

JANUARY 2026

HIDDEN VALLEY MUSTANG

NEWSLETTER



A Well-Deserved Break: Rest, Reset, and Recharge

As we welcomed the winter break, our Hidden Valley community did exactly what it needed to do—pause. Over the past few weeks, students, staff, and families had the opportunity to rest, reflect, and recharge. Whether that meant spending time with family, traveling, catching up on sleep, reading for pleasure, or simply enjoying a slower pace, the break was an important reminder that balance matters.

Time away from the daily routines of school allows us to reset our minds and bodies. It helps students return with renewed focus, teachers with fresh energy, and families with a shared sense of readiness for what lies ahead. We hope this break provided everyone with moments of joy, connection, and calm—and that those moments carry forward into the new year.

As we step back onto campus, there is a noticeable sense of optimism and momentum. The halls are alive again, classrooms are buzzing, and the Mustang spirit is strong. We are grateful for a community that understands the importance of rest and supports one another through every season of the school year.

Back and Ready: Finishing the Semester Strong

While the break gave us time to recharge, January brings focus and purpose. We are now in the final three weeks of the first semester, and this stretch is important. Classes are wrapping up major units, assessments are being completed, and students are demonstrating their learning through tests, projects, presentations, and papers.

The first semester officially ends on January 22nd, and these final weeks truly matter. The work students put in now can make a significant difference—not only in grades, but in confidence, habits, and preparation for the second semester.

We encourage students to stay organized, attend class consistently, ask questions, and use available support. Teachers are here to help, and we want students to advocate for themselves and finish strong. This is a time to show perseverance, responsibility, and pride in their work.

Hidden Valley High School has a long tradition of resilience and excellence, and that tradition is on full display as our students rise to the challenge of the semester's final push.

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Tips for Student Success: Simple Habits, Big Impact

Success during this busy time often comes down to strong habits and intentional choices. Here are a few strategies students can use to stay on track:

- Be on time and present every day. Arriving at school on time and attending every class makes a huge difference, especially when lessons build quickly at the end of the semester.
- Stay organized. Use planners, digital calendars, or reminders to track due dates for tests, projects, and papers.
- Break tasks into smaller steps. Large assignments feel more manageable when completed in stages.
- Ask for help early. Teachers, counselors, and support staff are eager to help—students should reach out before stress builds.
- Prioritize rest and nutrition. Sleep, healthy meals, and hydration all support focus and learning.
- Take pride in effort. Doing one's best, even when things feel challenging, builds character and confidence.

These habits not only support academic success now, but also help students develop skills they will use well beyond high school.

How Families Can Support Academic Success

Families and guardians play a vital role in helping students thrive, especially during demanding times like the end of a semester. Your encouragement and support make a difference every day. Here are a few ways to help:

- Support punctuality and attendance. Helping students arrive at school on time and ready to learn sets a positive tone for the day.
- Encourage routines. Consistent times for homework, studying, meals, and sleep help students manage their responsibilities.
- Check in and listen. Simple conversations about school, assignments, and stress levels can go a long way.
- Celebrate effort, not just outcomes. Recognizing hard work and growth reinforces perseverance and confidence.
- Partner with the school. Stay connected with teachers and counselors when questions or concerns arise—we are here to support your student's success.

Together, families and school staff form a strong team, united by a shared goal: helping every student reach their potential.

Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and school spirit. Let's make these final weeks of the semester a strong and successful finish, and carry that momentum into the months ahead.



SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, January 24,
2026
Josephine County
Fairgrounds
Lots of fun to be had!
Reserve your table today!

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24,
2026

JOSEPHINE COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS

HIDDEN VALLEY BOOSTER
CLUB IS HOSTING OUR
ANNUAL DINNER &
AUCTION. PLEASE PUT IT
ON YOUR CALENDAR AND
PLAN TO JOIN US!

\$350 PER TABLE
\$50.00 AT THE DOOR
RESERVE YOUR TABLE NOW

541-862-2124

HVHS Leadership presents

*A Tale as
Old as Time
Winter Formal*

Tickets:

Pre-Sale: \$15

At the Door: \$20

Saturday, 02/07/26

8:00 - 11:00 pm

Hidden Valley High School
Site Council Meeting Notes
January 7, 2026

Attended: Ben Bickle, Liz Elkins, Tammy Allen, Damian Crowson, Krystal Graham

Minutes Approved: November

Principal's Report

- The **Accreditation Review** went well. We will not receive our official score until the end of the month. Damian will present the final review at the **February School Board meeting**.
- The **School Board** will also meet with a **student panel** in February. Damian, Ben, and Aaron will select leadership students to represent the school.
- The **Booster Club Dinner Auction** will take place on **January 24**. Donations are coming in; however, ticket sales remain a concern. A marketing push will be made through **social media, radio, and email**.
- We have **two teachers interested in providing after-school tutoring**: Gardner and Morris. A grant will allow us to offer tutoring for a short period of time.
- Our large athletic event, “**Cram the Stands**,” is scheduled for **January 30** and typically has a great turnout.
- We welcome several **new staff members at HVHS**:
 - Kelly Wilson – Librarian
 - Shelly Pergson – ERC Assistant
 - Melissa Howard – Mental Health Coordinator
 - Erica Nygren – Student Teacher with Crystal Murphy
- Austin Bristow has submitted his letter of resignation. His last day will be **January 15**. We will need to secure a **long-term substitute** through the end of the school year.
- A **Spanish teaching position** will be posted in **February**.
- Planning is underway for **Academic Masters**, which will be hosted at **North Valley on April 11**.
- **Prom has been rescheduled to April 11** due to a scheduling conflict with Class Olympics.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 am.