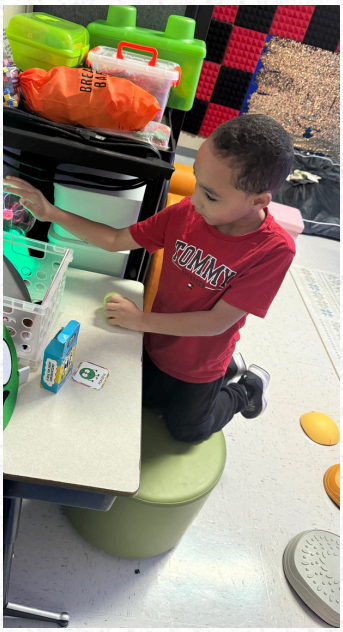
September 2025

HAZLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER









WELCOME BACK TO THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR!

September 2025

HAZLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Dear HASD Community,

As we embark on a new academic year, I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome back to each and every one of you! The start of a school year is always filled with excitement, anticipation, and the promise of new opportunities for growth and learning. I hope you all had a restful and rejuvenating summer break and are ready to dive into the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead.

Our commitment remains steadfast in providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where every student can thrive. We encourage open communication and collaboration between parents, teachers, and students to ensure that we are all working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated teachers and staff for their unwavering commitment to our students. Your passion, expertise, and tireless efforts are the cornerstone of our success. Thank you also to our parents for your continued support and involvement in your children's education. Your partnership is invaluable.
To our students, embrace the opportunities that this new year brings. Challenge yourselves, explore your interests, and never stop learning. Your potential is limitless, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

I wish you all a successful, fulfilling, and memorable school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian T. Uplinger
Superintendent of Schools



BUILD-A-BEAR- FREELAND





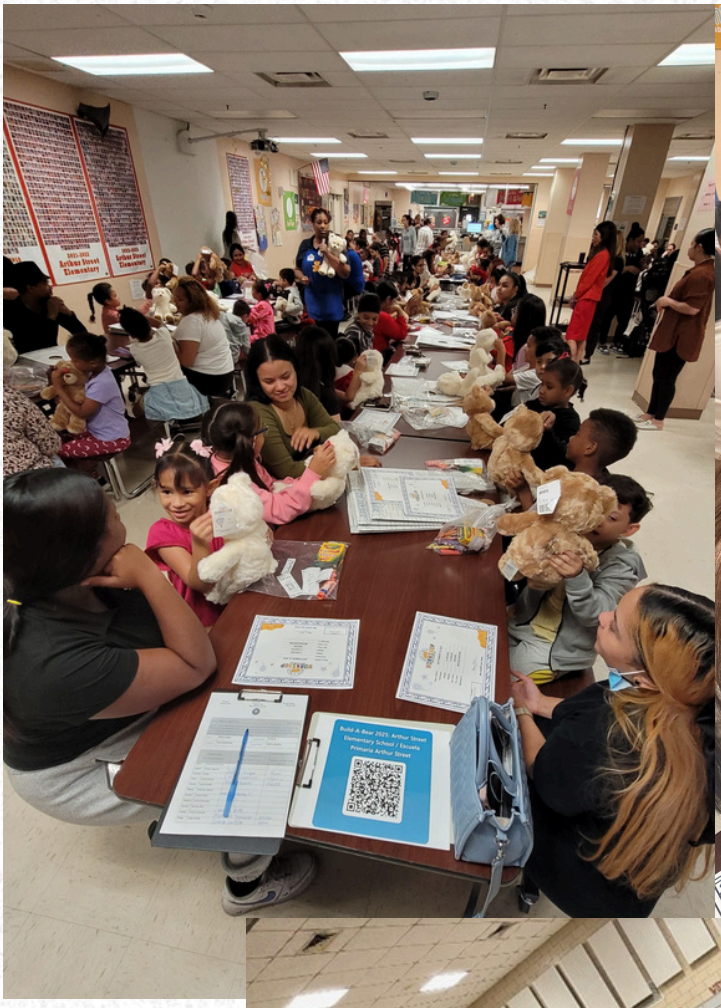
First grade students at Freeland Elementary participated in a Build-A-Bear parent engagement activity on September 15th.

All students received a book and a Teddy Bear to promote literacy. Parents were taught the importance of reading with their child.

Parents were sent home with a pamphlet for tips on Reading at home & an alphabet chart to practice letters and sounds with their child.

September 2025

ARTHUR STREET BUILD-A-BEAR







HEIGHTS TERRACE BUILD-A-BEAR







BUILD-A-BEAR- MKEMS



On Tuesday, September 16, 2025, first graders at McAdoo-Kelayres Elementary-Middle School participated in the school's annual Build-A-Bear Workshop. The districtwide event, funded through Title I, was organized to promote literacy and encourage a love of reading among young learners. Parents and guardians were invited to take part in the hands-on activity, which included a heart ceremony highlighting social and emotional learning. Each student received a book to read to their bear, reinforcing the importance of literacy in the home. This event provided families with an opportunity to be active participants in their child's education. This program also provided families with new strategies to support reading and learning beyond the classroom.

BUILD-A-BEAR- MKEMS







September 2025

EARLY LEARNING CENTER BUILD-A-BEAR









WHEMS BUILD-A-BEAR









DRUMS BUILD-A-BEAR











MYON CHALLENGE WINNERS



Congratulations to the myON Summer Reading Book Club Challenge winners!

✨ **Elementary Spotlight: K-5 Winner**

- Abygayle O'Donnell, 3rd grade at Drums Elementary – 329 minutes read!
-

✨ **Middle School Spotlight: 6-8 Winner**

- Dailyn Debora, 7th grade at Hazleton Elementary/Middle School – 873 minutes read!
-

✨ **High School Spotlight: 9-12 Winner**

- Jia Patel, 9th grade at Hazleton Area Academy of Sciences – 976 minutes read!

MYON CHALLENGE WINNERS

Each student received a new iPad donated by Renaissance Learning, for their accomplishments. Renaissance sponsored the Summer Reading Challenge to promote literacy under the direction of Dr. Michelle Zukoski, Director of Federal Programs, and Mrs. Rachele Foley, from Renaissance Learning, presented the students with their new ipad.

The myON Summer Reading Challenge was designed to keep students engaged with reading during the summer break, helping to bridge the gap between academic years. The challenge provided students with access to thousands of digital books through the myON platform. Books are available in multiple languages and levels to assist in fostering a love for reading and learning outside of the classroom.

At the board meeting Superintendent Dr. Brian Uplinger praised the winners for their dedication and told them how incredibly proud we are of their efforts. The students beamed with delight after receiving their iPad and promised to use it to read even more.

In an exciting new twist, Dr. Zukoski announced a continued future reading challenge is planned. Schools will compete against each other to see who can read the most books, with monthly winners earning not only bragging rights, but also the honor of displaying a traveling 3-foot trophy in their school. The trophy will serve as a visible symbol of achievement, motivating students across the district to keep reading and strive for victory. The hope is to encourage even more students to read.

The event marked not only a celebration of individual achievement but also the power of community support in nurturing a lifelong love of reading. With the added school-year challenge, the district aims to create an environment where reading is a fun, competitive, and collaborative experience for all students.

HASD CLASSROOM GRANT





On September 23, 2025 West Hazleton Elementary/Middle School held a ribbon cutting ceremony for their outdoor classroom. This project was funded by the following generous donors: The Luzerne Foundation, The Pasco L. Schiavo Memorial Charitable Fund, First Federal Charitable Foundation, Hazleton Area Education Foundation, The Hazleton Area School District.

HASD CLASSROOM GRANT

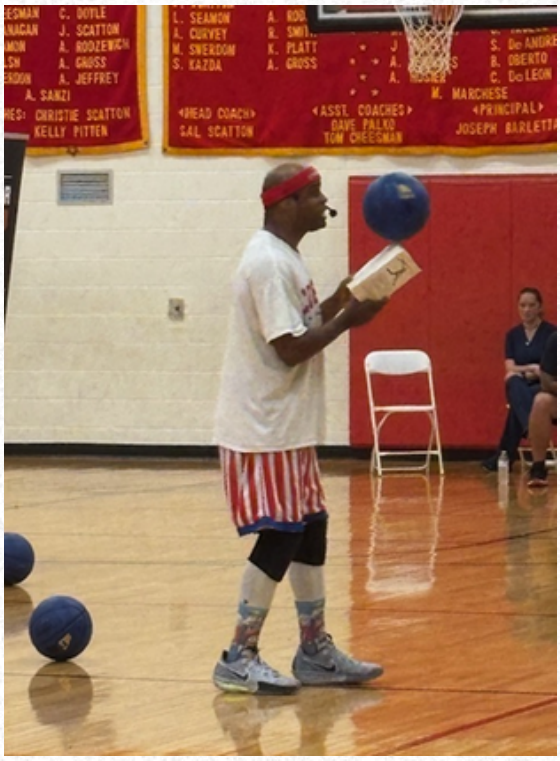




The Freeland Elementary Emotional Support teachers, Amber Kaminski and Jeanne Panzarella, and the school Social Worker, Roxanne Dixon, were recipients of the HASD Beyond The Classroom Grant to create a Sensory Sanctuary for the students. This allowed us to create a Sensory Room. The sensory room is a designated safe space equipped with soothing lighting, sensory items, crash pads, tactile panels, and calming visuals. This space serves as a refuge for students to regulate their emotions and energy levels in a controlled and supportive setting. Each student receiving emotional support services uses the room 1-2 times per day, based on the individually tailored sensory diets created by the team. In the first month of school, this initiative and interventions have been a huge success in assisting our students in regulation. The goal is to eventually have the Sensory Room to be used by all students receiving special education and support in grades K-6 at Freeland; right now, it is only the students in grades K-6 receiving Emotional Support."

COREY THE DRIBBLER

Corey the Dribbler, visited second and third grade students and their parents at Freeland Elementary/Middle School. His skills captivated the audience but more importantly his story about determination and the importance of reading, taking school seriously, and always trying your best. He encouraged students to live by four principles **(R.E.A.D)**, **R**espect, **E**ducation, **A**ttitude/Activity, and **D**on't bully. Parents were given pamphlets/strategies for reading Fiction and nonfiction texts to motivate their children to enjoy reading at home.





CONGRATULATIONS HASD BAND!

Congratulations to HAHS Marching Band participated in the Mahanoy Area Band Booster Competition where they placed 1st on their 2025 show performance! Link to the article is **here.**



JUMP START CART

We're excited to announce the launch of the Jump Start Cart, a student-run food truck initiative designed to empower our Hazleton Area students with real-world job skills and hands-on experience as we prepare them for their transition to the workforce. Specifically, this program supports young adults with special needs as they transition from the academic setting to the workplace—building independence, employment skills, and self-esteem.

Our very own Hazleton Area students will be learning to operate the food truck and will be serving staff across the district throughout the school year.

The Jump Start Cart will be hosting events every Thursday at various school locations.

Stay tuned for updates on where we'll be next.

We hope you'll stop by, enjoy some delicious food, and support our students in this exciting new venture!

PARENT CONCERN REFERENCE GUIDE

Change of Address

Parents must email a picture of one current proof document along with a photo ID:

- Deed
- Lease
- Utility bill
- Credit card bill
- Property tax bill
- Vehicle registration
- Driver's license
- DOT ID card

Please note-If the photo ID includes the new address, it can serve as both the photo identification and current proof of address.

Include student(s) name and birthdate(s).

Send to: Michelle Nicholas (nicholasm@hasdk12.org) or Dahiana Romero (romerod@hasdk12.org).

They will confirm the change and provide school assignment info.

Do NOT send parents to the Welcome Center or the administration building if they have their current proof with them

PARENT CONCERN REFERENCE GUIDE

New Registration

Register online:
https://skyward.iscorp.com/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=wseduhazletonpa/skyenroll.w

If unable to register online, schedule an appointment at the Welcome Center using the School Registration Form

All required documents must be ready before the appointment.

Reentry

If gone 3 months or less- email a picture of one current proof:
- Deed
- Lease
- Utility bill
- Credit card bill
- Property tax bill
- Vehicle registration
- Driver's license
- DOT ID card
- Parent/guardian ID
- Student(s) name and birthdate(s)

If gone more than 3 months: complete full registration using this link: https://skyward.iscorp.com/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=wseduhazletonpa/skyenroll.w

PARENT CONCERN REFERENCE GUIDE

Updating Contact Info

Parents can update their emails and phone numbers in Skyward under Account Management.

Updates reflect in Parent Square the next day.

If login info is unknown, building secretaries can give them that information or reset their passwords.

Secretaries needing help with this should email Dr. Briggs.

Bus Passes

Bus passes may take up to 3 days after registration.

Parents are responsible for transportation during this time.

Building secretaries can print bus passes.

IRS Forms

If a parent asks for an IRS form, building secretaries can generate IRS forms in Skyward by clicking the Verify link under Custom Forms.

Special Education Transportation

Can Contact Kelly Peak at extension 3136.

Welcome Center Extension

Welcome Center extension: 80131.

The Jump Start Cart



The Jump Start Cart will be serving food from 10am-1pm in the main parking lot of Hazleton Area High School and will be staffed by HASD students. The JumpStart Cart is dedicated to supporting young adults with special needs transitioning from the academic setting to the workplace. Our vision is that every individual will gain independence, skills, and self-esteem for a lifetime of success in the workforce. **Come visit and support our HASD students!**

Dates:

- September 18th, 2025 (Teacher and Staff Appreciation Event, free samples for everyone!)
- October 2nd, 2025
- October 9th, 2025
- October 16th, 2025
- October 23rd, 2025
- October 30th, 2025
- November 6th, 2025
- November 13th, 2025
- November 30th, 2025

Menu:

- Buffalo Chicken Sandwich
- JumpStart Chicken Salad
- Jumpstart Turkey Melt
- Grilled Cheese
- Turkey Melt Salad Bowl
- JumpStart Chicken Salad Bowl
- Buffalo Chicken Salad Bowl
- JSC Walking Taco
- Egg Bites
- Drinks, Chips, and Clothing are available as well!

View website and place your online orders here!

THE Jump Start CART

CAN DO!

The CAN DO staff and Student Action Committee are proud to announce the 21st Annual Operation: CAN DO initiative! This meaningful effort collects food, personal care, and entertainment items to create care packages for our brave service men and women.

We are once again asking all schools in HASD to participate- A collection box will be placed at each school through October 31st. A list of the most requested items is listed on the next page to help guide contributions.

Keep an eye out on our social media as well and take a look at last year's video that outlined the success of the event – https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1C9BFUiBUK/

Also, if staff and faculty, or students know of any military personnel with ties to Greater Hazleton, please share their names and addresses with me so we can ensure they receive a care package in time for the holidays!



OPERATION: CAN DO

SUPPORTING LOCAL TROOPS OVERSEAS

CAN DO SAC

Student Action Committee



Items Needed for Operation: CAN DO

Food

*Food must be non-perishable

- Beef Jerky
- Trail Mix
- Powdered Juice Mix
- Canned Potato Chips
- Sealable Freezer Bags
- Tuna/Chicken Salad Kits
- Instant Hot Chocolate, Tea, Coffee
- Coffee Bags
- Creamer Packets
- Energy Bars
- Individually Packed Snacks, Breakfasts
- Pop Tarts
- Individual Condiment Packets
- Gum
- Oatmeal
- Ramen Noodles
- Crackers
- Hard Candy



Personal

- Gloves
- Baby Wipes
- Sunblock
- Lip Balm
- Foot Powder
- Blister Pads/Medication
- Antacids
- Bug Repellent (Wipes)
- Hand Sanitizer/Antibacterial Wipes
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Toothbrushes
- Dental Floss
- Disposable Razors
- Eye Drops
- Cough Drops
- Lotion
- Tissues
- Q-tips
- Socks/Boot Insoles



Entertainment

- Magazines
- New Paperback Novels
- Playing Cards
- Frisbees
- Disposable Cameras
- Puzzle Books
- Stationery
- Envelopes
- Pens
- Batteries

For more information, contact Ana Perez at aperez@hazletoncando.com, or call 570-455-1508

PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

All school employees who will be retiring in the next 5 years are invited to attend a Pre-Retirement Seminar sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR) on Saturday, October 18th at Edgewood, 22 Edgewood Lane, Drums, Pa. 18222 from 8:30 A.M. to 12 noon.

There will be a cost of $10.00 which will include coffee and doughnuts and lunch.

A PSERS representative will give the “Foundations for the Future” Retirement planning presentation and answer any questions you might have. A financial planner will also offer suggestions on how to invest your retirement money, and which option may be the best for you. These are for informational purposes only. Social Security, Dental/Vision plans, and Health Insurance Options information will also be available.

To register please make out a check for $10.00 to LUZ/WYO PASR and send it to June Seely, 2 Manayunk Ave., Hazle Township, Pa. 18202. The registration deadline is Wednesday, October 15.

For further information, you can call her at 570-384-4407 or e-mail her at seely@pa.metrocast.net. Please include your address, telephone number, e-mail, school district and possible date of retirement with your registration.

PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOP

FOR

ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL OF LUZERNE/WYOMING COUNTIES
October 18

Edgewood

22 Edgewood Lane, Drums, Pa. 18222

8:30 A.M. TO 12 NOON

THE WORKSHOP WILL INCLUDE THE PSERS "FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE" SEMINAR. FINANCIAL PLANNING, PASR OPTIONS FOR DENTAL, VISION AND OTHER BENEFITS AND INFORMATION ON SOCIAL SECURITY

SPOUSES ARE INVITED TOO.

R-E-S-E-R-V-A-T-I-O-N

Coffee and doughnuts and a light lunch will be served. Cost of the workshop is $10.00.

NAME(S):_____# ATTENDING_____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #:_____SCHOOL DISTRICT_____

EMAIL: _____RETIREMENT YEAR_____

Reservation deadline – Wednesday, October 15

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $_____ Make your check payable to **Luz/Wyo Counties PASR**.

Complete this portion and mail it with your check to: **June Seely, 2 Manayunk Ave., Hazle Township, Pa. 18202. For more information call 570-384-4407, or email seely@pa.metrocast.net**



10th ANNUAL
VETERAN'S DAY
Ceremony and Reception

Thursday, November 6th, 2025
9AM to 11AM

Hazleton Area High School

1601 W. 23RD St. Hazle Township, PA 18202

The students, faculty and staff of the Hazleton Area High School cordially invite you and a guest to attend our *10th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony & Reception. We wish to pay tribute to all veterans and to the millions of active service personnel across the globe who exemplify the true character of the American spirit.*

It is our sincere pleasure to continue honoring our veterans knowing the manner by which they protected this country for so very long.

Kindly R.S.V.P. to Janine Sotack by November 1st, 2024 at 570-459-3221 Ext 81500

BUTLER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD PRESENTS:

FALL FESTIVAL

A DAY OF SPOOK-TACULAR FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Join us for FREE kids activities, fall crafts, and a bounce house!

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

- Local Crafters & Vendors
- Kids' Games & Bounce House
- Tasty Eats & Treats
- Parade & Halloween Surprises!
- Trunk-or-Treat

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 2025

BUTLER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER & VALLEY EAST PLAYGROUND AREA
411 WEST BUTLER DR, DRUMS, PA

EVENT SCHEDULE:

- 11:00 AM – Parade Lineup at Krapf & Hughes Funeral Home
- 12:00 PM – Big Fall Parade Begins
- 12:00 PM to 4PM – Crafters, Food & Vendor Booths Open
- 1:00 PM – Trunk N' Treats Open
- 2:00 PM – Kids Halloween Parade & Costume Contest

Kids Halloween Parade & Costume Contest

Freeland Ymca
Black marlins

FALL CONDITIONING & MINI MARLINS

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

HTTPS://WWW.GOMOTIONAPP.COM/TEAM/YMCA-5605/PAGE/TEAM-REGISTRATION?REG_ID=100769

Mini-Marlins - anyone age 5-18 who may be interested in joining our team but does not know the 4 competitive strokes, starts, or turns.

Fall Conditioning - those who have competed on the swim team for at least 1 season & would like to brush up before regular season starts

Tuesdays & Thursdays at HAHS Pool
Starting Tuesday September 23

Mini Marlins: 6-7pm
Fall Conditioning: 7-8pm



Pardeesville Haunted Trail

Nights of terror are upon us!

Tours will take place at

Pardeesville Playground/Baseball Complex

Each night runs from 7 P.M. till???



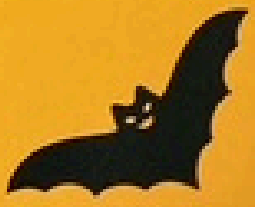
Ticket Price $5.00 Per Person

Thursday	October 16th
Friday	October 17th
Saturday	October 18th

Don't forget to dress appropriate for the weather conditions.

Proceeds benefit Pardeesville Recreation Association.

Games • Tricky Trays • Refreshments • Food • Lots of Fun!



Hot Soups Each Night

Be prepared for a scare of a lifetime!

"We Will Be Waiting For You"



OCTOBER 19th

FREE

Return SUNDAY at 5:00 P.M.

For SCARY STORY NIGHT

COME IN YOUR COSTUME OR AS YOU WISH!

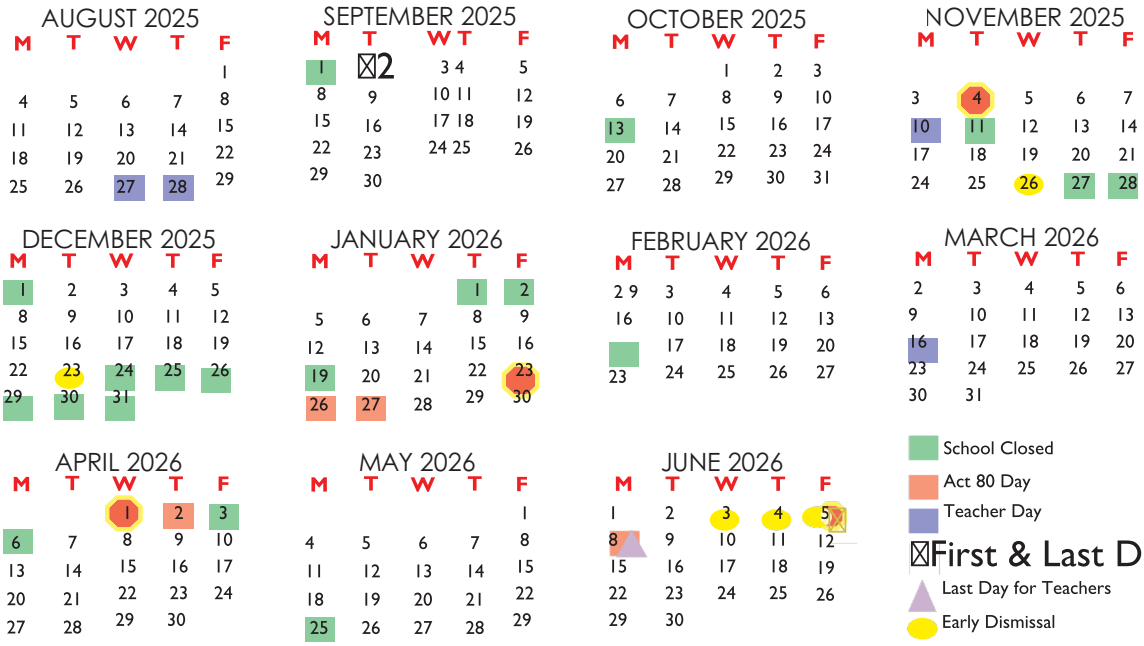
683 PARDEESVILLE ROAD - HAZLE TOWNSHIP, PA 18202

RESOURCES/ LINKS

- **HASD Website**
- **HASD Delays & Cancellations**
- **HASD Admin**
- **Fall Sports Calendar**

HAZLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025 - 2026 CALENDAR



Aug.	27-28	–	Teacher Training Days
Sep.	1	–	Labor Day
Sep.	2	–	First Day For Students
Oct.	13	–	Columbus Day
Nov.	10	–	Teacher Training Day
Nov.	11	–	Veterans Day
Nov.	26	–	Early Dismissal for Students & Teachers
Nov.	27 - 28	–	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec.	1	–	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec.	23	–	Early Dismissal for Students & Teachers
Dec.	24 - 31	–	Winter Break
Jan.	1-2	–	Winter Break
Jan.	19	–	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan.	26	–	Act 80
Jan.	27	–	Act 80
Feb.	16	–	Presidents' Day
Mar.	16	–	Teacher Training Day (Snow Make-Up Day 1)
Apr.	2	–	Act 80
Apr.	3 - 6	–	Spring Break
May	25	–	Memorial Day
June	3 - 5	–	Early Dismissal - Students & Teachers
June	5	–	Last Day for Students
June	8	–	Act 80 Day
June	8	–	Last Day for Teachers
June	9	–	Thisday will be made up byteachers through attendanceat: MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT (See Attached) OPEN HOUSE (See Attached) GRADUATION (June 5)

NUMBER OF SCHOOL DAYS (ORIGINAL CALENDAR)

	STUDENTS	TEACHERS
August	0	2
September	21	21
October	22	22
November	16	17
December	16	16
Januar y	17	19
February	19	19
March	21	22
April	19	20
May	20	20
June		6
Totals:	5 176	 184

November 4 - End of 1st Quarter -
January 23 End of 2nd Quarter -
April 1 End of 3rd Quarter -
June 5 End of 4th Quarter

EARLY DISMISSAL TIMES - For Students

10:30 AM - Academy of Sciences (STEM)
10:45 AM - High School & Career Center
11:15 AM - Middle Schools
12:00 PM - Elementary Schools

PSSA (Grades 3 - 8) April 20-24, 2026 (English / Lang. Art.)
May 4 - 8, 2026 (Science)
April 27 - May 1, 2026 (Math)

KEYSTONE Dec. 3-17, 2025; Jan. 5-16 & May 11-22, 2026

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Hazleton AreaSchool District doesnot discriminate on the basis of race,color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programsand activitiesand providesequal access to all designated youth groups per the Boy Scouts Act. Inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator at (570) 459-3221 ext. 81566 or the Section 504 Coordinator at (570) 459-3111 Ext. 3156 at 1515 West 23rd Street, Hazle Township, PA 18202.

Board Approved 4/24/2025