

# Hudsonville Public Schools

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January 15, 2016

Dear Hudsonville Parents,

Over the last 20 years, Hudsonville Public Schools has grown by approximately 2,800 students, or nearly 80%. With significant growth comes great opportunity. Our growth has created significant capacity concerns at all our elementary schools and supported our recent purchase of the former Heritage school building at 4900 40th Avenue. The purchase of the new school warranted an adjustment of our elementary school attendance areas.

Since the beginning of October, a group of approximately thirty parents and staff have been regularly meeting, researching, and exploring different scenarios to adjust the elementary attendance areas. The committee assessed each scenario utilizing the Board-adopted guiding criteria of Equity, Future Growth, Proximity, and Programming. On January 14, the Board of Education approved the committee's recommendation to move South Elementary into the recently purchased Heritage building. The school is centrally located in the South Elementary attendance area. Starting with the 2016-2017 school year, South Elementary will be located at 4900 40th Avenue. While we recognize this is a significant shift, currently South Elementary students are bussed out of their attendance area. This change will bring them closer to home.

In determining the best use for the vacated South Elementary, the committee considered dividing the Jamestown Elementary attendance area into two separate elementary schools, but ultimately brought forth a recommendation to expand Jamestown's attendance area and turn the current South building into part of a K-5 Jamestown "campus". One building will be home to K-2 students and the other, located just 800 feet away, will house grades 3-5. This Board-approved recommendation will provide many benefits including: not dividing Jamestown families, addressing growth on the southern end of the District, balancing class size, and providing additional opportunities for grade level collaboration.

While the majority of changes occur at the south end of our district, there are some slight adjustments to all elementary attendance areas. To help explain the process and review the new attendance areas, we will hold six informational meetings on January 19 and 21 at the Fine Arts Auditorium located in the Freshman Campus.

Tuesday, January 19 - 4:15 PM (Staff), 6:00 PM (Parents), 7:00 PM (Parents)  
Thursday, January 21 - 4:15 PM (Staff), 6:00 PM (Parents), 7:00 PM (Parents)

The presentation and new attendance area maps are available on our website at [www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org](http://www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org). If you have questions or need assistance please call 616-669-1740, ext. 1.

Our District is fortunate in that every Hudsonville elementary school is recognized by the State of Michigan as a Reward School. We acknowledge that there could be trepidation surrounding the adjustment of elementary attendance areas. The District intends to honor as many in-district transfer requests as possible, allowing students to remain at their current school. Open enrollment for in-district transfers for the 2016-2017 school year will be February 1-29, 2016. If needed, a drawing will be held for available openings on March 16, 2016, with priority given to those students who are currently enrolled in the building requested. Per our district policy, if an in-district transfer request is granted, transportation is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

At a recent focus group meeting, a parent commented, "The facilities are excellent...outstanding. However, I am less concerned about facilities than I am about the teacher in the classroom. Hudsonville teachers are phenomenal!" While change can be difficult, we are fortunate to have an excellent parent and teacher partnership to provide the highest quality experiences for students in ALL of our elementary schools.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Nick Ceglarek