Welcome to your first year of high school! It is our hope that this school year is your best year ever. Ninth grade will be academically challenging, rewarding, and fun. For a successful year, all students should get involved in extracurricular activities, make good decisions, and use the resources and supports HNGA provides. Please let the administration know if we can help in any way!

School Safety
The safety of our students and staff is our primary focus every day. Learning and instruction are hindered when students and staff do not feel safe. We have several new safety measures in place for this year, including significant camera and security upgrades and other safety initiatives for our staff and students. If there is a safety concern, please share your concerns with a staff member. Together, we can continue to provide a safe school building and learning environment.

Raptor Visitor System
One new safety initiative that HNGA will be implementing this school year is Raptor Visitor Management System, a computer check-in system for parents and visitors. The Raptor system checks the visitor’s name and date of birth for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders. The registered sex offender database is the only official database checked by the Raptor system. No other data from the ID is gathered or recorded and the information is not shared with any outside agency. Additionally, this technology will allow HNGA to track exactly who is in the building all times. Upon entering a district building, visitors will be asked to present an ID such as a Driver’s License, which can either be scanned or manually entered into the system. The safety of our students is our highest priority and the Raptor visitor management system allows us to quickly identify those that may present a danger to our students. Thank you in advance for your understanding and your support in enhancing the school safety protocols in our district.
HNGA Social Media
Follow us on social media for up-to-date news and happenings at NGA.
Instagram: @HNGARaiders
Twitter: @HNGARaiders
Facebook: HabershamNinthGradeAcademy
Remind:
Text @HNGA2023 To 81010

Car Riders Pick Up
After school car rider pick up is a safety concern for HNGA. We are in the process of purchasing safety upgrades in order to ensure the safety of our students. In the mean time, please pull all the way forward, be cautious of students crossing the parking lot, and avoid the use of a cell phone while driving.

Lunch Study Hall
Beginning immediately, students may be assigned to mandatory lunch study hall for the following reasons:
- Three or more missing assignments
- Failing a course
- Failing/missing a test/project

Picture Day
Mark your calendar; picture day will be September 27!

Cafeteria Charges
Student lunch is $2.10. You can pay in advance or daily. Reduced/free applications can be found at
www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com
All parents are encouraged to apply. Parents and guardians can send cash or check for their student’s account. You can also pay online at
www.mypaymentsplus.com

New Faculty & Staff
HNGA is thrilled to welcome our new staff members. They are as follows:
- Jerry Harding, In-School Suspension
- Hope Mealor, Special Education
- Aaron Newton, Agriculture
- Stephanie Parker, Special Education
- Leslie Terrell, Special Education

HNGA House System
HNGA is entering the fifth year of our House System. The House System is designed to create a sense of community through regular meetings and friendly competitions. At the end of the year, the winning House will receive a major prize on the last day of school. During the summer, students were randomly placed into one of our six Houses. On the first day of school, we celebrated the new year by giving each student a House shirt (pg 3). This year, we will be looking to expand the role of our student leaders. Student leaders will help organize contests and be expected to help lead the bi-weekly House meetings. We believe this will be the best year yet of the House System!

Homecoming
The Raiders will be hosting Lanier October 4 at 7:30 in this year’s homecoming game. The homecoming dance will be held in the HCHS gym on October 5.

Raider Report
For the second year, HNGA students will be able to anonymously report safety…
Raider Report cont’d

…concerns directly to Dr. Franklin and Mr. Leenman through the free Raider Report app. In the first year of the app, HNGA’s administrators were able to intervene with safety issues immediately and swiftly. As we introduce this technology to our students, we hope that they will understand the vital role they play in school safety as we encourage our students to “See Something, Say Something”.

Did You Know?

A student’s attendance during the first 30 days of 9th-grade is one of the best indicators of high school graduation, more so than 8th-grade test scores, socioeconomic, or poverty level.

Parent Night

All parents and students in grades 9-12 are invited to attend a parent night on Aug. 22 with Jeff Yalden from 5-7PM. Jeff is “is highly regarded as the number one teen motivator and Mental Health speaker in all of North America. He’s an award winning motivational speaker, MTV MADE celebrity Teen & Family ‘Life Coach,’ and an Amazon Best Selling Author.” A free hot dog dinner will be available for the first 100 people. During the school day on Aug. 22, Mr. Yalden will lead a student assembly that covers mental health issues, bullying, grief, and etc. Additional information will be available in the front office and will be sent to parents/guardians as the day approaches.

Attendance

Research supports that there is a direct link between a student’s future graduation rate and attendance during his/her freshmen year. Students who attend school regularly as freshmen are substantially more likely to graduate than students who are frequently absent. In fact, a freshman’s attendance during the first 30 days of school is a better indicator of graduation than any 8th grade data. Because attendance is such a big deal for a student’s graduation, HNGA emphasizes attendance through monthly House challenges and perfect attendance awards. Simply being at school everyday can move you closer to graduation.
Join FFA!
Every Student that is in Ag Science or Wildlife is an FFA Member and can participate in all of the opportunities that FFA offers. Students who have one of these classes either 1st or 2nd semester, need to see Mr. Newton in room 224 for upcoming information regarding contests and events.

“Starbooks” Cafe
The HNGA Starbooks Cafe will be open every Friday in the Media Center at 7:30, beginning Aug. 23. Students can purchase donuts, coffee, hot chocolate, and hot tea. All items are a $1.

Did You Know?
All HNGA students can receive free breakfast each day?

HNGA Corner Store
School supplies and poster boards are available for purchase in the media center.

Celebrations
As we move on to the new school year, HNGA has a lot to celebrate from the 2018-2019 school year.

- HNGA was the highest performing high school in the RESA region on the Algebra 1 End of Course Test (EOCT).
- The Class of 2022 had a 17 point gain in proficiency between their 8th and 9th grade years.
- 99% of Geometry students passed the EOCT at Level 3 or higher.
- Habersham Co. Schools tested at, or above the RESA average, on all four End of Course Tests given at HNGA.
- 50% of AP Human Geography students passed the AP exam at level 3 or higher, above the national average.
- More than 93% of freshman missed 10 days or fewer.
- HNGA was #1 out of 25 high schools in the region in daily attendance.

School Supplies
Mrs. Hutchins, HNGA’s school counselor, has school supplies for students in need. Please see the front office for more information.

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve.”
– Martin Luther King, Jr.
New Vaping Policy
All across the country, schools have seen a major increase in the use of vapes and e-cigarettes. Students, including in Habersham County, have been taken to the emergency room because of a reaction to a vape. Because of the health and safety risks of the teenage vaping epidemic, all Habersham Co. middle and high schools will be using a new, three-strike policy for students who use and/or possess vaping products. Should a student violate the Code of Conduct three times in an academic year, the student will be referred to a disciplinary tribunal.

Cell Phone Policy
Students are permitted to use cell phones at HNGA for classroom instructional purposes only. Parents/guardians are encouraged to call the front office at 706-778-0830 to pass a message to your student.

Did You Know?
It is against Habersham County Schools’ Code of Conduct and the law of Georgia for minors to possess and/or use a vape on school grounds, including at sporting events and on the bus.

Rep the Raiders
On Fridays, freshmen Rep the Raiders! Purchase your new Raider shirt in the front office! Shirts are available to all parents, siblings, students, etc. The deadline to purchase is August 30, and the shirts are $20. Color scheme is subject to change.