

October 20, 2009

Dear Parents:

As we move into a new athletic season, allow me to share a few thoughts. In the past ten years of interscholastic athletics, many things have remained constant, yet the climate and pressures that surround our student athletes has changed significantly. In today's "fast-paced, pack it all in" kind of society we find ourselves faced with many choices and opportunities. What was once a society of encouraging our children to go outside and just play for fun has now become one where we encourage children to join organized teams and to play the sport year around. In our middle school we encourage students to try a variety of activities "to explore" their God-given interest and abilities. We do this by allowing all students to be a part of a team with no cuts in 6th and 7th grade.

In the course of an athletic season, I will undoubtedly have conversations with numerous parents. Some of the conversations will raise concerns over not providing enough opportunities for our students or asking us to allow every student to make a team. Often conversations will focus more on limiting the number of participants with more of an emphasis on winning. Through all of this, I believe there are a few things we all need to remember.

First, academics come first. I realize that for many, athletics play an important part in who/whom we are and what we do, but at this age we must all support decisions that place academics first.

Second, we must help our children make good choices. We must understand that children at this age are not always capable of seeing the "big picture" and that more is not always better. There are numerous opportunities for our children to participate in countless teams around the area and the state. If we are not careful we can schedule our children virtually 24/7 to participate in multiple teams. Please help your child to make choices that do not spread them too thin. Yes, maybe one team at a time is best.

Third, keep some family time intact. I believe we (yes, me too) make decisions that we say put our children first, but at the expense of our entire family. Try to set aside time each week that is dedicated strictly for our families. As we all know, our families grow up far too fast.

Our middle school works hard to provide many opportunities for our students because we believe it is important to offer a variety of options and choices. We do not expect however that all children do all things. I respect and enjoy hearing the students say to me "I talked it over with my parents and we decided I am too busy to participate in this activity." I do believe it is time that we all take a step back and evaluate what we are doing in the area of athletics. We all need to make sure our actions at athletic events match what we say we value and that a Christian perspective permeates athletics as well as academics.

It is vital too that together we all make decisions with, and sometimes for our children, that place their best interest first and we avoid the common mistake of living our lives through our children. We all have only one chance to "raise up our children in the way they should go" and together with God's help we can do this!

Dan Pott, Middle School Principal

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

On Monday, November 9, at 7 p.m., the Search Committee for candidates for the next Administrative Principal of Hudsonville Christian School will meet with members of the school community who are interested in offering input on the process and vision for this important position. Small groups will be facilitated by members of the Search Committee who will solicit responses regarding various specific aspects of leadership at Hudsonville Christian School. The meeting will be held in the elementary school all purpose room, and is open to anyone interested in Hudsonville Christian School.

CEA CONVENTION

There will be no school for students this week Thursday and Friday due to the Christian Educator's Association Convention. The offices at the elementary and middle school will also be closed on these dates.

ANNUAL ORDER FORM

Orders for the annual are due with payment by October 27. The cost is \$15 per book. Please complete a form for each of your children who desire to order a yearbook. Additional order forms are available by both school offices.

MOVIE MAKING CLASS

A movie making class will be offered on Mondays after school starting October 26. This is for students in 5th and above. Information sheets can be picked up by the school offices.

HALLOWEEN

Hudsonville Christian School's policy on Halloween is that we do nothing to support it in classroom activities or decorations. We will celebrate Reformation Day at school.

HCS WEBSITE

Check out the HCS website under "Parents" for printable forms. Forms will be updated regularly. The form you need may be there!

REPORT CARDS

The 1st nine week marking period will end on October 30 and report cards will be sent home with students on November 6.

HCS HOME EXPO FUNDRAISER

We are currently looking for home party representatives who are interested in participating in a fundraising event on Monday, November 16 from 4—8:30 p.m. The HCS Home Expo Fundraiser will support the Crisman, Koning, and VanRijs families in their fight against cancer. For more information and to reserve your spot, please contact Heidi Grasman at 662-9946 or Deb Kooienga at 669-5325 by October 26.

TRIP INFORMATION

The next TRIP sign up and information meeting will be on Monday, November 2 at 6:30 p.m. Bonus percentages are the following: Cabela's — 1% until the end of the year, JC Penney — 1% until November 20, and Applebee's — 2% until the end of the year. Also, Meijer \$10 cards will be available in November and December. Start buying your Christmas gift cards now!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

<u>Oct. 21</u>	Yellow/Day 2	<u>Oct. 26</u>	Green/Day 3
<u>Oct. 22</u>	No School	<u>Oct. 27</u>	Blue/Day 4
<u>Oct. 23</u>	No School	<u>Oct. 28</u>	Red/Day 1

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be Arby's roast beef sandwiches, Cool Ranch Doritos, Fritos, fruit cup, and orange sherbet.

HUDSONVILLE HOLIDAY PARADE POSTERS

Hudsonville Parade poster entries for grades 1-4 must be put in the box outside the Art Room by Wednesday, October 21.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOT LUNCH this week will be Blimpie Sub Sandwich \$2.50 each. Chips \$.25 each. Pop \$.50 each.

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

<u>Friday, October 23:</u>	No School today – No chapel scheduled
<u>Tuesday, October 27:</u>	Mr. Jon Huisman leads chapel

Middle School News — Continued

AFTER SCHOOL STUDY HALL

After school study hall will begin at the middle school next week. This study hall time is an opportunity (free of charge to students) for middle school students to work on their homework from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in our school library on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. A teacher will be available to assist students, but it will not be a small group or one on one tutoring session.

7/8 MUSIC CONCERT TONIGHT

Our 7/8 choir, band and orchestra groups will perform for the first time this year at our middle school south gym tonight beginning at 7:30 p.m. Immediately following the concert we will be taking photographs of the groups for our annual. Please come and support our music program! We look forward to seeing you there!

FALL FITNESS FEAT TOMORROW

The middle school Fall Fitness Feat is happening tomorrow! Our goal is to get all of our middle school students out and exercising at the same time! Parents are invited to come out and watch, cheer or participate with the students in this two mile fitness FUN walk/run! The event begins at 11:15 a.m. To view a map of our route, you can stop by the middle school and check out the bulletin board in east school hallway.

MEAP TESTS

MEAP tests continue as follows:

October 20 – MATH 6, 7, 8

October 26 – Social Studies 6, Language Arts Writing 7, Science 8

Please make an effort to keep from scheduling appointments for students during these test days. If students miss any of the MEAP tests they will need to stay after school for MEAP makeup testing times.

MEAP MAKEUP TESTS

MEAP makeup tests times for middle school students are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, October 28 and 29 in the middle school from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. All students who miss MEAP tests during the scheduled times during the school day should plan to stay after school on the makeup days until their MEAP tests are complete.

6th GRADE BAND/CHOIR/ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Our 6th grade music groups are planning their first performance for next week Thursday afternoon, October 29 in the middle school south gym at 2:00 p.m. Please plan to join us for this mini concert event!

PARENTS OF 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

If you have not already done so and are choosing the studio option, please be sure to schedule an appointment for your child with *John Dykstra Photography* for their 8th grade picture for our school annual. The studio telephone number is 669-1755 and the appointment dates for HCMS are November 3 -12 from 4:00 – 8:30 p.m. Please make your appointment soon.

6th GRADE BASKETBALL

The 6th grade girls have a basketball practice planned for Tuesday, October 27 after school until 4:15 p.m. The 6th grade boys have a basketball practice planned for Thursday, October 29 after school until 4:15 p.m. The boys and girls will be invited to a league “play day” at Grand Rapids Christian High on Saturday, October 31 with game times for the girls beginning at 9:00 a.m. and games for the boys beginning at 11:30 a.m.

6/7/8 SWIM TEAM

Students participating in the 6/7/8 swim meet on Saturday, November 14 received practice schedules last week Friday. The process has taken awhile due to limited availability at local pools. The first practice is on Saturday, October 31 from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. at the Hudsonville Public High School pool. More dates are listed on the practice schedule. Please ask your child for the letter with more details.

7/8 SOCCER GAME SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 20

3:45 p.m. 8th Girls HOME vs. Calvin Christian

4:45 p.m. 8th Boys HOME vs. Calvin Christian

8th GRADE BASKETBALL

8th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball team tryouts will start on Monday, November 2 and continue on November 3 and 4. Practices and game schedules will be handed out the following week. Tryouts could possibly extend to November 5 as well. Coaches are not sure they can complete tryouts in three days; they may need all four.

Middle School News — Continued

7th GRADE BASKETBALL

7th Grade Boys and Girls will begin tryouts on Wednesday and Friday, November 11 and 13. Practice and game schedules will be handed out the following week.

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

CASH FOR CLASS

Cash for Class is this week at Family Fare stores. When you shop just give the cashier our school code (87580), and we will receive two percent back on total purchases. Thank you for your support!

LOVE BAZAAR

There are less than seven weeks until this year's Love Bazaar on December 4. We are still in great need of bubble wrap, tissue paper, and boxes of all shapes and sizes. If you have volunteered to be a shopper, cashier or wrapper, you will be notified soon. We are currently in need of three more people to join the Love Bazaar committee. If you love to shop for great deals, this is the committee for you! If you are interested or have any questions, please call Deb Klein at 669-3261. Your participation is the key to this special day being a success. Thank you!

COMMUNITY NEWS

“ADD/ADHD AND YOUR CHILD” SEMINAR

The CLC Network is sponsoring this free parent seminar by Robert Bulten, M.D. and Doug Bouman, Psy.S. on Thursday, November 5 from 7—9 p.m. It will be held at the CLC office at 4340 Burlingame in Wyoming. Please contact CLC at 245-8388 or ckoetje@clcnetwork.org to register.

GO FISH CONCERT

CLC Network is excited to announce a spectacular Christmas concert with GO FISH on Monday, December 14, 7:00 p.m. at DeVos Center for Arts & Worship on the campus of Grand Rapids Christian HS. You won't want to miss the amazing talents of GO FISH, three guys who offer fun, Christian music for kids and their families. Tickets are available by calling CLC Network at 245-8388, De Vos Center for Arts and Worship box office at 574-5600, or online at www.clcnetwork.org. Cost for tickets are \$18 each or \$15 group rate for ten or more tickets. All seating is reserved.

HUDSONVILLE COMMUNITY ED. PROGRAMS

Information is available by the school offices for the following:

- Learn to Skate
- Soccer and Flag Football through the Soccer Zone

“OY! HELLO MATE!”

Would you like a delicious lunch on Thursday, October 22 at the Grandville Outback? Get your \$10 Outback ticket from the Unity office to benefit the senior all-nighter. Lunch includes appetizer, salad, entrée, and beverage, and will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. No tickets will be sold at the door, so please call Unity today at 669-1820! Thanks for your support!

WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES GARAGE SALE

Wedgwood Christian Services will hold a garage sale on Friday, October 30 from 9 a.m.—5 p.m. and Saturday, October 31 from 9 a.m.—12 noon. It will be held at Wedgwood's Velting Activities Center and Gym, located at 3300 36th in Kentwood. Everything will be half off on Saturday. To donate items call Grace at 831-5621.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST MUSICAL

Unity Christian High School is presenting the fairy tale musical, Beauty & the Beast on November 19 – 21, at the Zeeland East High School Auditorium. Ticket information is available by calling Unity at 669-1820. In advance of the performance, Unity's musical cast members will be hosting Breakfast with Belle for children and their families on Saturday, November 14 in Unity's South Gym with 2 seatings, 8:30 & 10:30 am. This will be a time of sharing in the character's favorite breakfast foods, singing, dancing, and picture taking. Advance tickets are required and can be ordered through the Unity office or via an order form on Unity's web site – www.unitychristian.org – look for Beauty & the Beast. Recommended ticket donation of \$4 per person will support the musical production.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Oct. 13—29	MEAP Testing for grades 3—8	Oct. 26	Education Foundation Dinner
Oct. 20	M.S. 7/8 Music Concert	Oct. 29	6th Grade Music Program, 2 p.m.
Oct. 21	M.S. Fall Fitness Feat	Oct. 30	End of First Nine Weeks
Oct. 22-23	CEA Convention (no school for students)	Nov. 6	Report cards sent home