

Ames HSAP Newsletter

December 2023
January 2024

HSAP Website: ameshsap.org



Parents of 8th Graders: Please Join Us on Thursday Evening, November 30th

It's already time to be thinking about course planning for next year! Please mark your calendar for an important informational meeting hosted by our HSAP team on **Thursday, November 30, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** in Room 111 at Harvest Vineyard. [THIS LINK](#) contains important information for the parents of **ALL 8TH GRADERS**, regardless of which high school enrollment option you are considering for next year, including full-time home school. If you have any questions about this information, please email Sonia Harold at sonia.harold@ames.k12.ia.us.



HSAP Enrichment Classes

The second quarter enrichment classes will end during the week of December 11th. Our third quarter classes will begin the week of January 22, 2024.

For Your Calendar

Meeting for Parents of 8th Graders	11.30
Quarter 2 Enrichment	10.30-12.15
Final Week of Enrichment Classes	12.11-12.15
Junk Box Wars Registration Deadline	01.10.24
Parent/Student-Led Graduation Meeting	01.11
Annual Ice Skating at Ice Rink	01.12
Broomball Sessions at Ice Rink (Gr 4-5, Gr 6-8, and Gr 9-12)	01.12
Junk Box Wars	01.17
Spelling Bee	01.18
Quarter 3 Enrichment Classes	01.22-3.01
Spring Break	03.11-3.15
Mileage Club begins	TBA



Junk Box Wars Arrives in January of 2024

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 to determine which teams have succeeded in accomplishing the task.
- This year's Junk Box Wars takes place on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 9:00 am and will finish before noon at the Oakwood Road Community Center, (2400 Oakwood Road).
- To register your child/children, please register [HERE](#).
- *The registration deadline is Wednesday, January 10, 2024.*
- There is no charge for participation. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Haila (stephanie.haila@ames.k12.ia.us)



Happening Now! Important Information for Parents of 9th-11th Grade Students

This information is also available in an email sent on November 30th by our HSAP staff member/ AHS Liaison, Sonia Harold.

All students, regardless of enrollment plans, are encouraged to complete a high school course plan; this includes students who plan on fully homeschooling for the high school years. Doing so ensures that proper prerequisites and adequate time are accounted for in order for your student to reach his/her goals. Your student may have completed a 4-year plan as an 8th grade student. If you would like to read more about high school course planning, considerations, and also create your own plan, you may do so [here](#).

For those of you who have dual enrolled AHS students, you have received communication from AHS regarding course requests which are underway. Since course requests were/are scheduled to be completed during seminar (homeroom) and dual enrolled students are not assigned a seminar teacher, AHS Liaison Sonia Harold wants to share some alternate methods/meetings where your student may complete course requests for the upcoming school year. Please find this information [here](#).

If you have any questions after reading the linked information, please don't hesitate to reach out to Sonia Harold (sonia.harold@ames.k12.ia.us).

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 "In Person Field Trips"
- Field trips will generally be open for registration one or two months at a time. (Currently featuring January)
- 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 2023 Field Trips

The Ames HSAP will not have any sponsored field trips during the often busy month of December.

January 2024 Field Trips



Ice Skating

Grades: Whole Family

Friday, January 12, 2024

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Ames/ISU Ice Arena (1507 Gateway Hills Park Drive, Ames)

No pre-registration required

Ice skating has become a yearly tradition for many HSAP families. This is a great opportunity to enjoy old friends and meet new friends. There's an added benefit of physical activity, too!

- Dress in layers
- Please register with one of our staff members at the table with when you arrive
- HSAP pays for student admission (\$4.50) of those in our program, but students must pay \$2.50 skate rental
- Non-HSAP students (including adults) pay their own admission (\$4.50) and skate rental (\$2.50)
- Please note that there is no Ames Public School that day (for those who are dual-enrolled).
- Visit our website for additional details
- Check out the Broomball offerings available that are listed below



*Why shouldn't you tell jokes while ice skating?
Because the ice might crack up!*

More Ice Arena Activities!



- *Please note:* For those who are dual-enrolled, there are no Ames Public School classes on this field trip Friday.

Broomball - Grades 4 and 5

Friday, January 12, 2024

Ames/ISU Skate Arena (1507 Gateway Hills Park Drive, Ames)

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Pre-Registration: required - Deadline is Monday, January 8th. Note: we need to have a minimum of 10

The students will be instructed by the ice arena staff on how to play broomball, and will then play the game.

- No skates required, just good tennis shoes
- Helmets are supplied by the ice arena staff
- They do NOT supply knee pads
- If attending the open skate first, students can bring a sack lunch and eat in the heated party room (a parent may have to stay during lunch)
- Concessions will be open
- Full admission is \$4.00, a suggested donation is \$2.00
- Check in and pay during lunch or from 1:15pm - 2:15 pm at the table near the stands
- Checks must be written out to Ames HSAP, we cannot accept cash due to Ames District policy
- If you have students attending multiple sessions, you can write a single check for broomball

Broomball - Grades 6th - 8th

Friday, January 12, 2024

Ames/ISU Skate Arena (1507 Gateway Hills Park Drive, Ames)

2:35 pm - 3:35 pm

Pre-Registration: required - Deadline is Monday, January 8th. Note: we need to have a minimum of 10

The students will be instructed by the ice arena staff on how to play broomball, and will then play the game.

- No skates required, just good tennis shoes
- Helmets are supplied by the ice arena staff

Broomball-Grades 6th - 8th (continued)

- They do NOT supply knee pads
- Concessions will be open.
- You can check in and pay at the table near the stands around 2:20 pm
- Full admission is \$4.00, a suggested donation is \$2.00
- Checks must be written out to Ames HSAP, we cannot accept cash due to Ames District policy
- Visit our website for additional details

Broomball - Grades 9th - 12th

Friday, January 12, 2024

Ames/ISU Skate Arena (1507 Gateway Hills Park Drive, Ames)

3:40 pm - 4:40 pm

Pre-Registration: required - Deadline is Monday, January 8th. Note: we need to have a minimum of 10

The students will be instructed by the ice arena staff on how to play broomball, and will then play the game.

- No skates required, just good tennis shoes
- Helmets are supplied by the ice arena staff
- They do NOT supply knee pads
- Concessions will be open, along with the heated party room
- You can check in and pay at the table near the stands around 3:25 pm.
- Full admission is \$4.00, a suggested donation is \$2.00
- Checks must be written out to Ames HSAP, we cannot accept cash due to Ames District policy
- Visit our website for additional details



High School Large Group Speech Contest

The District Large Group Speech Contest will be held on January 20th at West Des Moines Valley High School (3650 Woodland Avenue, West Des Moines). We support two of our HSAP high school students (Naomi Stevens and Adela Osmundson) who will be competing in the *Improv* category.

- <https://sites.google.com/a/ames.k12.ia.us/ame-shighspeechclub>



Our Scripps National Spelling Bee "School Bee" will be on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m at Harvest Vineyard (320 S. 17th St., Ames). It will consist of two smaller bees: the first for K - 3rd grade students and the second for 4th - 8th graders. Each bee will begin with several 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 K-3 Bee may choose to participate in the 4th-8th Bee, and the winner of the 4th-8th Bee will be eligible to go on to the next level - an online test that can qualify them for the regional meet, which will be held via Zoom.

Study Lists were emailed on Nov. 29. Scripps has a study app and other resources that you can access at <https://spellingbee.com/parents>. Registration information will be sent out early in January of 2024. Any questions? Please contact Sarah Johnson (sarah.johnson@ames.k12.ia.us).



HSAP Resource Library Information

The Resource Library is located in the lower level of Harvest Vineyard in room 102. The library continues to be open during the final two weeks of our second quarter enrichment classes (Week of December 4th and 11th):

Mondays.	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Wednesdays	9:30 am - 3:00 pm
Thursdays	9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Resources Librarian Joni Gainer plans to open the library in 2024 on Thursday, January 11, and Thursday, January 18, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The library will resume the usual hours on January 22 when our HSAP third quarter enrichment classes begin again.

HSAP Curriculum Library

If you are interested in borrowing some of the additional resources we have, please contact your supervising teacher or staff member Kathy Burns (kathy.burns@ames.k12.ia.us). She will let you know if the materials you're looking for are available, or place you on a waiting list, if desired. Our resources include:

- Barton (Level 1- Level 10)
- All About Reading (Level 1- Level 4)
- Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW)
- Saxon Math for middle school and high school
- Teaching Textbooks for middle school/high school math.



Parent-Led Planning for the 2024 Graduation Ceremony

This is not an HSAP-sponsored event. It is a spring ceremony designed by parents and senior high school students who desire to participate in it. There will be an initial planning meeting for a Class of 2024 Homeschool Graduation Ceremony on January 11 at 7:00pm, at Fortress Insurance (1618 S. Duff Ave, Ames). All interested parents and graduates-to-be are welcome to attend this meeting. You can contact Jessica Bennett (HSAP mom) with any questions by calling (515) 450-1224 or emailing her at jbennett310@gmail.com.

Home School Assistance Program Website

You can visit our Ames HSAP website: <http://ameshsap.org/>. You will find an abundance of information there from announcements to services (including field trips and registration), along with our yearly calendar.



HSAP Families with High School Students Should Explore This Website

If you like finding out relevant information as you home school your high school age student, you will want to visit the phenomenal website Sonia Harold has created and regularly updates. If you haven't submitted this already, please fill out a short 2 question form on the opening page: "We Want to Hear From You". This site is also helpful for families with middle school students who are looking ahead and planning the next steps to be considered.

<https://sites.google.com/ames.k12.ia.us/hsaphighschool>



Humor Me

Why did the farmer wear one boot to town?
Because he heard there would be a 50% chance of snow

What do you get if you cross a snowman and a shark?
Frost-bite

What is the weatherman's favorite food in winter?
Brrrrritos

Where does a snowman get the weather report?
the Winternet

What time is it when little white flakes fall outside the K-1 classroom?
Snow and tell

How did the snow globe feel after listening to a scary story?
A bit shaken up

Why Not Riddle a Little?

What is it that one needs most in the long run?
His breath

What always ends everything?
The letter "g"

Why is tennis such a noisy game?
Because every player raises a racket

When does a boat show affection?
When it hugs the shore

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

Specific Contacts:

AHS Liaison	<i>Sonia Harold</i>
AMS Liaison	<i>Stephanie Haila</i>
Bellin Blank	<i>Wendy Pixler</i>
Curriculum Library	<i>Kathy Burns</i>
Field Trips	<i>Carrie Pahl Sarah Johnson</i>
HSAP Coordinator	<i>Kathy Geis</i>
HSAP Website:	<i>Stephanie Haila</i>
Iowa Assessments	<i>Wendy Pixler Stephanie Haila</i>
K-1	<i>Diane Prescott Kathy Geis Ashton Riedell</i>
Mileage Club	<i>Kathy Burns</i>
Newsletter Info	<i>Kathy Burns</i>
Resource Library	<i>Joni Gainer</i>
Scholastic Books	<i>Wendy Pixler</i>
Speech Contest	<i>Judy Anderson</i>
Spelling Bee	<i>Sarah Johnson</i>



Additional Ideas, Opportunities to Consider

These are not sponsored by our HSAP, but may be of interest to you and your family.

Ames Children's Choirs

The Ames Youth Choir has an upcoming Winter Concert on Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 pm. This will take place at Green Hills Retirement Community (2200 Hamilton Drive, Ames). Advanced tickets are available at Rieman usic or purchase at the door. \$10.00 per person or \$30.00 per family.

Their choirs include boys and girls ages 7-18. Visit their website for more information.

- Preparatory Choir (ages 7-8)
- Chorale (ages 9-11)
- Concert Choir (ages 12-18)

Ames Cyclone Aquatic Club (ACAC)

Visit their website to see all the upcoming calendar events for the Ames Cyclone Aquatic Club competitive swim team. If you are interested in other aspects, see the note below:

- If interested in a tryout: please email teamadmin@swimacac.com
- If swim lessons (*Cyclone Swim School*) are closer to what you are looking for: email coachmike@swimacac.com
- <https://www.gomotionapp.com/About.jsp?team=iaacac>

The Ames Explorers Program developed by The Community Academy

Visit their website to find out if any upcoming events are on their calendar.

- <https://thecommunityacademy.org>

Ames Public Library

Consider exploring the Event Calendar of our local Ames Library (515 Douglas Avenue). There are a number of offerings that may be of interest to your family. Here are a few highlights: the *Iditaread Challenge* (12.01.23-1.31.24) where prizes can be earned; *Destination Storytime at the Ice Arena*; *The Velveteen Rabbit* - an ISU Theatre's production with puppetry and original music (12.02 @ 10 am & 1 pm); *Lego Builders, Kids Create, Pokemon Club, Storybook Science, Natural Discoveries* (1st Sunday of the month), and the *Checkmate Chess Club*, to name a few.

- [Ames Public Library](#)

Blank Park Zoo

Check out their website before visiting.

- Safari Camps are offered during school breaks
- The site has a blog, live webcam, listing and information about their animals
- [Blank Park Zoo](#)

Book It!

Reading incentive program for students in K-6 grade (PreK-6th grade); Online enrollment continues at their site. It started in October and runs through March. The award is a one-topping personal pan pizza when your student reaches the requirement.

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

Cultivating Hope Farms

The vision statement of this non-profit includes "creating meaningful opportunities for inclusion and acceptance for those with autism and all disabilities." Please check out their website to find out more details, or contact Gina Perkins. Visit their website to receive current information on what is being offered. Located at 5500 240th Street, Ames (515-210-5407)

- ginaperkins1641@gmail.com
- <https://cultivatinghopefarms.org/>

4-H

Research and find out more about 4-H activities in the area that are offered through the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. On December 2 they have a *Beef Blast* and *Equine Blast* for 7th-12th grade students interested in these fields. There is a free offering - *Nutcracker and STEM* (workshop + performance) on December 8 for those in grades 2-5 that includes 5 challenges for participants. Register online.

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

Go Light Your World Homeschool Variety Show

This is from one of our HSAP moms.

Wanted: homeschool students of all ages who want to be part of two MUSIC VIDEOS (*Take on the World* and *Get Back Up Again*) which will be shown during the *Go Light Your World Homeschool Variety Show* in May. We will be filming Wednesday December 6th @ 2pm in Story City. Depending on weather we might do it at park or indoors (to be determined).

There will be no singing or acting ability needed. Mrs. Frank has done this with students in years past: you will be instructed what to do, and it will be fun and easy. In the end, it will look amazing and you will have a treasured memory to keep forever as each participant will receive the final

Additional Ideas, Opportunities to Consider

These are not sponsored by our HSAP, but may be of interest to you and your family.

Go Light Your World Homeschool Variety Show *continued*

copy of the videos. (And it counts as a school activity! A win-win!)

Also, if interested in being part of the variety show in May of 2024, make note of that when you sign up for the music videos, and I will get that info to you as well. We would also love those students who have a talent to share to let me know that as well. Sign up your child for this with names and ages to: frankfamilyadventures@gmail.com and in subject line write: Go Light Your World

Goldie's Kids Club

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has a program called Goldie's Kids Club to introduce children (12 and under) to Iowa history. It stars Goldie, the eastern goldfinch (the state bird). Please investigate their website to find out what they have to offer (including "History Mystery", activities, a recommendation of a Storytime digital book, a program about *Innovative Iowans*, and other offerings that can be accessed in their archives). They are also offering several programs in late December during the break.

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

Hy-Vee Kids Fitness Program

This program includes a five week challenge, along with videos, training tools, a blog, and more! They recently updated some of what they offer, so you may want to *exercise* your ability to check it out! Learn more about making healthy choices.

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

ICAN

If you have a high school student, you may want to visit the ICAN website. It features a variety of resources for career planning, college planning, financial aid and helpful steps for success. They also have an ICAN Scholarship Database.

- www.icansucceed.org

Iowa Living History Farms

This is an interactive, 500-acre outdoor museum that tells the 300+ year story of Iowan farmers. Check their website for a number of upcoming events they are offering in the upcoming months, including a *Family Christmas* (12.2) and a *Winter Break Camp* (12.26-12.29).

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

National Parks Service

Fourth grade students can get a free annual pass to visit more than 2,000 federal recreation areas with their families, classmates, and friends. The interagency collaboration, known as **Every Kid Outdoors** Program, provides free access to explore, learn, and recreate in spectacular settings, including national parks, wildlife refuges, marine sanctuaries, and forests. Consider visiting their website for additional details and other benefits.

Octagon Center For the Arts

Explore their website to determine when the Octagon Shop is open, and discover the in-person or virtual art classes that are being offered.

- <https://octagonarts.org>

Reiman Gardens

You may want to regularly check their website to see the upcoming events and fees. You can also find out about: *Winter Wonderscape Holiday Light Show* and other activities. [Reiman Gardens](#)

Science Center of Iowa (SCI)

Visit their website to confirm offerings and hours of operation. Ticket/event cost and details can be found there. It's located at 401 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Des Moines.

- A new exhibition "Cats & Dogs" continues into early 2024.
- They've planned a *Noon Year's Eve Family Event*
- Check out their event calendar for additional programs available
- <https://www.sciowa.org>

Seven Oaks Recreation

Check out their website regularly for information about the activities they are offering and specials that are available. Located in Boone

- <https://sevenoaksrec.com>

Story County Conservation

View their website to look at upcoming events and educational opportunities.

- [Story County Conservation](#)

Story County Online Learning Resources

The Story County naturalists have recorded parts of their in-class programs to be used by anyone as supplemental resources. There are a variety of categories: Pre-K through Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades, 3rd and 4th grades, and 5th grade and up. They will keep adding to their list of resources. Here is the link:

- [Online Learning Resources](#)

Story Theater Company (STC)

Offers theatrical opportunities for area children. Visit their website for more information and details.

- Auditions for both [Anne of Green Gables](#) and [The Comedy of Terrible Errors](#) will be held on December 3-5. Visit the website for details.
- 1609 Golden Aspen Drive #105, Ames
- <https://www.storytheatercompany.org/>

TubaChristmas

On Saturday, December 2nd at 3:00 pm the 13th TubaChristmas will be held in the ISU Stephens Auditorium. This is a free event and advertised as a "fun-for-all-ages musical event" featuring Only tubas, euphoniums, baritones and sousaphones.

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

Vision Homeschool Basketball

This is a homeschool program with teams for grades 6-8 (JH), JV, and Varsity. It is faith-based prioritizing teamwork, sportsmanship, and discipline. The season has begun for JH/JV/Varsity Boys, and JH/JV/Varsity Girls. Visit the site for more information about games if you would like to attend.

- <https://www.visionbb.org>
- email: amesvisionbb@gmail.com

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.

- At this time, the next listed performances begin in February of 2024, but you may want to occasionally check out their website in case more 2023 shows are added.
- <https://www.center.iastate.edu/education/>
- The Nutcracker performances are Saturday, December 9 at 1:00 pm and 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 10 at 1:00pm. These are not a part of the Youth Matinee Series.
- <https://www.center.iastate.edu/the-nutcracker-ballet/>

