

## Moments at the Middle School

*From Dr. Lux and Mr. Rice*

*August 19, 2022*

Dear HMS Families,

We are excited to welcome our students to HMS very soon! Our teachers are eager to return to school on Monday, August 22nd. We are all very excited and cannot wait for our hallways to be filled with students. We have a really fun *First Day Program* planned for our students! Our teachers plan to take some time to lead getting-to-know-you and team building activities.

### **First Day of School Program**

Each year, we work very hard to secure an inspirational speaker, someone who will set the tone for our students and staff. This year, we are very excited to welcome Coach Dave Gray to lead team-building exercises with our interdisciplinary teams on Fridley Field. *We ask the students wear appropriate attire for the teambuilding activities on the first day of school, preferably sneakers and t-shirts/shorts.* Coach Dave will also wrap up our school day with an inspirational message centered around empathy and the importance of teamwork. We thank our HMS PTO and Student Council for making this assembly possible. We will definitely share more details after our first day of school.

### **Communication**

Frequent communication is very important to us. Each week, we send out a *Weekly Principal Email!* If you have not done so already, please access the link below to add your email address to the Principal Weekly Email. <https://forms.gle/BkD77mfpUks4QQVp9>  
These communications will also be posted to our district website on Friday mornings!

### **Student Devices**

Sixth grade students and new students will receive a new computer on the first day of school in Homeroom. We ask that they take the device home with them the evening of August 25<sup>th</sup> to finish the setup of the device, since it may take over an hour to complete the set-up process. All other students should bring a fully-charged device on the first day of school.

### **HMS Building Times**

*The HMS Building opens each day at 7:25 am. Students should arrive at school by 7:45 am.  
The official Homeroom period begins at 7:50 am.*

Our HMS staff will be here to greet our students each day starting at 7:25 am. Buses drop off in the front of the building between 7:25 and 7:45 am. When our students arrive at school, they should report directly to their Homeroom. Breakfast will be available each morning to students who wish to eat at school between 7:25 and 7:45 am each morning. Students should check into Homeroom first before going to the cafeteria to eat breakfast.

### **Car Riders: Drop-off & Pick-up Information**

If you drive your child to school, please drop off in the back of the building -- the cafeteria entrance, door #11. HMS Staff will be outside to greet the students! Please do not drop off before 7:25 am, since our doors will still be locked and our staff will not be in place. There are 8 drop-off spots in the back of our building; please be sure to pull your vehicle ahead to first open empty drop-off spot.

At the end of the school day, all of our buses will arrive at the HMS campus first for dismissal. Thus, our campus will be closed to parent cars between 2:30 and 2:45 pm. At 2:45 pm, parents may enter our campus to pick up their child in the back of the building -- the cafeteria entrance, door #11. ***Please write your child's name on a piece of paper to hold up in your window. We used this practice last year, and it helped us to keep the line of cars moving!***

## **FAQs**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- When is my child's first day of school?
  - [Thursday, August 25th](#)
- What time does the HMS building open each day?
  - [The HMS building opens at 7:25 am each day.](#)
- When my student enters the HMS building, where should he or she go first?
  - [Students will stop at their locker first and then head directly to their Homeroom/Advisory Classroom. If your child eats breakfast at school, he or she should report to the cafeteria for breakfast.](#)
- If I drive my student to school, where do I drop off?
  - [Student drop-off happens in the back of our building, our cafeteria entrance \(door #11\). We will have staff members positioned outside to welcome our students and ensure student safety. Please do not get out of your vehicle. You may pull up to the cafeteria entrance door and your student can hop out of the vehicle. There is a traffic circle in the back of the building which will allow you to easily exit the HMS campus.](#)
- If I pick my student up at the end of the day, where do I pick up?
  - [Student pick-up also happens in the back of our building, our cafeteria entrance \(door #11\). Please enter the HMS Campus starting at 2:45 pm, once our buses leave. We will have staff members positioned outside to assist with this process. Our "car rider" dismissal begins at 2:45 pm.](#)
- When should my child be at HMS for the beginning of the school day?
  - [All students should be in the HMS building by \*\*7:45 am\*\*. Homeroom announcements start promptly at 7:50 am. Students need those five minutes to stop at their locker and head to their homeroom/advisory classroom. If your child happens to arrive late to school, he or she should check into the main office at the front of the school.](#)

### **INSTRUCTION & STUDENT CLUBS**

- How will teachers communicate the daily instructional plan with students and parents?

- Teachers will post the daily “Learning Plan” for both students and parents to view. The Learning Plan will include the day’s learning objectives, activities/assignments, due dates, and homework. This Learning Plan will also be accessible to parents on our website under “Homework Hotlinks.” Please go to [www.ht-sd.org](http://www.ht-sd.org) → Schools → Hampton Middle School → About → Homework Hotlinks.
- Do students change for physical education class?
  - Yes! Students will change clothes in the locker room for physical education class. This occurs every other day, either on A-day or B-day. The A/B days are noted in the Student Agenda book that he or she will receive the first day of school. Also, students will go outside for physical education class as much as possible. Your child’s physical education teacher will relay additional details the first PE class.
- How can my child get involved at school?
  - We offer an array of school clubs, including but not limited to: Art Club, Cooking Club, Creative Writing Club, Yearbook, Student Council, Newspaper, Stock Market Club, Mock Trial, Fitness Club, Drama Club, French Club, Spanish Club, Mandarin Club, German Club, Musical, Green Team, Gardening Club, Helping Hands Club, etc. Students are able to join as many school clubs as they are interested in and you allow. Club meeting dates/times are announced each morning on the announcements (Talbot TV) and will also be emailed out in the Principal Email this year. ***Most clubs take place after school from 2:45 to 3:45 pm.***
- Are any of the HMS Studios open in the mornings?
  - Yes! The Robotics Studio, Print Studio, and Maker Studio are all open each morning from 7:25 to 7:50 am. Students who take advantage of morning enrichment should check in first with their Homeroom teacher and then report back to Homeroom by 7:50 am.

## LUNCH

- What does lunch look like at HMS?
  - We make every effort to ensure our students are happy and with a friend or two during their 35-minute lunch period. The principals and school counselors will be in the lunch room the first week of school to ensure our students find a friend to sit with and are eating their lunches. After about one week of school, we will ask the students to remain at their lunch table for the remainder of the 1st nine weeks. Each 9 weeks, our students will be able to choose new seats.
- What if my child has a concern with who they are sitting with at lunch?
  - We are here to help! We encourage the students to go to the counseling center if they want to change their seat at lunch or if they are experiencing any problems. We can make a seat change for a student at any time, with principal/counselor approval.

## DRESS CODE

- What is the dress code at HMS?

- Our School Board approved the dress code for HMS and HHS this past spring. The dress code is included in our Student Handbook / Code of Conduct. Every student will take this home on the first day of school for parents to review. Student clothing should be appropriate for the learning environment.
  - Clothing must be free from obscene or socially inappropriate language or slogans.
  - Wallet chains, safety pins, and sharp objects are prohibited.
  - Shorts and skirts should be mid-length length. Please know if your child is very tall, we will be reasonable with this aspect of the dress code.
  - Tops should be appropriate for school: bare midriffs, see-through garments, halter tops, etc are unacceptable.
  - Hats, hoods, and bandanas are not allowed in the building during school hours.
  - No sunglasses are to be worn in the building.
  - Costumes, pajamas, robes, and blankets are prohibited.

#### **CELL PHONES & PERSONAL ELECTRONICS**

- Are middle school students allowed to use personal cell phones during the school day?
  - No. Personal cell phones should be POWERED OFF before entering the school building. Students should keep their phones in their school lockers. If a student would rather carry their phone, he or she should place the phone in a bin at the front of the teacher's room. Cell phones have proven to be a large educational distraction, and we are attempting to limit that distraction this year! We appreciate your help with this!
- What if my child needs to get in touch with me?
  - There is a phone in the main office that our students are always welcome to use to call a parent. Also, if a student feels sick at any point during the school day, he or she should go to our nurse's office. Our school nurse, Mrs. Baxter, will reach out to the student's parents following the nurse office visit.
- Can my child listen to music during the school day?
  - Our students may listen to their personal music on the school bus or after school. However, during instruction and also during homeroom, headphones, AirPods, and earbuds should not be worn without the expressed permission of the classroom teacher.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

- Will there be assigned seats on the school bus?
  - Yes! We are actually working on assigned seating now. We seat 6th grade students in the front of the bus, 7th in the middle, and 8th grade students in the back of the bus. For developmental reasons, we keep our students separated by grade level. If you would like your siblings to sit together, please email Mrs. Barry at [barry@ht-sd.org](mailto:barry@ht-sd.org).
- Are there cameras on the school buses?

- Yes! We have cameras on the school buses. Principals can review student behavior by requesting the video from the bus company.