

HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE DRAGON'S TALE

FAMILY NEWSLETTER



Principal Michelle Coogan

Week of October 2-6, 2023

OUR WEEK IN REVIEW

Monday, October 2, 2023 (B5)

Custodians' Appreciation Day
(*Three Cheers for the Men in Green!*)

Team Leader Meeting
2:50 PM - 3:50 PM

Boys Soccer Practice
Girls Soccer HOME vs. Adams
Girls Volleyball Practice

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 (A6)

Gary Petersen, Educational
Consultant, Visits HMS

Office Hours (2:49-3:34 PM)

Boys Soccer HOME vs North Haven
Girls Soccer AWAY vs North Haven
Girls Volleyball Practice

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 (B6)

After School Clubs & Intramurals (2:49-3:34 PM)

Creative Writing Club,
Coggins, Rm. 241
Cross Country & Flag Football
Intramural
Diversity & Equity Club,
LaMothe, Rm. 261
Gr. 7 A-Team, Mule, Rm. 205
Jazz Band, Rm. 105
Mock Trial, Rocco, Rm. 144
NJHS Meeting,
DeLucia & Rodriguez, Rm. 136
Student Council, Xavier, LMC
YES Club, Williams, Rm. 114

Fall Sports

Boys Soccer Practice
Girls Soccer Practice
Girls Volleyball Practice

Thursday, October 5, 2023 (A7)

Fall Sports

Boys Soccer AWAY vs. Melillo
Girls Soccer HOME vs Melillo
Girls Volleyball HOME vs. Adams
*Our Girls Soccer Team will host a
bake sale and proceeds will be
donated to Breast Cancer Awareness.*

Staff Meeting (D-90)
2:50 PM - 4:20 PM

Friday, October 6, 2023 (B7)

Fall Sports

Girls Volleyball Practice

HMS CALENDAR

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

Upcoming Events

October 9: No School-Indigenous
Peoples' Day
October 10: School Governance
Council Meeting (6:00 PM)
*October 13: School Spirit Day: Paint
HMS Pink!*
October 16: Early Dismissal (12:05
PM)

October 17: Fire Prevention Assembly
- Grade 7 Students (Block 2, Period 4)
October 18: HMS Conferences
(5:30-7:30 PM)
October 19: Early Dismissal (12:05
PM)
October 23: Family Yoga Night (6-7
PM)
October 30: Early Dismissal (12:05
PM)

END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Students are dismissed at 2:34 PM. If
parents intend to pick up their
children, plan to arrive at school on or
before 2:50 PM.

HMS SPECTATORS FOR SPORTING EVENTS

When our middle school students
intend to cheer on their friends and
classmates at a school game, they
must be actively supervised by an
adult. Many parents have generously
volunteered to supervise their
children, as well as other students.
Moving forward, we will ask parents
to only supervise up to five additional
children. We are glad to have
students stay after school hours, and
we must work together to ensure
safe, appropriate behavior for the
games.

**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 2023 Fall Theater Workshops

Join us for our Fall Theater Workshops on Tuesdays and Wednesdays afternoons. Have you always wanted to perform on stage? Do you enjoy performing in front of an audience? Prefer to be behind the scenes? This is the perfect time to try out all things theater. We will be working on monologues, musical theater pieces in preparation for our spring musical and playing theater games. Students will work with a script—scene work, character development, memorization—all culminating in a performance at our showcase. Everyone who wants a part will receive a part! Looking for young people who are interested in tech theater as well. All classes are at the Hamden Middle School Auditorium immediately following the school day, (2:30 PM – 4:30 PM). Classes will be taught by Cindy Simell-Devoe, Director of Hamden's non-profit educational theater company, the Whitney Players. Showcase dates—Friday, December 8th & Saturday, December 9th. Class dates: 10/3 & 4, 10/10 & 11, 10/17 & 18, 10/24 & 25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/14 & 15, 11/21, 11/28 & 29, 12/5, 12/6, 12/7 (No class 10/31, 11/7, 11/22) Please email Cindy at

cindysdevoe@comcast.net for more information.

FALL INTRAMURALS

We are thrilled so many students are interested in Fall Intramurals, including Cross Country and Flag Football. Mr. Smith and Mr. Ugolik recruited additional colleagues to help supervise this program. It is not too late to join the fun! We are still accepting participants and everyone on the waitlist is invited to start on Wednesday. The permission to participate form must be printed, signed and submitted to Mr. Smith or Mr. Ugolik as soon as possible. Be sure students return the [HPS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ELIGIBILITY / PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE FORM](#). (Paper copies can be picked up in the main office.)

MOCK TRIAL CLUB

Mr. Rocco is inviting students to join him for the Mock Trial Club. There is an informational meeting on Wednesday afternoon. Club members will learn about the law and develop their debating skills. The Mock Trial Google Classroom code is z72tnpj.

JAZZ BAND

Auditions will take place on Wednesday afternoon in room 105. Interested students should prepare to play a short song during their audition. Please check in with Mr. Gunn before Wednesday afternoon.

DIVERSITY & EQUITY CLUB

The DEC focuses on education and activism to create an anti-racist and equitable community. Students who are interested in making HMS a great place for all are encouraged to join Mrs. LaMothe on Wednesday afternoon. The DEC Google Classroom code is mgnh5dw.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council is a club designed to help promote school spirit and leadership among students. Students participating will maintain a high standard of personal conduct. Students are expected to participate in approved activities, in order to develop leadership skills, foster community awareness and promote school spirit.

The purpose of the Student Council is to develop positive attitudes and practice good citizenship, to improve relationships throughout the entire school, and to plan special events and projects. There are many benefits including experience in public speaking, learning how to make a positive impact on school and community environment, meeting new friends and working with a wide variety of people.

The Student Council will be involved in various community service (food drives, recycling projects, coat drives), fundraising events, and school spirit days.

Interested? See Mr. Xavier, Faculty Advisor and School Social Worker

YES CLUB

The Young Educators Club will meet on Wednesday afternoon. Check out the Google Classroom for more information. Code = eic6req Ms. Williams, Faculty Advisor, is eager to meet our aspiring educators!

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 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.



HMS CONFERENCES

Wednesday, October 18th

We invite parents to register for a conference with their child's teacher on Wednesday, October 18th. HPS has changed conference times to the middle of the marking periods. This is a perfect opportunity to learn how your children are performing in their classes, and to help your children make improvements as needed before the close of the marking period. The first marking period ends on November 1st. Registration links will be sent home in next week's newsletter.

In order to accommodate as many requests for conferences as possible, we ask parents to only sign up for ONE conference with a Core Teacher, including English, Math, Science, Social Studies, or Special Education Teachers. If parents register for more than one Core Team conference, we will honor the first meeting and delete the others. We follow this practice to ensure teachers can meet with as

many parents as possible on Conference Night.

Parents can also request a conference with their child's Encore and World Language Teachers. All members of the faculty will also be available on Wednesday evening to meet with parents, including School Counselors, PPS Team, Deans of Students, and Administrators. We look forward to connecting with families during our first evening of conferences.

On a final note, parents are reminded to regularly check the Parent Portal on PowerSchool. Directions to access the Parent Portal can be found on the HPS website. Click [Here](#).

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.

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

JOIN THE HMS PTA

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

<https://cftp-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!

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>

