



# Hoosac Valley High School 2018-2019

## Words from Byrd: Week ending 1.4.19

### **NEW THIS WEEK...**

**Attendance Policy Notes:** Some parents/guardians may have received attendance letters from teachers regarding 10 and 20 day absences from classes (or warning letters that students are approaching that amount of class absences). I have included part of the policy here. The full policy can be found in the [Student Handbook on pages 9-13](#). Note: When a student misses 15 minutes or more from a class, it's counted as an absence.

*Students can be absent from school up to 20 days per year (10 for semester courses), before losing credit for each course taken that year. A student shall not receive credit toward graduation for each course for which a student is absent without an approved excuse for more than 20 days per year (10*

days for semester courses). Approved excuses are documented appointments when seen by medical staff or appointments within the court system. If a family anticipates that their son or daughter will exceed the 20 allowable absences due to unusual circumstances, with prior written application and documentation signed by the parent, school administration may, in very select and unusual circumstances, assign administrative absences. These 20 allowable absences should be used for illness, family emergencies, college visits, funerals, suspensions, etc. Credits for all courses will be granted at the end of the course based on a combination of grades earned and adherence to the attendance policy. Attendance will be calculated on a daily basis.

**Absences from classes in excess of 20 days (10 for half year courses), regardless of excuses, will result in loss of credit, and will also automatically be referred for appeal.**



### **Shout out and Thank You to**

the National Honor Society. They held a food drive during the month of December. About 260 items collected were brought down to St. John Paul II Parish in Adams. A special thank you to Ashlee Meczywor, NHS president, for coordinating this event, and thank you to the officers who helped with the delivery.

**Forestry Ecology 2nd Semester!** Forestry Ecology has moved to Period 3 for Semester 2. With a shift in the schedule, this could be the

class for you! Do you have a study all Period 3? Do you want or need more science credits? Do you want to spend time outdoors? Here's what Mrs. McGinnis does in class:

- Go outside to identify trees & flowers & other plants
- Learn about the resources our land has to offer
- Focus on the forests as a system, biological processes, climate change, and people's influence

- Discuss positive and negative decisions and environmental issues that impact our forests and land
- Work toward improving the land locally (Nature Trail)
- This could lead to a career

**If you would like to add this to your Semester 2 schedule, stop by guidance.**

**FROM the CLASS ADVISORS**

**8th Grade:** Need information about the June trip to New York City? Email [dieszr@acrsd.net](mailto:dieszr@acrsd.net)

**9th Grade:** Class dues really need to be paid by the end of the year. You can pay \$50 per year, or you can pay in full \$200. Contact [tuckera@acrsd.net](mailto:tuckera@acrsd.net)

**10th Grade:** Class dues really need to be paid by the end of the year. You can pay \$50 per year, or you can pay in full \$200 (if you haven't paid anything to date). Contact [koczelar@acrsd.net](mailto:koczelar@acrsd.net)

**11th Grade:** Class dues really need to be paid by the end of the year. You can pay \$50 per year, or you can pay in full \$200 (if you haven't paid anything to date). Contact [dwyerj@acrsd.net](mailto:dwyerj@acrsd.net)

**12th Grade:** Class dues AND fundraiser money need to be paid in full before Senior week (\$200 for dues). Senior week starts on May 28, 2019. You will start receiving various notices regarding graduation and end-of-the-year deadlines when we return from break. Contact [shafert@acrsd.net](mailto:shafert@acrsd.net)

**FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT and the SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR**

**ADHD for Parents:** All session will be lead by a trained Brien Center therapist. In 5 or 6 structured meetings, they'll address

- How the ADHD brain differs from a neurotypical brain, and what that means for your child
- Tips for changing and managing behavior, and how those two things are different
- Your kid's best source of support and strength
- Using positives to offset negatives
- ...and more!

Group limit: 8. Times and dates are dependent on member availability. For more information and to register, call Amy Price at 413-398-1342.

**Jan. 15** college deadlines are coming up. Seniors... stay on track and make sure everything is sent in on time. Check in with your counselor if you have any questions.

**“What you can do to avoid or minimize holiday stress inducers”** presented by the American Psychological Association. Families can check it out at this website: <https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/holiday-stress.aspx>

### **FOR YOUR PLANNING PURPOSES**

#### **January 16, 2019**

Half-Day for Students. Dismissal is at 10:40 a.m. (Teacher inservice day).

#### **January 17, 2019**

Band Concert for grades 5-12 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

#### **January 18, 2019**

Quarter 2 ends. Report cards will be distributed on Friday, January 25.

#### **January 21, 2019**

NO SCHOOL. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed).

### **WE STILL WANT YOU TO KNOW...**

**Safety update:** Families, staff members, community members, etc. are reminded to park in designated parking areas throughout our campus. State Police are working with administration to construct a Medical Emergency Response Plan, and they were very clear that parking in “no parking” areas, handicapped areas (without the proper tag), or parking in the bus loop will result in ticketing and towing.

**Tutoring Center:** The HVHS tutoring center is open to all students grades 8-12 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 2 p.m. until the late bus (3p.m. ish) in Ms. Reeves’ Room 303. National Honor Society students are working with the peers in all subject areas.

**Entry Procedures:** You may have noticed new entry procedures to Hoosac Valley Middle and High School. **ALL visitors** must check in with the middle school office staff to receive a pass and be called in to the high-school side. If you have specific questions, please contact me at [byrde@acrsd.net](mailto:byrde@acrsd.net). **Dropping off items?** No need to sign in. You may drop those off in the first office, and those things will be delivered to the high school. Thank you!