



Hoosac Valley Student Services Newsletter

September/October 2025

A Note from the Director

Welcome to our monthly Special Education Newsletter! I'm excited to share updates, celebrate our community, and keep families and staff informed about the amazing work happening across our district.

*Dr. Monica Zanin, Director of Student Services
Hoosac Valley Regional School District*

Spotlight on Staff & Students



We have started out our year reflecting on one of our brightest stars and all he stood for! Our SPOTLIGHT this month goes to Lucas Solak who lost his beautiful life last winter. Lucas' superpower was bringing people together! Lucas loved Peppa Pig, playing on as many screens as he could at once (and syncing them perfectly in any language!), Target trips, Disney World, giving smooches, Pa's pretzels, riding lessons at Blue Rider (working so hard for his Becky!), and full-body giggles. Lucas was lucky to be part of the Hoosac Valley Elementary School community. Lu loved his friends in Bridges, especially his best buddy Liam, and all of his teachers and paras. He was extra excited any time he saw "his" Miss Caitlin, Ms. Tenczar, Miss Erin, and of course his Bev. He put many miles in running through the halls bringing everyone he could find along with him, especially Nurse Ashley. HVRSD has named our annual Adaptive Games in honor of Lucas. The first Lucas Solak Adaptive Games were held on Friday, May 16th. At the beginning of the event, the Solak family was recognized in a ceremony in honor of their son/grandson, Lucas, who was one of the brightest stars at HVES. His memory lives on forever in all of the Hoosac Community and now the Adaptive Games will be a reflection of the joy he brought us all.

Program Updates & Highlights

HVRSD is thrilled to announce our collaboration with The New England Center for Children (NECC). NECC will be running a partner program/classroom in our Middle School and will also be consulting and working with our high school community through the contract of a Behavior Specialist. Please visit <https://www.necc.org/> and [NECC Program Middle School](#) to learn more about our programming.

Professional Development:

Our work will continue at the elementary school with Jan Hollenbeck from The Partnership for Advancement of School Service Providers. Jan has been working with our service providers as well as elementary and preschool staff on collaborative goal writing within the new IEP. Together, we are gaining a clearer understanding of collaborative IEP goals and contextual services. We will expand this work to our middle school special educators in the coming months.

Ongoing Projects:

[MTSS in HVRSD](#)

Family Resources & Events

Upcoming Event: **OCTOBER SEPAC Meeting 10/16/25 @ 5:30**

Hoosac Valley Middle/High School Resource Center or Zoom in @

ID: 876 2301 1707 Passcode: 33nbkF

Contact us at:  hvrdssepac@gmail.com  HVRSD SEPAC-Special Education Parent Advisory Council (these are both parent run)	SEPAC- Special Education Parent Advisory Council, is a state mandated, parent-led organization that provides support for families of Hoosac Valley students with disabilities. All parents and caregivers of students in our district that recieve special education services or support are encouraged to become involved, so that together we can improve access for all. We are also looking for participation from teachers, services providers, support staff and community members.
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Resource of the Month:

Hoosac Valley Regional School District
[Contact List](#)

Hoosac has a UNIFIED Basketball Team! We are proud to announce in cooperation with Drury High School that our 7-12th graders have an opportunity to play a varsity sport. Please consider attending one of our games or reach out to Danielle Racette dracette@hoosacvalley.org if your child is interested in playing. Game schedule:

- 10/1/25 at Wahconah High School
- 10/8/25 Home vs Monument Mountain
- 10/15/25 at Drury vs Lenox
- 10/22/25 at Pittsfield High School
- 10/29/25 Home vs Mt. Greylock
- 11/5/25 at Monument Mountain
begin at 4:30

[Game Flyer](#)

*All games

 **Contact Us**

Have questions or need support? Reach out to our Special Education Department:

 mzanin@hoosacvalley.org |  413-743-2939 |

 <https://studentservices.hoosacvalley.org/>