

#TeamHopkins

Connections

April 2023

Welcome to Connections, Hopkins County Schools' parent/community newsletter!

Online Registration Open for 2023-2024

Online Registration/Annual Update through Infinite Campus Parent Portal started Monday, April 24, for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

Online Registration will be available on the portal through the start of the school year. We encourage you to complete this soon for your students. Parents may also register new students, including incoming kindergarten students. This is required for ALL students who will attend Hopkins County Schools next year.

This online process allows you to verify and submit required information to your child's school. It also eliminates the forms and paperwork that used to be required for annual registration. Your child's school may have other site-specific forms that you will be asked to complete later.

Only the legal guardian listed for the student in the primary household can complete online registration. The assigned school is based on the primary household address. If your child has a secondary household, please update the information for that additional household while completing the online update. Look for more information on the district website, www.hopkins.kyschools.us/OLR.

Groundbreaking Ceremonies Held for Auxiliary Gym/Storm Shelter Projects

Hopkins County Board of Education held groundbreaking ceremonies on Tuesday for the new auxiliary gyms/storm shelters at Hopkins County Central and Madisonville North Hopkins High schools. These spaces will offer great opportunities for our students while providing storm shelters for our community! The district is primarily using federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds for the project. We're so excited to see this dream becoming a reality!



COME CELEBRATE HANSON ELEMENTARY!

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
1-4 P.M.



Take a "last stroll" through the current building, view displays of memorabilia, photos, trophies, and more! Orders may be placed during the celebration for T-shirts and commemorative pieces of the gym floor. These are fundraisers for the playground at the new school. The event will also include food trucks from Swaggy P's and Dibby's Ice Cream.

Hanson ... A Lasting Legacy

The community is invited to come celebrate Hanson Elementary from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, April 29. The Hanson ... A Lasting Legacy celebration is an open house style event that offers the opportunity to take a "last stroll" through the current building and view displays of memorabilia, photos, trophies, and more. (Please note: This event does not include the new building, which is still under construction.)

Orders may be placed during the celebration for T-shirts and commemorative pieces of the gym floor. These are fundraisers for the playground at the new school. Food trucks from Swaggy P's and Dibby's Ice Cream will have items available for purchase.

[Commemorative T-shirt Order Form](#)

#OneLastTime



We loved welcoming the community to Earlington Elementary School on April 22! People had the chance to catch up with long-time friends and share fond memories of their time at the school. Thanks to everyone who came!!

District Expanding Access to Mental Health Supports for Students

Hopkins County Schools will expand mental health services and resources for its students, starting in the 2023-2024 school year. In an effort to meet the growing mental health needs of its students, the district will be hiring its own team of counselors to provide additional support to students who may be struggling with mental health challenges.

The district's new mental health team will include licensed counselors and therapists who will be available to provide one-on-one counseling, group therapy, and other mental health services to students in need. The team will also work closely with teachers, administrators, and parents to identify students who may be struggling and provide them with the necessary support and resources.

"We recognize that mental health is a critical component of our students' overall well-being," said Hopkins County Schools Superintendent Amy Smith. "By hiring our own team of counselors, we are taking a proactive approach to address the mental health needs of our students and ensure that they have access to the resources and support they need to succeed."

In addition to hiring its own team of counselors, the district is also looking to implement other mental health supports including additional professional development opportunities for staff and mental health curricular resources, which focus on teaching students coping skills and self-care techniques.

The expanded mental health services and resources will be available to all students in the district starting in the 2023-2024 school year. Additional details will be announced soon.

For more information, please contact Dr. Andy Belcher at (270) 825-6000.

Two Advance to National Spelling Bee



Top spelling skills have led two of our students to advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee!

Noah Brumfield, a 7th grader at James Madison Middle School, placed 2nd in the Regional Qualifying event in Hopkinsville. Isabella Carver, a 5th grader at Hanson Elementary, placed 3rd. This qualifies both students for the Scripps National Spelling Bee in National Harbor, Md., the week of Memorial Day.

We believe this is the first time that Hopkins County students have ever advanced to the Scripps National Spelling Bee!

Both are excited to go to the Scripps National Spelling Bee and are spending their time studying and practicing. You can listen to interviews with both in this [Kentucky Edition feature](#).

Congratulations to both of these outstanding students!!

Nominations Open for Employees of the Year

Hopkins County Schools is seeking nominations for the 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year and Employee of the Year awards.

Teacher of the Year nominees must have a minimum of three years teaching experience. The Teachers of the Year will be selected in the categories of Elementary (P-5), Middle (6-8) and Secondary (9-12).

Categories for Employee of the Year nominations are: Administrator of the Year, eligible nominees would include principals, assistant principals, central office administrators, and guidance counselors; Classified Support Services, eligible nominees would include instructional assistants who work in a classroom setting to enhance student achievement and Family Resource employees who provide student needs throughout the district; Facilities Management, eligible employees would include all custodians and district maintenance staff; Food Service, eligible nominees would include all cafeteria employees, cafeteria managers and district food service employees; Transportation, eligible nominees would include bus drivers, bus monitors, vehicle maintenance staff and district employees; Secretary of the Year, eligible employees would include all school secretaries; and Central Office Employee of the Year, eligible employees would include all central office staff.

Nominations will be accepted through the close of business, 4 p.m. Friday, May 26, 2023. Online nomination forms are available at the following links:

[Teacher of the Year](#)


[Employee of the Year](#)

A printable form is available at the following link. It should be mailed to Employee of the Year, Hopkins County Schools, 320 S. Seminary Street, Madisonville, KY 42431. Attention: Crystal Carlton.

[Employee of the Year Nomination Form](#) (pdf)

Bus 'Test Drive' Coming in June

Have you thought about becoming a bus driver with Hopkins County Schools? The Transportation Department invites the community to see what it's really like to drive a school bus! We are sponsoring a bus "test drive" for the community. Please watch for an announcement soon!



-SPONSORED BY THE MCC LIONS CLUB-
GLEMA MAHR CENTER FOR THE ARTS
HOPKINS COUNTY SCHOOLS
Gifted & Talented

Talent Show Series

2023 District Competition

Elementary Performance		Middle & High Performance
April 25 • 6:00 pm		April 27 • 6:00 pm

Soft drinks & pizza by the slice will be available
Admission (Cash or Check Only) - **\$5 or \$3 with an Eyeglasses Donation**

Amazing Shake



MS Competition is Largest Ever!

The Middle School Amazing Shake competition has drawn to a close! This year's competition was the largest ever, with 150 participants from Browning Springs, James Madison, and South Hopkins Middle schools. Winners include Reagan Blades, SHMS, 1st; Josie Walker, SHMS, 2nd; Aleigha Hughes of JMMS and Jasper Lee of SHMS, 3rd; and Maria Kerby, BSMS, 5th.

The Amazing Shake emphasizes professional skills. Competition rounds include a meet and greet, "Think on your Feet," dinner etiquette, and an interview session.

Congratulations to the winners and all participants! Thanks to everyone who organized this series of competitions and all the volunteers who made it possible! The Amazing Shake is currently under way at the elementary level for the first time!



Elementary Students Compete for 1st Time

Twenty of our 5th graders participated in the second round of the Elementary Amazing Shake competition earlier this week at Hopkins County Career & Technology Center. The students from Grapevine, Jesse Stuart, Pride, and West Broadway Elementary schools were given four scenarios in which they had to think on their feet. This is the first time that Amazing Shake has been held at the elementary level!

The top 10 have advanced to the third and final round, which is an etiquette dinner. The Top 10 includes Gauge Day and Damion Rose of GES; Mylie Duvall and Ally Kong of JSES; Kyah Cook and Alicia Talamantes of PES; and Micah Biggs, Charlie Gamblin, Audrey Mulligan, and Allie Ramage of WBES. This is a great opportunity for our elementary students!

'Seussical the Musical'



The Hopkins County Schools' presentation of "Seussical the

Musical” at Glema Mahr Center for the Arts received rave reviews!

“Seussical the Musical is all of the most well-known Dr. Seuss characters put into a story similar to ‘Horton Hears a Who,’ but with lots of different other things,” said Liam Coursey, director of choral activities at Madisonville North Hopkins and James Madison. He is co-directing the show with Kelly Oliver, Hopkins County Central choral director. “It’s a show with a vibrancy that you don’t often see. The sets are bright and the costumes are big and grand. It’s very fun and positive.



“I think the kids have all learned quite a bit about how we do theater at different levels,” he said. “The growth of confidence and expression that we’ve seen out of the kids over these past few months is remarkable.”

The cast included students from Madisonville North Hopkins, Hopkins County Central, James Madison Middle, and South Hopkins Middle.

Kids Enjoy Olympic Field Days!



Byard Selected Special Education Director

Clarissa Byard has been selected as district director of special education for Hopkins County Schools. Since 2008, she has served as a district special education teacher consultant.

"My heart is for our special education students, staff, and families," she said. "I have worked with many amazing people in our district over the past 19 years and look forward to creating many more great relationships. We have a strong administrative team that values advocating for our students, and I'm eager to continue that support in my new role as director." To learn more, go to <http://bit.ly/40m0ovC>.



Meika Brandon Adds Bus Driving to Other Job Responsibilities



Dual Roles
Dual Roles

Meika Brandon added driving a bus to her Hopkins County Schools' job responsibilities in February. She's worked for the district for 16 years, serving as lead custodian at Central Office for the past 6 years.

"I decided to drive a bus to boost my retirement," Brandon said. She drives a preschool route and a regular route in the afternoon as a sub. "I love the preschool route. That's my favorite. I just like to listen to their stories."

She enjoys getting to interact with kids again like she did during her time at Hopkins County Central and encourages others to consider being a bus driver.



American Legion Auxiliary Presents Freedom Flags to Schools, Central Office



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 6 presented Freedom Flags to four of our schools and the Central Office during the Board of Education meeting on April 18. The Freedom Flag is a special symbol of remembrance for 9/11.

Flags were presented to Hanson Elementary School, South Hopkins Middle School, Southside Elementary School, and West Hopkins School. The elementary schools also received a copy of the book, "Unfurling of the Freedom Flag." The American Legion Auxiliary previously presented the flags to both high schools and all schools within the city of Madisonville.

The flags were presented by Terri Whitfield, the auxiliary's Americanism chair; Elaine Josleyn, Maurice K. Gordon Unit 6 president; Carolyn Burris, district president; and Lori Moore, Legionaire/auxiliary member. We appreciate our community partners!



Junior Ambassador Program

Hopkins County Schools has partnered with the city of Madisonville to offer our students leadership opportunities within the community. The Junior Ambassador Program is open to all incoming juniors and seniors, and only five from each school will be selected. In this video, Alaina Lancaster, director of secondary education, and Dr. Andy Belcher, director of assessment, explain the program. Students may participate only once. The link to the application is below, and it is due April 30.

[Application Form](#)

MCC Honors Lauren Wood

Hopkins County Career and Technology Center guidance counselor Lauren Wood received a big surprise when she got to work on April 18!

Wood had been told Madisonville Community College

officials would give an award to CTC teachers that morning. Then, Wood was presented with the inaugural MCC Pathfinder Award!

"It was a surprise," she said. "I had no idea!"

MCC is celebrating National Community College Month and recognizing individuals who have been instrumental in guiding and supporting students with their college and career plans. The award was presented by MCC President Dr. Cynthia Kelley and Vice-President of Administration Dr. Jay Parrent.

Wood was nominated by MCC faculty, staff, and students based on her efforts to encourage students to attend MCC, assist them in identifying a career and postsecondary path, provide mentorship, and maintain contact with students. She is among 16 individuals in the state to receive the Pathfinder Award.

"I feel very honored to be selected as the inaugural recipient of the KCTCS Pathfinder Award," Wood said. "I want Hopkins County students to be prepared for their next steps after high school and keeping them my focus is always No. 1!"





**Thank you for voting
Hopkins County Schools
Best Place to Work
2020, 2021, 2022
and 2023**

**We appreciate
all of our
employees for
the dedication
they show to
our students,
families, and
community!**



**#TeamHopkins: Together, we are one
team, one mission, one community.**

Join our team. Apply today at
www.hopkins.kyschools.us/jobs

Leadership HC Education Day

Hopkins County Schools recently hosted Leadership Hopkins County,, giving class members an up-close look at the district. They learned about the Child Nutrition Department and Transportation Department. Participants even got to test drive a bus! Education Day also included a tour of Hopkins County Career and Technology Center and a question-and-answer session with district administrators. We enjoyed sharing information about our district with these community leaders!



Career Signing Day

Future career plans of several high school seniors were celebrated March 23 during Hopkins County Schools' first Career Signing Day! The participants included 13 seniors who signed letters of intent with businesses/organizations that they will be working with after graduation. The full list of participants is available at <https://bit.ly/3Zdysce>. Congratulations to everyone! We look forward to expanding this event in upcoming years



Remember Your Why



We welcome nominations from parents, students, and community members for the district's "Remember Your Why" Award. Hopkins County Schools gives this award to employees and students in recognition of outstanding service, good deeds, and kindness shown to others.

Submit your nomination at www.hopkins.kyschools.us/RememberYourWhy.

MNHHS FFA Receives 2 Grants

Ag students at Madisonville North Hopkins High School will benefit from two grants awarded through the Kentucky FFA Foundation. Here are details about the grants:

SAE Grants: Students in the agriculture program have outside projects called Supervised Agricultural Experiences. The goal of these projects is to provide exposure to a sector of agriculture students find interesting - potentially earning money, learning new skills, or simply developing future hobbies. The Kentucky FFA Foundation gives out start-up grants for these each year. A total of \$3,000 was awarded for MNHHS students, with six students receiving \$500 each. Projects include starting beehives, flower gardens, and raising goats. Recipients are Riley Peyton, Brenna Sherman, Sydney Dickerson, Addison Jerome, Maddie Ziegler, and Savannah Crick.



Innovations Grants: The KY FFA Foundation also gives out program grants aimed at developing agriculture programs in innovative ways that further partnerships throughout the community. The Agriculture Shop at MNHHS was awarded \$10,000 to continue a partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Seniors in the Agricultural Math course apply basic math principles to residential construction, building sheds for local Habitat homes. Habitat helps sponsor materials, providing our students a chance to learn practical skills in meaningful ways. With the grant, they purchased enough equipment for three sheds to be built by three groups.



Homemade Hot Rolls Return

The smell was unmistakable – homemade rolls baking in the school cafeteria kitchen. Just the mention brings back fond memories for many Hopkins County Schools' alumni.

However, it's been a while since homemade rolls were on the menu. Last month, child nutrition staff from across the district came together in the kitchen at Hopkins County Central High School to re-learn an old skill.



"I've been here for about 20 years," said HCCHS cafeteria manager Donna Stanley. "At one time, that was my job. At the high school, there were two of us doing the same job. We put out about 1,200 rolls a day, every other day." Menus changed about 10 years ago in response to USDA rules on salt and calories in school meals.

Current students will soon get to try homemade rolls once a month as part of a new "Throwback Thursdays" initiative, said Scott Moore, child nutrition director.

[See Full Story](#)

Be-YOU-tiful Leaders Spring Conference

Members of the Be-YOU-tiful Leaders group from both high schools gathered on March 22 for their Spring Conference. The theme "Be Real" was the focus of breakout presentations on goal setting and future planning,

yoga, and a personality profile. Keynote speaker was 2023 Teen Miss Earth USA Tayan Stansfield of Kentucky.

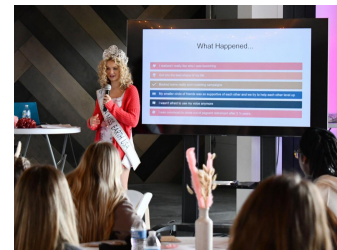
Service projects filled the afternoon. These included packaging “Seeds of Hope” to distribute to residents of Barnsley; discussing HCS Teachers on the Move, which will involve members helping box up classroom items for teachers moving to other buildings next year; and making plans to expand Be-YOU-tiful Leaders to the middle schools.



“What this program means to me is girls coming together as strong leaders in our schools,” said Madisonville North Hopkins freshman Anna Sampson. “It’s making us stronger as a whole because we are rival schools, but really, at the end of the day, we’re all teenage girls.”

Hopkins County Central sophomore Abigail Keown said the program has given her confidence.

“This gives us the opportunity to not only reach out to the other girls who are leaders in our school, but really affirms that I need to be a leader in my school,” she said. “Not only does it make me feel more empowered, but I’m allowed to be out of my shell and I’m allowed to go help people in need.”



Worth Repeating

PARENTAL NOTICE

Hopkins County Schools

PRESCHOOL – HEAD START

SCREENING & REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Any child who will be 3 years old by **August 1, 2023** or who is 4 years old may complete online pre-registration to determine eligibility for preschool.
2. Children may be eligible for the preschool program if they meet one or both of the following criteria:
 - a. 4 years old by **August 1, 2023** whose family income meets the "at-risk" criteria of 160% poverty
 - b. 3 or 4 years old by **August 1, 2023** with an educational disability or significant developmental delay
3. All children **MUST** present proof of age with Certified Birth Certificate or other reliable proof of age or identification at time of screening/registration.
4. All children **MUST** present Proof of family income with check stubs, W-2, or Tax Returns at time of screening to determine eligibility for the program.
5. All preschool children must have an up-to-date Kentucky Certificate of Immunization prior to starting preschool.
6. All preschool children must have a preventative health care exam conducted within six months prior to starting preschool.
7. All preschool children must have a KY School Eye Exam by an optometrist/ophthalmologist no later than January 1.
8. Any child with an educational disability who turns three during the school year is eligible on or after their third birthday.
9. Preschool is not mandatory. Not all 3 and 4 year old children will meet eligibility criteria for the preschool program.
10. All preschool registrations must be completed online. No registrations by phone will be accepted.
11. All preschool children will be provided a developmental screening to identify potential developmental delays and any needed interventions.

ONLINE PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 1, 2023

<https://www.hopkins.kyschools.us/PreschoolRegistration>

**COMPLETE THE ONLINE FORM, AND SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO
ATTEND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SCREENING DATES
MARCH 31, APRIL 14, AND APRIL 21**

8:30 – 2:00 each day at

**Hopkins County Career & Tech Center, 1775 Patriot DR, Madisonville
(Behind James Madison Middle School)**

FOR SCREENING APPOINTMENT AND QUESTIONS REGARDING PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION CONTACT:

Naomi Mejia, Preschool Program Assistant naomi.mejia@hopkins.kyschools.us

Amber Barber, Early Childhood Instructional Leader amber.barber@hopkins.kyschools.us

270-825-6000 www.hopkins.kyschools.us

HOPKINS COUNTY PRESCHOOL IS A DISTRICT-WIDE PROGRAM. ATTENDANCE AREAS MAY VARY FROM ELEMENTARY ATTENDANCE.



NON DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The Hopkins County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, or marital status in providing educational opportunities, activities, or employment practices in accordance with Title VI or the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972 (revised 1992), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and provide, upon request by qualified disabled individuals, reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with a disability an equal opportunity to participate. For more information contact Deanna Ashby, Superintendent, Hopkins County Board of Education, 320 S. Seminary Street, Madisonville, Kentucky, 42431, (270)825-6000.

PARENTAL NOTICE

Hopkins County Schools KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Grapevine – Hanson – Jesse Stuart – Pride – Southside – West Broadway – West Hopkins

1. KRS158.030 - any child who is five (5) years of age or who may become five years of age by **August 1**, may enter a public school kindergarten.
2. Kindergarten is compulsory. All children must attend.
3. All children not presently enrolled in kindergarten who will be six (6) years old by August 1, 2023, **MUST REGISTER**.
4. Kindergarten students must present proof of age with **Certified Birth Certificate** or other reliable proof of age and identification.
5. Kindergarten students must have an **up-to-date Kentucky Certificate of Immunization** within two weeks of the child's enrollment.
6. Kindergarten students must have a **preventative health care exam** conducted within one year prior to school starting.
7. Kindergarten students must have a **KY School Eye Exam by an optometrist/ophthalmologist** no later than January 1.
8. Kindergarten students must have a **dental screening or examination** documented on the **KY Dental Screening Form** no later than January 1.
9. **Students must register for Kindergarten for the elementary school in the attendance area in which they reside.**
10. Students who attend kindergarten at PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS should register and **MUST** be (6) years old by August 1, 2023, to be eligible to enroll in First Grade in Hopkins County.
11. A parent or guardian may petition the district to allow a student who does not meet the age requirements to attend kindergarten by April 15, 2023. A screening will be conducted and student scores will be presented to the board of education for approval. The petition form may be found at www.hopkins.kyschools.us by searching "early enrollment petition."
12. All Kindergarten registrations must be completed online. No registrations by phone will be accepted.

ONLINE KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 24, 2023

Grapevine – Hanson – Jesse Stuart – Pride
Southside – West Broadway – West Hopkins

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:

www.hopkins.kyschools.us

QUESTIONS REGARDING KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION CONTACT:

April Devine, Director of Pupil Personnel
270-825-6000



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FAQs

When is fall break?

[2023-2024 School Calendar \(Traditional\)](#)

What are the high school graduation dates?

[Graduation Dates](#)

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