

HAMLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT 28-3
STATE OF THE SCHOOL

August 18, 2026
5:00 pm



Hamlin School District

HOME OF THE CHARGERS

Guiding our decisions. Aligning our work. Advancing student success.

1



IMPROVE

Financial understanding,
transparency, and
long-term planning

2



GROW

Career and
Technical Education
(CTE) opportunities

3



ENHANCE

Workforce
recruitment, retention,
and recognition

4



STRENGTHEN

Student involvement
and satisfaction

5



PLAN

Sustainable growth
and facility needs

Enrollment K- 12

- 2026 – 855 (projected next year)
- 2025 – 843
- 2024 – 867
- 2023 – 841
- 2022 – 835
- 2021 – 838
- 2020 – 847
- 2019 – 842
- 2018 – 810
- 2017 - 783
- 2016 – 749
- 2015 – 727
- 2014 – 726
- 2013 – 715
- 2012 – 677
- 2011 – 696
- 2010 – 681
- 2009 – 687
- 2008 - 658
- 2007 – 652
- 2006 – 622
- 2005 – 644
- 2004 – 618
- 2003 - 594
- 2002 – 646
- 2001 - 660

Special THANKS!

Video Board & Scoreboard Advertisements!!

- BRYANT STATE BANK
- HAMLIN COUNTY FARMERS COOP
- LAKE NORDEN FARMERS ELEVATOR
- RELIABANK – also sponsored the hot dog meal tonight
- AVANTARA of Lake Norden
- BECK'S – Thue AG

Still looking for...

- Bus driver – over \$50 per route
- Substitute teachers
 - Substitute Teachers meeting on Wednesday at 2:30
- Special Education Para's
- Middle School football coach

New Staff

Cassi Johnson

Business Manager



Jacque Blaha

Junior Kindergarten/Kindergarten/Sped



New Staff

Brea Rip

1st Grade Teacher



Skylar Raw

2nd Grade Teacher



New Staff

Cameron Hanson

3rd Grade Teacher



Nevaeh Hirsch

3rd Grade and Special Education



New Staff

Shannon Symens

5th Grade



Hailey Wathen

Elementary PE Teacher/Volleyball Coach



New Staff

Sara Evenson

Special Education Teacher



Jessica Whetham

Middle School Science Teacher



New Staff

Erin Soltys

High School Science Teacher



Catherine Reiter

Middle School Social Science & Math Teacher



New Staff

Steph Bawdon

5-12 Band and MS/HS Chorus Teacher



Janine Alholinna

7th Health & HS Health Science



New Staff

Michelle Homola

Librarian



New Staff

Tonya Scmitt

MS/HS Special Education Para



Hailie Bury

Elementary Special Education Para



New Staff

Shari Peckenpaugh

Elementary Special Education Para



Ben Blakeman

Bus Driver



Staff adjustments

- Gabby Birk moves from Math Interventionist to 3rd Grade
- Courtney Christensen moves from 5th Grade to Math Interventionist
- Timm MacDonell will be doing MS as well as HS
- Dave Sheehan will also be doing a MS class as well as HS
- Paul Jongeling will also be teaching 8th grade Science

Hired after the start of school last year...

- Tara Reyes– Custodian
- Jacey Peterson– Para-professional
- Ashley Beld – Kitchen staff

Cell Phones...

- KEEP THEM AT HOME!! (The very first thing other states say in their policy.)
- NO TEACHER has EVER requested a student to bring them to school.
- If you as a parent do NOT think schools should allow phones in school, then you have the right as a parent to keep your child's phone at home.
- *IF YOU KEEP THEM AT HOME LET THE OFFICE KNOW!!*
 - *IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND FOR ONE DAY...LET THE OFFICE KNOW!!*

Change to be aware of...

10:00 AM start on weather related Late Starts

- 10:00 start on weather related late starts
 - No more 2- hour late starts or 1-hour late starts
 - Still no breakfast, still no AM Pre-School on these days
 - Give us more time to educate prior to dinner
 - Pickups will be approximately 1.5 hours after regular pickup times
-
- Students don't need to be on the building prior to 9:40 on 10:00 starts

School messenger...if you do not get them let the office know!

- Option 1: Today
- ALL MESSAGES
- Option 2: Will Go out tomorrow morning about 1st day of school

Salad bar.....



- “Unlimited” salad bar

School Lunch Application

- Possible Reduced Lunch & Breakfast price (or free)
- The school benefits from the number of people that apply, since it is a federal program.
- Grants, Title, etc. often influenced by the % within your school
- Students may qualify for reduced fees for ACT test, SAT test, and dual credit.
- May qualify you for discounted rates on home internet service.
- This goes into effect the day the office receives your application. If we receive it on November 5, then it starts then – NOT the start of school.

Busing: Issues

- Driver will warn the student once during the year.
- 1st Offense – parent will be contacted and the student will serve a detention and not be allowed to ride that time.
- 2nd Offense – Parent will be contacted and the student will NOT be allowed to ride the bus for 5 school days.
- 3rd Offense – Parent will be contacted and the student will NOT be allowed to ride the bus for minimum of 10 school days
- 4th Offense – Suspension from bus transportation for the remainder of that given school year or until determined

Busing...see Mark or your bus drivers tonight!!

- If you have a 2nd grader or younger, they should sit towards the front of the bus!!
 - If you want them to sit by a sibling have the sibling sit closer to the front of the bus!!
- If you live in the town of Hayti, Lake Norden, Bryant, or Hazel the pick up times and locations will be similar to last year

HAMLIN ELEMENTARY

Charged Up for a Great Year!

- 493 students in Preschool through 5th grade
- A focus on helping every child learn, grow, and belong

New This Year: Junior Kindergarten

An exciting new opportunity for some of our youngest learners

- Full-day program - Five days per week
- Kindergarten readiness:
 - Focus on social-emotional development, independence, and school routines
 - Early literacy and math skills

Meeting children where they are and giving them the right opportunity at the right time.

A Smooth Start and End to the Day

Arrival, Drop-Off & Pick-Up

- Elementary students choose: breakfast or playground
- Pull forward – students must be picked up along the sidewalk
- Students must be picked up or dropped off in line.
- Please be patient—especially during the first few weeks

SAFETY + PATIENCE + COOPERATION = A SMOOTH START AND FINISH

Dress for the Day!

Be ready for the morning and lunch recess

- Red Flag days – come inside due to rain, lightning, or cold
- Weather and temperatures can change quickly
- Outside if actual and feels like temperature is above zero
- Download the “WeatherLink” app by Davis and search for *Hamlin Chargers* weather station

There’s no bad weather – Just the need for the right gear!

Help Us Communicate Clearly

Appointments, Early Dismissals & Changes to the School Day

- Doctor or dentist appointments
- Plan for early dismissals
- Changes in who is picking up your child
- Other changes to your child's regular routine

PLEASE CONTACT THE ELEMENTARY OFFICE

Our Shared Commitment

It Takes All of Us!

- Students — Come ready to learn and do their best
- Staff — Create safe, caring, and challenging learning classrooms
- Parents — Stay connected and communicate with us
- Community — Support our students and celebrate our success

Together, We Are Hamlin Chargers!

Attendance Policy

- Students can miss no more than 10 days a semester
- Consolidation of absences (Once per Semester)
 - Sick or ongoing treatment
 - Need a note from a doctor within week of the absence
 - We will not be consolidating before semester tests, so you need to be proactive with this
 - Ongoing medical treatments will be consolidated
 - Funerals are exempt from attendance

Semester Test Policy

- Every Student is required to take Semester Exams
- They will be on the last 2 days of the semester (December 21-22) (May 12-13 unless we have snow days)
 - If you do not take them on the test days you will receive an incomplete on the test and you can not get HS credit for an incomplete
- You can earn the option to opt out of semester exams by the following:
 - Must maintain a C (73%) or Higher in that class each semester
 - Four or less absences per period each semester
 - No behavior infractions

Cell Phone Policy

- **HS – Phones need to be in pouches during class time**
 - Take attendance with the phones in the pouches including STUDY HALL and Dual Credit
- MS – Phone must be in lockers – not on the student will be taken if you have them on you.
- If you need to make a call to home you can use the teachers phone or a phone in the office
- If you need to use the bathroom before class or get a snack in between classes you will need to put your phone in the pouch otherwise you will be counted tardy for class

Information

- If your student is having an issue at school. Have them come and talk with myself or a teacher.
- Feel free to contact me if your child is saying they are being picked on or bullied or anything to that nature
- We as a school can not help your child if we are not made aware of the situation at school. Please inform us of situations so we can assist with the solution.

We will give our teachers a head
start and they may leave while
we finish up.

What Is Title I?

- Title I is a federally funded program designed to provide additional support to students.
 - Provides additional resources to support student learning and achievement.
 - Helps students meet academic standards.
 - Supports teachers and families in meeting the individual needs of students.
 - Promotes educational opportunities for all students.
 - Works to close achievement gaps and ensure students have the support they need to be successful.

How Does Title I Support Our Students?

- **Additional Staff:** Provides teachers and staff to support student learning.
- **Free Preschool:** Funds our preschool program at no cost to families.
- **Smaller Class sizes:** Allows for more individualized instruction and attention.
- **Reading & Math Support:** Provides targeted interventions for students who need additional help.

How Can You Help?

- **Stay Connected**
- **Get Involved**
- **Your Voice Matters!**

How Can You Help?

- **Stay Connected**
- Visit HamlinChargers.com
- Follow us on Facebook
- Use ClassDojo and Infinite Campus
- Connect with your child's teacher by email or phone

How Can You Help?

- **Get Involved**
- Share your ideas and feedback
- Participate in school surveys
- Advocate for your child's needs
- Collaborate with teachers and staff

To prepare and equip our students to become responsible
citizens and succeed in an ever-changing world.

Hamlin School Motto

August 18, 2026

COPIES OF THIS PRESENTATION WILL BE ON THE WEBSITE