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Advantage Alternative School  
Kendal Smith, Principal  
1620 E. Elza, Hazel Park, MI 48030 | 248-658-5280  
[www.hazelparkschools.org](http://www.hazelparkschools.org)

January 29, 2024

Dear Hazel Park Advantage parents and students,

We hope this correspondence finds you and your family well. Please read this correspondence carefully and discuss it with your student. Should you need any clarification, please call me at 248.658.5281 or email me at [kendal.smith@hazelparkschools.org](mailto:kendal.smith@hazelparkschools.org).

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** It was great to see those of you who attended Parent/Teacher conferences last week. Healthy relationships between administrators, teachers and parents are essential for student success. Please mark your calendars and join us for our final Parent/Teacher conferences on April 25, 2024.
- **FAFSA Applications:** The new 2024/2025 FAFSA is officially available. As a reminder, both the student and the parent(s) or guardian(s) have to create an FSA ID account on the same website to fill out the FAFSA application. Here is the link to fill out the application.

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Additionally, students and their families looking to secure more financial aid for college are encouraged to register for a free informational webinar about the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, which is the newest State of Michigan scholarship program expected to impact the majority of students.

Participants will be able to gather the following information:

- Michigan Achievement Scholarship eligibility requirements
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship award amounts
- Important action items for students and families
- Additional resources and program information

To register just click the following link

<https://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/programs/michigan-achievement-scholarship/informational-session>

- **Online Classes:** All high school students at Advantage will have some classes that need to be completed online. Unfortunately, there is not enough time in the school day for students to complete all of the work necessary to finish their classes. In order for your student to experience success, please encourage your student to work on the online classes at home. The website is Edgenuity.com. If you want to check on your student's progress, please contact Mr. Wallace at (248) 953-4471 or me. Your support is essential to your child's success!

**Breakfast/ Lunch:**

All students receive free meals at school each day. Breakfast is served from 7:30 - 8:00 a.m. at the school entrance. Lunch is provided in the cafeteria.

### **Chromebooks:**

Hazel Park is a 1:1 technology district. This means every HP student receives a technology device for use at school and at home provided the Chromebook agreement form is signed by a parent or guardian and the student. Chromebooks allow students access to online learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom. It is imperative that students bring their device and that it is fully charged each day.

### **Policy Reminders:**

Personal Communication Devices (PCDs) include but are not limited to: **CELL PHONES**, computers, tablets, electronic readers, and/or other web-enabled devices of any type. Hazel Park Advantage staff reserves full discretion as to when students may use PCDs. As a rule, when class begins, phones should be put in the cell phone locker provided in each class so learning is the primary focus.

### **Trimester Dates**

August 30, 2023 - November 21, 2023

November 27, 2023 - March 8, 2024

March 11, 2024 - June 7, 2024

- **Important Dates:**

- **2/16/24 Winter Break Begins/Half Day**

## Staff Contact Information

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL	CALL/TEXT
Principal	Kendal Smith	kendal.smith@myhpsd.org	(313) 477-1107
Social Worker	Rodney Reyonolds	rodney.reynolds@myhpsd.org	(313) 530-8125
Middle School Teacher	Orvileta Bygrave	orvileta.bygrave@myhpsd.org	(248)238-5795
Online	Nick Wallace	nick.wallace@myhpsd.org	(248) 953-4471
Math	Majlinda Belegu	majlinda.belegu@myhpsd.org	(203)550-3662
Math	Jamie Green	Jamie.green@myhpsd.org	(248) 554-5117
Social Studies	David Higginbotham	david.higginbotham@myhpsd.org	(248)885-0109
Science	Markeata Lee	markeata.lee@myhpsd.org	(313)205-1434
English	Stephanie Kaza	stephanie.kaza@myhpsd.org	(248) 702-5186
Resource Room	Catherine Rodgers	catherine.rodgers@myhpsd.org	(248)854-7324
Elementary	Nancy Wood	nancy.wood@myhpsd.org	(828) 719-7004
Elementary	Felicia Hamilton	felicia.hamilton@myhpsd.org	(248)818-2821
Dean of Students	Gwendolyn Bush	gwendolyn.bush@myhpsd.org	(954)806-9411

### **Closing thoughts**

The Advantage staff is delighted to educate your student this year! We look forward to a year filled with joy and happiness, rigorous academics, social emotional learning and support, and multitudinous celebrations. This process is much more effective when students, parents, and staff all collaborate to ensure the student's educational and lifelong success. With that in mind, I implore you to establish relationships with your child's teachers. Consistent communication between families and school employees helps foster positive outcomes for students. Please be well, take care of yourself and your families, and do not hesitate to contact me for anything.

With students in mind,

Kendal Smith

Today's learners, Tomorrow's leaders



Ford Administration  
1620 E. Elza, Hazel Park, MI 48030 | 248-658-5200 | F: 248-544-5443  
www.hazelparkschools.org

August						
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July						
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### 2023-2024 Advantage Alternative School Calendar

8:00 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.

Half Day 8:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

08/28/2023 Monday Institute Day  
08/29/2023 Tuesday Institute Day  
08/30/2023 Wednesday Half Day PM - 1st Trimester begins  
09/01 - 09/04/2023 No School Labor Day Break  
09/25/2023 Monday No School - Professional Development  
09/28/2023 Thursday Half Day AM District wide - Records PM  
10/12/2023 Thursday Parent/Teacher Conferences  
10/13/2023 Friday Half Day AM  
10/31/2023 Tuesday Half Day AM District wide - Records PM  
11/07/2023 Tuesday No School - Professional Development  
11/20/2023 Monday Half Day Finals  
11/21/2023 Tuesday Half Day/Finals End of 1st Trimester  
11/22/2023 Wednesday No School - Professional Development  
11/23 - 11/24/2023 No School - Thanksgiving Break  
11/27/2023 Monday Trimester 2 begins  
12/22/2023 Friday Half Day - Holiday Break begins PM  
01/08/2024 Monday Classes Resume  
01/15/2024 Monday No School - Professional Development  
01/19/2024 Friday Half Day AM District wide - Records PM  
01/22/2024 Monday Half Day AM District wide - Records PM  
01/25/2024 Thursday Parent/Teacher Conferences  
01/26/2024 Friday Half Day AM  
02/16/2024 Friday Half Day - Winter Break begins PM  
02/26/2024 Monday Classes Resume  
03/07/2024 Thursday Half Day AM Finals  
03/08/2024 Friday Half Day AM Finals Second Trimester Ends  
03/11/2024 Monday Trimester 3 begins  
03/22/2024 Friday Half Day AM - Spring Break begins PM  
04/01/2024 Monday Classes Resume  
04/09/2024 Tuesday Half Day AM - Records PM  
04/25/2024 Thursday Parent/Teacher Conferences  
04/26/2024 Friday Half Day AM  
05/16/2024 Thursday No School - Professional Development  
05/17/2024 Friday Last Day for Advantage Seniors  
05/22/2024 Wednesday Advantage Graduation  
05/24/2024 Friday Half Day - Holiday Break begins PM  
05/28/2024 Tuesday Classes Resume  
06/06/2024 Thursday Half Day AM - Records PM  
06/07/2024 Friday Half Day AM - Records PM  
06/07/2024 Last Day of School - End of 2nd Semester



No School



PD



Half Day

