

HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE DRAGON'S TALE

FAMILY NEWSLETTER



Principal Michelle Coogan

Weeks of November 13-17 and 20-22, 2023

OUR WEEK IN REVIEW

**Monday,
November 13, 2023 (A5)**

Gr. 8 Team Morello's "The Dragon's Price is Right" Assembly
8:45 AM - 10:30 AM

HMS Early Dismissal (12:05 PM)

Professional Development
(12:15-2:50 PM)

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

**Tuesday,
November 14, 2023 (B5)**

Gary Petersen, Educational Consultant,
Visits HMS

Homebase
8:35 AM - 9:10 AM

Gr. 8 Team DeLucia "The Dragon's Price is Right" Assembly
8:45 AM - 10:30 AM

After School Programs/Late Bus
Fall Theater Workshop
Office Hours
Sound School Informational Presentation

Winter Sports
Girls Basketball Tryouts (Gr. 7 & 8)

School Governance Council Meeting
(6:00-7:00 PM)

**Wednesday,
November 15, 2023 (A6)**

Gr. 8 Team Rocco's "The Dragon's Price is Right" Assembly
8:45 AM - 10:30 AM

After School Programs/Late Bus
Creative Writing Club
Cross Country & Flag Football Intramural (Final Session)
Diversity & Equity Club
Fall Theater Workshop
Gr. 7 A-Team
Jazz Band
Lyman Hall Informational Presentation
Mock Trial
Newspaper/News Club
Student Council
Technology Club

Winter Sports
Girls Basketball Tryouts (Gr. 7 & 8)

Otis Spunkmeyer Fundraiser Pick Up
(1-2 PM and 3-5 PM)

**Thursday,
November 16, 2023 (B6)**

Greg Dresko, Educational Consultant, Visits HMS

After School Programs
High School in the Community Informational Presentation

Winter Sports
Girls Basketball Callbacks (Gr. 7 & 8)

**Friday,
November 17, 2023 (A7)**

HPS Superintendent Student of the Month Celebration Congratulations to Mariah and Denise!

After School Programs
Healthy Heroes
2:50 PM - 5:00 PM

Winter Sports
Girls Basketball Team POSTED
Boys Basketball Tryouts (Gr. 7 & 8)

**Monday,
November 20, 2023 (B7)**

After School Programs
Healthy Heroes
2:50 PM - 5:00 PM

Winter Sports
Boys Basketball Tryouts (Gr. 7 & 8)

**Tuesday,
November 21, 2023 (A1)**

School Safety Meeting
8:00 AM - 8:40 AM

After School Programs
Fall Theater Workshop
Office Hours

Winter Sports
Boys Basketball Callbacks (Gr. 7 & 8)
2:50 PM

**Wednesday,
November 22, 2023 (B1)**

School Spirit

Flannel Shirt Day!

Grade 7 Fire Prevention Assembly
Rescheduled (8:45 AM)

HMS Early Dismissal (12:05 PM)

Winter Sports

Boys Basketball Team POSTED

Thanksgiving Recess

School will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for Thanksgiving Break. The next issue of The Dragon's Tale will be published when students return to school on Monday, November 27.

HMS CALENDAR

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

Otis Spunkmeyer Fundraiser

Pick Up Date:

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

**Times: 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. AND
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Special thanks to our HMS community for their outstanding support of the school fundraiser. The products will be delivered to school next week. Parents can pick up their purchased items in the auditorium between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. We will pause while we dismiss our students. Then, we will resume pickups between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. We try to make it easy ... please park in the side lot and come directly to the auditorium. If you have any questions, please email Michelle Coogan at mcoogan@hamden.org.

2023-2024 WINTER SPORTS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

Students interested in trying out for the girls and boys basketball teams must be academically and medically

eligible. Information can be found on the Basketball Google Classroom. The code is shxzfyp. Students and parents can also contact Ms. Bobbi Bergstrom with questions.

bbergstrom@hamden.org.

Coach Kim Mallard is leading the tryout sessions for the girls basketball team this week, and Coach Charles Neal will kickoff tryouts starting on Friday.

HPS Superintendent Students of the Month (November 2023)



**Denise Toledo Calixto, Grade 7,
House 4, Team Stanton**

We are fortunate to have Denise as a student at HMS. She is being recognized by Ms. Opalenik, HMS Health Teacher. Ms. Opi works with Denise in the classroom, and she also coached her on our volleyball team. Denise is a responsible student who strives to do well in all of her classes. Denise shared that she has learned so much being the "middle" child in her family. Her older sister attends college, and Denise looks up to her. As the big sister, she helps take care of her two-year-old sister. Denise testifies that it is not too bad being the middle child! You get the best of both worlds. Clearly her family has a positive influence on Denise, and we share their pride in her.

**Mariah Peccerillo, Grade 7, House
4, Team Holt**

Mariah was nominated to receive the HPS Superintendent Student of the Month Award this month. Her teachers could not be prouder of her. She has so many positive attributes. Mariah is kind and respectful to all, and yet she thinks her best quality is her determination to succeed. She is most certainly a hard worker. She always tries her best on her assignments and seeks out help when it's needed. She has made a smooth transition into seventh grade by building positive peer relationships, maintaining good grades, and joining several clubs. Mariah aspired to be an author in the future. She loves to write stories with interesting characters. She periodically sends examples of her writing to her teachers and they love reading the surprise stories. Mom is Mariah's biggest fan. We understand ... Mariah is an awesome kid and Team Holt feels very lucky to have her on the team!



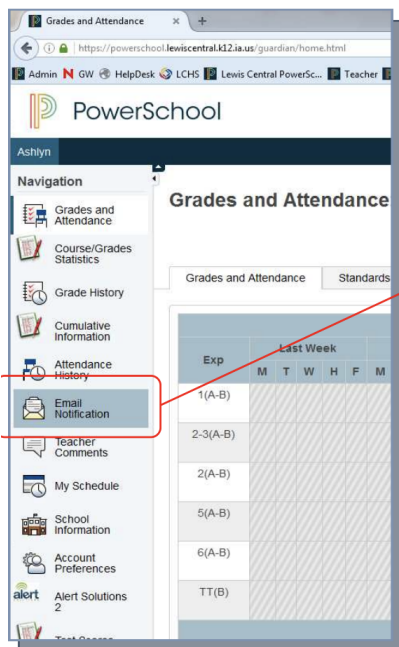
HOW TO SET UP EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS ON POWERSCHOOL

Teachers use PowerSchool to communicate student performance and achievement. There is a way parents can set up notifications to automatically receive email updates. Report options vary from grade and attendance summaries to detailed

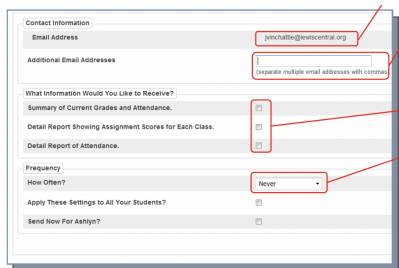
attendance and assignment scores from each course. Below are the instructions for setting up email notifications.

Step 1—Log into your PARENT PowerSchool account. Warning: Setting up notifications under a student account will allow students access to turn off the notifications or change the notification settings. You must use the PARENT account. [LINK TO SIGN IN PAGE](#)

Step 2— Select “Email Notifications” on the student home screen



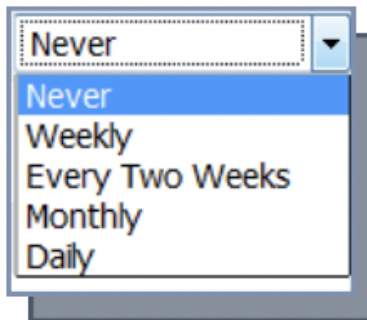
Step 3—Check to see if your email address is correct. Incorrect email addresses can be updated under “Account Preferences”



Step 4— You may add additional emails for notifications. Separate multiple email addresses with commas.

Step 5— Select what information you would like to receive.

Step 6— Select how often you would like to receive the notifications. Frequency options are shown below.



Step 7— Hit “SUBMIT”

PowerSchool is an important tool to help students and families stay up to date on grades and attendance. Setting notifications helps to monitor information regularly.

Please contact Stephanie Bezerra at sbezerra@hamden.org if you have questions about PowerSchool parent account information, log in or notifications.

HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS ATTENTION GRADE 8 STUDENTS & FAMILIES

If an eighth grade student is applying for admission into a high school and needs a recommendation or academic records, please do the following:

How to request a recommendation:

1.) Contact the eighth grade school counselor. Ms. Mitchell supports students in Houses 1 (Team Domurad) , House 2 (Team Morello), and House 4 (Team Rocco) and Ms. Atkin supports students in House 3 (Team DeLucia) to ask if they are willing to complete a recommendation. Students can do this in person or through email: amitchell@hamden.org or aatkin@hamden.org.

2.) After talking with Ms. Mitchell or Ms. Atkin, share their email with the high school for future communication.

Note: Do not have the high school send an email requesting a recommendation unless your child has communicated with their counselor first.

Note: Do not have these recommendations sent to grade level administrators.

How to request academic records:

Email Ms. Gayle Colburn, guidance clerk, at gcolburn@hamden.org. Parents can also call Ms. Colburn at 203-407-7189.

Applying for high school is an exciting time for students and families. It can be overwhelming too! We are here to support students through this process, and we ask students and parents to follow the plan.

HMS SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING

The SGC is a group of parents, school staff, and community leaders who work together to improve student achievement. 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. The School Governance Council meets on Tuesday, November 14th at 6:00 p.m. Parents can forward any ideas or suggestions for the HMS SGC to Michelle Coogan at mcoogan@hamden.org.

HMS PTA MEETING

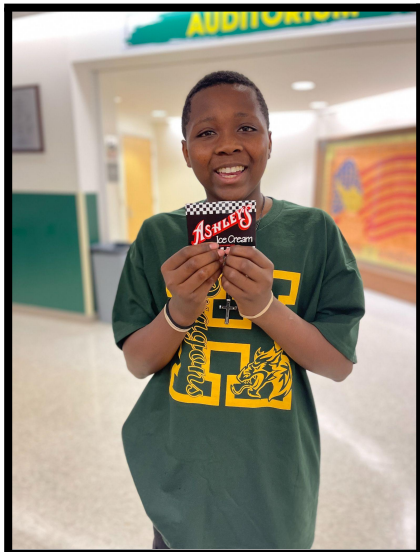
On Tuesday, November 28th, the HMS PTA will be hosting their next meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m. This meeting will be in person, however there will be an open Zoom Link for anyone

interested in participating from home. This is an important meeting for the PTA since we will be voting for new members of the Executive Board. Ideally, we would have some 7th grade families get involved so the PTA torch can be passed on seamlessly year-to-year. If you are interested or have any questions, please email–
hamdenmiddlepta@gmail.com

Please don't be intimidated by your previous experiences or involvement at the elementary level. The HMS PTA welcomes all to be involved and values your time commitment. We can't wait to update you about some of the fun things we have planned for the upcoming months.



TEAM ASSEMBLIES: PARENTS AND FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!



The team assemblies have been a tremendous success. Our students have been outstanding participants, and we love to see how they support their friends and classmates. It has also been a sincere pleasure to connect with so many parents and

family members. We still have three more times to play the Price is Right, and we hope families can join us.

Grade 8, House 2, Team Morello
 November 13, 2023
 8:15-10:30 AM
[CLICK HERE to RSVP for Team Morello](#)

Grade 8, House 3, Team DeLucia
 November 14, 2023
 8:15-10:30 AM
[CLICK HERE to RSVP for Team DeLucia](#)

Grade 8, House 4, Team Rocco
 November 15, 2023
 8:15-10:30 AM
[CLICK HERE to RSVP for Team Rocco](#)

Parents, be on the lookout for emails from your child's team leader.

Congratulations to Team Stanton, Team Holt, and Team Domurad for successfully completing their assemblies last week.



SCHOOL SPIRIT T-SHIRTS
 All students at HMS received a special t-shirt on the day of their assembly. We love seeing our middle school dragons in their green and gold.

Parents can purchase additional spirit wear at
<https://hamdenspiritwear.com/>.



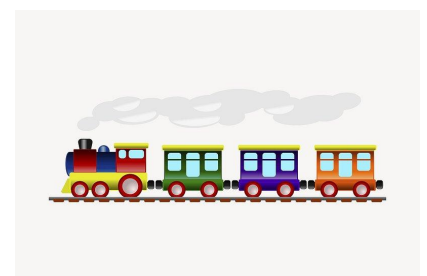
GENERAL REMINDERS

Be sure students come to school each day with a CHARGED Chromebook. Bringing the charger is helpful as well.

Be sure your student brings a writing utensil each day.

Remind students of the importance of being ON TIME to class.

Remind students to keep cell phones and earbuds away during instructional time.



NJHS TOY DRIVE

Members of the National Junior Honor Society are hosting the annual Toy Drive. Our students will start to collect donations on Monday, November 27th. The team that collects the most donations will be rewarded with donuts and hot cocoa. (YUM!) The greatest reward is supporting others in a time of need. All toys collected are donated to the Keefe Center in Hamden.

THE DRAGON'S POST: OUR HMS STUDENT NEWSPAPER

The first publication is ready! Our student reporters, photographers, and artists are very excited to share their stories, photography and recipes with

you. To view the newspaper online,
go to:
<https://www.hamden.org/hms/families/school-newspaper>

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.

