

Week of February 12-16, 2024

**Monday,
February 12, 2024 (B3)**

NAEP Testing (LMC)

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

Dance Club
Expressions Club
Gr. 7 A-Team
Intro the Woods Rehearsal
Jazz Band
Yearbook Club

No School Winter Recess

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

Homebase
8:35 AM - 9:10 AM

Emergency Drill

After-School Programs
Intro to the Woods Rehearsal
Office Hours
IXL Support

School Governance Council Meeting
6:00 PM

YEARBOOK COVER SUBMISSIONS DUE!

Greg Dresko, CSDE Educational Consultant, Visits HMS

Todd White, Educational Consultant, Visits HMS

Black History Month Assembly: Harriet
Tubman & the Underground Railroad
B4/P1: Teams DeLucia & Rocco

Early Dismissal
(12:05 PM)

Professional Development
(12:05-3:50 PM)

HMS Family Night at IXTAPA
4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

HMS Data Team Meeting (B1/P4 and B2/P5)

A graphic celebrating Black History Month. At the top, the word "CELEBRATING" is written in a red, stylized font. Below it, "Black History Month" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath, the months "FEB" and "MAR" are separated by a large "01-01", indicating the dates February 1st to March 1st. The background is black. On the left, there is a stylized red and yellow flag. On the right, there is a small crest featuring a shield with a cross and a book. At the bottom, there are several raised fists in various shades of brown and black, symbolizing solidarity and protest.

All students will have an opportunity to attend a special assembly in honor of Black History Month this week. They will watch a virtual play, "Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad" presented by the Ridgefield Playhouse in our school auditorium. Students will debrief and discuss the video in their social studies classes. We are committed to celebrating and honoring Black history, culture, and achievements.

On Saturday, February 10th, many celebrated the Lunar New Year and

the arrival of spring. This holiday is celebrated in many Asian countries, including China, Korea, and Vietnam. The vibrant colors and traditions of the Lunar New Year are beautiful. It is a time for family and friends. **HMS, this is our year... It is the Year of the Dragon!** Wishing you all good fortune, joy, and prosperity.



NJHS VALENTINE'S DAY FUNDRAISER
 SALES: FEBRUARY 5TH-13TH
 DELIVERY: BLOCK 1 ON FEB 14TH
 YOU CAN BUY A TEDDY BEAR OR PENCIL

PENCILS COST \$1.00
TEDDY BEARS COST \$3.00
 PLUS A MESSAGE

THE MONEY RAISED WILL BE USED TO BUY THE HPD PIZZA

VALENTINE BEARS & PENCIL SALE SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

The NJHS will begin selling Valentine Bears (\$3.00) and Pencils (\$1.00) on Monday, February 5 and the sales will run until Feb 13. Students can make a purchase during their lunch periods in the cafeteria. The proceeds will be used to celebrate the Hamden Police Department.



Hamden Middle School Family Dinner Night
Ixtapa Grille Family Mexican Restaurant
 2547 Whitney Avenue
Thursday, February 15, 2024

Ixtapa will donate 20% of all meals purchased in the restaurant or take out to HMS!

SAVE THE DATE:
IXTAPA DINNER FUNDRAISER
 On **Thursday, February 15th**, the HMS community is encouraged to have dinner at a local Mexican

restaurant, Ixtapa. They will donate 20% of all meals purchased at the restaurant or take out. *(It does not include meals ordered through food delivery apps, like Uber orders, Grub Hub, or DoorDash.)* It is a great night to tell your family that you are having a treat for dinner! And, who celebrates Valentines on 2/14? Smart families wait until the next day! 😊



SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING A PARENT PRESENTATION

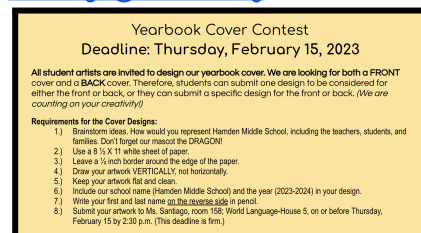
Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM (Inclement Weather Date: Wednesday, March 27th)

Our amazing PTA planned a social media awareness training for our students and families. State Trooper White leads social media awareness presentations across the state, and we scheduled times for him to visit HMS. First, he will talk with parents on February 21st. Then, he will meet with all HMS students in March. The presentation in total should take approximately one hour. We strongly encourage all families to send a parent or grownup to this informational session. We intend to invite families across the eight elementary schools, too. Our children are impacted by social media, and we want to be sure parents and teachers have current information to monitor and teach children how to safely navigate social media.

2024 HMS YEARBOOK NEWS Yearbook Covers Submissions Due

We are trying something new this year by allowing students to create the yearbook covers. If your middle school student is interested in this opportunity, please remind them of

the deadline - Thursday, February 15th. Ms. Santiago, Spanish teacher and Yearbook Advisor, is collecting the submissions. Please direct students to her at ksantiago@hamden.org.



Yearbook Cover Contest
Deadline: Thursday, February 15, 2023

All student artists are invited to design our yearbook cover. We are looking for both a FRONT cover and a BACK cover. Therefore, students can submit one design to be considered for either the front or back, or they can submit a specific design for the front or back. (We are counting on your creativity!)

Requirements for the Cover Designs:

- 1.) Brainstorm ideas. How would you represent Hamden Middle School, including the teachers, students, and families. Don't forget our mascot the DRAGON!
- 2.) Use a 8 1/2 x 11 white sheet of paper.
- 3.) Leave a 1/2 inch border around the edge of the paper.
- 4.) Draw your artwork VERTICALLY, not horizontally.
- 5.) Keep your artwork flat and clean.
- 6.) Include our school name (Hamden Middle School) and the year (2023-2024) in your design.
- 7.) Write your first and last name on the opposite side in pencil.
- 8.) Submit your artwork to Ms. Santiago, room 158, World Language-House 5, on or before Thursday, February 15 by 2:30 p.m. (This deadline is firm.)

Ordering a Yearbook

It is time to order your 2024 HMS Yearbook. The cost is \$25.00 for a soft-covered yearbook. Families/students can choose to upgrade to a hardcover for an additional \$5.00. Visit this website to order your yearbook today. <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/> Our school code is **15168424**.

Ordering a Yearbook Advertisement

Families can choose to purchase an ad or shout out for their eighth-grade students. They would visit the same website and use the HMS code. (above) The ads can be designed using the LifeTouch website, but we would recommend creating the ad using a program like Canva and uploading it. The cost of advertisements are:
 Business Card: \$10.00
 Quarter Page: \$20.00
 Half Page: \$40.00

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOL COUNSELORS

The first week of February is the National School Counseling Week, and it is a time to focus attention on the contributions of school counselors across the country. We are grateful to work with Allison Atkin, Tia Bonessi, and Andrea Mitchell at HMS. We are also glad to have Brooke Stanziale serving as the leader for the HPS School Counseling department. Our students are fortunate to have your

guidance and support.



HEAT (Heroin Education Action Team) Grade 8 Student Assemblies
February 29: B5, P6 Teams
DeLucia and Rocco
March 1: B5, P6 Teams Domurad and Morello

Ms. Coffey, grade 8 administrator, organized informational programs for our 8th grade students that will take place at the end of the month. Guest speakers will share information about fentanyl. Did you know that in 2022, 1,467 Connecticut residents died from overdoses after consuming fentanyl, heroin, and other opioid drugs? 80% of these deaths were caused by fentanyl, a powerful synthetic narcotic widely distributed in the illegal drug trade. In comparison, Connecticut had approximately 380 automobile-related fatalities in 2022. HEAT presentation teaches middle school students that a single pill containing several grains of fentanyl can kill them. Street drugs, such as cocaine, MDMA, and marijuana, are often laced with fentanyl by unscrupulous drug dealers. HEAT presentations drive home the lethal consequences that fentanyl can bring to Connecticut families and their children. If parents have any questions regarding this assembly, they should contact Ms. Coffey at jcoffey@hamden.org.

SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION
HMS Baseball Team,

Coach Rick DeMatties
HMS Softball Team,
Coach Kim Mallard

Attention Student Athletes and Families: It is time to register for spring sports, including baseball and softball. Students must complete the registration process and be in good standing with their school work to be eligible for tryouts.

Here is the link:
<https://www.finalforms.com/>

Students and parents/guardians will need to BOTH register. If they have an account already from a different sport, they will still need to login in and select Spring sports- softball or baseball, and make sure everything is up to date.

An up-to-date physical is required to try out.

Students need to have a ride after practice and games (practices end at 4:30, games depend on home or away but anywhere between 5:30-6:30 is expected).

Students must be in good standing as a student athlete. They must be successfully passing their classes, and they cannot have more than 2 Fs from the second marking period.

Ms. Bergstrom, HMS Athletic Coordinator, has created a Google Classroom to support parents and students with the registration process. The code is [shxzfp](#).

Tryouts will take place on the following dates:
March 25th: Grade 8
March 26th: Grade 7
March 27th: Callbacks

HHS HECA PROGRAM

The purpose of this communication is to give our families and students an

update as it relates to the Hamden Engineering Careers Academy (HECA) program that would be effective at the start of next school year. Specifically, Gateway Community College has notified us that the Connecticut State Community College system has made significant changes to the academic requirements for the students in the program. As such, effective at the start of next school year, our continued participation in the Associate of Science in Manufacturing Engineering Technology degree program is no longer tenable. Administration has established an alternative plan for incoming 9th graders that we believe is better aligned with the needs of our students, and more aptly addresses needs in the Connecticut job market and U.S. economy. We will be offering students a myriad of related electives that align with career pathways and ultimately industry certifications. Interested incoming 9th grade students may consider Exploration of STEAM, Green Construction & Technology, Introduction to Computer Technology, Introduction to Engineering, Introduction to Drafting & CAD, Intermediate Drafting & CAD and Manufacturing Processes. More definitive information will be presented to the curriculum committee as well as the full Board of Education.

FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT
Monday, February 26, 2024

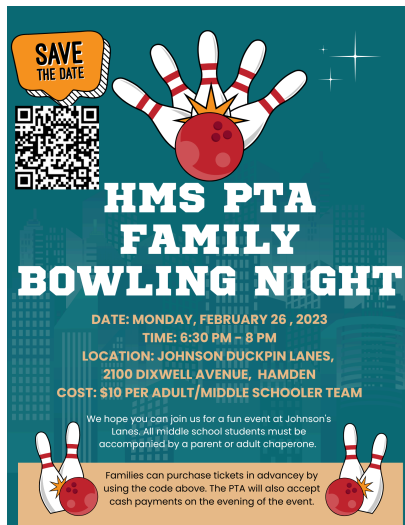
Our PTA is hosting an evening of bowling at the Johnson Bowling Lanes. It is a great opportunity for students to hang out with friends while parents get to know each other. The cost is \$20 for 4 bowlers. Use this link to register and pay:

<https://cpta-hamdenmiddlepta.memberhub.com/store/items/987352>

If parents are planning to attend with only one middle school student, the

cost will be \$10. Please be prepared to pay cash on the evening of the event.

Let's Bowl, Let's Bowl, Let's Rock and Roll... Hope to see you there!



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.



Interested in purchasing HMS Swag?

Check out this website:
<https://hamdenspiritwear.com/>