



# THE FALCON'S NEST

February 2024

## Principal's Message

### Health Sciences Awarded \$679k Grant for CNA/LPN Program in Buffalo

Health Sciences was one of just 44 schools in New York State to earn this very competitive grant from the New York State Education Department. The grant award is for \$679,000 dollars!! This money will be utilized over a three year period to bring a CNA/LPN program to the school and the east side of Buffalo. The program will work to return these services to the inner city after The Buffalo Vocational LPN program was removed from East High School.

The grant will also serve to provide college and career readiness opportunities and training for our young people. We will be utilizing funding to increase opportunities for training and certification as a personal trainer and other health professions.

Finally, we will have a state of the art Center for Health and Wellness room that will serve to provide our students with unique learning opportunities in a state of the art atmosphere!

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## Important Dates

- February 19-23**  
**NO SCHOOL**
- March 29 - April 5**  
**NO SCHOOL**
- Enrollment Deadline**  
**April 5th**
- 2024-25 Lottery**  
**April 8th**



Above: Students at Roswell on a Work Based Learning Field Trip  
Left: Nora Alkadli Competes for a Place in the State Championship

## Join us for our Black History Celebration: Music's Impact and African American Contributions

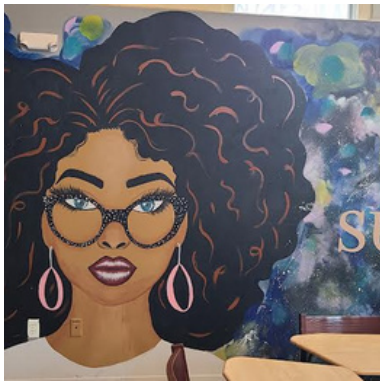
We are excited about upcoming Black History program. It will take place on **Thursday, February 15th at 12:30 pm at Bethesda World Harvest Church on Main St.** We invite all parents and community members to come as we celebrate our rich heritage and as our students display their many talents. This year, our focus is music and its impact, as well as how African Americans have contributed to the world of music. There is joy, pain, love, and celebration wrapped up in the melodies, arrangements, and tunes that the Black community has shared with the world, and we want to share it with our school community through the gifts and talents of our young people.



Can we get a picture of some of the students practicing?

## HSCS's 14th Year Marks Campus Transformation and Art Collaboration

While the school enters our 14th year, the building is transforming into a warm and welcoming institution for learning. This past summer each hallway received a clean and uniform coat of paint. Our athletics hallway has been designed to celebrate our student athlete and team accomplishments as well as our new digital Hall of Fame touch screen board. We have also added vinyl graphics to our cafeteria to promote school culture. Finally, local artist and gallery owner Princessa Williams has been commissioned to work with our students to transform the CFI and 4th floor lockers to reflect our schools push in the medical fields as well as our commitment to literacy.



Our new CFI Wall Art

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

**February 15th, 2024 at 12:30pm**

**Black History Program**

at Bethesda World Harvest Church

**February 16th, 2024 at 2:30pm**

**Taste of the Health**

at Health Sciences Charter School

**March 21st, 2024 at 6:30pm**

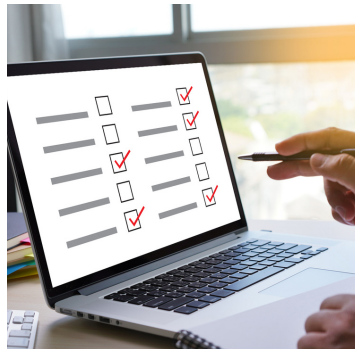
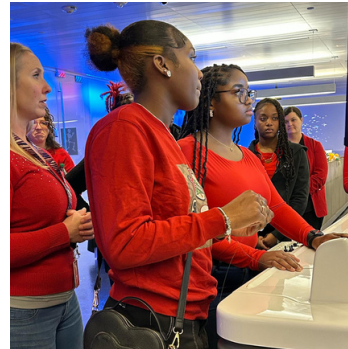
**Iftar Night**

at Health Sciences Charter School

# WORK BASED LEARNING

## HSCS Students Go RED!

The American Heart Institute's Go Red for Women Movement celebrated Friday, February 2nd as National Wear Red day to raise awareness that heart disease is women's number one killer. Jacob's Institute invited our students to their "STEM Goes Red" event - an inspiring and interactive educational program designed to encourage young women to pursue rewarding careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Our students had the opportunity to attend a "Women in STEM" panel, and participate in various hands on bio-medical activities.



## Work Based Learning Survey

Please have your student complete this Work Based Learning survey. We use this data to assist us in developing a plan for your student. The data informs what exposures and activities students participate in. Please click here for the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/yc8yrwbd>

# SERVICE LEARNING

All scholars at Health Sciences Charter School are required to complete 100 service learning hours as a requirement for graduation. Scholars should be completing 25 hours of service per school year in order to be on track for graduation. The class of 2024 is required to complete 80 hours of service as a result of a Covid exemption. This will be the last year of that exemption. Please discuss the completion of service learning hours with your scholar. If you have questions or concerns regarding service learning please reach out to Mr. Gary at [igary@healthsciencescharterschool.org](mailto:igary@healthsciencescharterschool.org).

## Health Sciences Charter School Football Team Clinches 4th Class B Championship

The Health Sciences Charter School Football Team won its 4th Class B Championship under Head Coach Tyree Parker, defeating Pioneer 26-18. The Falcons were led Offensively by 1st Team All State and Connolly Cup finalist Senior running back **Antwan Caesar**, who finished the season with 181 carries, 1,772 rushing yards, and 17 touchdowns. Paving the way for Antwan and dominating the line of scrimmage up front, were Seniors **Sheldon Cunningham**, who was a Trench Trophy finalist for the top lineman in Western New York, and **Montrice Webster**, a 1st Team All State selection. The #1 Small School Football team in Western New York looks to continue this winning tradition with returning all league selections: Izel James, Brandon Carroll, Kaivohn Pitts, Jeremiah Shuford, Joseph Holman, and Emanuel Parker.



23-24 Varsity Football Team at Highmark Stadium after winning the 2023-24 Class B Championship

## Amir Moye, 'Sophomore Sensation', Inks NIL Deal with Local Clothing Brand

Reigning 1st Team All WNY Basketball selection as a Freshman; the "Sophomore Sensation" Amir Moye signs a Name Image Likeness "NIL" deal with local clothing company, IM LIVIN B. NIL refers to the use of an athlete's name, image, and likeness through marketing and promotional endeavors for capital. You can support Amir through IM LIVIN B's website at: <http://tinyurl.com/vf6pdedc>

Amir Moye signing his NIL Deal

## IMPORTANT ATHLETICS DATES

### **February 21st, 2024**

**Girls and Boys Basketball** will begin their quest for a championship. We plan on seeing both teams in action at Buffalo State University

### **March 4th, 2024**

Top Female Sprinter in WNY Health Sciences Senior **Mia Finch** will be competing for a chance to participate in the Indoor Track & Field Championships at Seabreeze in New York City

### **March 11th, 2024**

**Spring Sports:** Outdoor Track and Girls Flag Football Begin

## Information on Health Science Charter School Grant Spending Report

- As previously stated, HSCS was awarded the Stronger Connections Grant in the amount of \$679,000 to grow a Center for Health & Wellness which will result in certificate programming available to our educational community.
- Our cafeteria is now equipped with a new 5-well Hot Steam Table purchased through the New York State Kitchen Equipment Grant and will ensure hot & delicious school meals!
- Health Sciences Charter School has recently upgraded all of the interior and exterior cameras & intercoms throughout the campus as a result of the award for the Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes Grant. Along with the camera upgrades, we were also able to install new exterior doors and parking lot lighting in an effort to keep our campus as safe as possible for students, staff, visitors, and our Buffalo Community.
- Our most recent amendment to the ARP ESSER Budget has been approved by NYSED. To view the document, please visit our website. For questions or input on the ARP-ESSER application or budget, please contact Mr. Jaime Venning, Head of School and Covid Response Team Leader, at 716-888-4080 ext. 118 or by email at [JVvenning@healthsciencescharterschool.org](mailto:JVvenning@healthsciencescharterschool.org). For language translations other than English, please contact Mr. Aitor Fuentes at 716-888-4080 ext. 250 or by email at [AFuentes@healthsciencescharterschool.org](mailto:AFuentes@healthsciencescharterschool.org).

## Applications for the 2024-2025 School Year Are OPEN!

The new application for next school year is open! Please go to our website to apply for the 2024-2025 school year. The online application should only be used for new students. Families with students currently enrolled at the school should complete the Intent-to-Return form being mailed home this month to keep their place for the following school year. If you already have a child registered in the school and are applying for a sibling, you must complete the information for the new sibling on the website application. You can use the same login for each child. **Since siblings get priority in the lottery, make sure you indicate who the sibling is that currently attends the school.** If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Jasinski at the school. The lottery will occur on April 5th. Please get your application in as soon as possible.

### Important Links

- [Click HERE to Get The Application for \*\*NEW\*\* Students](#)
- [Click HERE for the Intent-to-Return form for \*\*CURRENT\*\* Students](#)

## MySchoolBucks

Easily pay for school meals online this year! Create your free MySchoolBucks account to conveniently and securely add money to your student's meal account online or with the mobile app. You'll be able to view cafeteria purchases, check your student's balance, receive low balance alerts and pay for snacks and additional meals! As a reminder, ALL students receive 1 free breakfast and 1 free lunch each school day. Purchases are not necessary unless students are buying a la carte snacks or extra food beyond their free meal. We appreciate you using this online option as a way to help reduce the amount of physical cash and check handling that would typically happen in the serving line. If you need assistance with your account, you can find helpful how-to videos and answers to commonly asked questions by visiting [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com). Or, you can contact MySchoolBucks directly by logging into your account to start a chat conversation or give them a call at (855) 832-5226.

Get Started Today:

Go to [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com) or download the mobile app

Create your free account and add your students using their school name / student ID

Add funds using your credit / debit card or electronic check

Note: For each transaction, you will be charged a program fee.

Set up automatic payments and never forget to send in lunch money again!

## Digital Equity and Learning Preferences Survey

As per NYS Board of Education, all public schools must provide information from families and guardians regarding students' access to digital tools, such as the internet, and computers. It's a short survey, and completing it puts your child into a raffle for some FALCONS GEAR! Please see the next page for detailed instructions.

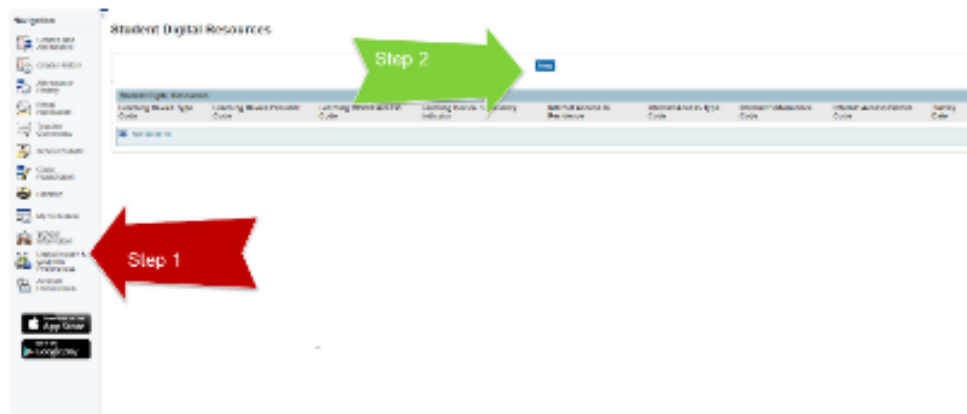
# DIGITAL EQUITY & LEARNING PREFERENCES SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

## Attention Health Sciences Charter School Parents and Guardians!!

As per NYS Board of Education, all public schools must provide information from families and guardians regarding students' access to digital tools, such as the internet, and computers. The survey they provide is very short (11 questions), and should only take a minute or two, but greatly helps our school meet its responsibility to the state. Completing the survey enters your child into a raffle for FALCON GEAR!! **THANK YOU for your support!!!**

In order to conduct the survey, you must first login to Powerschool as a Guardian, this information on how to sign up for your student has been included in this mailing on a separate document, however if you already have signed up previously, all you need to do is login, and follow the steps below. <https://hscs.powerschool.com/public/home.html>

- 1) Click on and add the "Digital Equity & Learning Preferences" On the Left hand side of the page.
- 2) At the top of the Student Digital Resources page, click "New" (which will open the survey)
- 3) When done press "Submit"



1. Did the school/district issue your child a dedicated school or district owned device for their use during the school year?	Select Code
2. What is the device your child uses most often to complete learning activities away from school? (This can be a school-provided device or an old or device, whichever the student is most often using to complete their schoolwork.)	Select Code
3. Who is the provider of the primary learning device identified in question 2? (This can be a school-provided device or another device, whichever the student is most often using to complete their schoolwork.)	Select Code
4. Is the primary learning device (identified in question 2) stored with anyone else in the household?	Select Code
5. Is the primary learning device (identified in question 2) sufficient for your child to fully participate in all learning activities away from school?	Select Code
6. Is your child able to access the internet in their primary place of residence?	Select Code
7. What is the primary type of internet service used in your child's primary place of residence?	Select Code
8. In their primary residence, can your child complete the full range of learning activities, including video streaming and assignment upload, without interruptions caused by slow or poor internet performance?	Select Code
9. What, if any, is the primary barrier to having consistent and reliable internet access in your child's primary place of residence?	Select Code
10. Survey Date	10/19/23
11. Comments	<input type="text"/>
<b>Submit</b>	

If you run into issues please contact Ehren Reynolds, the schools Director of Technology [ereynolds@healthsciencescharterschool.org](mailto:ereynolds@healthsciencescharterschool.org) 716-888-4080 ext 242