

# Hamden Middle School

## The Dragon's Tale: Principal Coogan's Weekly Update



## Hamden Middle School Family Newsletter Monday, November 9, 2020

### HMS CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>9 A</b> Group 1 (A-K)	<b>10 B</b> Group 1 (A-K)	<b>11 A</b> Group 2 (L-Z)	<b>12 B</b> Group 2 (L-Z)	<b>13 A</b> Group 1 (A-K)
<b>16 B</b> Group 1 (A-K)	<b>17 A</b> Group 1 (A-K)	<b>18 B</b> Group 2 (L-Z)	<b>19 A</b> Group 2 (L-Z) <b>1ST MARKING PERIOD ENDS!</b>	<b>20 B</b> Group 2 (L-Z)
<b>23 A</b> Group 1 (A-K)	<b>24 B</b> Group 1 (A-K)	<b>25</b> NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK	<b>26</b> NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK	<b>27</b> NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK

### NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Hamden Middle School is proud to offer students an opportunity to be a part of the distinguished National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). In previous years, students who participated in NJHS completed special community service activities, as well as a mentorship program with an elementary school in Hamden. Ms. DeLucia and Ms. LaVallee are the faculty advisors of this club, and they are looking forward to continuing the program during the 2020-2021 academic year. Many students strive to be selected for NJHS. In order to be eligible for membership, you must earn all A's in marking periods 1 and 2. During marking period 3, students will be invited to complete an application outlining their involvement in community service, as well as extracurricular activities. Finally, students will go through an interview process to determine membership.

### HPS SUPERINTENDENT STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Superintendent Goeler provides teachers with a special opportunity to recognize outstanding students within our schools. Cameron Edwards (Gr. 8) and Kendra Shubert (Gr. 7) received the HPS Superintendent Student of the Month Award in October. Their teachers shared examples

about their positive attitudes, as well as their kind and caring dispositions. Congratulations to Camron, Kendra, and their families!



**CAMERON EDWARDS**  
Grade 8, House 1, Ms. Kimbell  
HMS Superintendent Student of the Month Recipient  
October 2020

Since returning to school, Cam has done incredibly well adjusting and adapting to all of the changes. He arrives excited and ready to learn each day. He is a role model for the Dragon Pride expectations. He always knows how to make those around him smile. We are so proud of Cam; he is a great student!



**KENDRA SHUBERT**  
Grade 7, House 2, Team Tremper  
HMS Superintendent Student of the Month Recipient  
October 2020

Kendra Shubert is a delightful young lady who brightens the room (and the zoom) with her smile and eagerness to learn. In a few short weeks, Kendra has proven herself to be a model student; she is kind and hardworking. She has a sincere positive mindset. Kendra especially shines in her favorite subject, science. Outside of school Kendra is a dedicated dancer, honing her craft in contemporary, hip-hop, tap, and ballet style dance. Keep up the awesome work, Kendra!

## STUDENT SHOUT OUTS!

Parents, thank you for sharing your children with us. They inspire and motivate us to be better teachers. We are in awe of the dedication and commitment to learn, in spite of the current challenges. Throughout the year, our teachers will recognize students who are exceeding expectations. Our HMS Students of the Month will be celebrated by their teachers and teams, and we will publish "shout outs" in the school newsletter. Congratulations to the October 2020 HMS Students of the Month!

### Hamden Middle School Student Recognitions October 2020

#### Seventh Grade \* House 2 \* Team Tremper

**Kim Eustaquio:** Team Tremper is very excited to select Kim as one of our students of the month for October. Kim is a hardworking, polite, and responsible student who strives to do her best in school each day. She brightens every Zoom class!

**Jack Hannigan:** Team Tremper is very excited to select Jack as one of our students of the month for October. Jack is a conscientious, thoughtful, and enthusiastic student who is always ready to participate in class. Way to go, Jack!

**Ania Taylor:** Team Tremper is very excited to select Ania as one of our students of the month for October. We are very proud of and impressed with Ania and how well she has started off in 7th grade. Keep up the good work!

### **Seventh Grade \* House 3 \* Team Kidder Blake**

**Nesreen Hnini:** Nesreen is an enthusiastic class participant both in school and on-line. She consistently works hard and is always positive!

**Alexander Medina:** Alexander is an insightful and diligent student. He is an excellent class participant and a hard worker!

**Linnea Post:** Linnea is a hard-working student who always puts forth her best effort. She is always polite and upbeat!

### **Seventh Grade \* House 4 \* Team Stanton**

**Sophia Harvey:** Sophia has been diligently working in all her classes and has been participating both in person and while distance learning. Keep up the great work, Sophia. Team Stanton is proud to have you on our team!

**Solahni Lazaro:** Solahni is new to our school but fits in like she's been here the whole time. Solahni has been an excellent student at HMS and attending from home. Keep up the great work Solahni! Team Stanton is proud to have you on our team!

**Joseph Vigliotti:** Joe has been working extremely hard as a distance learner. He has been signing into all of his Zoom meetings and participating in class discussions. It is paying off immensely. Keep up the great work, Joe. Team Stanton is proud to have you on our team!

### **Seventh Grade \* House 5 \* Team Walton**

**Imane Saanon:** Imane participates well in class and always tries her very best. She is organized and leads by example. Imane receives the gold medal from Team Walton.

**Alberto Torres:** Alberto participates well in class and is eager to learn. His love of learning is contagious. Each day, Alberto is prepared and ready for success: his camera is always on, and he asks great questions. He is an awesome addition to Team Walton.

**Steven Torres:** Steven is punctual, and we admire this quality. He actively participates well during class. Steven is eager to learn, and his positive attitude is a valued trait. He is a pleasure to have in class.

**Erika Zarate:** Erika is a curious learner who is an asset to the team. She is organized and participates well in class lessons. She is a confident individual who empowers others to make good choices. We are confident Erika will continue to lead the school into greatness.

### **Eighth Grade \* House 1 \* Team Morello**

**D'Andra Boyden:** D'Andra is a pleasure to have in class. She always participates, whether in school or doing Distance Learning. D'Andra's efforts always go "above and beyond," exceeding the requirements. She is always kind and friendly. Keep it up, D'Andra!

**Josie Matthews:** Josie is friendly, outgoing, and a hard worker. She loves to participate in class and is respectful of everyone's opinions. Josie has a bright and cheerful personality that is a welcome addition to this very "different" school year. Thank you for bringing your positivity to HMS!

**Christopher Pavana:** Christopher is very driven and motivated to succeed. In addition to completing all of his regular assignments, Chris also completes any extra credit work that is offered. Chris is great at advocating for himself. Because he is such a responsible student, we know he will continue to be successful in his distance learning.

### **Eighth Grade \* House 2 \* Team Rocco**

**Lena Harms:** Lena is a conscientious student who does her work with precision and accuracy. Lena advocates for herself and seeks clarity to complete her assignments. In groups, she is a team player, and strives for excellence.

**Olivia Lancor:** Olivia is a leader throughout all of her classes on Team Rocco. She consistently goes above and beyond on daily assignments. We can always count on Olivia to enhance class discussion with her insightful comments.

**Daniela Viera Estades:** Daniela is a studious student who is always on task. When Daniela is unsure about a topic, she advocates for herself by asking for clarity about an assignment. Daniela takes pride in the quality of her work based on her detailed responses.

### **Eighth Grade \* House 3 \* Team Evans**

**Shayna Bailis:** Shayna is a hard worker who shows daily engagement in all of her classes.

**Avier London:** Avier shows up ready to learn every day. He participates and engages in class via Zoom.

**Gavin Pepe:** Gavin advocates for himself. He makes an effort to complete all assignments, even when they are difficult.

### **Eighth Grade \* House 4 \* Team Domurad**

**Carter Abramson:** Carter is a positive role model for his classmates. He is invested in his own learning, listens attentively, and consistently completes work. Carter is an energetic worker who brings a brightness to our team. His work ethic is contagious and helps to support and encourage those around him. Thank you for being a wonderful student and an even better

person!

**Maia Boga:** Maia is a consistent, positive participant in our classes. Her positive outlook is contagious. Even through adversity, she is organized, punctual, and continues to thrive. Thank you for your kind messages of support. Continue being positive!

**Rachel Shrader:** Rachel is a kind hearted and exemplary student. She is always willing to participate and works diligently to complete her work. Rachel cares for her classmates and teachers alike. She has been making the best of our hybrid model and has persevered.

### Encore Team - Physical Education

**Leslie Aguilar:** We are proud to nominate Leslie as our student of the month. She is very friendly and ensures that all of her peers are included during activities. She is always prepared for learning and makes the best of every situation. Thanks for being great, Leslie!

**Aryan Singla:** We are proud to nominate Aryan as our student of the month. Aryan is always prepared for and engaged in lessons. He demonstrates great leadership qualities, a genuine kindness for others, and assists in creating a positive learning environment. We appreciate you, Aryan!

**Alberto Torres:** We are proud to nominate Alberto as our student of the month. Alberto is not letting distance learning slow him down! He completes all assignments and always adds extra exercises. His physical fitness is clearly a priority in his life. Keep it up, Alberto!

### REMINDER: PICTURE DAY - SAY CHEESE!

We are hosting two Picture Days at HMS this week. All of our students will be invited to get their picture taken at school. Remember, portraits are used in the annual school yearbook. We hope to include everyone at HMS in this special publication.

During the designated school days, students in Hybrid Group 1 and Hybrid Group 2 will have their picture taken in the auditorium. Our schedule and plan will reflect our safety protocols. Students will be social distancing from each other, and they will only be allowed to remove their mask when taking their picture.

Our Distance Learners are invited to also have their picture taken in the afternoon between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Families will come on their assigned day based on their last name. Parents of Distance Learners will be asked to schedule an appointment to have their child's picture taken on Thursday.

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

### **Monday, November 9, 2020**

Hybrid Group 1 Picture Day (During School)

Distance Learners with the Last Name Starting with A-K. (After School Hours)

Register for November 9th After School Hours

*\*It was a great Picture Day. Thank you for your support!\**

### **Thursday, November 12, 2020**

Hybrid Group 2 Picture Day (During School)

Distance Learners with the Last Name Starting with L-Z. (After School Hours)

[Register for November 12th After School Hours](#)

*\*Any Distance Learning Students will be welcomed on Thursday!\**

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## **MENTAL HEALTH CORNER: PET THERAPY**

*By: Glenn Xavier, HMS Social Worker*



About a month ago my family and I were in search of a family pet. We wanted to rescue a dog from a kennel and provide him with love and a forever home. The process for adopting a dog is not as easy as I thought. Especially, during this pandemic, where a number of families are looking for that canine companion. One of the questions asked in the application process was "Why do you want a dog?" I thought this question was ridiculous, but then I stopped and realized that there are many reasons, beyond mine, why individuals seek pets.

Pets provide much more than companionship and entertainment. Owning an animal enhances human well-being and the quality of life. Health care, social services, psychology, education and other related fields have witnessed great benefits to pet therapy. One study found that patients diagnosed with a range of issues, such as depression, bipolar disorder, autism, ADHD, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and even Alzheimer's disease have benefited from the interaction of therapy pets. Whether it is a cat, dog, rat, or fish, finding that pet that brings you joy, can bring you life balance and happiness!

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## **DRESS FOR SUCCESS**

Student Tip: Students are reminded to dress for success by wearing layers of clothing to school. In a large building, we often discover that some classrooms are warm while others are cooler. In addition, we will continue to go outdoors for mask breaks and physical education classes. We want our students to be comfortable in all learning environments. So, dress for success by wearing layers!

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## **POWERSCHOOL**

### **How to Set up Powerschool Email Notifications**

The Parent Portal provides real time access for families to their child's grades. PowerSchool also offers parents the opportunity to have daily, weekly, bi-weekly and monthly emails sent to their email accounts. Please remember that teachers are required to update their grades every two weeks.

#### **To set up Email Notifications in Powerschool:**

1. Log into **Powerschool** (<https://hamden.powerschool.com/public/home.html>).
2. On the left-side navigation bar, click on **Email Notification**.
3. Select the information you would like sent to you, and how often.
  - If you have other email addresses that you would like this information sent to, enter it in the **Additional Email Addresses** field.
  - If you have more than one child attending Hamden MS, check mark the option to **Apply these settings to all your students**.
  - If you would like Powerschool to send you an email right away, check mark the option to **Send now**.
4. When you are finished click on **Submit**.

Questions? Please contact Stephanie Bezerra at [sbezerra@hamden.org](mailto:sbezerra@hamden.org).

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