

Ames HSAP Newsletter

**December 2022
January 2023**

HSAP Website: ameshsap.org



Parent Connect #2 : Consider Joining Us

You're invited to our second informal gathering hosted by HSAP supervising teachers Sonia Harold and Irish Briese. During this time together they'll facilitate a relaxed discussion with homeschool parents about how the school year is progressing. We would love to chat about all things homeschool, brainstorm ideas with each other, and just gather to make connections and get to know each other better. We will meet in the foyer of Harvest Vineyard (320 S. 17th Street, Ames) from **9:30 am to 10:30 am** during Thursday morning enrichment classes on **December 8th**.



Ames HSAP Resource Library

The library will continue to be open during our 2nd quarter enrichment classes (Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday) through December 16:

- Monday from 12 noon to 3:00 pm
- Wednesday from 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
- Thursday from 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

The HSAP Resource Library will *not* be open during the break. Once our Quarter 3 Enrichment Classes begin on January 23, the HSAP Library will again be open during regular hours.

For Your Calendar

Qtr 2 Enrichment	10.31 – 12.16
Birds of a Feather Field Trip (PreK-1)	12.02
Wonders of Weather Field Trip (Gr 2-3)	12.02
Invasive Species Field Trip (Gr 4-5)	12.02
Food Drive for <i>Food at First</i>	12.5-12.09
Parent Connect #2 (9:30-10:30 am)	12.08
Water Rocks! & More Field Trip Gr3/4	12.09
Water Rocks! & More Field Trip Gr5/6	12.09
Final Week of Qtr 2 Classes	12.13-12.17
Last Day to Register for Junk Box Wars	1.11
Ice Skating at Ames/ISU Ice Arena	1.13
Junk Box Wars	1.18
Drama Production Tryouts (Gr 6-12)	1.19
Spelling Bee (K-8)	1.19
Drama Production Call Backs (by invite)	1.20
Ice Skating at Ames/ISU Arena	1.21
District Large Group Speech Contest	1.21
Quarter 3 Enrichment Classes	1.23-3.3
Parent Connect #3 (1:00-2:00 pm)	2.8
No Enrichment Classes	3.6-3.10
Spring Break	3.13-3.17
Quarter 4 Enrichment Classes	3.20-4.28



Food Donations for Food at First

We invite you to join the Monday afternoon "Service Projects" enrichment class in collecting food and some clothing items for *Food At First* in Ames. This will take place the week of December 5th - 9th. Students can bring the items to Harvest Church during their classes. There will be a collection box outside the homeschool library. Thank you!

Food Donation Wish List

- Black beans and refried beans
- Large bottle of juice
- Cream soups, especially of mushroom soup
- Cereal
- Fruit, canned, assorted
- Soups, canned
- Vegetables, canned, assorted
- Ziploc sandwich and snack size bags
- Canned chicken
- Brown sugar
- Non-food item: warm gloves

Final Week - Quarter 2 Enrichment Classes

December 12 – December 16 is the final week of our second quarter HSAP enrichment classes. We know this time of year is busy for most of our families, and we value the time with our students each time they are able to join us!



2023 HSAP Drama Production Tryouts

Tryouts:

Tryouts for those students in 6th-12th grade who have already signed up to be a part of the HSAP 2023 Drama Production will take place on January 19, with Call Backs on January 20. Both events will be held at Harvest Church (320 S. 17th Street, Ames). Please see the details below. *(PLEASE ENTER THROUGH THE NORTH DOORS BY ROOM 111).*

6th-12th graders:

- If your student has signed up for our play this year, please make sure they come to Harvest Vineyard on Thursday, January 19 at 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm for tryouts in Room #111.
- Everyone will have the opportunity to perform in the play. During our tryouts we will be deciding how the parts will be assigned.
- We try to make this fun! Please make sure that you are dressed in comfortable clothing.

Not signed up yet for the Play, but want to be?:

- If your student would like to participate in the play and is NOT yet signed up, contact Judy Anderson (judy.anderson@ames.k12.ia.us).
- **Note: Do not** just show up for tryouts if you have not signed up. Contact Mrs. Anderson first.

Call Backs:

- *Call Backs are only* for those students who are invited to come.
- Students involved in call backs will meet in Room #111 of Harvest Vineyard on Friday, January 20, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

4th/5th Grade Drama Students:

- 4th and 5th graders signed up for the play will meet during the first week of classes on Wednesday, January 25th, 9:00 am to 11:00 am. They will not have tryouts ahead of time.



High School Speech Contest

The AHS Speech Club Competitions start on Saturday, January 21 with the District Large Group Meet. Please check their website for location and times. This information was not available at the time of this publication.

Individual Events competitions begin practice some time in January, and the competitions begin in February. Check out their website (listed below) for more details as they are posted. If you interested in joining for the Speech Club Contest in the area of Individual Events, you must already be dual-enrolled at Ames High School. Please get in contact with one of the following individuals if you have questions: Judy Anderson (email judy.anderson@ames.k12.ia.us) or Chuck Ripley, one of the AHS Speech Club coaches (email chuck.ripley@ames.k12.ia.us).

- [AHS Speech Club](#)



Ames HSAP Field Trip Information

All registration for field trips will once again take place through our HSAP website: <https://ameshsap.org/>.

- Under the Program Resources heading, choose Services; Scroll down to “Field Trips”
- Field trips will generally be open for registration two months at a time. (Currently featuring November & December events)
- Updates and additions will be found on the website and sent via email.
- **Some of our students have severe nut and peanut allergies! Please do not bring or consume any products with nuts/peanuts.**
- HSAP Field Trip Coordinator is Carrie Pahl. carrie.pahl@ames.k12.ia.us

December HSAP Field Trips



Birds of a Feather

Grades: Preschool - 1st Grade (Note: An adult must attend with their children)

Friday, December 2

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm (check-in time 12:45 pm)

Harvest Vineyard, 320 S. 17th Street, Ames

Registration Deadline: December 1

Discover how birds use their special adaptations. This is an in-class program with the Story County conservationists.

- *This field trip is shorter than the other two offered at the same time.* The adults are welcome to visit with one another as the children play in the K/1 room, especially if they are waiting for other students (in grades 2-5) to finish their sessions.
- There is no fee for this program.



Wonders of Weather

Grades: 2nd - 3rd

December 2

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm (check-in time 12:45 pm)

Harvest Vineyard, 320 S. 17th Street, Ames

Registration Deadline: December 1

Learn the Components of weather through hands-on learning stations.

- There is no fee for this program.



Invasive Species

Grades: 4th - 5th

Friday, December 2

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm (check-in time 12:45 pm)

Harvest Vineyard, 320 S. 17th Street, Ames

Registration Deadline: December 1

Participants learn about the difference between invasive and native species. It also informs students about the harmful impacts invasive species have on their ecosystems.

- There is no fee for this program.



Water Rocks! and Board Games/Art Fun

Grades: 3rd - 4th

Friday, December 9

1:00 pm - 3:10 pm (check-in time 12:45 pm)

Harvest Vineyard, 320 S. 17th Street, Ames

Registration Deadline: December 6

Dive into the water cycle, watersheds, and water quality with this highly interactive module. We all live in a watershed and play an important role there! Students each receive a "puzzle piece" of land and \$5,000,000, then are given free reign to be creative and build whatever they'd like with their money. How will the shared water resources be impacted by the cumulative effect of everyone's choices?

- They will have one hour of board games/art fun and one hour of the Water Rocks! award winning program from ISU.
- 3rd/4th grade will switch with 5th/6th grade for the second hour.
- There is no fee for this program.
- Companion Lesson Suggestions



Water Rocks! and Board Games/Art Fun
Grades: 5th - 6th
Friday, December 9
1:00 pm - 3:10 pm (check-in time 12:45 pm)
Harvest Vineyard, 320 S. 17th Street, Ames
Registration Deadline: December 6

Dive into the water cycle, watersheds, and water quality with this highly interactive module. We all live in a watershed and play an important role there! Students each receive a "puzzle piece" of land and \$5,000,000, and then are given free rein to be creative and build whatever they'd like with their money. How will the shared water resources be impacted by the cumulative effect of everyone's choices?

- 5th and 6th students, including those who have band on that afternoon, will begin with the Water Rocks! award winning program from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, and leave when they need to (*let Mrs. Pahl know*).
- The rest of the 5th and 6th graders will go to the Craft/Games Activity from 2:10 pm to 3:10 pm. 5th/6th grade will switch with 3rd/4th grade for the second hour.
- There is no fee for this program.
- [Companion Lesson Suggestions](#)



2023 HSAP Ice Skating
Grades: Whole Family Event
Friday, January 13, 2023 (no public school)
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Ames/ISU Ice Arena, 1507 Gateway Hills
Park Drive

We hope you can join us at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena for this yearly tradition of fun times with family and friends, not to mention the benefit of some great physical activity!

2023 HSAP Ice Skating (continued)

- The HSAP pays the admission cost for our HSAP students.
- HSAP students must pay for their own skate rental (\$2.00)
- Please sign-in with a supervising teacher after arriving in the arena
- Non-HSAP skaters (including adults) pay for their own admission (\$4.00) AND skate rental (\$2.00).
- All who attend should dress warmly because the ice skating arena is an open area. We suggest you dress in layers.
- No pre-registration required.

"To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk." Thomas Edison



Junk Box Wars in Coming in January 2023

Are you looking for a fun morning that allows your children a chance to collaborate with kids their age on a challenging activity? All students 3rd-grade and older who have an attention span that allows for 2 hours of group work are welcome.

Here's how it works:

- Students are grouped with 2-3 others their age and given instructions to build something that meets a particular challenge from a box of "junk."
- At the end of the morning, students test what they've constructed against the challenge to determine the winning team.
- There are no prizes - just the satisfaction of meeting the challenge or perhaps winning one's age group.

This year's Junk Box Wars will take place on **Wednesday, January 18** at 9:00 am at the Oakwood Road Community Center, 2400 Oakwood Road, Ames. We will finish before noon. There is no charge for participation. Any questions? Contact Stephanie Haila (stephanie.haila@ames.k12.ia.us).

To register your child/children, please register [HERE](#). Please note that the **registration deadline** for Junk Box Wars is **Wednesday, January 11**.



Ames HSAP Spelling Bee in 2023

Our Scripps National Spelling Bee "School Bee" will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Harvest Vineyard (320 S. 17th Street, Ames). It will consist of two smaller bees: the first one is for K - 3rd grade students and the second bee is for 4th - 8th graders. Each will begin with a few practice rounds in which no one is eliminated, to allow students to get comfortable with the process and to practice speaking out loudly and clearly. *All participants will get to choose a free scholastic book.* The winner of the 4th-8th grade bee will be eligible to go on to compete at the regional bee in Rock Island, IL on February 25, 2023.

Study Lists were sent out on Oct. 30. Scripps has a study app and other resources that you can access at <https://spellingbee.com/parents>. Registration info will be sent out early in January. Please contact Sarah Johnson (sarah.johnson@gmail.com) with questions.



Quarter 3 Enrichment Classes

We will offer our third quarter HSAP Enrichment Classes for K-12 from January 23 - March 3. A list of the classes available for the 2022/2023 school year can be found on our website: list of the classes available for the 2022/2023 school year can be found on our website: ameshsap.org (choose Program Resources, then Services). If you wish to sign up your student for K-5 or grades 6-12 classes, please contact our program coordinator Kathy Geis. Her email address is: kathy.geis@ames.k12.ia.us.



Explore the Website for our HSAP Families with High School Students

Please consider this up-to-date website created by Sonia Harold because it covers an amazing amount of information for your high school students. You can examine and search this site as you consider what options are available for your student from a "getting started" section to record keeping to exploring outside classes and opportunities.

There is also additional information about Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) classes for the spring semester. Their registration for the spring opened on October 12th. <https://sites.google.com/ames.k12.ia.us/hsaphighschool>



FAFSA Application Time Arrives

If your student is considering attending a community college or university/college next year, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application may be recommended as part of the admission process. The FAFSA application becomes available annually on October 1. Please read more about the [FAFSA](http://fafsa.gov) and find the link to the 2022/2023 FAFSA application on the highschool website. The priority deadline for receiving maximum financial benefit is dependent on the school which your student is considering and can be found [here](#).





What do angry rodents send each other during the holidays?

Cross-mouse cards

What song does Tarzan sing during the holidays?

Jungle Bells

Who is Jack Frost's best-loved relative?

Aunt Arctica

What kind of math do Snowy Owls like?

Owlgebra

Why shouldn't you tell jokes while ice-skating?

The ice might crack up

Why did the hen go to the South Pole?

She wanted to go egg-sploring

What do you call a slow skier?

A SLOPEpoke

What does Jack Frost like best about school?

Snow and tell

How do polar bears make their beds?

With sheets of ice and blankets of snow



Tongue Twisters

- Silly smelly snowman slips and slides.
- Ten tiny tin trains toot ten times.
- Running reindeer romp 'round red wreaths.
- Chilly chipper children cheerfully chant.
- Rudolph runs rings 'round Rover.
- Eleven elaborate elves hid Ellie elephant.
- Two trains travel together to Toyland.
- Paul's presents present particular problems placed parallel to pink poinsettias.

Please contact our teachers by following this format: first.name.last.name@ames.k12.ia.us.

Specific HSAP Contacts:

AHS Liaison	Sonia Harold
AMS Liaison	Stephanie Haila
Curriculum Library	Kathy Burns
Drama	Judy Anderson
Field Trips	Carrie Pahl Judy Anderson
HSAP Coordinator	Kathy Geis
HSAP Website	Stephanie Haila
Iowa Assessments	Wendy Pixler Stephanie Haila
K-1	Julie Edmondson Diane Prescott
Resource Library	Joni Gainer
Mileage Club	Kathy Burns
Newsletter Info	Kathy Burns
Speech Contest	Judy Anderson
Spelling Bee	Sarah Johnson



Remain Active

When you are unable to exercise outdoors due to weather, consider ways you can continue to promote fitness indoors: find an exercise video that is family friendly, create stations in your home or have a jar filled with movement options (including moving up and down stairs, jumping jacks, jogging in place, frog jumps, and so on) You can exercise for 30-60 seconds before switching. Include some extra training with planks, curl ups, lunge and give each person a chance to be the leader! Put on some upbeat music and create a fun atmosphere. Exercise can also serve as a great stress reducer!

Additional Activities/Groups to Consider

Please note: These are not sponsored by the HSAP, but may be of interest to your family.

Ames Children's Choirs

These choirs include boys and girls ages 7-18. Visit the website for more details on concert tickets and information on upcoming events.

- Winter Concert – 5:00 pm on Sunday, December 4, at Green Hill Retirement Community (2205 Green Hills Drive)
- January 9 – 16: Placement Auditions for Spring Season
- January & February – You can attend Open Rehearsals (130 South Sheldon)
- <https://www.ameschildrenschoirs.org/> or call (515.290.1422)

The Ames Explorers Program developed by The Community Academy

Ames Explorers will “explore the people and places of our community. We’ll go behind the scenes at all kinds of businesses and events around our community.” These sessions are usually once a week for a two (2) hour session.

- For more details, costs, and information: <https://thecommunityacademy.org>

Ames Public Library

You may benefit from scanning the calendar of our local Ames library (515 Douglas Avenue). A few activities featured in December and January include: a Winter Reading Challenge (all ages), a Homeschool Book Club (12.1), Snowmen at Night Story Walk, Winter Crafternoon, Natural Discoveries, Toddler Storytime, Family Storytime, Lego Builders (Gr 3-5), Kids Create, Storybook Science, Wild on Wednesdays (WOW K-5), and After School Adventures (including art, science, games, and more). These are just a sampling of the many programs that may interest your family, including teens. (*Note: Check the website to find out details for these events, including what books will be discussed in the Homeschool Book Club.*)

- <https://amespubliclibrary.org>

Blank Park Zoo

You may want to check out all the activities and special events they offer, including Santa at the Zoo, Storytime with Ruby the Reading Red Panda, and Kids Night Out,

- <https://www.blankparkzoo.com/>

Book It!

Reading incentive program for students in PreK-6 grade (ages 4-12); Enrollment is accomplished online at their site on their digital dashboard (Book

Book It! (continued)

It! Homeschool) and it appears that you can still join at this time. The program is free and runs from October to March. The award is a one-topping personal pan pizza when your student reaches the requirement.

- <https://www.bookitprogram.com/>

Cultivating Hope Farms

Events on this farm are specifically designed to safely engage family fun for our families living with autism and special needs. Visit their website for all detail.

- <https://cultivatinghopefarms.org/>

ExerCYse Time

ISU is offering ExerCYse time for local students up through 8th grade. The fun and games are scheduled for Friday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in Forker Gym #184 on the ISU campus.

- Friday: 12.02, 1.20, 1.27, 2.03, 2.10, 2.17, 3.03, 3.10
- In the past they have asked for a parent to sign a permission slip (in basement - Gym #184)

4-H

If there are any of our HSAP students who are interested in participating in 4-H and Clover Kids, you can contact the ISU Extension Office at 515-382-6551 and also find more information on their website regarding other opportunities.

- <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/>

Goldie's Kids Club

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has a program called Goldie's Kids Club “to introduce children aged 12 and under to Iowa history – starting with Goldie the eastern goldfinch, the state bird.” Please investigate the website to find out what they offer (“*History Mystery*” - *virtual, requires registration*). You can also investigate a STEAM education program “*Innovative Iowans*”. They also offer some Winter Break Programs.

- <https://iowaculture.gov/goldie>

Hy-Vee Kids Fitness Program

Includes a five week challenge, with videos, training tools, a blog, and more

- <https://hy-veekidsfit.com/>

ICAN

Features a variety of resources for college and career, including financial aid and helpful steps for success. It may be helpful to regularly check their website for upcoming virtual events, special events, available resources, and upcoming programs.

- <https://www.icansucceed.org>

Additional Activities/Groups to Consider

(continued) *Please note: These are not sponsored by the HSAP, but may be of interest to your family.*

Iowa Living History Farms

This is an interactive, 500-acre outdoor museum that tells the 300+ year story of Iowan farmers. One upcoming event featured is a Family Christmas event on Saturday, December 3. Check their website for details, including cost.

- 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale, IA
- <https://www.lhf.org>

Octagon Center for the Arts

They are once again offering in-person classes, as well as affordable art kits for fun at home (contactless pickup).

- 427 Douglas Avenue
- <https://octagonarts.org>

Reiman Gardens

There are a number of different events that may be of interest to your family at this lovely site in Ames. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings in December there is a Winter Wonderscape Holiday Light Show. Ticket costs and details can be found on their website.

- 1407 University Boulevard, Ames
- <https://www.reimangardens.com/events/>

The Santa Express

The Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad features a one hour to one hour and fifteen minute ride known as the *Santa Express* offered on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through December 18. Check out the website for times, ticket cost and information.

- <https://bsvrr.com/wp/>

Science Center of Iowa (SCI)

Visit their website to confirm offerings and hours of operation. Ticket/event cost and details can be found on their website. For those with children on the autism spectrum of those with sensory processing disorder, they offer "Sensory-Friendly Hours" on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The SCI also offers a variety of virtual programs and educational resources with "Go Beyond with SCI".

- 401 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Des Moines
- <https://www.sciowa.org>

Seven Oaks Recreation

- Winter activities include skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing.
- Located in Boone
 - [Seven Oaks Recreation](#)

Seven Oaks Recreation (continued)

- They are offering eight (8) Home School Days with discounts (see website for details)
- <https://sevenoaksrec.com>

Snow Magic 2022

Downtown Ames will have a kick-off to the holiday season with a snowflake lighting ceremony, along with activities and specials throughout Downtown on Friday, December 2, from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

- <https://amesdowntown.org/upcoming-events/snow-magic-kick-off/>

Story County Conservation Center-McFarland Park

Offers classes, workshops, hikes, activities, Story County park maps, nature center, and volunteering. Check out their calendar of events.

- 56461 180th street; (515) 232-2516
- <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/1579/Conservation-Parks>

Story Theater Company

This company offers theatrical opportunities for area children, with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of theater. Their next show is *Charlotte's Web* (February 2023). They also offer a number of workshops and activities, including "some creative fun during winter break".

- 1609 Golden Aspen Drive #105, Ames
- <https://www.storytheatercompany.org/>

Vision Homeschool Basketball

This is a homeschool program, and is faith-based. More information on practice times, facilities, game schedule, and cost can be found on their website. The competitive season has become and game times and sites can be found on their site calendar.

- <https://www.visionbb.org>

Youth Matinee Series at ISU

All performances will include grade level recommendations. Additional shows can be found on their calendar. Seats are \$4.00 in advance and \$5.00 at the door. Investigate their website for more details about the upcoming productions and available workshops.

- The performances of *Pete the Cat* are scheduled for Thursday, January 19 at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm. For those in PreK-3.
- *Barjche 2023 Piece of Mind* – Dance pieces with peace in mind - February, February 3, at 10:00 am. All ages welcome
- The entertaining *Ben Franklin* will take place February 7, at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm, for K-5 students.
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Youth Matinee Series at ISU (continued)

- *Finding North* is for grade 5 and up, presented on Friday, February 10, at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm.
- *ZuZu African Acrobats* performance (all ages) is Tuesday, February 21, at 10:00 am.
- <https://www.center.iastate.edu/education/>

