



Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools

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February 14, 2025

Dear Hastings Families and Staff:

Off we go into a much desired and deserved Mid-Winter Recess. To each and everyone, relax, refresh and enjoy. Let me send you out with a brief letter on several notable items.

2025-26 School Calendar Adopted

On Tuesday evening, the BOE voted 4-3 to approve the [2025-2026 School Calendar](#). This is now the official school calendar for the upcoming school year. Please take time to study it and plan your personal schedules accordingly.

For background on the selection of this calendar, please see two documents posted in BoardDocs for the Tuesday meeting. The first is an [analytical memo](#) providing the BOE calendar options to consider. The second is a [chart](#) of the two options side by side along with comparative information from area school districts.

5th-6th Grade Winter Concert

Wednesday evening, a whole bunch of energy and joy was busting through and out of the High School Auditorium as the 5th and 6th Grade Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra and Chorus played and sang. The pieces covered a wide variety of genres and pieces, including the ever popular "Let's Go Band," the classic "Basin Street Blues," the memorable "Pink Panther," and the challenging "Bohemian Rhapsody" (performed by, respectively, the Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra and Chorus). Kudos to Mr. Eric Day, Mr. John Carini and Mr. Jon Riss for guiding well over 100 musicians to the point of inspirational performances.

Black History Month

February is devoted to the recognition and honoring of the immense contributions of African Americans to the fullness of our nation as a people, culture, economy and ultimately a democracy. While a dedicated month gives us focus, I know that many join me in the stance that the entire year, every day of the year, not just a single month, must inherently be about respect, dignity and honoring the immeasurable ways that African Americans make us strong. For deeper understanding, I repeatedly turn to resources curated by the Library of Congress and Smithsonian Institution; so again I urge you to find a moment over the next week to dig into the multi-media site [Black History Month](#).

On a personal note, I have been enriched my entire life by reading Black authors, across varied genres. I could recommend many, but let me simply direct you to [Kwame Alexander's website](#), for relevant, moving and inspiring poems and stories.

Have a wonderful break.

Bill

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