

# HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

# THE DRAGON'S TALE

## FAMILY NEWSLETTER



Principal Michelle Coogan

Weeks of December 11-15, 2023

**OUR WEEK IN REVIEW**

**Monday,  
December 11, 2023 (B6)**

**Early Dismissal (12 PM)**

**Professional Development (12:30-2:50 PM)**

HMS Equity Committee Meeting  
2:50-3:50 PM

**Tuesday,  
December 12, 2023 (A7)**

Gary Petersen, Educational Consultant,  
Visits HMS

**After-School Programs**  
Office Hours  
IXL Office Hours

**Winter Sports**  
Boys Basketball Practice  
Girls Basketball AWAY vs. Melillo  
3:45 PM

School Governance Council Meeting  
(6:00 PM)

**Wednesday,  
December 13, 2023 (B7)**

**After-School Programs**  
Creative Writing Club  
Diversity & Equity Club  
Jazz Band  
Math Club  
Mock Trial

Newspaper/News Club  
Student Council-- Holiday Party!  
Technology Club  
YES Club

**Winter Sports**  
Boys Basketball HOME vs. Melillo  
4:00 PM  
Girls Basketball Practice

**Thursday,  
December 14, 2023 (A1)**

School Safety Meeting  
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Security Meeting  
8:50 AM - 9:30 AM

School Climate Meeting  
9:40 AM - 10:20 AM

Test of Emergency Communications  
10:00 AM

**Winter Sports**  
Boys Basketball HOME vs. Bailey  
3:45 PM  
Girls Basketball AWAY vs. Bailey  
2:30 PM

**Friday,  
December 15, 2023 (B1)**

**HPS Superintendent Student of the Month Celebration (7:30 AM @ CO BOE Room)**

**NJHS Toy Drive \* Last Day for Toy Donations \***

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

**Winter Sports**  
Boys Basketball Practice  
Girls Basketball Practice

**UPCOMING DATES**  
**Thursday, December 21: Early Dismissal 12 PM**  
**Friday, December 22-Monday, January 1: Holiday Recess**

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

**COMMISSIONER'S NETWORK PARENT SURVEY**  
[https://sdept.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eLEA9VV3iXatSd0](https://sdept.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eLEA9VV3iXatSd0)  
Parents, we need your feedback. Hamden Middle School is participating in the Connecticut State Department of Education Commissioner's Network. We are in

our second year, and it is time for a mid-year audit. All stakeholders (faculty, staff, parents, and students) reflect on our school improvement plan and identify our accomplishments, as well as to determine next steps. Your feedback is extremely important. Please complete the survey to share your ideas. Our goal is to have increased parent participation in the survey experience.



### HMS FALL THEATER WORKSHOP SHOWCASE

We are delighted to offer our students an opportunity to participate in a theater program. On Friday evening, students performed for families and guests. Their performance was stellar and entertained all members of the audience. Delivering a monologue is not an easy task, but our students did so with ease and confidence. Our students also performed two small skits, *What a World* and *The Ever After*. Special thanks to Cindy Simell-Devoe for working with our students throughout the fall and directing the show. Congratulations to our student actors and stage crew. Bravo!

### HMS SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING

**InPerson Meeting at HMS**

**Virtual Attendance:**

<https://zoom.us/j/99518860751>

On Tuesday evening, the HMS School Governance Council will meet at 6:00-7:30 p.m. This meeting will be in person, however there will be an

open Zoom Link for SGC Members interested in participating from home.

### HPS SUPERINTENDENT STUDENT OF THE MONTH \* DECEMBER 2023

**Olivia R., Grade 8, House 2, Team Morello**

Olivia is an outstanding student because she is positive and enthusiastic about learning. She is a student who goes above and beyond to exceed all challenges. Olivia enjoys participating in the orchestra. As a student athlete, she is involved in the school community. She is a valued player on the girls soccer and basketball teams. Practice makes perfect! Olivia reported that she is improving on the field or court and especially in the classroom because she is committed to practicing every day. We are very proud of Olivia, and we are so glad she is a student leader at HMS.



**Akeelah M., Grade 8, House 1, Team Domurad**

Akeelah is a superstar at HMS. She is a hard working student who strives to be her best every day. Her teachers describe her as a dedicated individual. She continues to surpass her goals, and everyone is thrilled with her progress. Akeelah said it is important to be a good student, but it

is more important to be a good person. She strives to practice kindness by helping others in times of need. She listens carefully to others and tries to make everyone feel special. Akeelah has several brothers, and she loves being a good sister to them. Congratulations, Akeelah!



### HAMDEN HURRICANES CHEERLEADERS

Several of our HMS students participate on the Junior Varsity Hamden Hurricane Cheerleading Squad. Last week they traveled to Florida to participate in the National Competition. They earned 5th place! It is an outstanding accomplishment, and we are so proud of our student athletes.

## NEWS FROM OUR MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to our middle school students who have been accepted in this year's CMEA Southern Regional Ensembles.

### HMS Band

Koju T. - alto saxophone  
Sammi B. - timpani

### HMS Orchestra

Noga Y. - flute  
Will S. - cello  
Grant Stortz – cello

We are proud of all students who auditioned for this enriching experience. Students prepared music and participated in a regional audition day. They are scored against a rubric and given a point value based on the needs of each specific ensemble. Keep playing and singing!

### HMS BASKETBALL GAMES

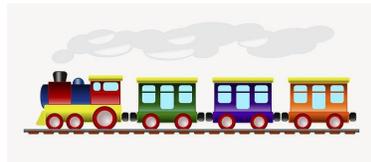
Students who are interested in watching a basketball game at HMS **must be accompanied by an adult/parent**. Parents, we love to have students cheering on teams, but we need help supervising students during the games.

### TEAM COGGINS FUNDRAISER AT BARNES & NOBLES

Dragon Families: Come one, come all! Please join us at the Milford Barnes and Noble this Sunday, December 17th from 2-6 p.m. for an epic shopping, crafting, gift-wrapping, and snacking adventure. Check off your holiday list, while supporting our students. A portion of all book and cafe sales will support Team Coggins field trips, team building, and academic opportunities in 2024! We hope to see you all there. All ages are welcome.

If you can't join us in person and wish to shop online, please use the code below. Thank you again for your

support.



### NJHS TOY DRIVE

Members of the National Junior Honor Society are hosting the annual Toy Drive. The last day for donations is Friday, December 15th. 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.

### 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>

### NEWSLETTER IDEAS

Our goal is to publish a newsletter for HMS families each week. Ms. Coogan, school principal, welcomes your ideas for future articles. What do you need to learn more about? How can the newsletter be more helpful to you? Please email your suggestions to [mcoogan@hamden.org](mailto:mcoogan@hamden.org). She loves to hear from parents.

**DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

Students and staff with mild respiratory disease symptoms (infrequent cough, congestion, runny nose, sore throat, etc.) **may come to school if:**

- They are fever-free (a temperature of less than 100° F) and feel well enough to participate,
- They test negative for COVID-19 prior to reporting in-person, every day they have symptoms, as well as one final test on the morning their symptoms have completely resolved, and
- They consider wearing a mask while in school.

Students and staff who have any respiratory disease symptoms **must NOT come to school if either:**

- They have a fever (a temperature of 100° F or higher),
- They test positive for COVID-19.

Stay home until the symptoms resolve and test for COVID-19. This includes not coming to school until the fever has ended for at least 24 hours without the use of medication. Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 should stay home according to the guidance provided by their medical provider and in consultation with the school nurse.

Following this guidance will help keep our schools healthy and open!  
[www.hamden.org](http://www.hamden.org)

### 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.

**REMINDER! EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS**

1. September 11, 2023	10. January 25, 2024
2. September 18, 2023	11. February 5, 2024
3. October 16, 2023	12. February 15, 2024
4. October 30, 2023	13. March 4, 2024
5. November 13, 2023	14. March 21, 2024
6. November 22, 2023	15. April 1, 2024
7. December 11, 2023	16. May 6, 2024
8. December 21, 2023	17. May 16, 2024
9. January 8, 2024	18. June 3, 2024