

Week of September 5-8, 2023

tomorrow, Mrs. Kraemer and Mrs. McCulley will have assigned every seventh grade student a Chromebook and a charger. Our eighth grade students should have a Chromebook, and new students will get one this week.

Chromebooks must come to school charged every day. There are no "loaners" for students to use during the school day. Parents, please work with your child to establish routines for charging the school Chromebook every evening. If they forget their Chromebook at home or do not charge it, they will miss out on learning experiences. If a student lost his or her charger, they can purchase a replacement for \$25. Parents and teachers will work together to teach and reinforce Chromebook expectations.



ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Teachers reviewed the Acceptable Use Policy with students during the first week of school. We want to be sure parents have access to this important information.

[HPS AUP](#)

HEALTHY HEROES!

We are excited to continue our partnership with Monitor My Health, a non-profit agency to host the Healthy Heroes after-school program. The

program takes place on Monday and Friday afternoons. Students will participate in a lesson designed to promote healthy lifestyles. Then, students participate in a fitness activity. Participating students will always be served a healthy snack and get help with homework assignments. On Fridays, students are treated to a healthy dinner too. The hours are 2:50 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. and parents must pick up their children. The program will begin on Monday, October 2nd, and we will send home registration information in next week's newsletter. This amazing afterschool opportunity is FREE to HMS families, and is limited to 120 students. Questions? Please contact Michelle Mule at mmule@hamden.org.

HMS GRADING PRACTICES

When teachers grade an assignment or assessment, their purpose is to determine how students are performing with grade level standards and give feedback to students, as well as their parents. Aligned with our goal to create a positive, equitable learning experience for all of our students, we are committed to following a common grading practice across both grade levels and all disciplines. Ms. Coogan, school principal, will review the revised grading practices during Open House. In addition, we will share reminders in our weekly newsletter.

All HMS teachers of the same content and grade level have set up their PowerSchool gradebooks with clear categories and percentage breakdowns, such as Assignments (60%) and Assessments (40%).

Teachers will score or evaluate 10-15 assignments/assessments each marking period. When they give an assignment, they will clearly state the due date. Students can submit a missing assignment within two class periods. Please note: If a student does not submit an assignment within two class periods, the grade is a zero. Teachers will evaluate assignments/assessments and enter grades in PowerSchool within seven school days from the due date. Teachers are committed to communicating performance with students and parents, especially if a student is earning a cumulative average of 69% or below in a timely manner. Teachers will also remind students of opportunities to improve grades, including completing missing assignments and utilizing opportunities for retakes on assessments. Our teachers are committed to meeting these responsibilities.

Please review the Student and Parent Responsibilities listed below. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Coogan at mcoogan@hamden.org.

Student Responsibilities

- Be present and prepared for school and each class every day.
- Actively engage in learning experience, as outlined in the Dragon Pride Classroom expectations.
- Complete and submit assignments on time.
- Request, complete, and submit the HMS Retake Reflection Form to the teacher within two classes from receiving the **assessment** grade, as needed.

- Monitor PowerSchool.
- Advocate for extra help when struggling.
- Attend office hours, as needed.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

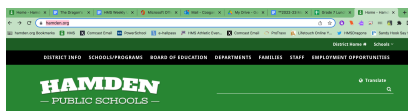
- Ensure your child is present and prepared for school every day.
- Monitor your child's attendance.
- Create and monitor a Parent Portal account in PowerSchool.
- Review PowerSchool updates with your child and discuss progress and next steps.
- Teach your children to respectfully advocate for help, as needed.
- Communicate with your child's teachers or team.
- Embrace opportunities to meet with your child's teachers, including conferences and family engagement events.

We will continue to highlight important information pertaining to grading at HMS.



SCHOOL SPIRIT + COMMUNITY SERVICE = A GREAT DAY AT HMS!

On Friday, September 15th, all members of the HMS team are encouraged to wear a Hawaiian shirt or lei and donate \$1.00 to support families who were impacted by the Maui fires.



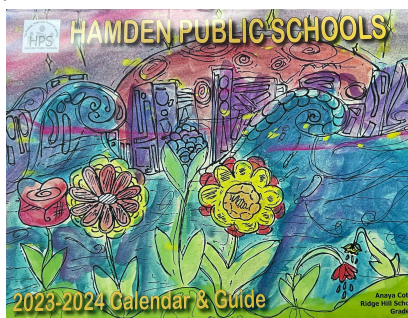
PARENT PORTAL

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

HPS 2023-24 Calendar

The district calendar was sent home with all middle school students last week. We highly recommend hanging this calendar in a prominent place in your home.



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.