

Week of October 23-27, 2023

**Monday,
October 23, 2023 (B5)**

Family Yoga Night (6-7 PM)

Presentation

Wednesday,
October 25, 2023 (B6)

Friday,
October 27, 2023 (B7)

Healthy Heroes
2:50 PM - 5:00 PM

October 31: Team Ugolik's The Dragon's Price is Right Assembly
November 2: Team Coggins' The Dragon's Price is Right Assembly
November 3: Veterans' Day Celebration

Students must be accompanied by an adult.

The HMS PTA is hosting a Family Yoga Night on Monday night. Sherri Sosensky, from Kidding Around Yoga, will visit HMS and teach interested students and parents the basics of Yoga. There is no charge for this family evening. Everyone should bring a yoga mat or towel. We would like to collect names of interested students and parents so we can purchase healthy snacks. Please

RSVP by emailing Michelle Coogan at mcoogan@hamden.org.

HMS SUPERINTENDENT STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Superintendent Highsmith recognized outstanding students across the district last Friday. We were thrilled to see two of our very own middle school students being honored.



Elena Lindamood Grade 8, House 1, Team Domurad

When Elena was asked, "Why do you think your teachers nominated you for this special award?", she paused and wondered aloud, "I am a good student, but I try to be kind to everyone." Elena thinks kindness is most important, and we agree with her. Elena is a student athlete who participated on soccer teams here at school and in the community. Her family is important to her. Dad is a well-respected HHS teacher and coach. He instilled the importance of hard work and perseverance. Mom is also an educator, and she reminds her that school is a priority. Finally, her big sister is a positive role model. We are proud of Elena and thrilled to have her as a student at HMS. Congratulations, Elena! Keep up the good work.



Michael McGovern Grade 8, House 1, Team Domurad

Michael was nominated for this honor by his physical education teacher, Mr. Smith. Michael is an excellent student-athlete. He plays hockey and lacrosse. Michael is a good listener and accepts feedback. He has a tremendous work ethic and is determined to be his best in the classroom, on the ice, in the field, and at home. Michael said he works hard to be a "good sport." It is an important skill for all members of the team. Michael's twin brother, Ben, is also an HMS student. They support each other through all things, and Ben was happy for Michael, and his parents, Margaret and Nicole could not be more proud. We consider ourselves fortunate to teach Michael at HMS. He is our MVP! #DragonPride!

HMS SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

We want to hear about your experience with your children's education. We invite you to participate in completing the School Climate Survey. This survey includes questions about your student's learning, school safety, and interpersonal relationships, as well as your attitudes about the institutional environment and your personal

involvement in school. Your responses will be very helpful in improving student relationships, learning conditions, and the overall school environment. Beginning today, Sunday, October 22, we invite all parents, guardians and caretakers to complete this survey for our school. The survey is completely anonymous and brief; it contains 21 questions and takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. You can take the survey online by using the following unique school link:

<https://gsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV7WgXgniCn8HiNE>

If you cannot access this online survey, please pick up a paper copy in your school office, complete it, and leave it in the box designated for that purpose. Please submit your responses by Friday, October 27th. All your responses are completely anonymous. We have no way to connect you to your answers, and results will only be reported as group responses. There are no right or wrong answers. We just want to know about your personal experiences. Responses are housed securely in an anonymous format with the University of Oregon Technical Assistance Center projects for evaluation research purposes. All evaluation research projects are in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, (343 CFR 99.31 (6)) and human subjects regulations (Protection of Human Subjects 45 CFR 46). As you respond to each item, think about your own personal experiences as a parent, caregiver or guardian at your student's school. Please answer all of the questions, or your answers won't be recorded, but you can mark "I prefer not to answer" if you don't want to answer a question about you. We hope you will take the time to provide us with this valuable information. Feel free to call our office at 203-407-7131 if you have any questions. Each school's total survey

results will be used to inform and develop appropriate strategies, procedures, and/or programs to enhance our school climate. The link to complete the survey is <https://gsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV7WgXgniCrn8HiNE>

Thank you for your time and participation!

MONITORING SOCIAL MEDIA

Owning a cell phone is a privilege for many of our students, and we understand families want to connect with their middle school children before and after school hours. With privilege comes responsibility, and we implore our HMS parents and grown ups to help our children make positive choices, especially with social media use. Here are some reminders for parents to consider. When posting to social media...

- Comments and images should be positive in nature.
- Only post another person's image with their permission.
- Consider the impact before you post or comment on a post.
- Post and comments are not anonymous. (Even if students think they are!)
- Group chats can often create "drama". Remember, postings can be shared with others. There are no secrets in middle school.

Parents, we value your partnership. Please talk with your children this week. Explain your expectations for social media use. Create a plan for monitoring all social media accounts, and report challenges to faculty at HMS. Together, we want to teach our children to lift each other up as opposed to putting someone down. Adolescence can be a challenging time, and we encourage our students to show kindness and grace to all.

TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT & CELL PHONES

Our teachers have worked with students to create Technology Agreements. In most classroom environments cell phones are to be silenced and stowed in the student's backpack. Unfortunately, the temptation to check for texts and social media updates is too much for many of our students to resist. We fear this technology is robbing them of their education. When a student is observed during learning time to use their cell phone, we follow this practice:

- 1.) Verbally remind students to put their phones away in backpacks at the start of class.
- 2.) If you observe a student using a phone, quietly ask him/her/they to put it away.
- 3.) If they comply, thank them and move on.
- 4.) If they do not comply, explain to the student that you need him/her/they to put it away or you will have to call for administrative or security support.
- 5.) If they do not comply, call for support from security.

When phones are collected from students, we will contact the student's grownup. We will ask the adult to come to school and retrieve the phone. However, if students comply with the technology agreement, it should not be a concern.

We will review our policy at school, and we ask parents to discuss it at home. Wrap around messages from school and home work best in unison.

HMS SCHOOL COUNSELORS' CORNER

[High School Visits to HMS](#)

On the following dates we have schools visiting at 3pm in Room 205. Sign up in the 8th grade Google Classroom. Please see Ms. Mitchell with any questions.

10/25 - Sound School
11/1 - Educational Center for the Arts
11/15 - Lyman Hall
11/16 - High School in the Community.
Check the Google Classroom for updates and information pertaining to high school options.

[Attendance Groups](#)

If you are concerned about your child's attendance or are struggling to get them to school, please contact your child's school counselor for support and more information.

[Office Hours](#)

Your children are welcome to join the school counselors after school. Please have them sign up in the Google Classroom. Links are also below.

-Ms. Atkin - Tuesday [Office Hours](#)
Grade 7 - Team 5, Grade 8 - Team 3
-Ms. Bonessi - Tuesday [Office Hours](#)
Grade 7 - Teams 2, 3, 4
-Ms. Mitchell - Wednesday - [Office hours](#) Grade 8 - Teams 1, 2, 4



TEAM ASSEMBLIES: PARENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!

Team Leaders and teachers have planned a special assembly for their students and families. Based on the popular daytime game show, we are bringing The Price is Right to HMS... Dragon Style! Both students and parents will play an active role in the game, and it promises to be a memorable experience for all.

We will send individual team emails with additional details. At this time,

we are asking parents to SAVE THE DATE in their calendars and RSVP by scanning the team's QR code.

Grade 7, House 2, Team Ugolik
October 31, 2023
8:15-10:30 AM



[CLICK HERE to RSVP for Team UGOLIK Price is Right](#)

Grade 7, House 3, Team Coggins
November 2, 2023
8:15-10:30 AM



[CLICK HERE to RSVP for Team COGGINS Price is Right](#)

Grade 7, House 4, Team Stanton
November 6, 2023
8:15-10:30 AM



[CLICK HERE to RSVP for Team STANTON Price is Right](#)

Grade 7, House 5, Team Holt
November 8, 2023
8:15-10:30 AM



[CLICK HERE to RSVP for Team HOLT Price is Right](#)

Grade 8, House 1, Team Domurad
November 9, 2023
8:15-10:30 AM

Grade 8, House 2, Team Morello
November 13, 2023
8:15-10:30 AM

Grade 8, House 3, Team DeLucia
November 14, 2023
8:15-10:30 AM

Grade 8, House 4, Team Rocco
November 15, 2023
8:15-10:30 AM

Eighth grade RSVP links codes will be shared in next newsletters.

DISMISSAL PLANS

Students should know their dismissal plan each day. If a parent needs to change the plan, they are asked to call the main office before 2:00 p.m. If parents need to pick up their children early, they must visit the main office before 2:15 pm. Dismissal is a busy time for all schools, especially HMS.

As a reminder, students can only ride the school bus assigned to them. They cannot choose to ride a bus home to visit a friend. If there is a child care issue, parents must communicate the need for a bus change by sending a note to the main office. Parents can also email Ms. Kim Washington, Main Office Clerk, at kwashington@hamden.org.

2023-2024 WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

If your child would like to tryout for the boys and girls basketball teams, please complete the following tasks:

- Visit this website to [SIGN UP FOR SPORTS](#)
- Be sure to turn in a completed [Physical Form](#). It must be submitted to the school nurse prior to trying-out for any sport. Physicals are good for 13 months.
- [2023-2024 Medication Authorization Form](#) must be submitted yearly to the school nurse if your child carries medication in school prior to try-outs.

Questions about Winter Sports at HMS? Contact Ms. Bobbi Bergstrom at bbergstrom@hamden.org.

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>

DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Please review this updated Daily Health Assessment, available in [English](#) or [Spanish](#), with your child every day. This is an important first line of defense in both ensuring the health and wellness of your children and also protecting our entire school community from the risk of infection.

