



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

April 14, 2025

Dear Hazel Park Advantage parents and students,

I hope this correspondence finds you and your family well. Please read this correspondence carefully and discuss it with your student. Should you need to discuss anything, please contact me at 248.658.5281 or email me at [kendal.smith@myhpsd.org](mailto:kendal.smith@myhpsd.org).

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** The relationship between parents, school staff members, and students is a key element of your student's success. Please plan to attend the Parent/Teacher conferences on Thursday, April 24, 2025, from 2:30 - 5pm. We look forward to seeing you and discussing the accomplishments of your child!!
- **School Schedule:** There is a half day of school on Thursday, April 17, 2025, and there will be no school on Friday, April 18, 2025. Additionally, there will be a half day of school on Friday, April 25, 2025. Students will be dismissed at 11:15am on the half days. Please plan accordingly.
- **Senior Parents:** Graduation is May 21, 2025, at Hazel Park High School, on the football field, at 7 pm. Your graduate is expected to be at Hazel Park High School at 6pm that evening. You may bring as many guests as you like. At this point, your graduate should have ordered his/her cap and gown. Please feel free to reach out to me with any clarifying questions or to check on your student's progress towards graduation.

- **Prom Tickets:** Prom is Friday, April 25, 2025 at Macray Harbor which is located at 30675 N. River Road, Harrison Township, MI 48045. Tickets are \$65 each, and the last day to purchase tickets is Monday, April 14, 2025. No exceptions will be made to this date, so please plan accordingly. Juniors and seniors are allowed to attend.
- **Backpacks:** Advantage students are not allowed to have backpacks in classes. Please remind your student to put his/her backpack in their locker. We do not provide locks for student lockers.
- **Cap and Gown Orders:** Parents of Seniors, please be certain that your future graduate orders their cap and gown asap. Please use this link to purchase your child's [Cap and Gown](#).
- **Oakland 80/Promise Zone Services:** Greetings Advantage Alternative School Students and Parents!  
The Hazel Park Promise Zone Team consists of Mr. Monge, Executive Director, Hazel Park Promise Zone and Ms. Allen, Oakland80 Career and Education High School Navigator.  
Our goal is to assist students with establishing a plan and a strategy to achieve the plan post high school graduation. The Hazel Park Promise Zone team has been working with your students to complete their **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** and expose students to various career, college and skilled trade opportunities. The FAFSA is a requirement for all students in order to receive any State, Federal and college level scholarships or other financial aid. It is also a requirement for some of the coursework for skilled trades and pre-apprentice programs.  
Our team also assists students with:
  - **College Admission Applications**
  - **Scholarship Applications**
  - **Career Exploration**
  - **College Tours**
  - **Employment**
  - **Resume Assistance**

- **Interviewing Skills**

Our support for your students continues beyond graduation to ensure guidance is provided throughout the postsecondary experience to ensure successful goal completion. That's right! We are here for the duration and with our array of supportive networks and resources, our goal is nothing less than success for your student.

Parents, please continue to work with us as we assist your student with navigating the sometimes complex and tedious processes of starting their postsecondary endeavors. We are here to help.

We look forward to continuing to partner with you and your student.

Sincerely,

Your Hazel Park Promise Zone

***Mr. Monge, Executive Director, Hazel Park Promise Zone***

***Ms. Allen, Oakland 80 Career and Education High School Navigator***

- **Sex Education Advisory Board:** The Hazel Park School District is revitalizing the Sex Education Advisory Board whose job is to set goals and review the sex education instructional program/materials taught in our schools. This board meets to review curricular materials and discuss the impact of instruction as compared to the goals set for this work. Interested parents/guardians are invited to fill out [this interest form](#). You will be contacted for next steps as Board meeting dates/times are determined.

Thank you for your support of the Hazel Park Schools.

- **Illness Alert:** Whooping cough cases are on the rise, especially in southeast Michigan. Whooping Cough (Pertussis) is a respiratory illness that is easily spread by coughing and sneezing. The disease starts like the common cold, with runny nose or congestion, sneezing, and mild cough or

fever. After 1-2 weeks, severe coughing begins. Use this [link](#) to visit the MDHHS website for additional information regarding whooping cough.

Pneumonia cases in the pediatric population are on the rise as well. Michigan normally experiences increases in pediatric patients presenting to emergency departments (ED) and urgent care centers (UCC) with pneumonia in the late summer and early fall. There has been a notable 4-fold increase in patients 5-19 years of age presenting with pneumonia from August 1, 2024 to October 16, 2024 compared to the same time period in 2023.

Michigan is also seeing an increase in ED and UCC visits with a diagnosis of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* (walking pneumonia). These infections are more common in summer and early fall and there are usually peaks of disease identified every 3 to 7 years. After a prolonged period of low incidence during the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a global re-emergence of walking pneumonia. In 2024, CDC received reports of increased *M. pneumoniae* infections, including infections in young children. Common symptoms of walking pneumonia include pharyngitis, tracheobronchitis, and pneumonia with symptoms that include cough, fever, headache, malaise, and mild dyspnea.

Please be sure to schedule a visit with your doctor if your student is experiencing any of the above symptoms listed.

- **Cell Phone Policy:** In order to prioritize the importance of academics, our new cell phone policy is that students **must** place their phones in the cell phone locker, in each class, prior to the start of class. Students may retrieve their phones when their teacher indicates that the lesson, for that class, has ended. This means that a cell phone should not be visible during instructional time at

all. If a student is caught with their phone during class, the phone will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day.

Students will have the opportunity to use their phones during hall passing and lunch without penalty.

We ask that you support the school with this policy by calling the school office if you need to contact your student during the school day. We appreciate your support as we educate your scholar!

- **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 Subject.com. If you want to check on your student's progress, please contact Mrs. Rodgers at (248) 854-7324 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.

### **Important Dates:**

- **4/17/25 AM Half Day**
- **4/18/25 No School/PD Day**
- **4/24/25 Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:30-5pm**
- **4/25/25 AM Half Day**
- **4/25/25 Prom @ MacRay Harbor**
- **5/16/25 Last Day for Seniors**

### **Trimester Dates**

August 29, 2024 - November 26, 2024

December 2, 2024 - March 7, 2025

March 10, 2025 - June 6, 2025

## Staff Contact Information

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL	CALL/TEXT
Principal	Kendal Smith	kendal.smith@myhpsd.org	(313) 477-1107
Dean of Students	Monique McMurtry	monique.mcmurtry@myhpsd.org	(248) 991-7064
Social Worker	Taylor Bryant	taylor.bryant@myhpsd.org	(248) 658-5267
Online	Catherine Rodgers	catherine.rodgers@myhpsd.org	(248)854-7324
Math	Majlinda Belegu	majlinda.belegu@myhpsd.org	(203)550-3662
Math	Jamie Green	jamie.green@myhpsd.org	(248) 690-5618
Social Studies	David Higginbotham	david.higginbothaml@myhpsd.org	(248)885-0109
Science	Markeata Lee	markeata.lee@myhpsd.org	(248)251-2353
English	Stephanie Kaza	stephanie.kaza@myhpsd.org	(248) 702-5186
Resource Room	Tom Tomich	thomas.tomich@myhpsd.org	(248)933-5879
Elementary	Nancy Wood	nancy.wood@myhpsd.org	(828) 719-7004

### 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.

Let's roll!

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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**2024-2025 Advantage Alternative School Calendar**

**8:00 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.**  
**Half Day 8:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.**

- 08/26 - 08/28/2024 Monday - Wednesday Institute Days
- 08/29/2024 Thursday Half Day PM
- 08/30 - 9/2/2024 Friday No School Labor Day Break
- 09/03/2024 Tuesday Classes Resume
- 09/04/2024 Wednesday Parent Open House PM 2:30-3:30
- 10/10/2024 Thursday Conferences PM 2:30-5
- 10/11/2024 Friday Half Day AM
- 10/31/2024 Thursday Half Day AM District wide - Records PM
- 11/05/2024 Tuesday No School - Professional Development
- 11/26/2024 End of 1st Trimester
- 11/27/2024 Wednesday No School - Professional Development
- 11/28 - 11/29/2024 No School - Thanksgiving Break
- 12/02/2024 Trimester 2 Begins
- 12/20/2024 Friday Half Day - Holiday Break begins PM
- 01/06/2025 Monday Classes Resume
- 01/20/2025 Monday No School - Professional Development
- 01/21/2025 Tuesday Classes Resume
- 01/23/2025 Thursday Conferences PM 2:30-5
- 01/24/2025 Friday Half Day AM District wide - Records PM
- 02/14/2025 Friday Half Day - Winter Break begins PM
- 02/24/2025 Monday Classes Resume
- 03/07/2025 End of 2nd Trimester
- 03/10/2025 Trimester 3 Begin
- 03/21/2025 Friday Half Day AM - Spring Break begins PM
- 03/31/2025 Monday Classes Resume
- 04/11/2025 Friday Half Day AM - Records PM
- 04/17/2025 Thursday Half Day AM
- 04/18/2025 Friday No School - Professional Development
- 04/24/2025 Thursday Conferences PM 2:30-5
- 04/25/2025 Friday Half Day AM
- 05/15/2025 Friday Last Day for Seniors
- 05/21/2025 Wednesday Advantage Graduation
- 05/23/2025 Friday Half Day AM - Holiday Break begins PM
- 05/27/2025 Tuesday Classes Resume
- 06/06/2025 Friday Half Day AM Last Day of School

No School    PD    Half Day

