



HAWK HAPPENINGS

MARCH 2025



The Hermantown Speech Team took first place at its meet in Hibbing on February 8 and again in large-school in Princeton on February 22!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon Mar 3	Middle School Choir Concert 7th/8th: 12:30pm 6th: 2pm
Thurs Mar 6	On Your Way to K! Night 5pm
Fri Mar 7	NO SCHOOL (K-4 ONLY) Teacher Work Day
Mon Mar 10	Regular Meeting of the School Board
Mar 11 Mar 12	Elementary Conferences
Mar 24- Mar 28	NO SCHOOL Spring Break

LUNCH	2024-2025	APP	2025-2026	JOIN US	HAWK WEAR
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SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

At the School Board Meeting on February 24, the administration proposed a plan to cut \$750,000 from the budget in 2025-26. I'm sure you're wondering, how did we get here?

Hermantown Community Schools needs to retain and recruit the highest-quality staff to work with our children. In order to meet those two goals, we needed to give salary and benefit increases during our last negotiations to remain competitive. Last school year, we had numerous unfilled positions in each of these groups: paraprofessionals, custodians, food service, bus drivers and substitutes. Giving an approximately \$2-per-hour increase to most of these groups has allowed us to fill those open positions and also stay competitive with comparable positions outside of the school. We also gave our teachers 6% and 4% salary increases in 2023-24 and 2024-25, respectively, which was also necessary to retain our current staff and to attract applicants in a pool that continues to significantly decrease.



Wayne Whitwam
Wayne Whitwam
Superintendent



MERIT FINALIST

Elyana Hewitt has advanced to Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Program of 2025 by demonstrating through distinguished performance high potential for future academic accomplishment.

Unfortunately, state funding was only 4% and 2% with a number of unfunded or underfunded mandates. The first example of an underfunded mandate includes unemployment given to our support staff. Though this is an amazing benefit for those staff members, the state funding runs out this summer and the \$140,000 cost for unemployment per year will fall on the district. Another example of unfunded or underfunded mandates is free lunches for students has resulted in fewer Free and Reduced Lunch applications, causing Hermantown to lose \$80,000 in federal compensatory funding. There are many more examples like these where school districts are left paying for "good intentions" from the State.

It is not just Hermantown that is facing these budget shortfalls. A majority of schools across the state are struggling financially. Hermantown is fortunate to have a fund balance, but if we choose to not make cuts, our fund balance will be completely gone in four years and major reductions would still be needed. The School Board will vote to cut \$750k for the 2025-26 school year and we project cutting \$450K the following two years in order to balance our finances.

The county and the city have the ability to raise your taxes if they need more money. The school cannot do that as we must follow a formula. Schools need to go out for a levy, which requires a vote of the taxpayers for additional funding.



HAWKS SUPPORT STAFF CENTRAL

Support Staff Newsletter | March



Kindness Retreat

Our 4th grade students recently participated in a Kindness Retreat, focusing on the power of empathy and simple acts of kindness. Through fun activities and team exercises, they learned how small gestures can make a big impact, fostering a supportive and positive community spirit. Staff will continue to support these efforts by reinforcing kindness in the classroom, providing encouragement, and recognizing acts of kindness to keep the momentum going!



I LOVE TO READ MONTH!
To celebrate "I Love to Read Month," Max and Zam Plante of the UMD Men's Hockey Team came to read to Mrs. Aker's first grade class and Mrs. Sosniecki's third grade class. After reading a story, they signed autographs for the kids!

Welcome to **Kids Night Out!**
March 11, 2025 from 3:45-6:00

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Mrs. Braun and Mrs. Martin have been teaming up with other local military support groups in the area to work on reintroducing Kids in the Military support groups at the elementary and middle school. Through this work, a new opportunity has been created for the Twin Ports area that will help to celebrate Month of the Military Child and Purple Up Day! Stay tuned for other opportunities to recognize and celebrate all our Hermantown Military Families. [Purple Up! T-Shirt Order](#) | [Twin Ports Purple Up Day Flyer](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ON YOUR WAY TO K! NIGHT
Thursday, March 6 | 5:00pm | HES
Have your 2025-26 Hermantown Kindergartener meet the teachers & staff, tour the school and ride the bus!

4TH GRD STUDENT/PARENT NIGHT
May 6 & May 8 | 5-6pm | HMS
Current 4th grade students and their parents/guardians are invited to an informational meeting at Hermantown Middle School. More info to come.

TRANSPORTATION NIGHT
May 16 | 4-6pm | HCS Parking Lot
Hermantown & Proctor Early Learning invite you to Transportation Night! Vehicles include fire, police, construction, buses & more! Food trucks for dinner. Have a vehicle? Call 218-729-9563.

HEAT WAVE
What do Hermantown third graders in Mr. Borak's Outdoor Ed class do on a 36 degree day in February? Take advantage and cross country ski at Snowflake!

BOOK FAIR TIME!
Hermantown Elementary Winter Book Fair
March 10-14, 2025

SHEDS FOR SALE
The Hermantown Construction Class is building 8x10 Gambrel Sheds. Interested? More info? Contact Mr. Homstad: thomstad@isd700.org / 626-6346

ALL-STATE MUSIC PARTICIPANTS

Congratulations to seniors Jack Collins, Isabel Kirkeby and Elyana Hewitt who performed with the Minnesota All State Jazz Band, Symphonic Band and Choir, respectively, over President's Day Weekend. They auditioned and were picked to represent Hermantown's Music Program last year and participated in a week-long camp last summer, as well. The All State Music Groups represent the best high school musicians in the state.



HAWKS ADVANCE

The Hermantown Girls Basketball Team opened the Section 7AAA Tournament with a 68-33 win over Duluth Denfeld to advance to the semifinals vs. North Branch.



SILVER MEDALISTS

Campbell Amundson & Nene Sclisizzo finished second in the Team Sprint Relay at the MSHSL Girls Nordic Skiing State Tournament in February!



MIRAGE HOCKEY

The Mirage Hockey Team won its fifth-straight Section 7A title to advance to the MSHSL State Tournament. The Mirage went 2-1 at State to claim the Consolation Title.



STATE BOUND!

The Hermantown Math League Team is off to State on March 10th after finishing first in its section and second in its division! Individual awards were given to the following students: Nick Tarnowski placed 3rd, Elyana Hewitt placed 6th and Adaeze Enemuoh placed 9th in the individual division level.

Pictured (back): Colton Magnuson, Nick Tarnowski, Madison White, Molly White, Adaeze Enemuoh, Arpitaa Sharma, Paul Marinos (front): Brent Peterson, Elyana Hewitt, Campbell Amundson

