



WELCOME!

Hammitt News:

We are excited for the start of this new school year! Staff began this school year learning more about additional techniques for helping our students calm down. Then we took some time to update our classrooms' and school décor to prep for the start of the year!

Already, many classrooms have begun benchmark testing and some really cool units and studies. Please come to Open House on September 12th from 6-7:00 p.m. to meet your child's

teacher and staff and to see all of the hard work already happening.

News from our F.A. staff:

The Home Interventionists have a new title that reflects much better what they have been doing since Hammitt School started. They are now "Family Advocates". We wanted this change because we get to advocate for our families within Hammitt School and in the communities they come to us from.

Our Family Advocates have changed a bit because staff have changed jobs within the

agency and because we have been allotted a new position because of the great influx of students last year.

Our current Family Advocates are: Kara Meisenheimer, Maggie Gould, Mallory Pimentel, Katie Altieri, and Sarah Idleman (currently on maternity leave).

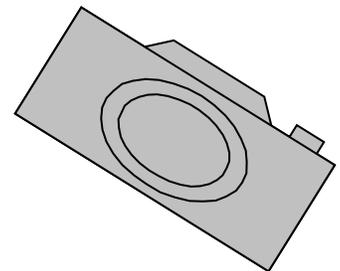
You will see us and hear from us plenty this year to talk about how the students are doing in school overall and checking to see if there is anything you need.

Hammitt School Staff

Academic Director: Dr. Rhonda Howard
Assistant Academic Director: Sarah Boitnott
Principal: Melody Donnelly
Supervisor of Program Services: Nancy Stevens
Intake Coordinator/Supervisor of H.I's: Dane Mooney
School Psychologist: Dr. Kelli Brown

Important Dates:

Sept 2: Labor Day/NO SCHOOL
Sept 12: Open House 6 p.m.– 7 p.m.
October 11: Parent/Teacher Conferences—NO SCHOOL
October 14: Columbus Day—NO SCHOOL
October 17: Picture Day



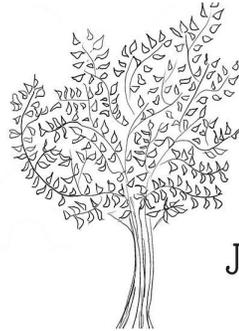
Speech and Language Therapy News:

We are excited to welcome Morgan Triplett to our team as a new Speech and Language Pathologist. She will be working with the students in the Primary Wing.

We are also excited to welcome Melissa Park back to our team. She is returning after maternity leave to work with students in the traditional, challenges, and connections programs and will be with us on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

We are also thrilled that

Leslie Garthaus will continue to provide therapy services to the students in the challenges program.



Just Breathe

Nancy Stevens will continue to oversee the Speech and Language Therapy Department and will provide services to students in the traditional and connections program.

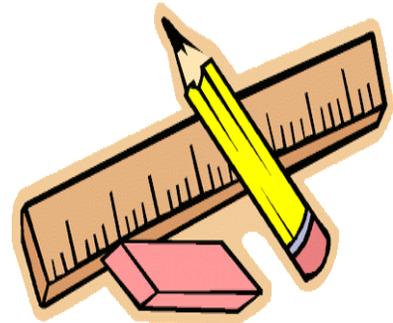
We have a great team and look forward to helping the students gain new skills this school year!

O.T. News:

We have been fortunate to be able to expand the OT (occupational therapy) consultation services offered within the Challenges and Connections program at all three school campuses this year. Molly Walter, a registered Occupational Therapist with many years of experience, will return as our valued

consultant.

Those students receiving direct occupational therapy services will be seen by either their district occupational therapists or by Lesley Anderson who is returning again this year to work with our students.



More news from our Family Advocates:

Girls Group will be back for this school year, starting on September 3. This helps some of our girls in spending time and building relationships with other girls in our school, as there aren't very many of them. We plan to continue working with the girls on social topics and other fun things like art, crafts, and games! Girls Group is

the first Tuesday of the month from 12-12:45, except for January.

On September 18, our Parent Group is returning as well! Our first topic is Resiliency and ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences). This will be a good group for our parents because it ties in trauma, how it effects us all, and how to help ourselves and our kiddos who

have experienced trauma. We sent a letter with all of the dates and topics for the rest of the school year so that it will be easier to plan which topics you would like to attend! We will continue sending reminder letters each month.

We're really looking forward to all the cool things we have planned for this year!

CON 224: Lauren W., Amy, Simona, and Marsha

We have a new lead teacher in our room this year! We are so excited to have Lauren with us! However, Lauren is not completely new to our room. She was here to do student teaching last year and also subbed in our room all summer. Both students and staff are grateful to have her in our room full time!

We have introduced laundry during our Community Class. We have talked about different detergents, bleach, and stain and static fighters. We also discussed how to sort laundry and then students had a chance to practice using the



skills learned.

In Unit, we are finishing up Natural Disasters. We have learned about wildfires, tornadoes, earth-

quakes, hurricanes, blizzards, and tsunamis. We had fun doing experiments related to these disasters. Some of the experiments/activities we did were making a tornado in a bottle, an earthquake experiment, and finally we made yummy blizzards to eat!

We will be taking a community outing in the next couple weeks. To go along with our laundry unit, we will be taking a trip to a local laundromat to practice our laundry skills from start to finish. We will sort, wash, dry, and fold our clothes.

CON 137: Katie, Bambi, Ramona, and Josh

In math, students finished assessments and they will begin to work on their individual lessons. In reading, we are working with non-fiction books and completing a report on dogs. Each student picked their own dog and did a report explaining all about that breed of dog.

We have been doing lots of sci-

ence experiments to learn about the scientific method. Try this at home: Will an orange sink or float in a pitcher of water? What did it do? Now take the peel off and put the orange back in the water. What did the orange do?

This month we celebrated Josh's birthday!!! We plan to visit a water treatment plant at the end of

September and then Rader Farm in October!



CON 141: Emily, Robin, Leah, and Cheryl

We are learning about how to do our classroom jobs, how to embrace each other's different personalities, and how to become a classroom family.

We have students working on memorizing addresses to memorizing multiplication facts. We have also started a feelings unit, where we are talking about what certain feelings look like.

We have new students and new teach-

ers to Hammitt Elementary in room 141. It has been exciting to learn about each other and help each other adjust to the new classroom. Students love the new wish well we do every morning in which students take time to wish students and staff well who are not here, having a rough time, or would just like extra warm wishes. Students have done a great job in leading in this activity.

Starting in September, the students will start a unit on different animal habitats.



PW 129: Suzy, Pat, and Taylor

We are excited to welcome Taylor to our classroom as a new assistant. She has already made some great bonds with the kiddos and we welcome the help that she brings to our daily routine.

We also welcome Aly Miller, an ISU field base student who will be working in our classroom from now until the second week in December. You will get the opportunity to meet both of these ladies at Open House on September 12th!

This year has brought some changes to our schedule and routines as well as a change in some of our classmates. It is

always fun to meet new friends! The kids are adapting well to the changes and adjusting to this new school year.

A huge part of our class routine is helping students learn their emo-



tions and how they can use the strategies we teach to remain calm and safe when they are struggling. We practice calming breaths as a group and take these breaths with the adults in our room when we need assistance in calming. Many of our students are using our calming spots throughout the day as an effective way to chill and take a break.

In the hall, we continue to have our class family tree. Please send in photos of your student and his/her home family because we'd love to add them to our tree!

PW 133: Bailey, Mike, and Kristi

It has been a great start to the school year! We are all getting used to our daily classroom routine and catching on very quickly. We are also learning about how to identify our emotions and how to handle them when we are having a hard time. Ask your student about the safe spot and how it can help them when they are upset.

We just finished taking our benchmarking tests using EasyCBM and enjoyed a pizza party to celebrate all of the hard work the students did throughout the week! These tests will help guide the lessons we will work on during math and reading time to

"Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody"

make sure we get the most out of each day.

Open House is September 12th and we are looking forward to meeting families and having the kiddos

show off some of their favorite things at school.

UW 220: Lauren, Curt, and Mitchell

We are getting to know everyone in our classroom as the school year starts, learning our strengths as a group and getting ready for Open House!

In science, we are learning about the rainforests and about the many plants and animals that live there, including sloths. We are reading a Goosebumps book together with our new staff, Mitchell, and working a ton on our team building and self control. We are

learning to use lots of different deep breathing techniques and other coping skills to help keep the classroom safe.

We already got to enjoy a whole class pizza party because everyone did such a great job on their EasyCBM benchmark testing! We have already also earned a lot of puffballs (earned for positive behaviors like helping peers, using self control and coping skills, helping teachers, and keeping the room

safe); working our way to another classroom treat when we fill the jar! All of the students are doing a great job adjusting to a new room and new peers!

We're excited to keep getting to know one another and growing together as a classroom; getting along and staying safe to keep filling our puffball jar to earn special treats. We can't wait to have our families here for Open House this month!

CHL 139: Linda, Kate, and Brittany

We have welcomed a new student to Hammitt to our room (David) and 2 new Hammitt students to classroom 139 (Brahm and Jacob). We are meeting and getting to know our new kids and talking about working together in the classroom.

We are doing are testing with the PEP3 and benchmarking. We also have



been practicing S.T.A.R. (smile, take a breath, and relax). With this, we have worked on verbalizing our feelings and our wants.

We have all been enjoying being on both of our playgrounds in this nice weather!

We are looking forward to meeting families at Open House on the 12th from 6-7:00!

CHL 113: Joan, Jess, Stacia, and Mellie

We are starting file folder work tasks and started our Unique curriculum for the year (working together on this). We are all adapting well to our new visual schedules and are learning to manipulate them independently. Lots of peer interactions are hap-

pening! We welcomed a new teacher (Joan) and a new student (Kylie) to our classroom. We all are enjoying our time on the sensory playground.

We are starting an Under the Sea unit

and will be learning about sea animals. Stop by and see our ocean wall that we will be filling with our art projects!

"The things we like most about this classroom is who we share it with."

CHL 102: Carol, Tracy, Bonnie, and Bobby

We are studying about Government (rights and responsibilities). We are also reading about a British Bake-Off for kids in our News 2 You.

We welcomed Diana, our ISU field based student, who will be teaching and helping in the classroom through December.

We also have a new student named Ronnie. He is fitting right in with our class. All of us are enjoying our time on the sensory playground.

Bobby will be teaching fun, hands-on science



experiments every Friday!

We look forward to seeing you all at our Open House on September 12th.

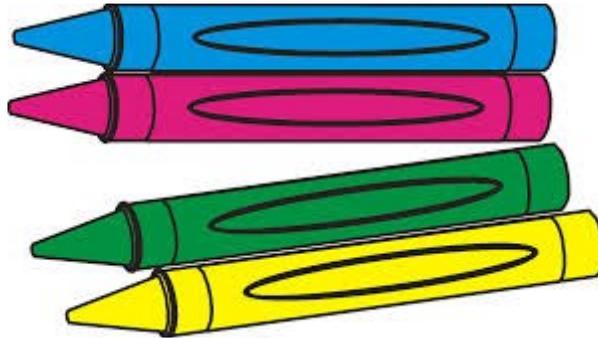
UW 214: Vee and Anna T.

This year, we are doing several things in the classroom so that the children can feel safe. We have added a good morning ritual. We play soft music in the classroom to help them stay focused. You can find it at : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhgzeTxry40>.

We redesigned our quiet space with a brand new carpet and some tapestries. We have changed our philosophy to helping the children recover versus punishment for the things that they do wrong.

With this, we encourage each child to problem solve.

For reading, we are writing about our summer using a writing rubric. Some of the children



are writing about going to water parks, playing new video games, and visiting relatives in different states.

We want to invite all of our parents and staff to the upcoming Open House on September 12th from 6-7:00 p.m. where they can see our hard work and the changes that we have made in our classroom.

CHL 202: Rachel, McKenna, and Jaide

Classroom 202 is excited to welcome the kids back to school for the 2019-2020 school year; we have some familiar faces and some new ones joining us this year. We have started the school year off learning new routines and classroom expectations.

During our group lesson, we have

been learning about feelings and emotions, weather, appropriate clothing, and more.

In the upcoming month, we will cover an adapted social studies unit of the constitution; in our group lessons we will focus on food life skills including: cooking, meal prep, and grocery shopping.

This year we will be focusing on breathing techniques to promote calming, as well as building connections with students.

Classroom 202 is looking forward to the year ahead and excited to celebrate all of our accomplishments!

Conscious Discipline:

Conscious Discipline is an approach to working with our kids by starting with working on ourselves. As staff, we, too, need to remember to take breaths and have composure so that we can be most effective when

our students are needing to calm. This year, all of our rooms will be teaching their students appropriate breathing techniques, as well as identifying emotions and their best individualized strategy to calm.

You will hear more throughout the year. Please read the attached letter on Conscious Discipline. If you have questions, feel free to ask your Family Advocate or your child's teacher.

**HAMMITT ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL@THE BABY FOLD**

Hammitt Elementary
108 E. Willow
Normal, IL 61761

To reach our school switchboard or to discuss picking up your child early, please call (309) 452-1170. DO NOT leave a voicemail or call the attendance line for early pick ups.

If your child is sick or needing to be absent, please call our attendance line at (309) 451-7227.



P.E. with Mark and John

We are starting off our year doing our fitness unit! We have some new equipment that is already here and some that has been ordered. Our new giant inflatable Velcro dartboard is a huge hit as is our new electronic basketball game!

John and I are always looking for fresh game ideas. We think we may have a couple of new ones that the kids will really like!

UW 217: Morgan and Sheila

During reading/language arts, we are diving into *The Great Gilly Hopkins* by Katherine Paterson. It is the story of a girl who's been in foster care all her life and is fixated on the notion that everything would be better if her mother, who abandoned her, would come back to her. She holds onto this idea, especially when she's placed with the quirky Trotter family, which she eventually sees as not so bad after all. Gilly's intent on being unpleasant—she beats up boys and terrorizes her teachers and a series of foster parents—will appeal to kids beginning to rebel against authority. Fresh and inventive writing keeps readers engrossed, making this a great choice for reluctant readers.

We are also focusing on increasing their reading fluency with the 6-minute fluency program and their comprehension, by using Read Theory online.

For math, we have kicked things off with a unit in geometry then will break into smaller groups for a more intensive study into the concepts that the students need to work on.

During unit, we will be learning about science and social studies with Scholastic Super Science and Scholastic News. The kids really enjoy these articles and have a ton of background knowledge to share!

School has kicked off well! The kids are getting along and are getting back into the groove of the scheduled school day. We will be adding yoga, meditation, and deep breathing to our morning routine!

