




Hempfield Area High School

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Hempfield Area High School

Location

4345 Route 136, Greensburg, PA 15601 [Coordinates](#): 
[40.281354° N 79.600064° W](#)

Information

School district	Hempfield Area School District
Principal	Mrs. Kathy Charlton
Type	Public
Grades	9–12
Mascot	Spartans
Established	1956
Enrollment	2200
Information	(724) 834-9000
Homepage	Hempfield Area High School

Hempfield Area High School is a [high school](#) for students in the [Hempfield Township](#) area of [Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania](#).

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[[edit](#)] History

The first official move to establish a [high school](#) in Hempfield Township occurred [June 8, 1898](#), when the Board of Education recorded a proposal to investigate the possibilities of building a secondary [school](#) in the area. From that time until [1956](#), students attended nearby high schools. On [November 17, 1952](#), the Articles of Agreement of the Hempfield Area Joint Schools were adopted and work began in earnest to establish a high school.

The different needs and abilities of all [students](#) were taken into consideration when the building was designed. The building included 39 [classrooms](#), 9 [vocational](#) areas, an [auditorium](#) that seated 1,242, a [gymnasium](#) with a 2,200 seating capacity, [cafeteria](#), [band](#) and [chorus](#) rooms, and a large modern [library](#). The original building and grounds occupied a 67 acre area.

The size and capacity of the senior high school were determined by a review of the student [population](#) of 1952 and a projected six year enrollment. The new building accommodated 1,200 pupils. The Board of Education recognized potential growth and included provisions for additions to meet future needs. Finally, the school opened [September 5, 1956](#), with an enrollment of 1,037 students in grades 10, 11, and 12. Although the entire building was not completed, sufficient sections were available to begin the [school year](#).

Construction began on [February 10, 1964](#), of an approximate two million dollar addition to the original senior high building. The addition was complete for student use in September, 1965. The addition increased the capacity of the school to 2,500 students including an addition to the cafeteria and extensive remodeling in the “C” wing. A highlight of the new addition was a 75 by 42 foot indoor swimming pool. The main addition housed twenty regular classrooms, a new [planetarium](#), faculty cafeteria, an enlarged area for art classes, and [rifle](#) range. A total of seven rooms in the “C” wing that included four [biology labs](#) was completed. An additional [chemistry-physics](#) laboratory and chemistry classroom were added in the main wing. Administration offices were moved to permit the addition of three classrooms on the first floor.

In 1968, a sophomore was killed during the district school picnic at [Kennywood](#) when he was thrown from the then-brand-new Thunderbolt.

In October 1978, Hempfield Area High School was once again altered by an addition to the building. New facilities were added to provide additional teaching space at an approximate cost of 1.5 million dollars. A physical fitness room, two instructional classrooms, a laundry area, coaches room, press box, additional space in the locker rooms, and a concession room were added. The new addition was completed in 1980.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 school term, another extensive renovation was begun at the senior high school. Completed for the opening of the 1990-91 school term, this project virtually remodeled the entire interior of the existing structure. All areas of the building including the library, auditorium, science labs, [cafeteria](#) and classrooms were remodeled and thirteen classrooms were added. In 2001, additional renovation was done to add two more chemistry labs in the science area, as well as a new resource room and a few additional classrooms.

In 2004, even more renovations took place. The [baseball](#) field was removed so that the student parking lot could be moved on campus for safety reasons. It was located across busy Route 136. Also, new bleachers, press box and concession stands were added at Spartan Stadium. Also new athletic fields were added behind the stadium. Finally, a state of the art field house complete with new wrestling facilities, locker rooms and athletic offices was added in the north endzone of Spartan Stadium. Hempfield Area High School is now the most up-to-date and modern educational facility in Western Pennsylvania.

In March 2007, a 15 year old student, [Cody Webb](#), was mistakenly jailed for 12 days in a juvenile detention facility for allegedly making a bomb threat over the school district hotline, because school officials had overlooked [daylight saving time](#) while evaluating the calling records.^[1] Afterwards, the teen, an [honors student](#), stated that principal Kathy Charlton had humiliated him in the process and that he did not want to return to the school.^[2] An editorial in the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) called the incident an "[Orwellian nightmare](#)".^[3]

[\[edit\]](#) Facts about Hempfield

- Opening Date: 1956
- Present Enrollment: 2,150
- Student Faculty Ratio: 15:1

[\[edit\]](#) Library holdings and capacity

- Number of Volumes: 17,500
- Periodicals: 21 subscriptions
- Seating Capacity: 150

[\[edit\]](#) Seating capacities

- Auditorium: 1,438
- Mini Theater: 171

- Cafeteria: 600
- Gymnasium: 1,740
- Spartan Stadium: 10,000
- Spartan Field House: 2,500

[\[edit\]](#) Administration

- Kathy Charlton (Principal)
- Thomas Daugherty (Assistant Principal)
- Steven DeLisle (Assistant Principal)
- John Wolicki (Assistant Principal)
- Martin Grbach (Assistant Principal)

[\[edit\]](#) Library

The high school [library](#) is part of a district-wide library department that includes libraries in each of the [elementary](#) and [middle schools](#) with a professional [librarian](#) assigned to each library. The high school library opened for use in March 1990, and offers 13,000 square feet of space.

There are three [computer](#) areas, two containing 30 computers each and one with 20 computers, designed for class instruction and for individual research. All computers have [Internet](#) access and [CD-ROM](#) capability. Workspace for [research](#) is available at each. In addition, there are tables for individual and small groups to study, as well as a leisure area for reading. Shelving areas house the print collection of books, magazines, and newspapers.

The district's professional education [library](#) is maintained in an area adjacent to the main entrance. A conference area is available for teachers, parents, and staff. The periodical and audiovisual room contains back issues of [magazines](#) and [audiovisual](#) materials and equipment.

An electronic security system is installed at the library exit. All materials must be passed to the attendant before exiting the gate.

[\[edit\]](#) Services

The high school library maintains a [Web page](#) that is used as a base for all Internet research. Students can use the online [library catalog](#) from school or home to access the bibliographic information on all the books and audiovisual materials available in the library, as well as Web Path Express to access safe and educationally sound websites. As a member of the ACCESS PENNSYLVANIA statewide database, the library also provides students with access to over 18,000,000 books from over 600 school, public, and [college](#) libraries by way of [interlibrary loan](#).

The library is an information center. Each of the 80 computers in the main room has access to the Internet and to CD-ROM products. Among the databases available to students on the Internet are the ACCESS POWER databases, which include a full-text periodical [database](#), an online [encyclopedia](#), and a [photo](#) database. The library also subscribes to additional online databases for students to access reliable information. Each of the computers has access to [Microsoft Office](#), the school's standard productivity software.

In order to take full advantage of the electronic and online databases available to students, it is important that students have parental permission to use the Internet. Internet Permission Slips, along with the school district's [Acceptable Use Policy](#), are sent home with ninth grade students. These completed forms, which must indicate if parents allow or do not allow their children to use the Internet, must be returned promptly to the schools. No student may use the Internet without a parental permission slip on file. While parents may have some trepidation about allowing their children to use the Internet, please consider the benefit of the vast amount of information it allows students to use. Further, the Hempfield Area School District's Acceptable Use Policy, adopted by the Board of School Directors, provides that Internet access includes an [Internet filtering](#) service.

Each student is issued a library card and is responsible for all materials checked out on that card. When a student loses his/her library card or damage is so severe that the [barcode](#) cannot be used, a \$3.00 replacement charge is assessed. It is the student's responsibility to notify the library if his/her library card has been lost or stolen.

Although [fines](#) are not charged for overdue books, report cards are held each quarter for students with library obligations. Students are responsible for payment for lost or damaged library books. The charge is for the current replacement cost of the book, plus any charges for processing, shipping and handling. If the book is subsequently found within the [school year](#), reimbursement will be made.

When a student removes and/or damages any part of the security system detection tag from a book, \$5.00 per occurrence will be charged. If the damage to the book results in the book needing to be replaced, the student will be assessed the replacement cost plus shipping and handling. The library is open on school days from 7:15 AM - 2:50 PM. The library is also open during after school [tutoring](#) sessions. Students are encouraged to use the library during activity periods and study halls. Library passes are required from subject teachers or from the library staff each morning from 7:15 AM - 7:35 AM.

[\[edit\]](#) Technology at Hempfield

During the 1993-94 school year, [Hempfield Area School District](#) entered the first phase of a major technological advancement program. All [teachers](#) were given access to computers, which enabled them to receive [electronic mail](#); maintain [grades](#); do [word processing](#), [database](#) and [spreadsheet](#) tasks; and access student software.

[Computer labs](#) were upgraded and [networked](#) in the business and math departments. Computers were phased in to several other departments in individual classrooms or in labs, depending upon the needs of the department.

Since then the school has continued to upgrade and implement more and newer equipment. The district is now undergoing an ongoing, rotating upgrade of technology. All classrooms are now equipped with networked computers for teacher and student use so they can access data and software from anywhere in the building. The library provides Internet access to all students at the high school, while the Business Department teaches computer concepts and [Web Page construction](#). CADD classes are also offered to students.

[\[edit\]](#) Planetarium

The Hempfield Area School District's [planetarium](#) was added to the high school in 1965 to improve [aerospace education](#) throughout the [school district](#). Planetarium projectors include the Spitz Laboratory Model A3 Projector and various supplementary projectors such as the [meteor](#), [solar eclipse](#), [lunar eclipse](#), and [auroras](#) projection devices. It can show the [sky](#) visible from any location on the [earth](#). The planetarium supplements class work in [astronomy](#), [earth sciences](#), and [physics](#). Beyond the normal school day, the planetarium serves varied community groups including the [P.T.A.](#), [Boy Scouts](#), and non-public school students with programs of current interest and sky [dramas](#).

[\[edit\]](#) Sports programs

[\[edit\]](#) Football

The Hempfield Area [football](#) program consists of four different teams, according to [grade level](#): [varsity](#) (grades 9–12), [junior varsity](#) (grades 9–12), sophomore (10th grade only), and freshman (9th grade only). The varsity, junior varsity, and sophomore teams begin their season in August with football camp, which involves three practices per day. There is also a one-week session held every year to help team members get better acquainted and prepared. All home games are held at the Spartan Stadium. The ninth grade team starts practice prior to the beginning of the school year and competes in a seven-game schedule. Regular attendance is expected of all candidates. All essential equipment and transportation are provided to and from the games.

[\[edit\]](#) Head coaches

- Bill Abraham (1956-1971)
- Ralph Short (1972-1974)
- Joe Hamilton (1975)
- Rich Erdelyi (1976)
- Bill Abraham (1977-1982)
- Joe Naunchik (1983-1985)

- Gene Epley (1986-1990)
- Greg Perschetti (1991-1995)
- Casey Cavanaugh (1996-2000)
- Gary Dongilli (2001-2002)
- Bo Ruffner (2003-2004)
- [Greg Meisner](#) (2005-present)

[\[edit\]](#) 2006 schedule

Hempfield Area Spartan Football 2006 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result
Fri. Sept. 1	at Greensburg Salem	W 6-0
Fri. Sept. 8	Shaler Area	L 26-41
Fri. Sept. 15	at Erie Prep	L 6-13
Fri. Sept. 22	Kiski Area	L 21-44
Fri. Sept. 29	at Connellsville	W 20-13
Fri. Oct. 6	Penn-Trafford	L 7-34
Fri. Oct. 13	at Norwin	L 14-24
Fri. Oct. 20	Central Catholic	L 6-33
Fri. Oct. 27	at Latrobe	L 7-21
Fri. Nov. 3	Baldwin	W 23-20

[\[edit\]](#) 2007 schedule

Hempfield Area Spartan Football 2007 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result
Fri. Aug. 28	Greensburg Salem	W 27-14
Fri. Sept. 7	at Shaler Area	L 0-28
Fri. Sept. 14	Erie Prep	L 21-28
Fri. Sept. 21	at Kiski Area	L 21-22
Fri. Sept. 28	Connellsville	W 35-6
Fri. Oct. 5	at Penn-Trafford	L 23-30
Fri. Oct. 12	Norwin	L 10-17
Fri. Oct. 19	at Central Catholic	L 14-42
Fri. Oct. 26	Latrobe	W 18-6
Fri. Nov. 2 (WPIAL Playoffs)	at North Allegheny	L 7-35

[\[edit\]](#) Basketball

The Hempfield Area Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams participate each year as a member of the [Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League](#) within the [PIAA](#). The teams, both varsity and junior varsity, play approximately twenty-four games a year.

2006–2007 Boys' Varsity Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result	Notes
Fri. Dec. 1	GCC	W 65–46	Spartan Tip-Off (Home)
Sat. Dec. 2	GS	L 55–64	
Mon. Dec. 4	at Penn Hills	W 60–56	
Fri. Dec. 8	at Central Cambria	W 59–56	
Sat. Dec. 9	at Altoona	W 65–54	

2006–2007 Girls' Varsity Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result	Notes
Fri. Dec. 1	Shaler	L 47–53	Shaler Tip-Off Tournament at Shaler
Sat. Dec. 2	Thomas Jefferson	W 58–39	
Tue. Dec. 5	Penn Hills	L 45–48	
Sat. Dec. 9	Franklin Regional	W 54–39	WCCA Hoopfest

[\[edit\]](#) **Hempfield Area Band**

Hempfield is home to the Hempfield Area Spartan Marching Band. The band has between 180 and 300 members yearly. It has performed in Texas, Florida, Colorado, California, New York, Washington DC, Virginia, Kentucky, and many other places. The band has received invitations to perform in Australia, France, England, and China; the band was invited to perform in China for the 2008 Olympics and well as Rome to perform for the Pope in his New Year's parade. The HAHS Marching Band also marched in the 2005 [Tournament of Roses Parade](#) with director Dr. Roderick T. Booker, who retired in 2006. The band was also honored greatly when they were chosen as the featured band for the 2003 Burbank on Parade. Dr. Booker was also honored by being chosen as the grand marshal of this event in Burbank, California. The band was once again honored when they were selected as the official band in the Orange Blossom Parade in Riverside California. Dr. Booker was a teacher for 35 years in the Hempfield Area School District, and he served as the director of high school bands for 29 years.

Since 2006, the band has been under the direction of Brian A. Tychinski. He is assisted by assistant directors Michael Matteo and Nancy Flinner, majorette instructor Shana Murphy, and colorguard instructor Amanda Montell. The band was led in 2006 by drum majors Jared Gogets, Alex Petrunyak and Mary-Lynn Robosky.

Hempfield is also the home of the Hempfield High School Jazz Band. This group has performed in Kentucky, California, and all over Pennsylvania. The Hempfield Jazz Band also had the special opportunity to play for President [Bill Clinton](#) during his visit to [Greensburg, Pennsylvania](#).

[\[edit\]](#) External links

- [Official website](#) for Hempfield Area High School (<http://hempfieldarea.k12.pa.us/hs.asp>) & Spartan Rifle Club at Hempfield Area High School (<http://hempfieldarea.k12.pa.us/athAirRifle.asp>)

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HEMPFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOLS



ATHLETICS



BAND



LIBRARIES



ADMIN & BOARD



INFO



CALENDARS



you are here: [home](#) > [athletics](#)

SPARTAN RIFLE

ATHLETIC LINKS Baseball Basketball
Bowling Cross-Country Field Hockey Football
Golf Rifle Soccer Softball Swimming Tennis
Track Volleyball Wrestling
Club Sports



For the athletic calendar of events call 724-834-9000 and press 5 followed by 1 for confirmation of scheduled events.

Schedules: [Varsity](#)

Websites: none available

POPULAR LINKS Annual Reports Breakfast & Lunch Menus Bus Routes Central Westmoreland Career & Technology Center Directions to our Schools Employment Family Access Honor Roll Live Weather from High School No Child Left Behind Reports Student Registration School Closings and Delay Info. Safe School Help Line

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Hempfield Area School District 2004



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