floriculture, Livestock Judging, and Horse Evaluation. We are very proud of our Horse Evaluation team that earned its spot at the Missouri State CDE contest!



The 2026 Community Easter Egg hunt at the farm was a great success! Our FFA students did a wonderful job working with the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce to make sure everyone had a fantastic time.



Our Ag Mechanics students are getting new experiences, thanks to a grant we have been able to add a plasma cutter to our shop for students to develop their skills further



Our greenhouse students have been busy starting seeds, planting fruits and vegetables, and designing potted flower arrangements for their upcoming plant sale.



It's weigh-in time! FFA members checked in their project animals, with several housed at Bridle Ridge. Through these projects, students gain hands-on experience in animal care, nutrition, record keeping, and more.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES *News*

Archery

Congratulations are in order for our incredible archery programs! It was a historic day at the State Tournament as our archers took to the range and brought home a mountain of hardware.

Hillsboro High School: Double State Champions!

The Hillsboro High School team delivered a dominant performance, capturing 1st Place in both the Bullseye and 3-D divisions. Outpacing 45 other schools, the Hawks proved they are the best in the state with a Bullseye score of 3,441 and a 3-D score of 1,739.

Junior High: State Runners-Up

Our Junior High program also had a stellar showing, securing 2nd Place finishes in both categories. They stood out in a massive field, taking silver against 58 schools in Bullseye and 42 schools in 3-D.

Individual Standouts

While the team effort was the star of the show, several individuals reached the podium:

- Wade Conner: Placed 3rd overall in Bullseye (out of 2,132 boys) and 4th overall in 3-D (out of 1,172 boys).
- Adelynn Jaeschke: Took 2nd place Bullseye overall out of 1,565 girls.
- Alaina Priscu: Earned 3rd place 3-D overall out of 784 girls.
- Kylee Olson: Claimed the 1st Place title for Middle School girls in Bullseye!



Hawks

#BoroBuilt

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES *News*

The Hillsboro R-3 wrestling program continues to cement its legacy as a top program in the state of Missouri. Following another strong regular season, our wrestlers traveled to Mizzou Arena for the MSHSAA State Championships, where they proved once again that Hawk Pride runs deep on the mats.

Boys' Wrestling: A Podium-Filled Performance

The Hillsboro boys' team showed incredible grit, led by three athletes who battled their way into the state finals. Tucker Williams, Carter Pryor, and Evan Litzsinger all delivered spectacular performances to secure 2nd Place finishes in their respective weight classes. They were joined on the podium by Caden Romaine, who earned a hard-fought 6th Place medal.

We also want to recognize the dedication and skill of our additional state qualifiers who represented Hillsboro at the highest level:

- Brady Armstrong
- Brandon Bequette
- Gavyn Givens
- Griffin Morris
- Jack Hoven
- Jacob Schatzman
- Patrick Jr. Buttner

Girls' Wrestling:

The girls' program continues to build a solid foundation of success, sending three talented athletes to the state tournament this year. Highlighting the weekend was Nico Brooks, who put on a clinic to secure a 3rd Place state finish! We are equally proud of Elaine Hoth and Libby Deutsch-Terry for their outstanding seasons and for qualifying for the state championships.

Congratulations to all our wrestlers, coaches, and families on a phenomenal season. Your hard work and sportsmanship continue to make Hillsboro R-3 a premier name in Missouri wrestling!



ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES *News*

Dance

The 2025-26 season has officially come to a close for the **Hillsboro Hawkettes Dance Team,** and what a year it was! From the late afternoon practices to the final high-energy performances, our dancers poured their hearts onto the floor.

Competing in the **Division 3 Mix** category, the Hawkettes showcased technical skill and artistic flair that left us all "fired up" for the future.
Academic All-State Honors

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our dancers who excel in the classroom just as much as they do in the studio. A huge congratulations to our **Academic All-State** recipients:

- 4.0+ GPA: Kinsley Lemke and Natalie Mayer
- 3.5–3.69 GPA: Josie Fair and Kaelyn Ferner

As we wrap up this season, we want to thank the coaches, parents, and fans who supported the Hawkettes every step of the way. We're already counting down the days until we're back on the floor for the 2026-27 season!



ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES *News*

Basketball Honors

It has been another good year for Hillsboro basketball, with several athletes earning prestigious JCAA All-Conference honors for the 2025-2026 season.

Girls' Basketball: A Season of Excellence

The Hillsboro girls' program swept the top conference awards this year. Ashley Hilton was named the JCAA Large School Girls Basketball MVP , while Coach Andrew Hubbard was honored as the JCAA Large School Girls Coach of the Year.

Joining Hilton on the 1st Team was Kyra Matlock. Other notable honorees include:

- **2nd Team**: Carlie Galczynski
- **Honorable Mention**: Katelyn Wiethop and Ava Hildebrand

Boys' Basketball: Strong Conference Presence
The Hawks were also well-represented on the boys' side, with several players recognized for their outstanding play:

- **1st Team**: Cooper McGrath
- **2nd Team**: Brendan Poyner
- **Honorable Mention**: Colton Hicks, Karson Campbell, and Tyson Sutton

Congratulations to all our student-athletes and coaches on these well-deserved conference accolades!

Special Olympics Inclusion Day

Hillsboro High School recently celebrated a powerful and heart-warming Inclusion Week, a dedicated time that shined a light on ALL of our incredible student-athletes. Throughout the week, the halls were filled with a spirit of unity and school pride, reminding us that every member of the Hawk family plays a vital role in our success.

The week's festivities culminated in an action-packed Field Ball Game that kept fans on the edge of their seats. The game provided the ultimate highlight when Brody Ohlman crushed a dramatic home run, bringing the score to a dead heat and resulting in an exciting tie!

Beyond the fun on the field, the impact of the week was felt through the generosity of our community. The event, led by our dedicated Student Council, successfully raised $650 for the Special Olympics.

Thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and cheered on our athletes. Inclusion Week was a true testament to the character and compassion of Hillsboro High School!





Together, we educate and inspire the learners of today and the leaders of tomorrow.



https://www.hsdr3.org/.../2026-summer-school-registration

Schneider Electric™

The Proud Energy Savings Partner of Hillsboro R-3 Schools

Advertise WITH US



We invite you to become a valued partner in the Hillsboro R3 School community by advertising in our upcoming publication, **"The NEST: News from Hawk Nation."** This quarterly publication is a dynamic platform that showcases the achievements, activities, and vibrant spirit of our school district. By advertising with us, you're not only promoting your business to thousands of local families and community members but also directly contributing to the educational enrichment of our students.

As a supporter of **"The NEST: News from Hawk Nation,"** your business will gain exposure through both digital and print media. Our publication reaches over 9,000 households through USPS mailing and is electronically shared with district families and across social media platforms. Your advertisement will be strategically placed to maximize visibility and engagement. Moreover, your investment will play a crucial role in offsetting the costs of printing and mailing, enabling us to continue delivering these updates to our cherished district patrons. Join us in celebrating our students' accomplishments, promoting your business, and fostering community spirit. Contact us today to explore advertising options that align with your goals!

Please contact Scott Readnour, our Community Relations Coordinator by email readnour_scott@hsdr3.org or phone 636-789-0000 ext. 3920

Proud Sponsor of the Hawks
Hillsboro R-III School District

HILLSBORO R3 Hawks COMMUNICATIONS Team

Dr. Jon Isaacson, Superintendent
636-789-0064 | isaacson_jon@hsdr3.org

Patrick Quinn, Director of Communications & Strategic Engagement
636-789-0000 Ext. 6009| quinn_patrick@hsdr3.org

Scott Readnour, District School-Community Relations and Grant Writing Coordinator
636-789-0000 ext. 3290 | readnour_scott@hsdr3.org

Shelby Walsh, High School Art Teacher, Athletics and Activities Social Media Reporter
636-789-0010 Ext. 1341 | walsh_shelby@hsdr3.org

Tracy Sitze, Intermediate Technology Teacher, District Videographer/Social Media Reporter
636-789-0000 Ext. 3251 | sitze_tracy@hsdr3.org

Please patronize our Hawk Sponsors!