

Handprints

A New Venture at HMS—High School

This year HMS added 11 students in grades 9 and 10 as part of the school's Venture Program, a non-traditional high school option for grades 9-12. The goal of the program is to offer a flexible and personalized curriculum that connects faith and learning to everyday life.

Flexibility. Program Coordinator, Megan Ament, explains that valuable learning happens not just in classrooms, "Students can earn credit hours for the learning activities that happen at home, in the gym or during music lessons." While time is allocated in the school week for all subjects, some of the curriculum is online, and so it is possible for students to accelerate their learning, depending on the student's goals or abilities. The schedule is also designed to allow time for internships, work study options, or dual enrollment courses in their junior and senior years.

The trend of students desiring gap years after high school makes a flexible program desirable so students may even finish high school early and take time off for missions or work before deciding about further education.

Personalization. The hallmark of the Venture Program is to help students explore their interests and God-given talents. Dominic Answer, a freshman who participated in the 2016-17 Venture pilot, is a junior volunteer for the Terre Hill Fire Company. He also loves ice-hockey. Ament wants to take all the high schoolers to play ice-hockey sometime



so Dominic can share his interest with the others. Dominic's volunteer hours with the fire company will also count toward service hours for high school graduation.

The Venture Program helps students discern areas of interest and gifting so that they can choose a career or college pathway. Advisors help students design their educational plans, or "pathways," and set goals to stay on track.

Connection to faith and life. The Venture Program carries on HMS's vision of seeing students learning and living God's purposes. Teachers are intentional to connect students to local partners such as the Ephrata Rec for some physical education, Ephrata National Bank and Everence as part of their Family and Finance classes, and local farms and estuaries for some biology lessons. Nearby businesses are offering to host students to job shadow or intern to learn the trades and craftsmanship that support our

local economy. Teachers plan to connect students who have expressed interest in learning Russian or Spanish with our local Russian and Spanish churches and families.

School administrator, Dawn Landes, notes, "Our local community has much to offer our students, not only in practical skills and knowledge, but also with Christian business leaders who exemplify integrity, work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit. As a school we are selecting community partners who have a heart to teach our young people these lessons as well."

This year the students will travel to a Bruderhof Christian community and do service projects at Laurelville Mennonite Church Camp. An international missions trip is also in the plan for 2019.





2017 Business Networking at Sight & Sound Theatre

We celebrated local entrepreneurship and small business at our 6th Annual Business Networking Breakfast on the stage at Sight & Sound. Over 115 guests shared the morning with us for breakfast, conversation and backstage tours of Sight & Sound, a true landmark tourist attraction in Lancaster County!

Roger North of North Group Consultants, led a conversation on business succession planning with Sight & Sound Theatres CEO Matt Neff and CFO Tony Smith. The three of them shared openly about the transition of Sight & Sound leadership to younger

generations in the Eshelman family. They also recounted the decisions that have promoted positive organizational culture and possibilities for growth.

Sight & Sound also gave tours to our middle school students, showing how production teams are not just actors on the stage, but include jobs with the animals, back stage and in the workshops.

HMS holds these annual events as a way to promote connections among our community partners as well as offer a thank-you to the generous businesses who support scholarships and programs for HMS students and families.

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37th Annual

HinkleFEST & Benefit Auction



Friday & Saturday, October 13 & 14, 2017

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

4:00 Family Fun Run

4:00 Pork BBQ

6:30 Live Auction:
Buy Fresh/Buy Local
*Meat and Produce Auction,
Home & Garden*

6:30 Children's Movie: *Babe*

8:30 Alumni Reception

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

9:00 Live Auction:
The Great Outdoors
*Theme & Specialty Items,
Certificates, Student Projects,
Quilts/Handcrafts*

10:00 Food Tent: *Chicken BBQ,
Apple Dumplings, Salads and more!*

10:00-2:00 Children's Activities

Come enjoy food & fun for the whole family!



Intergenerational Learning

Excerpts from a March 23, 2017 blogpost by Garden Spot Village Storyteller, Juanita Fox. Used with Permission

For the past 12 years, residents of Garden Spot Village have graciously hosted HMS students for one of our spring enrichment clusters (mini-courses) that teaches them how to knit and crochet.

This partnership gives students a learning opportunity beyond the classroom, which addresses our goal of educating the whole child and connecting learning to life. Marian Hentz, Garden Spot resident, said, "It's going to teach [the students] patience." For Garden Spot Village, the partnership offers an opportunity... for the women to share their love for knitting and create friendships with the students.

Miss Bethany Reiff who leads the knitting/crocheting cluster said, "Our students get so excited to come visit their knitting teachers and learn how to knit. It is really valuable to not only have the ladies at Garden Spot share their knowledge of knitting, but as they teach the students they also get to talking and sharing about what it was like when

they were in school and when they were young. These connections between our students and their knitting teachers not only provide a window into history, but also a new friendship."

This past year Hinkletown added a second enrichment cluster at Garden Spot Village's aeroponics greenhouse where the children learned innovative ways to grow fruits and vegetables.

Gloria Stevens, who oversaw the aeroponics greenhouse, said, "The students are a lively bunch of very inquisitive and polite children, eager to learn. I don't know who is having more fun—them or me. I love having them learn and interact. I am so pleased that Garden Spot has participated in this program. The children are at the perfect age to make an impression of how important everyone is in protecting our planet.

Mr. Justin Weaver, enrichment cluster teacher, said, "We are extremely grateful to Gloria Stevens and Garden Spot Village for partnering with Hinkletown in helping students learn more about aeroponics, the science behind how things grow, and how to care for the earth."

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— **Mr. Justin Weaver**
Enrichment Cluster Teacher



Photos Courtesy of Garden Spot Village



Hinkletown
Mennonite School

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Graduates: (in front) Emily Regitz, Josiah Zimmerman, Seth Toms, Brandon Zook, Nathan King, (in back) Lauren Brooke, Avery Stauffer, Sierra Brubacher, Emily Zimmerman, Jesse Geissinger, Trevor Brubaker.



Celebrating

THE CLASS OF 2017!

Our vision as a school is to see *Students Learning and Living God's Purposes.*

Thus, we send our most recent graduates out with that hope and prayer. Our desire is that God's work through Hinkletown Mennonite School can continue to help students connect faith, learning and life in a way that blesses our local and global communities and advances God's Kingdom. Four of these graduates will join the HMS Venture Program for high school.