



Principal Michelle Coogan

Week of September 25-29, 2023

OUR WEEK IN REVIEW

Monday, September 25, 2023
No School * Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 (B3)
 Dr. LaSalle, Educational Consultant
 Visits HMS
 Office Hours (2:49-3:34 PM)
Fall Sports
 Boys Soccer AWAY vs. Amity Bethany
 Girls Soccer HOME vs Amity
 Girls Volleyball AWAY vs North Haven

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 (A4)
Candid Photo Day
Fall Sports Team Pictures
 Dr. LaSalle, Educational Consultant
 Visits HMS
After School Clubs & Intramurals
 Creative Writing Club
 (Coggins, Rm 241)
 Cross Country & Flag Football
 Intramural (Smith, Ugolik, TBD)
 Gr. 7 A-Team (Mule, Rm 205)
 Math Club (Zarate, Rm 125)
 Newspaper/News Club
 (McCulley, Library Media Center)
 NJHS Meeting
 (DeLucia & Rodriguez, Rm 136)
 Rainbow Club (Press, Rm 243)
 YES Club (Williams, Rm 114)

Fall Sports
 Boys Soccer Practice
 Girls Soccer Practice
 Girls Volleyball Practice

Thursday, September 28, 2023 (B4)
Fall Sports
 Boys Soccer AWAY vs. Amity Orange
 Girls Soccer HOME vs. Amity Orange
 Girls Volleyball HOME vs. Shelton

Friday, September 29, 2023 (A5)

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

LIFETOUCH CANDID PHOTO DAY
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
FALL SPORTS TEAM PICTURES
HMS Fall Sports Team 2023
 Student athletes should wear their
 uniforms to school on Wednesday
 (TOMORROW). They will have their
 team pictures taken with their
 coaches.

HEALTHY HEROES AFTER
SCHOOL PROGRAM
Mondays & Fridays
2:50-4:50 PM
 It is time to sign up for the Healthy
 Heroes after-school program! This

amazing after-school opportunity is
 FREE to HMS families, and is limited
 to 120 students.

- Students will:
- Participate in a lesson designed to promote healthy lifestyles.
 - Participate in a fitness activity.
 - Get help with homework.
 - Enjoy a healthy snack & dinner on Fridays!

Click here to [REGISTER](#) your child.

Questions? Please contact Michelle Mule at mmule@hamden.org.

HMS GRADING PRACTICE REMINDERS REGARDING ASSIGNMENTS & ASSESSMENTS
 All assignments will have a due date assigned by the teacher. Students should always strive to submit their work on time. If they need an extension, teachers will accept an assignment up to two additional class periods. Then, missing assignments will be graded as a zero. Please help your child monitor assignments by regularly checking the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

In addition, students can request to retake an assessment if they want a second chance to demonstrate they understand the material. Students need to complete the HMS Retake

Form. This Form will be posted in all Google Classrooms, and it can be requested by emailing a teacher.

Ugolik Assessment Retake Reflection Form

Students complete assessments to demonstrate mastery on specific standards. Retakes require an appeal to the teacher within two class periods of receiving the grade. Students must complete a HMS Retake Reflection Form outlining their efforts to improve.

mcoogan@hamden.org [Switch account](#)

* Indicates required question

HOMEBASE

We believe positive relationships matter. When students feel connected to their teachers and other students, they are more successful with their learning. Homebase is a time dedicated to social emotional lessons, including learning school expectations, better understanding oneself, and developing skills to solve problems. In many ways, our lessons mirror the coaching parents provide their children. Parents are encouraged to ask their children about their experience in Homebase.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

School Governance Councils serve in an advisory capacity and are charged with assisting the school administration in making programmatic and operational changes to improve the school's achievement. Our School Governance Council is composed of parents, educators, and a community liaison. We have some open "seats" for parents. If you are interested in serving on the HMS School Governance Council, please email Michelle Coogan at mcoogan@hamden.org.

Meeting Dates
Tuesday Evenings
6:00 p.m.

10/10/23, 11/14/23, 12/12/23, 1/9/24,
2/13/24, 3/12/24, 4/9/24, 5/14/24

TURN IN YOUR FUNDRAISER ORDERS

Special thanks to all of our families who supported the school fundraiser - Otis Spunkmeyer. Please be sure to turn in your order forms and checks. If you want to place a last minute order, please visit this website and shop! <https://www.shopfund.com/>

OFFICE HOURS

Every Tuesday afternoon, all members of the HMS Faculty offer Office Hours between 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.

HMS CLUBS AND INTRAMURALS

A variety of clubs and intramural activities will be offered on Wednesday afternoons. 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

Students can stay after school, and they must communicate their plans with parents and family members.

HMS LATE BUS ROUTES

First Student provides Late Bus transportation on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Interested students can take a bus home to their neighborhood. There are many stops, but it does differ from the regular bus routes. It is important for families to review the bus routes and help their middle school students identify the best bus letter and bus stop.

FALL INTRAMURALS

We are completely overwhelmed with the number of students who have expressed an interest in Fall Intramurals. Mr. Smith and Mr. Ugolik are ready to help students run in cross country or play flag football. Students needed to register for this after school program, and it is full with a waiting list. Be sure students return the [HPS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ELIGIBILITY / PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE FORM.](#)

THE REVIEWS ARE IN... HMS OPEN HOUSE WAS A SUCCESS!

It was wonderful to see our parents last week at the two Open House programs. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet in person. Our teachers were happy to share information about the curriculum, instructional practices, school and team expectations, and more. Open House is always a nice way to start the year. Parents are reminded to stay in contact with us throughout the

year, and be sure to save the date for Parent Conferences on October 18th!

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>

IMPORTANT REMINDER - NO PHOTO

We love to celebrate our students, and we often publish pictures in our newsletter, website, and social media accounts. Students' names are not shared, unless parents give permission. We understand that some parents may be thrilled to see their children celebrated, while others do not want their child's picture published. **Parents who DO NOT want their children's image to be posted are encouraged to email Ms. Coogan at**

mcoogan@hamden.org. We will always honor parent requests.

MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS DAYS

Connecticut law provides students with up to two excused school absences to care for their mental health and wellness (MHW) that may be used in addition to the 9 excused days they may take for any reason. These days cannot be taken on consecutive school days, (e.g., Friday and Monday or Wednesday and Thursday). MHW absences will always be excused when parent or guardian permission is documented, regardless of the number of absences a student has accrued in the school year, but will count towards chronic absence calculations as students are missing opportunities to learn. Parents must report absences by 9:00 a.m. and provide the student's name, reason for absence, and the name of the person calling. When

students feel it necessary to be excused from school to tend to their mental health, it is an opportunity for conversations with school personnel regarding their wellness and to connect students and families to additional support. HMS will engage in systems for monitoring and appropriately supporting students and families when MHW days are taken, including wellness screening and communication with the family and student regarding available systems of support within the school or through outside care providers.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Last week, we conducted the following safety drills: Hold, Evacuation, Secure, Lockdown, and Shelter. Students followed adult directions, and our School Resource Officer DeStafanis, security guards, school climate advisors, and school administrators were able to observe and make adjustments to improve the effectiveness of drills. We will continue practice drills every month of the school year. Parents and families will get updates in the school newsletters.

**CHROMEBOOK
DAILY REMINDERS**

- 1 CHARGE YOUR CHROMEBOOK EVERY NIGHT**
- 2 KEEP YOUR CHROMEBOOK IN A SAFE PLACE, AWAY FROM PETS, FOOD & DRINKS**
- 3 BRING YOUR CHROMEBOOK TO SCHOOL EACH DAY!!**
PRO TIP: Keep your backpack next to your Chromebook as a reminder!

PARENT FEEDBACK: THE DRAGON'S TALE, OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Parents, how are you feeling about the HMS weekly newsletter? Ms. Coogan would like to hear from you. Please send her feedback at mcoogan@hamden.org. What

information do you need? Is anything missing? Can you read it easily on your cell phone? All feedback is welcome. Your ideas will inspire future newsletters.

JOIN THE HMS PTA

Please join our amazing PTA. The annual family fee is \$15. Here is the link:

<https://ctpta-hamdenmiddlepta.memberhub.com>

The small, yet powerful group of parents met on Tuesday evening. The PTA is hosting a Family Yoga Night on Monday, October 23rd between 6:00-7:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more details.

The next meeting is November 28th at 7:00 p.m. Save the date!



NATIONAL SECURITY OFFICER WEEK

We would like to shine the spotlight on our three security guards: Aaron Hawkins, Jason Snider, and Khadijah Woods. Our guards are present everyday to support students. They are excellent role models and help students be their best selves.