

Week of February 19-23, 2024

No School Winter Recess

**Social Media Awareness Parent
Informational Workshop
6:00 - 7:30 PM
Auditorium**

We encourage all families to visit the HMS website and review our [HONOR ROLL](#). We are proud of our students who are earning High Honors (all As), Honors (all As and Bs), and Honorable Mention (all As, Bs, and one C). Academic excellence is one of the most noble student achievements. Keep up the great work!

As we forge ahead, teachers are reflecting on the HMS Grading Practices, including the outlined teacher responsibilities. We thought it was an opportune time for students and families to review the expectations as well.

- Be present and prepared for school and each class every day.
- Actively engage in learning experience, as outlined in the Dragon Pride Classroom expectations.
- Complete and submit assignments on time.
- Request, complete, and submit the HMS Retake Reflection Form, as needed, to the teacher within two classes from receiving the assessment grade.
- Monitor PowerSchool.

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

Greg Dresko, Educational Consultant, Visits HMS

After-School Programs
Dance Club
Expressions Club
Gr. 8 A-Team
Into the Woods Rehearsal
Jazz Band

Dragon Pride Field Trip to Yale Art Gallery
& Yorkside Pizza (10:30 AM - 1:30 PM)

Gr. 7 Chorus Performs National Anthem at the QU Men's Basketball Game

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

- Advocate for extra help when struggling.
- Attend office hours, as needed.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Ensure your child is present and prepared for school every day.
- Monitor your child's attendance.
- Create and monitor a Parent Portal account in PowerSchool.
- Review PowerSchool updates with your child and discuss progress and next steps.
- Teach your children to respectfully advocate for help, as needed.
- Communicate with your child's teachers or team.
- Embrace opportunities to meet with your child's teachers, including conferences and family engagement events.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Last week, all teams visited the auditorium to watch a virtual play, "Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad" presented by the Ridgefield Playhouse. This dramatic performance highlighted the accomplishments of a great American who freed herself and hundreds of her people from the bonds of slavery. There were two quotes from the play that resonated with students and teachers.

"I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors

can't say; I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger." Although students have learned about Harriet Tubman's life throughout their educational careers, they continue to be in awe of her accomplishments.

"What we have to fight now is ignorance and that war never ends." Students and teachers discussed the importance of studying history to make a positive impact on the present day and future. Examples of ignorance persist in our world, and education is one of the best ways to combat this problem.

The teachers reported the virtual play was insightful, moving, and a true example of perseverance as it depicted all that Harriet Tubman did despite the many challenges she faced. We are grateful to be able to share this play with our students.

This week, Dr. Karmia Robinson will visit HMS and talk with all students in four distinct assemblies. Students will be exposed to a lecture, an educational talk typically delivered to students at the college or university level. She will discuss the importance of holidays and celebrations honoring Black history and culture, including Black History Month, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Juneteenth. Students will listen to Dr. Robinson and then have an opportunity to ask questions. We are excited to provide this enrichment experience to our HMS community.

Thinking ahead to the last week of February, we would like your help to plan a series of school spirit days in honor of Black History Month.

Black History Month Spirit Week

Monday, February 26, 2024

Unity Day

Wear all black to celebrate unity together!

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Pan-African Flag Day

Wear red, green, and black to represent the Pan African Flag

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Favorite African American Artists

Wear a t-shirt representing your favorite artists.

Thursday, February 29, 2024

I Have a Dream Day

Inspired by MLK's famous speech, wear your warm PJs to school.

Please share this information with your middle schooler and help them dress for success NEXT WEEK!



Wednesday, February 21, 2024

6:00-7:00 PM

Hamden Middle School Auditorium



SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING

A PARENT PRESENTATION

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at

6:00 PM

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.



ATTENDANCE COUNTS!

Students are considered **chronically absent** when they are absent more than 10% of the school days. **As of today, 20% of our HMS students are considered chronically absent.**

Students are considered **truant** when they have four unexcused absences in one month or 10 unexcused absences in an academic year. Unexcused absences result when the student's grownups do not call school to report the reason for the absence. Our goal is to reduce chronic absenteeism and truancy. You can help us!

We want our students to attend school every day. Although, we understand that illness sometimes keeps students home. We get it! Please call school to let us know when your child needs to be absent. The grade level clerks will be sure to document your child's absence.

Grade 7 Families call Mrs. Rose McKee at 203-407-7207.

Grade 8 Families call Ms. Rebeka McKee at 203-407-7180.

We are developing a plan to bring attendance awareness to our students. Stay tuned for more information in future newsletters.

2024 HMS YEARBOOK NEWS

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

GRADE 7 CHORUS PERFORMS AT QUINNIPIAC BASKETBALL GAME

Friday, February 23, 2024

Tip Off at 9:00 PM

Chorus Performs at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Our seventh-grade chorus was invited to sing the national anthem at the Quinnipiac University Men's Basketball Game vs. Fairfield on Friday, February 23, 2024. The game starts at 9:00 PM, but chorus students will arrive between 8:00 - 8:15 p.m. to allow enough time to warm up and find their places. Performers will receive a free ticket to the game. Family and friends looking to watch the performance and/or the game can purchase tickets online through the link below. Tickets are \$5

(plus processing fees). [Quinnipiac Ticket Portal](https://qb6.gliitnirticketing.com/gbticket/web/loginroup1.php) <https://qb6.gliitnirticketing.com/gbticket/web/loginroup1.php> (Password: HMS) Everyone is invited to attend and cheer on the HMS Chorus as they sing the National Anthem.

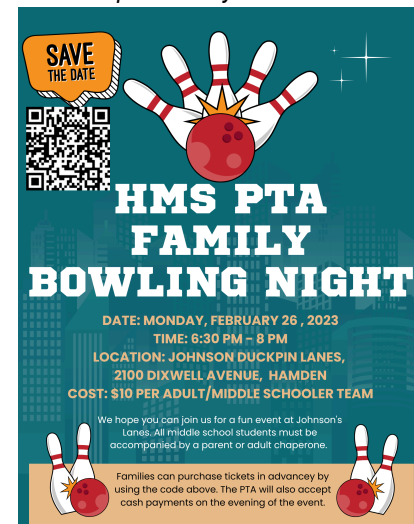
FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT Monday, February 26, 2024

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!



BUTTER BRAID PASTRY & CLASSIC COOKIE DOUGH HMS FUNDRAISER

Start Date: Friday, February 23

End Date: Friday, March 8

We are participating in a different fundraiser with hopes to raise funds for Dragon Pride Incentives and Field Trips. We heard rave reviews about

the butter braid and classic cookie dough sales. These frozen desserts are perfect for a quick treat. On Thursday, February 22, students will bring home the fundraising forms. Please consider supporting our school community by selling and ordering these fundraising items.



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 BOTH need to 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

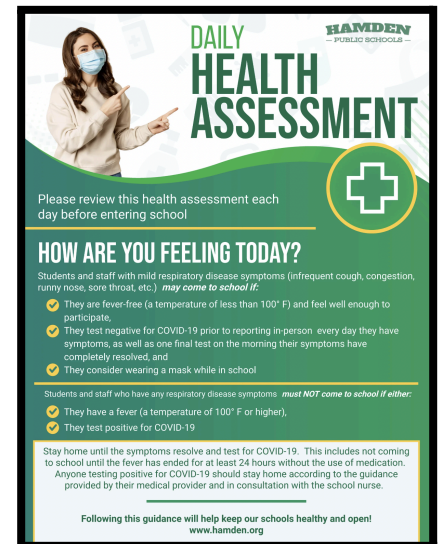
March 26th: Grade 7

March 27th: Callbacks

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/>



TRANSITION FROM HMS TO HHS

Of the many exciting moments for our 8th grade students, preparing for high school is one of them. For the last few weeks 8th grade students have been exposed to "life after middle school." Please see the below lessons and activities that all 8th graders participated in at HMS.

January 17th - 22nd: Hamden High School Counselors visited Hamden Middle School to engage students in a lesson called Hamden High School: Freshman 101. Students were introduced to important terms and tips for their transition to 9th grade.

Please see the presentation here:

[Freshman 101 Class of 2028](#)

January 30th: During Homebase, students received a hard copy describing the elective courses available to freshmen. This was an introductory activity encouraging students and caretakers to start thinking about what is available in consideration of student interests. Please see the list of Freshman Electives: [2024-2025 Freshman Courses](#), and courses descriptions here [2024-2025 course descriptions](#).

January 31st - February 5th: Students continued to "shop" their electives on team or with their school counselor. They started to record their choices in order of preference on the hard copy worksheet. This worksheet is NOT their final selection and is meant to guide the process. Please see here: [Course Selection Sheet HMS \(rising 9th\)](#)

February 5th - 11th: Teachers entered recommendations for each student into PowerSchool. Recommendations are given for English, math, science, and world language. To view recommendations, students log into their PowerSchool accounts from a Chromebook or laptop.

To access the student and parent portal follow this link:

<https://www.hamden.org/hms/powerschool-access>

To view recommendations, students follow the PowerSchool instructions here:

- Click on the small gray arrow to open the navigation menu
- Click on Course Registration and all recommended courses will be displayed

Students will view recommendations with their

counselors and are encouraged to talk with their teachers if they have questions.

For a broader picture of courses, course sequences, and graduation requirements, please see Hamden High School's Program of Studies: [HHS Program of Studies - Hamden Public Schools](#)

February 12th - 15th: Counselors visited all 8th grade classes to assist the students as they input their recommended classes and chosen electives into PowerSchool. These are their course requests for 9th grade.

All worksheets and materials are also available in the 8th Grade School Counseling Google classroom. Please enter the classroom here: [Counseling Google Classroom](#) - code [ptn2u3n](#)

Enjoy exploring and please do not hesitate to reach out to the school counseling team with any questions or concerns.

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