

HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE DRAGON'S TALE

FAMILY NEWSLETTER



Principal Michelle Coogan

Week of September 18-22, 2023

Our Week in Review

Monday, September 18, 2023 (A1)

School Safety Week
Emergency Drill Practice
HOLD

Early Dismissal (12:05 PM)
Professional Development

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 (B1)

School Safety Week
Emergency Drill Practice
EVACUATION

Fall Sports
HMS Boys Soccer VS Bailey MS
AWAY 3:45 PM
HMS Girls Soccer VS. Bailey MS
HOME 3:45 PM
HMS Volleyball VS. Amity MS
HOME 3:45 PM

Grade 7 Open House
(5:20-7:30 PM)

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 (A2)

School Safety Week
Emergency Drill Practice
SECURE

Fall Sports Practice
2:50-4:30 PM

Grade 8 Open House
(5:20-7:30 PM)

Thursday, September 21, 2023 (B2)

School Safety Week
Emergency Drill Practice
LOCKDOWN

Fall Sports
HMS Boys Soccer VS Dodd MS
AWAY 3:45 PM
HMS Girls Soccer VS. Dodd MS
HOME 3:45 PM
HMS Volleyball VS. Shelton MS
HOME 3:45 PM

Friday, September 22, 2023 (A3)

School Safety Week
Emergency Drill Practice
SHELTER

HMS CALENDAR

Parents and students can access calendar information on the HMS School Website.



IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN OTIS SPUNKMEYER



Fundraiser orders are due on Friday. It is our final appeal to our HMS families. Please help us raise funds for our teams by supporting the fundraiser. Questions? Please contact Michelle Coogan at mcoogan@hamden.org.

OPEN HOUSE PROGRAMS 2023

Parents are encouraged to attend our annual Open House programs. We host two evenings, one for each grade level. Grade 7 families should report on Tuesday evening, and Grade 8 Families should come on Wednesday evening.

5:00 p.m. Doors Open
5:20 p.m. Administrative Presentation
in the auditorium
5:45 p.m. Core Team Presentations
6:35 p.m. Encore & World Language
Presentation Session 1
6:54 p.m. Encore & World Language
Presentation Session 2
7:13 p.m. Encore & World Language
Presentation Session 3
7:30 p.m. Open House Concludes

Note: This evening program is designed for the adults who care for our students. If children need to attend due to childcare, it is important for them to stay with their parents throughout the evening. In addition, we ask that parents/guardians save questions about their children for a different forum, such as a parent/teacher meeting or phone conference.



HMS SAFETY WEEK

The safety of our students and security of the building has always been a priority for our school and Hamden Public Schools. By state law, we practice drills monthly; however, a special week was created within the District to increase awareness of school safety. As such, the week of September 18th will be known as "Safety Week" in Hamden Public Schools. During this week, all schools will practice specific safety drills daily to reinforce the importance of being prepared and knowing the expectations during an emergency situation.

In addition to these drills, staff members have participated in ALICE training (a nationally recognized program that provides proactive options in a situation involving a violent intruder) and other precautions that have been taken to secure our school buildings. Our school and District Safety Committees also periodically review

our emergency operations plans to ensure they are as current as possible.

In the event of an actual emergency, our first priority is to ensure safety, account for all students and staff and then, reunite students with families. Note that in an actual emergency you would receive additional information from the school and the District.

We realize school safety can be a sensitive issue, and our efforts to prepare children include discussing matters of safety in age-appropriate ways with students. First and foremost, we teach children the importance of being quiet and listening to the adults in charge, and we ask parents to reinforce that message. Though we cannot predict the future, we want to ensure that students and adults at Hamden Middle School are prepared. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

In Hamden, we are proud of our diversity. Did you know that twenty-eight percent (28%) of our K-12 student population is Hispanic? During this month, we give extra recognition to the many contributions made to the history and culture of the United States, including important advocacy work, vibrant art, popular and traditional foods, and much more. If parents and families have suggestions for Hispanic Heritage

Month, please contact Ms. Coogan at mcoogan@hamden.org.

OFFICE HOURS

Starting on September 26th, all members of the HMS Faculty offer Office Hours on Tuesday afternoons from 2:49-3:34 p.m. Students can stay after school to get additional help with an assignment. Teachers are prepared to reteach and assist students. It is very important for students to communicate their plan to stay after school with their parents and families before staying late. First Student provides Late Bus transportation. Interested students will take a bus home to their neighborhood. There are many stops, but it does differ from the regular bus routes. We will publish additional information in next week's newsletter.

HMS CLUBS AND INTRAMURALS

A variety of clubs and intramural activities will be offered on Wednesday afternoons starting September 27. Students can choose to participate by joining the following clubs:

Creative Writing Club

Faculty Advisor: Mrs. Coggins

Diversity & Equity Club

Faculty Advisor: Mrs. LaMothe

Dungeons & Dragons (TBC)

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Hubbard

Fall Intramurals- Cross Country

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Ugolik

Fall Intramurals- Flag Football

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Smith

Jazz Band

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Gunn

Let's Learn Merengue

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Santos

Math Club

Faculty Advisor: Mrs. Zarate

Mock Trial

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Rocco

National Junior Honor Society

Faculty Advisors: Mrs. DeLucia & Mrs. Rodriguez

Rainbow Club

Faculty Advisor: Mx. Press

Student A-Team (Gr. 7)

Faculty Advisor: Ms. Mule

Student A-Team (Gr. 8)

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Tremper

Student Newspaper

Faculty Advisor: Mrs. McCulley

Student Council

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Xavier

Technology Club

Faculty Advisor: TBD

YES Club

Faculty Advisor: Mrs. Williams

Yearbook Club

Faculty Advisor: TBD

Throughout the next week, we will promote these clubs and intramural opportunities during the school news. Parents, you too can watch the school news on our school's Youtube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@HMSDragons>

Students must sign up before staying after school, and they must communicate their plans with parents and family members. First Student provides Late Bus transportation. Interested students will take a bus home to their neighborhood. There are many stops, but it does differ from the regular bus routes. We will publish additional information in next week's newsletter.

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 a separate email this week. This amazing afterschool opportunity is FREE to HMS families, and is limited to 120 students. Questions? Please contact Michelle Mule at mmule@hamden.org.

EARLY DISMISSAL ROUTINES FOR PARENTS PICKING UP CHILDREN BEFORE DISMISSAL

If parents need to pick up their children early from school, please visit the main office and the clerks will call your children out of class. We ask all families to pick up students before 2:15 PM (or 11:45 AM on early dismissal days). The end of the day is a busy time at HMS, and we are focused on our dismissal routines during the last 20 minutes of the day.

FALL SPORTS

[HMS Fall Sports Team 2023](#)

Congratulations to the students who are on the Boys and Girls Soccer Teams and Girls Volleyball Team. Our coaches are excited about the upcoming seasons. Game dates and times will be posted on the HMS calendar. Parents, please be aware that students can only attend a game with an adult chaperone. On a final note, we would like to thank all of our students who tried out for the fall sports teams. It takes courage to try something new. Be proud!

HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS VIRTUAL BULLETIN BOARDS

Parents are invited to check out the district website. It is the virtual space for community fliers. It is a great way to see what is going on in our beautiful town.

<https://www.hamden.org/families/vbb>

SPIRITWEAR WEEKLY AD
VALID SEPTEMBER 15 - 21, 2023

www.hamdenspiritwear.com

Gildan Long Sleeves #2400 & 54000 **20% OFF**

Give the Gift of School Spirit! With an Edgins card!

Ladies' Beach Crewneck #EZ391 **10% OFF**

Tri Blend Short Sleeves #3006, 3003, 3007 **10% OFF**

TOTE BAGS! **15% OFF**

Sponge Hoodies #3719, 3719Y **15% OFF**

#2700, 2701, 2702, 2703 Working Short Sleeves **15% OFF**



FREE BREAKFAST
For All Students
2023-2024

HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



DESAYUNO GRATIS
Para todos los estudiantes
2023-2024

HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

