



# HANNIBAL

## Central School District

### Adapting to changing times through hybrid learning

While the coronavirus pandemic has changed how classrooms are arranged and how lessons are taught, the Hannibal Central School District's dedication to its students remains unchanged

Teachers, administrators and staff spent countless hours in recent months attending professional development opportunities to create a strong knowledge base around technology integration and to be better equipped to teach in an environment with several new health and safety protocols. Over the summer, teachers received training on the various platforms they would be utilizing during the school year to deliver instruction.

"We approached these experiences from the perspective of our end users -- students and families," said HCSD Assistant Superintendent Dee Froio. "Trainings focused on Zoom, Google Classroom, designing digital instruction, student engagement in a remote setting and family communication."

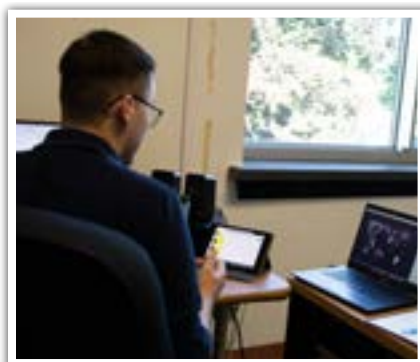
In addition to supplying teachers with the training and knowledge needed for remote instruction, the district also provided several workshops for in-person teachers. Workshops covered topics such as developing effective routines and procedures, organizing the physical classroom space, reimagining student collaboration, and whole and small group instruction.



*A Fairley Elementary first-grader gives the thumbs up during in-person learning in September.*

"More so than ever before, it has been a team effort to bring students back to the classroom," Froio said. "Partnering with parents to ensure that students feel safe and comfortable regardless of whether they are receiving in-person or remote instruction has been a top priority. The engagement rate for students has been tremendous across all three buildings -- again a testament to the collaborative efforts of the entire school community."

While the district was working to provide teachers with the training opportunities needed for success, officials were simultaneously surveying families to ensure students had the technology and equipment to thrive in a remote learning environment. All students in the district were



*Hannibal High School teacher Ed Barrington facilitates remote learning instruction with his students.*

issued a Chromebook to use for remote learning.

"Beyond the logistics of ensuring access to technology . . . our main goal is to support our students and provide the best experience possible to addresses both academic and social emotional needs," Froio said. "We continue to make decisions based on what is in students' best interest. The pandemic has not changed that, but it has caused us to bring even more creativity and 'outside the box' thinking to every level of the organization. We firmly believe that seeing all of these challenges as opportunities and opening our minds to the possibilities will make our instructional program stronger and more diverse."

### HCSD welcomes several new staff members

The Hannibal Central School District recently welcomed a mix of new faces and familiar ones to fill various substitute and permanent positions this academic year.

During a September staff orientation, district administration welcomed the following employees to substitute positions within the district: Lisa Vincent (high school special education); Lauren Hahn (high school music); Chelsea Roach, (first-grade); Ashley Cuyle (middle school counselor); and Michelle Hamilton (sixth-grade). Also attending the orientation were recent hires Rachel Smith, elementary teacher; Amy Terpening, elementary teacher; and Carl "Duke" Wallin and Meg Welling, career resource specialists.

"The orientation was very different this year," said HCSD Assistant Superintendent Dee Froio. "We focused on having the new staff share how the pandemic impacted whatever role they served in last spring and discussed challenges they were anticipating for the start of the new year. We processed through those challenges to try to put everyone at ease about the unknown. We wanted everyone to know that we are all learning how to navigate the new normal and that knowing how to ask for help and who to go to was of critical importance for everyone's success."

In addition to engaging in meaningful discussion about the pandemic's impact on education, the new staff members also reviewed the board of education's goals and district initiatives. An afternoon mentorship program and collaboration session capped off the day.

## Districtwide upgrades evident as capital project moves ahead

Transformation is evident throughout the Hannibal Central School District as its \$42 million capital project is nearing completion.

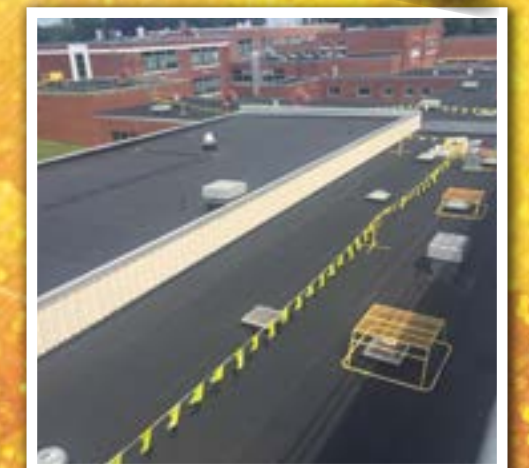
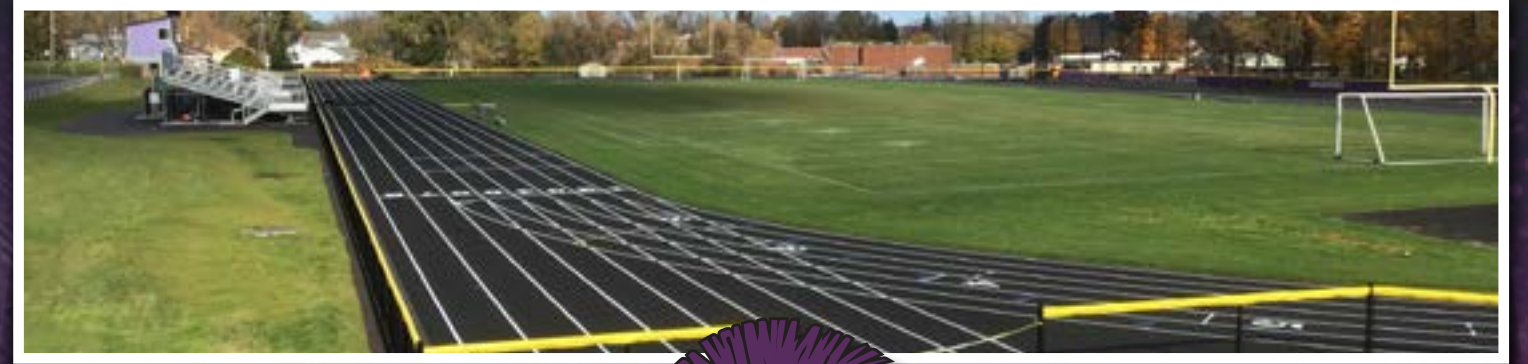
Voters approved the project in November 2017 and sitework began in June 2019. Since then, the transformation has progressed with significant upgrades to each building, along with site improvements and a new bus maintenance facility. The renovations were fully funded through a combination of state aid and the district's existing capital reserve fund.

"Careful fiscal planning allowed us to make these much-needed improvements at no cost to our district taxpayers," said HCSD Business Administrator Nancy Dingman. "We are thrilled to be able to make these renovations, which will benefit our students, staff and community for years to come."

In addition to the new transportation center, the scope of the project included roof work, masonry repairs, upgrades to electrical and plumbing systems and energy efficiency upgrades, as well as enhancements and improvements to classrooms and other instructional spaces. The athletic fields were upgraded too, including a resurfaced track, improved drainage, and safety fencing and dugouts for the baseball and softball fields.

"The kids and community love walking and running on the track," Dingman said. "Students and teachers are enjoying their new instructional spaces, and our transportation department staff are thrilled with the new transportation center."

The project remains on time and on budget, with finishing touches on the transportation center expected in December. Remaining work, targeted for completion in summer 2021, includes renovations to the high school kitchen, and window and counter replacement at Fairley Elementary School.





Hannibal Central School  
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[www.hannibalcsd.org](http://www.hannibalcsd.org)

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With a focus on providing students with the tools needed to embark on successful careers after graduation, the Hannibal Central School District welcomed two career resource specialists to its staff this year.

Meg Welling and Duke Wallin, who have a combined 42 years of experience in education, will provide a variety of career resources to students across all grade levels. At each level, they will offer different types of resources based on the target audience.

“Starting in the elementary years, we introduce students to non-gender/nontraditional careers and provide a general awareness,” Wallin said. “Through the middle grades, kids learn more about themselves and the skills needed to achieve their career goal through exploration. In high school, through work-based learning such as job shadows, internships and mentorships, students will get a sense of the technical skills needed to become more career focused.”

The career resource specialists noted how critical it is to reach students at every grade. It is just important to have our younger kids to start thinking about their futures so they can see why their education now is so important, they said.

“How they handle their education is the start of how they will handle their future career,” Welling added. “We are looking to develop class and group lessons and curriculum for the younger years, followed by more individualized career counseling and events for the high school students.”

A key component of the new initiative is developing and building upon existing partnerships with local businesses and industry leaders. Welling and Wallin noted they are eager to foster these business relationships to provide further opportunities for students, such as tours, internships and question-and-answer sessions. Business owners who would like to collaborate with the district can fill out a form at <https://bit.ly/33NnJKH>.

With so many career resources now available to Hannibal students through this effort, Wallin and Welling are confident that students will be college and career ready by the time they graduate.

“Our students will benefit from having access to a multitude of options available for career paths,” Welling said. “This gives them the advantage to research, explore and even experience those options before they graduate. When a student walks across the stage Friday, that student on Monday will have some type of post-secondary plan for college, workforce, military or advanced training.”

HCS D families who would like more information about career exploration services may visit the district website at [hannibalcsd.org/careerresources](http://hannibalcsd.org/careerresources) or email [careers@hannibalcsd.org](mailto:careers@hannibalcsd.org).

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The start of a new school year always brings a sense of optimism and hope to our Warrior community. This year, although we faced many challenges as we prepared to reopen during these unprecedented times, those feelings are stronger than ever.

We, as a Warrior family, are optimistic and hopeful that our unity will help us persevere through tough times. We have seen that unity and strength come to fruition in recent months, as we learned how to navigate a pandemic while simultaneously coping with the unimaginable loss of one of our own Warrior family members, Kaydence.

We are all hurting. We are all grieving. We are all facing adversity and challenges that we never thought we would encounter. But, we are all doing it together. We are leaning on one another, and that has given us strength. We are better together.

Our community has embodied the Warrior spirit in recent months, and I have never been prouder. We will continue to unite and rely on one another for strength. We are resilient. We are Warriors!

Please hug your families and reach out to us for anything you might need. Together, we will get through these trying times.

Sincerely,

*Christopher A. Staats*