



# HOMER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TROJAN MESSENGER

October 2019

## Freshman Orientation Builds Friendships at Homer High School

The class of 2023 was given a warm welcome to Homer High School with an orientation recently.

The freshmen entered the gym to a standing ovation before the class did a series of team-building exercises to introduce students to one another.

The ninth grade students then broke off in groups for smaller group activities throughout the high school.

The orientation took students out of their comfort zone in an effort to ease the transition from junior high school to high school. Students played games and danced to music while learning about the opportunities high school provides.

The event was put on by the Homer Link Crew, a group of upperclassmen who mentor younger students on how to manage stress and be successful academically in school.



***Welcome to high school, class of 2023!***

## New Pre-K Playground Provides Creative Freedom

The new pre-k playground at Homer Elementary School has been a huge success with both children and families following its completion in September.

The new playground is designed for children aged five and under and provides them with their own space to play and be creative.

"The parents I've talked to are very excited for their children to have a dedicated space to play," Homer Elementary Principal Jim McGory said. "We appreciate the support of the Board of Education and the community with this project."



## SOAR Program Eases Nerves for New Junior High Students

New junior high school students at Homer had a smooth transition from Intermediate School thanks to Homers SOAR program recently.

SOAR (Student Orientation Activities and Resources) is a program developed within Homer to help students transition to junior high school.

Students learned about a variety of topics such as dealing with peer pressure, asking for help, academic strategies, time-management, dress codes and expected behavior in school.

The program also taught students the technical aspects of junior high school by showing them how to look up progress reports and report cards, how to open lockers, effective use of planners and navigating class schedules.

**#HOMERPRIDE**



## Homer Nurse Practitioner Program Returns for 2019-2020

The Homer Central School District is continuing a partnership with Guthrie Family Medicine that will again provide students access to a nurse practitioner this school year.

The program provides a number of medical services that are otherwise unavailable in the district. Services a nurse practitioner can provide include the ability to attain a physical, receive a diagnosis for an illness, and/or order necessary medication without a student needing to go see a doctor.

“Our hope is that it’s very convenient for parents and families,” Nurse Practitioner Anna Wright said. “Hopefully by me being here I can assess your child, give a diagnosis and call in medication for him or her if needed.”

Parents who would like to take advantage of the program need to opt their child in to the program by signing a consent form.

Opt-in forms are available in the main offices of all Homer schools.

Nurse Practitioners will be **available on select days for students:**

**Elementary School:** *Tuesday Mornings*

**Intermediate School:** *Wednesday Mornings*

**Junior High School:** *Wednesday Mornings*

**High School:** *Wednesday Afternoons*



## Eighth Graders Get G.R.I.T. with Team Building Exercises

Got G.R.I.T.?

The eighth-grade students kicked off the school year in a positive way with a series of team building exercises at Homer Junior High School recently.

The activities were based around the central theme of the school year: *Growing Requires Individual & Teamwork* (G.R.I.T.). Students were given a variety of tasks to complete throughout the day that required teamwork, communication, problem solving and positive attitudes.

The day was very successful in taking the students out of their comfort zones to help build friendships with new people. The teachers and staff plan to continue to push the G.R.I.T. motto throughout the school year.

“We had really great responses to the day,” Home and Careers Teacher Barb Bachmann said. “We will be revisiting these concepts all year long to help keep the momentum we built.”

## Junior High Students Perform Egg Drop

Junior High students in Mrs. Exelby’s class performed an egg drop from a second story window recently.



The students were split in groups and tasked with creating a device that would protect the egg from breaking using only a handful of materials.

Students stood at ground level with anticipation as one by one the eggs were dropped and a thumbs-up or thumbs-down were given as the eggs were inspected following impact.

Once the experiment was over the groups presented to the rest of the class why they chose their strategy and what they could have done differently.



## Opening Day Brings Joy to Staff

Over three hundred employees of the Homer Central School District kicked off the school year in style recently at Homer High School.

Homer Superintendent Thomas Turck began the day by giving a warm welcome to the staff for the new school year. The staff then split up for a day of fun and learning.

The activities focused on the three primary focuses of the Homer strategic plan: community engagement, student engagement and social-emotional learning.

Staff participated in workshops in addition to a scavenger hunt that included putting puzzles together as a team and hunting on Twitter for clues!

“The staff at Homer are incredible,” Homer Director of Instruction Ted Love said. “Some of the things I’ve enjoyed in my time here is their commitment to kids and their willingness to participate in things like a scavenger hunt. Our staff always shows up and gives 100 percent.”



## Junior High Crossfit Program Builds Confidence and Fitness

Crossfit provides a fresh, fun and exciting way to build solid fitness habits while building confidence in students.

A crossfit program is available to students in grades 6-8 to provide a high-intensity workout for students while helping them gain confidence in their movements.



## Homer Elementary Students Receive Bus Safety Training

The students at Homer Elementary School practiced a number of bus safety drills and exercises recently.

The drills were centered around listening and following directions from the bus driver. Students learned how to properly cross the road, how to enter/exit the bus and what to do in the case of an emergency.

“No matter what we have to do our kids need to be safe,” Homer Central School District Transportation Director Jeff Delia said. “Anything we can possibly get in the heads of the children regarding bus safety we try to implement in to these drills.”

The drills are just one component of safety initiatives taken by the district. Homer buses were upgraded recently to include cameras on the outside of the bus in an effort to catch drivers who do not pay attention to bus signals and put children at risk.

The elementary school bus drills are the first of multiple bus safety trainings that occur at all Homer Schools during the school year.

## Homer Central School District Seeks Input From Community

Help shape the future of Homer Schools by becoming a **volunteer committee member!**

Committees like **Community Engagement, Student Engagement, Social-Emotional Learning and Instructional Leadership** are just a few of the different committees at Homer that would love your participation.

For more information, please visit one of our main offices.

Or call the Superintendent’s office at 607-749-7241.