



Principal Michelle Coogan

Week of August 28 - September 1, 2023

**KICK OFF TO THE 2023-24
ACADEMIC YEAR**

On Monday, August 28, we will open our doors at 7:45 a.m. to greet our middle school students. Teachers have prepared for this important day, and they are eager to start the year. We are confident it is going to be an amazing year for our community.

Communication is essential, and I am counting on families to help me effectively share information. Our weekly newsletter will be emailed home at the start of every week. I will always post calendar updates. Parents will also find a variety of articles featuring school news and reminders. We love to celebrate our students, too. This week's newsletter will focus on school operations.

In addition, we strongly encourage families to follow us on social media, including Facebook (Hamden Middle School), Instagram (hms_dragons), and X/Twitter (@HMSDragons). It is an efficient way to stay connected to all things HMS!

We are happy to welcome our students back to school.



-Mr. Ortiz (Gr. 7), Ms. Coogan, Ms. Coffey (Gr. 8)

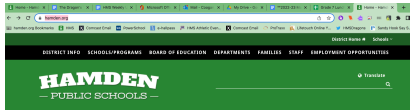


**SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY
Friday, September 1, 2023
There's a Hero in All of Us!**

Students are invited to wear their favorite Superhero T-Shirt. We might see some t-shirts representing Avengers, Batman, Guardians of the Galaxy, Star Wars, Superman, Wonder Woman, and X-Men. Some students may choose to wear a t-shirt representing someone they see as a hero in our world. We cannot wait to see the variety of "superheroes" represented at HMS on Friday.

STUDENT SCHEDULES

Students will receive their individual schedule on the first day of school. Teachers will review schedules, and they help students navigate the building to find their classes.



PARENT PORTAL

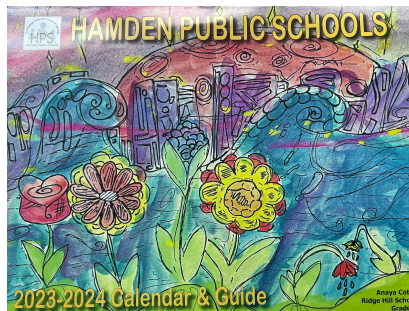
Our **Parent Portal** is open for families. It is a tool that allows parents and students to monitor grades, assignments, and attendance. Please visit the [HPS website](#). Click on **Families**. Click on **Parent Portal**. Click on **Register for the Parent Portal**. You will need a current email address. When you register, you will also have access to your child's schedule. Parents can also download the PowerSchool App. The HPS district code is GJZC.

Questions: Please contact Ms. Stephanie Bezerra, our PowerSchool clerk. sbezerra@hamden.org

HMS CALENDAR

Parents and students can access calendar information on the HMS School Website. In addition, we will send home the HPS 2023-24

Calendar with your children on Tuesday afternoon. Please check their backpacks! We highly recommend hanging this calendar in a prominent place in your home.



Our Week in Review

Monday, August 28, 2023 (A1)
First Day of School
Tuesday, August 29, 2023 (B1)
Wednesday, August 30, 2023 (A2)
Thursday, August 31, 2023 (B2)
Friday, September 1, 2023 (A3)
School Spirit Day: Wear Your Favorite SuperHero T-Shirt
Monday, September 4, 2023
No School * Labor Day

FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION

On Tuesday, all students will receive a print out of their PowerSchool information, including parent names and contact information. It also lists the "Emergency Contact" people. Parents should ask to see this form on Tuesday night. It is important that every family reviews this information and sends corrections, as needed. We rely on cell phone numbers and email addresses. Help us stay connected with you!



FIRST STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION

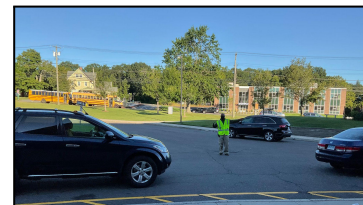
The bus routes are posted on the [Hamden Public School's website](#). Over 20 school buses transport our middle school students to HMS. Stop times are approximate; therefore, students should be at the stop 10 minutes before the posted times to avoid missing the bus. We strongly encourage you to have your child present at the stop early during the first week of school.

Students who ride buses home will be dismissed in the order buses arrive starting at 2:34 p.m.

We remind our students to be kind to their drivers, and we will review school expectations in the first weeks of school.

Next week, we will share school links and codes that can be used by families to participate in the First View bus tracking app. This allows families to know the location of their child's bus as it travels to and from school.

Parents who have concerns or questions about their child's bus stop must contact First Student at (203) 288-2887.



DROPPING OFF YOUR CHILD? PICKING UP YOUR CHILD? READ ON!

Many families choose to drive their children to school each day. We do our very best to ensure a safe morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Please follow the routine and listen to staff directions. We ask parents to remain in a single lane around the bus loop. It is the best way to ensure student safety. Always pull up as far as you can go. Do not stop until you reach the stop sign. Students can be dropped off in front of the school. More parent cars in our lot equals less on Dixwell Avenue!

Here are some tips that might improve your experience:

1. Members of the faculty and staff will report outside at 7:45 a.m. Students can exit their parent's car and stand under the portico until doors open.
2. Our dismissal begins at 2:34 p.m. This week, we will dismiss our students a little earlier. While this extra time seems to help, we cannot permanently follow this plan as it reduces instructional time during block 7.
3. If your child exits the car on Dixwell Avenue, please be sure they are leaving the car on the right hand side of the vehicle. Then, the child can

walk down the grass and onto the sidewalk.

4. Students should only cross Dixwell Avenue by the crosswalk. There is a crossing guard ready to help students safely cross the street.

We must work together to keep all of our children safe. If you choose to drive your child to school, be prepared for delays. Most importantly, we love seeing our parents! Thank you for smiling and waving. We appreciate your kindness and patience. Your feedback helps us to improve. Please email Ms. Coogan at mcoogan@hamden.org with your ideas.

HMS CALENDAR MODIFICATION! Additional Early Dismissal Days

Hamden Middle School is actively participating in the Connecticut State Department of Education's Commissioner's Network. We intend to improve the overall educational experience for our students, as well as our climate and culture for all stakeholders. As part of the plan, our faculty and staff will participate in increased professional learning opportunities by adding the following early dismissal dates to the HMS calendar:

1. September 11, 2023
2. September 18, 2023
3. October 16, 2023
4. October 30, 2023
5. November 13, 2023
6. December 11, 2023
7. January 8, 2024
8. February 5, 2024
9. March 4, 2024
10. April 1, 2024
11. May 6, 2024
12. June 3, 2024

On these designated Mondays, our students will be dismissed at 12:05 p.m. Then, our teachers will participate in professional development aligned with the school improvement plan. It is important to note that these additional early dismissal dates are not referenced in the HPS calendars. They are unique to the HMS calendar. We are committed to communicating this information multiple times throughout the school year to ensure families are prepared for their middle school children to report home earlier. Finally, we will share updates on how we dedicate this additional professional learning time and the intended outcome on student learning.

OPEN HOUSE: SAVE THE DATES

Grade 7 Open House
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Grade 8 Open House
Wednesday, September 20, 2023
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Additional details will be published in next week's newsletter.

A collage of promotional images for Spiritwear. It includes a 'SPIRITWEAR WEEKLY AD' banner valid from August 25 to September 31, 2023. Below the banner are several smaller images: 'Ladies' Essential Tee' with a 10% off discount, 'Ivy League Fleece' with a 10% off discount, 'Give the Gift of School Spirit!' with an E-Gift Card, 'GILDAN T-SHIRTS' with a 20% off discount, 'Flat Rate Shipping!' with a shopping cart icon, 'Multi Color Tie Dyes' with a 15% off discount, and 'Girl's Princess Tee' with a 15% off discount. A QR code is also present in the bottom right corner of the collage.

SCHOOL SPIRITWEAR

Are you looking for some HMS Swag? Visit this website.

<https://hamdenspiritwear.com/>

SCHOOL MEALS AT HMS

BREAKFAST: Breakfast is free for all students.

LUNCH: Students with PAID meal status will be charged \$3.00 for lunch. Students with FREE or REDUCED-PRICE meal status will receive lunch at no cost.

Charging for lunch will begin the first day of school. Households should submit a [free and reduced-price meal application](#) as soon as possible to determine eligibility and avoid unpaid meal charges. Hamden Public Schools uses the secure and convenient [MySchoolBucks](#) meal account and payment system. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to keep track of student accounts and avoid negative balances. Please read Hamden Public School's [charging policy](#).

If you have any questions, please write to mealapplication@hamden.org.

