

405 Clark Street
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Fall 2021 Newsletter

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HOLLIDAYSBURG AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOUNDATION

Investing in Education.....

.....Building Futures



Planetarium Fundraiser

Hollidaysburg Area School District is fortunate to have a planetarium, allowing for additional science credits for students and learning opportunities for all ages throughout our district and beyond.

The planetarium received a much needed renovation in 2016. Unfortunately, the company currently providing service (Spitz) was bought out by DigiStar7 and another upgrade is required to continue operations. This upgrade will cost nearly \$60,000. The Save the Planetarium committee has already raised over \$27,000 and the HASD Foundation is utilizing Educational Improvement Tax Credit donations to provide the planetarium with a \$34,000 grant to complete the project. According to the HASD Foundation Director Jodie Albarano, "We were happy to award the planetarium the grant as it benefits the entire district and is an asset to our students." She further stated that, "The Foundation Board members voted to approve this grant because the planetarium could not be used to it's full capacity without this support."

According to the Planetarium's current director, Dawn Elchin, "DigiStar7 is a user-friendly system and can do more than the current Spitz computers. With the DigiStar7, we will be able to keep all the current shows, user-created programs and curriculum as well as share content with other owners."

While the funds raised and granted do cover the costs of this upgrade, the planetarium show modules cost several thousand dollars each. This means that fundraising will be ongoing in order to provide quality, educational shows to our students and all public stargazers!

Therefore, we announce your chance to "Sponsor a Star!" For \$1000 you will receive a die-cast star displayed in the planetarium area as well as other recognitions. Please be sure to designate your donation to "Planetarium- Sponsor a Star".

Restore the Roar Update

Tiger Stadium has seen many upgrades and improvements since the onset of the Restore the Roar campaign. From new turf, to a beautifully aesthetic fence, our stadium is an inviting place for the entire community! Recently, fundraising for a new digital scoreboard was completed with installation planned in 2022. A vacation raffle was held, raising over \$25,000.

Congratualtions to the winners Tom and Brenda Wiedman!

The next phase for the stadium is the lighting and resurfacing the track. According to coach Homer DeLattre, upgrading the lighting will improve visibility as well as cost efficiency overall and the track has become cracked and thin, making it a less than ideal surface for athletics.

The cost of these two projects combined is projected to be \$1,000,000!

The Restore the Roar committee currently has an anonymous donor who is matching all donations.

If you would like to donate, please indicate "Restore the Roar" as your designation.

visit www.hasdfoundation.org

2021-22 Grants



Turing Tumbles: a game where players build mechanical computers powered by marbles to solve logic puzzles.

L to R: Micaela Daru Rojas, Madison Brown and Azaria Parks

The HASD Foundation has awarded \$77,000 in funding for grants throughout the district. These include:

- Decodable texts for learning readers
- A book cover repair machine for the library
- An innovative approach to chemistry (photo below)
- A projector for the STEM classroom
- Interventions to help with focus during reading lessons
- Greenhouse initiatives at the Senior High and Frankstown Elementary
- Esports startup
- STEM Finch robots
- Flexible seating for art class
- Upgrades to the Junior High workshop
- Filament for 3-D printing
- Art kits for AP classes
- Turing Tumble STEM program (photo left)
- NMSI program funding
- Learning Alliance 2025 funding
- Planetarium Funding

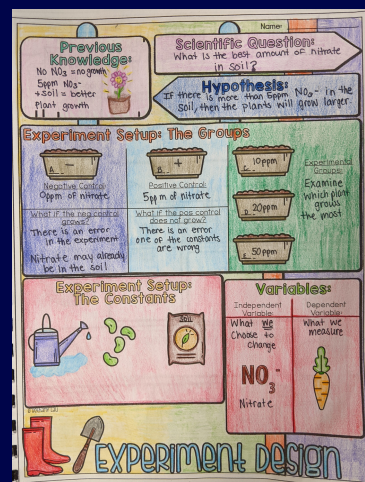


Esports

The Senior High was recently awarded a Foundation grant to implement an Esports program. Esports is a fast-growing sector that provides team opportunities for a wider array of students.

Participation encourages socialization, problem-solving skills, teamwork, strategic thinking and more. Students that participate have a strong interest in STEM and can leverage their skills in obtaining a higher education.

This grant funded the set up costs of obtaining hardware needed for establishing a team. HAHS has a team of 30 students that will begin their official season after fall sports. The team belongs to the High School Esports League and hopes to become a sanctioned school sport, opening doors to more opportunities for competing and being seen by college recruiters.



Chemistry Doodles: utilizes interactive note-taking to encourage material retention
Doodle shown by: Maura Waksmonski

The HASD Foundation would like to thank Dawn Garrity and Cate Burger-Leister for their many outstanding years of service on the Board. Congratulations to our new Board President, Kim Van Buren and Vice-President, Dr. Penne Edgell. Welcome as well to the newest board member, Cindy Baronner!

If you would like information about joining the Foundation Board, email jodie.albarano@hasdtigers.com

Meet the Foundation Board



Kim Van Buren,
President



Dr. Penne Edgell,
Vice-President



Peggy Hancuff,
Secretary-Treasurer



Sarah Piper



Bill Padamonsky, Jr.



Cindy Baronner



Joel Seelye

Not pictured: Erica Sheetz, James Campbell Jr.

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