



May 26, 2009

Dear Parents:

With this Home Communicator is the calendar for the 2009-2010 school year. It takes some time to develop this calendar and a lot of thought and work has gone into it on the part of our administration and our Education Committee. You will notice that there are more Christian Schools who are starting before Labor Day this year because even starting before Labor Day school isn't starting until September 1.

I want you know some of the considerations that go into making the calendar. Here are a few:

- Working with the Hudsonville Public School schedule and their busing to keep limited busing days to a minimum.
- Working with the Unity Christian High School calendar and activities.
- A desire to provide adequate time for our staff to have professional development during the school year.
- Following what research says about what is best for children and what will provide the best quality educational program (see article in box).
- Working with the varying viewpoints of our parents regarding the number of school days and the school calendar.
- Maintaining a standard for the number of school days to provide quality education for our students. The 2009-2010 calendar includes 178 school days of teacher/student contact.

With all of these considerations in mind, we have tried to provide a 2009-2010 school calendar that will be best for our students, staff and families.

Serving Christ together,

Bob Vander Laan, Administrative Principal

March 2009 Special Report from the Center for Michigan entitled "School Daze: Michigan's Shrinking School Year"

- *In the 2007-2008 school year, 748 public school districts and charter schools educated children fewer than 180 days, the minimum requirement by state law just 6 years ago.*
- *Even at 180 days, which is the standard across the nation, the United States ranks among the lowest in the industrialized world.*
- *As a state, we must decide, "Are we going to live in the past or move boldly into the future?"*
- *Reducing the time our children are in school is a move backwards.*

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Rachel Koning as she begins radiation today to prepare for her bone marrow transplant next week. Pray also for her fifth grade sister, Hannah, who will be her bone marrow donor. Please lift up Rachel and her family in both your family and personal prayers. *"Those that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."* Isaiah 40:31

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

CHOIR & ORCHESTRA CONCERT

The Spring Choir and Orchestra program will be this evening at Grace Community Church. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature our 6th – 8th choirs and the 4th – 8th orchestras. All performers should arrive to the church by 7:00 p.m.

PIZZA HUT FUNDRAISER FOR RACHEL KONING

Make plans to have a "pizza night" on Monday, June 1 as Hudsonville Wingstreet Pizza Hut has a fundraiser for Rachel Koning. They will donate \$1.50 for every medium or large pizza purchased between 5—9 p.m. You must fill out and turn in the bottom portion of the form being sent home today in order for the credit to be given to the Koning family. Be sure to look for the form in your child's backpack. Mark your calendars for this fundraiser!

RALLY FOR RACHEL AND HANNAH KONING

The Relay for Life Walk is Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20. We are reserving the 6—7 p.m. time slot on Friday evening for all of the 5th through 8th graders to walk for Rachel and Hannah Koning. Just wear any HCS shirt (Hike & Bike, P.E. shirt, etc.) and come out for an hour of fun together to show your support! Relay "Footprints" will also be available in the school offices for any student to purchase for \$1 (to stick on your locker) to help raise money for the American Cancer Society, and to show support for Rachel and Hannah. Let's line the hallways of our schools with footprints!

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The last day of school for grades K—7, Thursday, June 4, will be a half day dismissing at 12 noon. Students should bring a snack to school, but not a lunch. Regular bus routes will be running on this day.

ENROLLMENT FOR 2009/2010

1. Mail-in registrations must be received by Monday, June 8.
2. If you are not enrolling by mail, Hudsonville Christian School will be having registration for the school year on Monday, June 8 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the library of the Oak Street building. Previous tuition commitments must be paid on or before this time. Your enrollment fee, applicable to the 2009/2010 tuition, is required at this time.
3. The June 8 registration is necessary for classroom assignment, student scheduling, and to complete student enrollment. Registration must be completed by June 8 for your child to be on a class list. These will be mailed to parents during the first week of August.

HCS GOLF OUTING IS COMING!

The Hudsonville Christian School Golf Outing will be held on Monday, August 10 at Railside Golf Club in Byron Center. This golf outing supports our Tuition Assistance program. You are welcome to enter a twosome, a foursome, or you can help by sponsoring this event. Please contact Michelle DeGroot at 896-0228 or the school office at 669-6689 for further sponsorship information. A golf sign up/sponsorship information sheet are coming home today, so round up some friends and plan on joining us for a fun day of golf!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE CLAY SHOOT

The HCS Sporting Clay Shoot will be held on Saturday, September 12 at Blendon Pines, starting at 9 a.m. Proceeds from this fun event go to tuition assistance needs at our school. The cost is \$75 for adults, \$50 for children 16 and under accompanied by an adult. Sponsors for this event are needed. Registration forms will be sent out soon, but you can contact Dean Haverdink at 662-4051 or Rick Brinks at 662-0546 for more information about the event or available sponsorships.

School Wide News — Continued

TRIP SCHEDULE

Be sure to pick up a summer TRIP schedule when you pick up your order! Reminder: If your child is starting school this fall, or if your last child is entering Unity in the fall, you need to fill out a form instructing us to change your TRIP credit from future to active, or from HCS to Unity. This must be done in May!

CENTRAL OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

The central office will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the summer.

MATH PENTATHLON COACHES — WE NEED YOU!

Kim Honore is asking for your help! She will be leading Math Pentathlon games at Kids Games at the fairgrounds June 22-25 and needs coaches! Fiar, Ramrod, and Kwatro Sinko are the games we will play this year with possibly 80 children! Past and current coaches, 7th and 8th graders – we need your help! Please call Deb Bobiak at 292-9119 to sign up!

CHILD WATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NEXT YEAR

Please consider signing up to be a Child Watch volunteer next year on the volunteer form included in with your enrollment packet. If you cannot commit to working every week, the position could be shared with another mom. Thank you!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

<u>May 27</u>	Red	<u>June 1</u>	Blue — last color
<u>May 28</u>	Yellow		day of the year
<u>May 29</u>	Green		

HOT LUNCH

The final hot lunch of the school year this Wednesday will be cheese breadsticks, marinara sauce, assorted chips, fruit cup, and ice cream sandwiches.

YEARBOOK SIGNING RECESS

Students in the elementary school will have a special opportunity tomorrow to have their HCS yearbooks signed by the teachers during a joint long recess. Please remind your PK - 5th grade students to bring their yearbooks to school tomorrow!

3RD GRADE PARENT DEMONSTRATION CONCERT FOR BAND/ORCHESTRA

The third grade parents are invited to attend the fifth grade Band/Orchestra Demonstration Concert on Friday, May 29 at 1:55 p.m. in the elementary gym. Come check out the instrument options that will be available to your child in fourth grade!

LOST AND FOUND

The bins by the elementary gym are full of lost items. Please check out the bins and hanging items to see if they may belong to your child.

ELEMENTARY LIBRARY NEWS

All library books are due this week. Students must return all books by the end of the year or pay toward the replacement cost in order to receive their report cards.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOT LUNCH

Hot Lunch this week: Blimpie Subs \$2.50, chips for \$.25, and Powerade/pop/water for \$.50.

DONUTS

Donuts will be on sale during morning break Friday, May 29. Donut moms are Sharon Nesky, Carol Brookhouse, Lori Schuitema

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Thursday, May 28: Mr. Pott leads the end of the year 8th grade honors recognition chapel

Middle School News — Continued

SPORTS SCHEDULES

Wednesday, May 27

4:00 p.m. Prelims at GRCH

Thursday, May 28

7/8 Track Finals at GRCH

2:00 p.m. Field events begin

4:00 p.m. (approx.) Running events begin

Admission is \$5/family or \$1/individual. Concessions will be open.

7TH GRADE FIELD TRIPS

Our Stewardship Unit began today. **Tomorrow, Wednesday, May 27, 7A, 7D and 1/2 7B** will be going to the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the John Ball Zoo. **7C, 7E and 1/2 7B will go on the field trip on Friday, May 29.** Students need to wear tennis shoes and bring money for lunch at Burger King. For more information, please check the parent letter that all 7th grade students received last week Thursday.

LOST AND FOUND TABLES

A table with “lost” items is set up at the middle school – the items could belong to your son or daughter! Please remind them to browse through the items and/or parents are welcome to stop by the school to locate any items missing from your home closets!

8TH GRADE STUDENT SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

May 26 through May 29 are exam and final project days and will be full days of school for your 8th grade students. The class trip to Cedar Point is Monday, June 1. We will be leaving from the middle school at 4:45 a.m. and returning at 10:30 p.m. On Tuesday, June 2 students will not be required to be in school. On Wednesday, June 3, students will have a breakfast at the multi-purpose room at Hillcrest CRC at 8:00 a.m. The 8th grade students will need to be picked up at the middle school at 11:30 a.m. Ask your 8th grade student for the detailed schedule that was distributed.

8TH GRADE GRADUATION

The graduation ceremony takes place at Fair Haven Ministries on Baldwin and 28th Avenue at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3. Students should plan to be to the church by 7:00 p.m. Students should come back to the middle school to board busses that will leave for their graduation celebration at The Visser YMCA in Grandville at 10 p.m. sharp. Parents, please pick your son/daughter up at the middle school parking lot at 12:50 a.m.

UNIFORMS/LIBRARY BOOKS

Parents, please take a few moments with your middle school student to check your homes for things that may need to be returned to school. All middle school media center library books were due on May 22. Please make sure your son/daughter does not have any overdue books and/or fines due in the library. All the green 6th Grade Band uniform shirts must be returned to Mr. Knot by Friday, May 29. Make sure that all team uniforms are washed and returned to school by June 1. All classroom books should be returned to homeroom teachers as soon as possible.

SATURDAY SUMMER BASKETBALL FOR BOYS

All boys going into 7th or 8th grade next year to join us on Saturday mornings from 8:30 — 10 a.m. at the outdoor courts at the middle school beginning June 20 through July 25 (no basketball on July 4). Greg Honderd and Bill Teisman will coordinate Saturday Morning Summer Basketball. Each Saturday will consist of instructional coaching on fundamentals and full court pick-up games. Sign-up by sending an email to saturdaybball@gmail.com and include your child's name, parents' names, email address for weekly communication, and an emergency phone number. Please call Greg at 669-0987 or Bill at 669-6778 with any questions.

GIRLS ON TRACK COACHES NEEDED

Fitness minded women with a passion for 6th and 7th grade girls are needed for the Girls on Track team at the middle school. Girls on Track coaches are needed to commit to a 10 week season meeting twice a week, with a celebration 5K run at the end. Please call Holly at 896-7097 for more information!

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

PIG-IN-THE-BLANKETS FOR SALE

Pigs are for sale in the elementary kitchen freezer. There are only 20 dozen left — get them before they are gone!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

May 26	6/7/8 Choir and 4-8 Orch. Con. 7:30 at Grace	June 2	Elementary Field Day
May 26-29	8th Grade Exams	June 3	8th Grade Graduation at Fair Haven Ministries
June 1	8th Grade Class Trip to Cedar Point	June 4	Last Day of School Grades K-7; done at noon