

What's New? Week of January 7, 2008

Important Dates

January 8 - Question and Answer Session about V-Soft Visitor Entry System, Shades Mountain Elementary School

January 10 - HPTC Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Central Office

January 14 - Combined Work Session and Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Central Office

January 14 - Teen Safety Forum, 7:00 p.m.,
Hoover High School Theater

[Click to view the Hoover City Schools' District Calendar for January](#)

Draft Calendar for 2008-2009 School Year Now Available

- posted 01/04/08

The Draft Calendar has been posted on the official Hoover City Schools web site. Jason Gaston, Communications Director for Hoover City Schools, is gathering community input. Please e-mail him at JGaston@hoover.k12.al.us, or contact your school's principal.

Important Dates:

Start date for students: August 7, 2008

Full week off at Thanksgiving: November 24 through 28, 2008

Winter Break: December 22 through January 5, 2009

Last date for students: May 21, 2009

Remember, this is a draft calendar. The Board of Education will consider a calendar at their February meeting.

V-Soft Visitor Entry System Goes Live January 4 - posted 01/04/08

On Friday, January 4th, 2008, The *V-Soft* visitor entry system – which is currently in the training phase in all Hoover City Schools – goes live. This system requires any visitor or parent entering a Hoover City School building to have his or her driver's license, or other government issued identification, scanned upon entry.

The benefits are enormous:

- DOCUMENTS ALL VISITORS TO SCHOOLS
- CHECKS THE NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER DATABASE

- PROVIDES INSTANT NOTIFICATION OF PEOPLE POSING A THREAT TO OUR STUDENTS
- PROVIDES A PERSONALIZED VISITOR ID BADGE
- HELPS TO TRACK VOLUNTEER HOURS

The system DOES NOT have the ability to search personal information such as criminal histories or driving records.

V-Soft is proven technology already in use by schools nationwide. The concern for safety creates a significant challenge for school leaders. *V-Soft* helps Hoover City Schools with that challenge and we're excited to add it as a student protection measure. **On January 8th at 6:30pm there will be a Q&A session regarding the *V-Soft* system at Shades Mountain Elementary School.** Please plan to attend if you have questions, concerns or just want to learn more about the system.

Click the link to see more on Raptor: <http://www.raptorware.com/>

Teen Driving Forum Set for January 14 - *posted 01/04/08*

Alabama State Representative Paul DeMarco and the Hoover High School PTSO are co-sponsoring a Teen Driving Safety Forum. Set for January 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hoover High Theatre, the forum will give local parents the chance to hear about and discuss upcoming legislation that may come before lawmakers regarding teen driving safety.

Panelists will include Director of Alabama's Department of Public Safety, Col. Chris Murphy, Hoover Police Chief Nick Derzis and Alabama State Representative Jim McClendon – who serves as Chair of the State Safety Coordinating Committee. The panel of experts will discuss current trends in teen driving problems, statistics behind those problems and possible solutions which could change teen driving habits.

“The recent tragedies in our community unfortunately remind us all of the importance of addressing teen driving legislation in the upcoming session,” Rep. DeMarco said.

According to statistics, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among U.S. teens. Alabama ranks ninth nationwide in the number of young people killed in wrecks.

“This discussion will give us an opportunity to hear what both parents and teens think about the potential legislation that could possibly reduce these accidents,” DeMarco said.

The January 14th forum is open to all Hoover employees, students, and interested members of the community.

Board-Approved Expenditures Analysis Report - *posted 01/04/08*

Click the link to view the HSCIN's analysis of expenditures approved by the current 5-person Board of Education. These expenditures have been categorized into one of ten categories: Personnel (other than payroll), Academics, Athletics, Fine Arts, Special Education, School Buildings Buses and Maintenance, Technology, Professional Development, English Language Learners, and a Miscellaneous Category with explanation. Cash Disbursements and payroll amounts are included as well.

Recognizing that not all expenditures are brought before the Board for their approval, we believe it is important to note those that have been approved by this Board. We will update this report as needed.

Mayor Petelos to Discuss State of the City - *posted 01/04/08*

Hoover Mayor Tony Petelos will discuss the state of the city at addresses at the following locations:

Jan. 14 - Friends of Hoover meeting, 11 a.m., Piccadilly Cafeteria, 1851 Montgomery Highway.

Jan. 17 - Hoover Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon, noon, Hoover Country Club, 3140 Club Drive, Cost: \$15, reservations required.

Jan. 22 - Hoover New Horizons senior citizens group, 11 a.m., Hoover Senior Center, 400 Municipal Drive.

Feb. 14 - Hoover Service Club, 10 a.m., Hoover Country Club.

[Mayor Petelos to Talk About City's Retail Future in Addresses - January 2, The Birmingham News](#)

[Hoover City Schools News](#)

News Articles and Newsletters

Hoover News

[Hope Abounds at Hoover High Despite Loss of Propst, Football Championship - January 3, The Birmingham News](#)

[Football Fallout Tops Hoover News of 2007 - January 3, The Birmingham News](#)

[Spain Park High to Hold Fine Arts Fundraiser - January 2, The Birmingham News](#)

[Mayor Petelos to Talk About City's Retail Future in Addresses - January 2, The Birmingham News](#)

[Spain Park High Students Look Forward to Beauty Walk - January 2, The Birmingham News](#)

[High School Classes Focus on Guiding Students to Careers - January 1, The Birmingham News](#)