

The Hill School
540-687-5897
www.thehillschool.org

December 18, 2025

ANNUAL GIVING CHALLENGE

If 90% of parents make a gift or pledge to the Annual Fund by **this** Friday, December 19, we will be rewarded with a \$30,000 challenge from a generous member of The Hill School community!

With 2 days left in the challenge, thank you to the 83% of parents who have supported Annual Giving!

**POWER OF
COMMUNITY**
THE HILL SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND



Click Here
to donate.

CLEAT DRIVE

THE 8TH GRADE IS COLLECTING NEW AND GENTLY USED SOCCER CLEATS—ANY SIZE, ANY BRAND, ANY STYLE. THE CLEATS WILL BE SENT TO OUR FRIENDS AT THE HOLISTIC HAITIAN ALLIANCE (HHA).

OVER THE YEARS HILL HAS SUPPORTED HHA BY SENDING ATHLETIC ITEMS. DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON WE HOPE TO CONTINUE HILL'S TRADITION OF GIVING BY PROVIDING THEM WITH THE EQUIPMENT THEY NEED TO PLAY THE GAME THEY LOVE.

LOOK FOR A BIN IN THE FRONT OFFICE. DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19.

BINGO FOR BOOKS

THE EIGHTH GRADE NEEDS
BOOK DONATIONS.

If you have any books you would like to donate please bring them to the eighth grade homeroom.

They would love early- and middle-grade books (for grades JK through 4). All books appreciated.

Winter break is the perfect time to curate your stack of books to donate for this fun event.

8TH GRADE HOT COCOA FUNDRAISER

\$1 for the works

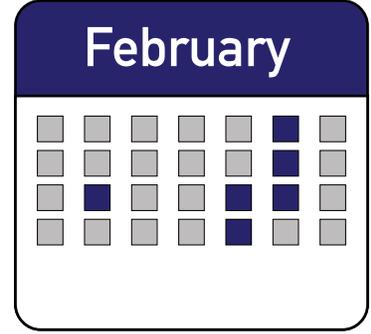
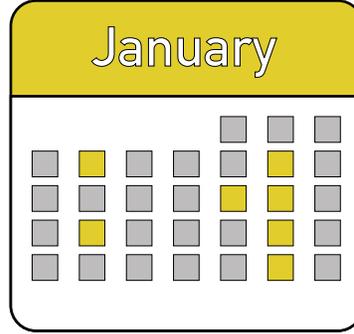
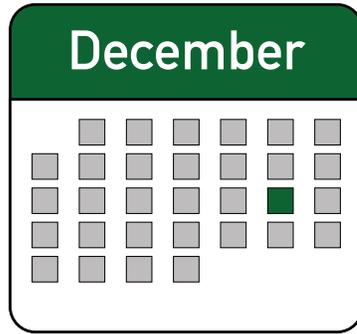
Thursday, January 15
Peard Lunchroom

*Monies raised will support the
Red Cross Foundation*



UPCOMING @ Hill

The [2026-2027 Academic Calendar](#) is now available on the Hill School website.



- 19** 4-7 Holiday Program
10:30 a.m., Theater
- 19** Winter Holiday Begins
Noon Dismissal
- 5** School Resumes
- 9** First Ski Friday
11:30 a.m. Dismissal
- 15** National Hat Day
- 16** Ski Friday
Noon Dismissal
- 19** Professional Development Day, No School
- 23** Ski Friday
Noon Dismissal
- 30** Ski Friday
Noon Dismissal
- 6** Ski Friday
Noon Dismissal
- 13** Mini Olympics
No School
- 16** Winter Holiday
No School
- 19** Student vs. Faculty Basketball
2 p.m., Gym

20 Student Talent Show

20 Bingo for Books
5 p.m., Lunchroom

26 [Head of School Coffee](#)
8:30 a.m., Alumni Room

26 [Community Book Read](#)
6 p.m., Theater

Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness is a research-informed guide to helping children build lasting joy, connection, and confidence—qualities that support lifelong well-being.

A longtime favorite in our Hill community, this inspiring book by Dr. Edward Hallowell has been chosen in honor of our Centennial Celebration. We look forward to using it as a springboard for meaningful conversations about how we, as parents, can nurture happiness and resilience in our children.

the childhood roots of adult happiness



"A pioneering contribution . . . Once again this extraordinary child psychiatrist has provided revealing new windows through which to observe and constructively shape developing minds."
—MEL LEVINE, M.D.
New York Times bestselling author of *A Mind at a Time*

five steps to help kids create and sustain lifelong joy

EDWARD M. HALLOWELL, M.D.

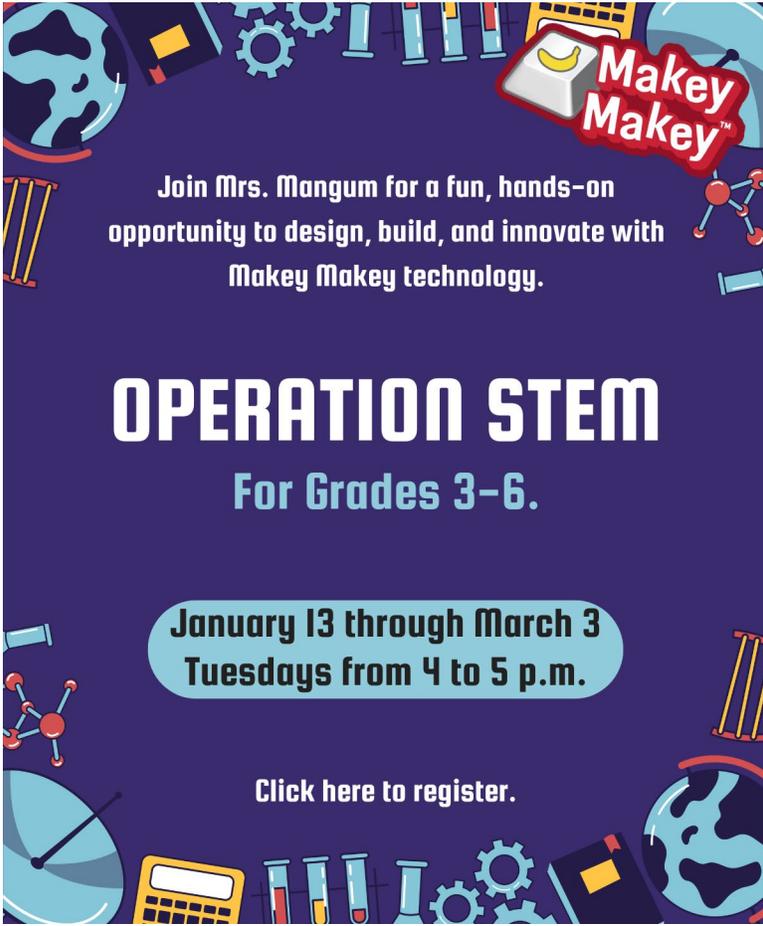
Bestselling coauthor of *Driven to Distraction*

COMMUNITY

BOOK READ

Thursday, February 26
6 PM | Theater

SPONSORED BY THE EDUCATION SCHOOL LIFE COMMITTEE



Join Mrs. Mangum for a fun, hands-on opportunity to design, build, and innovate with Makey Makey technology.

OPERATION STEM

For Grades 3-6.

January 13 through March 3
Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m.

[Click here to register.](#)

After School Programs



Irish Dancing. On Wednesdays. Kindergarten through Grade 8. Winter Session from January 7 through March 4. [Click here to register.](#)



Kyle's Karate. On Thursdays. Junior Kindergarten through Grade 5. Winter Session from January 8 through March 12. [Click here for more information.](#)



Operation STEM. On Tuesdays. Grades 3 through 6. Winter Session from January 13 through March 3. [Click here to register.](#)



Silver Knights Chess Academy. On Mondays. Kindergarten through Grade 8. From February 9 through May 18. [Click here for more information.](#)



The Coder School. On Thursdays. Kindergarten through Grade 2 at 3 p.m. Grades 3 through 5 at 4 p.m. Winter session from January 15 through March 5. Spring session from beginning April 2 through May 28. [Click here to register.](#)

JOIN MRS. HALLISSEY, AN AWARDED IRISH DANCE TEACHER AND PERFORMER FOR OVER 20+ YEARS FOR

Irish Dance Classes

WEDNESDAYS

4:15 - 5:00 PM

CLICK HERE



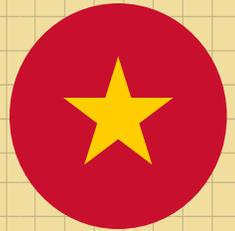
SESSION 1: JAN. 7 - MAR. 4

Hill School Dance Studio

All students, K-8th Grade welcome!

CULTURE STUDY: VIETNAM

In March The Hill School will take time to collectively study the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Do you or your family have intimate knowledge, history, or heritage linked to Vietnam that you would like to share with students at Hill? Please reach out to [Erin Coulter](#) to learn how you might contribute to this Hill tradition.



2026 Hill School Talent Show!

The 2026 Hill School Talent Show will be held on Friday, February 20, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Sheila C. Johnson Performing Arts Center. Applications should be submitted by Wednesday, February 4, using this [Google Form](#).

Anyone in the Hill Community can participate... students, parents, alumni, teachers, staff...but every act should include a current student.

All performances should be maximum 2 minutes in length, and should appeal to the entire Hill community (JK - Grade 8).

Dress rehearsal is Wednesday, February 18, from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

The PTC Needs You!



There are a number of ways to be involved at Hill. Grandparents are welcome to help, too!

- **Fresh Fruit Mondays.** Help the PTC share fresh fruit with Hill's faculty and staff each week. [Sign-up for Spring on ParentSquare.](#)
- **Ice Cream Wednesdays.** Through Wednesday, May 27. Wednesdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. [Sign-up for Spring on ParentSquare.](#)

Re-Enrollment for 2026-2027

For Full Tuition Families

January 23: 2026-2027 contracts will be populated in your Ravenna portal.

February 6: 2026-2027 contracts are due back to ensure spots are held.

For Financial Aid Families

Now: [Click here to begin](#) FAST (Financial Aid for School Tuition).

January 23: Deadline to apply for financial aid.

January/February: Financial aid contracts will be populated in your Ravenna portal.

Contracts are due two weeks after they are issued. Questions regarding re-enrollment? Contact [Kelly Johnson](#). Questions about financial aid or payment plans? Contact [Sarah Schroder](#).



THE HILL SCHOOL MEDIATION PROGRAM

A PRIVATE INTERVENTION AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO COMMUNICATE OR HAVING A CONFLICT WITH A PEER AND BELIEVE NAVIGATING A RESOLUTION WOULD BE BETTER ACHIEVED WITH THE HELP OF AN ADULT.

[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)

The Community Music School of the Piedmont

JOIN OUR Winter Sessions

Music Together

Upperville

- Trinity Episcopal Church
- Starts January 10th
- Saturdays at 10:30am
- 10-week session

Stephens City

- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Starts January 10th
- Saturdays at 9:00am
- 10-week session

Registration: \$15
Tuition & Materials: \$236

Register & Join Now!

540-592-3040 | piedmontmusic@aol.com | piedmontmusic.org

MIDDLEBURG MUSEUM INVITES YOU TO

19 DECEMBER
3:15PM-4:30PM

THE MIDDLEBURG MUSEUM

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORYTIME & CAROL SING-ALONG

BRING THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS TO LIFE WITH A COZY READING OF "T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS" FOLLOWED BY JOYFUL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CAROLS!

Coloring Competition

Submissions must be turned in to the Middleburg Police Department by noon on **22 DEC, 2025**

Entry Requirements:

- Open to Kindergarten-2nd grade only.
- Crayons, colored pencils, and markers only—no paint.
- Please write the following on the back of your coloring page:
 - Child's name
 - Parent/guardian's name
 - Age
 - Address
 - Phone number

How to Participate:

- Pick up your coloring page at the Middleburg Police Department or print the attached sheet.
- Grab your crayons, colored pencils, or markers and start coloring!
- By entering, you consent to your child's artwork (and possibly their name) being shared on the Middleburg Police Department's Facebook page.

MIDDLEBURG POLICE | VISIT MIDDLEBURG

The Loudoun Environmental Education Alliance, the GREENetwork, and LCPS present the 2026:

STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION SHOWCASE

Calling all Loudoun K-12 students, homeschoolers, scouts and student groups to enter!

Wednesday, April 29 2026
Hosted by the LCPS Academies of Loudoun
Ashburn, VA

TOTAL PRIZES OF MORE THAN \$3,000 WILL BE AWARDED
Cash Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
Elementary, Middle, and High School

Registration and details:
<https://www.loudounnature.org/seas>

Sponsored by: CMTA (A LEGENCE Company), Sustainability, KLB (Keep Loudoun Beautiful)

Scan Me

Dornin Lab

On December 12 the Eighth Grade participated in a Dornin Lab focusing on sensory awareness, ecological learning, and survival skills. Students began their afternoon with a walk from their homeroom to the woods by the Dornin Science Barn. On the way there they played *About Now*, an experiential activity that explored the group's perception of time and ability to work together as a team. First, the entire class attempted to cross an open area and arrive at a marked line in exactly sixty seconds. Then the class were told the times it took for the first and last student to reach the line, reflected on the spread of times, and worked together to narrow that range through repeated attempts.

The students then moved into the woods for *Bat and Moth*, a game that models bat echolocation and intuitive movement. A blindfolded student acted as the bat and another student without a blindfold was the bat's prey, a moth. Similar to *Macro Polo*, the blindfolded bat calls out "Bat!," and the moth responds "Moth!" The bat must rely on auditory cues and intuition to try and tag the moth.

After a few rounds of *Bat and Moth* the group gathered at a fire circle, where Hill parent Marcos Corona gave a demonstration of making a friction fire with a stick, explained the steps and components of fire building, and showed examples of fire building materials available in the surrounding forest. The afternoon culminated in a *Striker Fire Challenge*, where students were given an imaginary scenario where they needed to make a fire quickly to save Mr. Barreda from hypothermia. Students were then sent into the woods in small groups to gather materials and build a fire. Each group was given a flint and striker as their only ignition source. Groups identified and tested tinder, kindling, and fuel while problem-solving around cooperation, patience, and technique. The program concluded with hot cocoa in the Dornin Science Barn and a walk back to homeroom, providing a warm and reflective close to the day.

