

Week of February 26-March 1, 2024

OUR WEEK IN REVIEW

**Monday,
February 26, 2024 (B7)**

BHM Spirit Week: Unity Day! Wear all black to celebrate unity together

After-School Programs

Healthy Heroes
2:50 PM - 5:00 PM

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

PTA Family Bowling Night at Johnson's
Lanes
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Tuesday,
February 27, 2024 (A1)**

BHM Spirit Week: Pan-African Flag Day!
Wear red, green & black to represent the
Pan-African Flag

School Safety Committee
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Homebase
8:35 AM - 9:10 AM

Greg Dresko, Educational Consultant, Visits HMS

After-School Programs

Into the Woods Rehearsal
Office Hours
IXL Support (LMC)

Wednesday,
February 28, 2024 (B1)

BHM Spirit Week: Celebrate Your Favorite Black Artist! Wear a t-shirt depicting your favorite Black artist

After-School Programs

Dance Club
Expressions Club
Gr. 7 A-Team
Into the Woods Rehearsal
Jazz Band
Let's Learn Merengue
Technology Club: Session 2
Yearbook Club

Thursday,
February 29, 2024 (A2)

BHM Spirit Week: Fast Forward Day! Dress to Impress as Your Future Self

Gr. 8 HEAT Presentation (Teams DeLucia and Rocco)
11:45 AM

Friday,
March 1, 2024 (B2)

Spirit Day: Pajama Day

Gr. 8 Heat Presentation (Teams Domurad & Morello)
11:45 AM

After-School Programs

Healthy Heroes
2:50 PM - 5:00 PM

HMS CALENDAR

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

Hamden Middle School Conferences

We value your involvement in your child's education and are excited to invite you to our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Conference Highlights :

- Review of Student Progress
- Goal Setting
- Future Planning

Register for a conference today!

Wednesday,
March 6, 2024
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Conference registration links can be found on the HMS website.

HMS CONFERENCES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
5:30-7:30 PM

We are approximately at the midpoint of the third marking period. At this time, teachers are inviting parents to register for a conference with them on **Wednesday, March 6th**. This is a perfect opportunity to learn how your children are performing in their classes and to help your children make improvements, as needed before the close of the marking period on April 2, 2024.

In order to accommodate as many requests for conferences as possible, we ask parents to only sign up for ONE conference with a Core Teacher, including English, Math, Science, Social Studies, or Special Education

Teachers. If parents register for more than one Core Team conference, we will honor the earliest or first meeting and delete the others.

Grade 7 Core Teams

[House 2, Team Ugolik](#)
[House 3, Team Coggins](#)
[House 4, Team Stanton](#)
[House 5, Team Holt](#)

Grade 8 Core Teams

[House 1, Team Domurad](#)
[House 2, Team Morello](#)
[House 3, Team DeLucia](#)
[House 4, Team Rocco](#)

ALsC Classrooms

[ALsC Classrooms](#)

Parents can also request a conference with their children's Encore and World Language Teachers. All members of the faculty will also be available on Wednesday evening to meet with parents, including School Counselors, PPS Team, Deans of Students, and Administrators. We look forward to connecting with families.

Encore, World Language, PPS, SRBI Coordinators & Specialists

[Encore Classes](#)
[World Language Classes](#)
[PPS Team](#)
[SRBI Coordinators & Specialists](#)

On a final note, parents are reminded to regularly check the Parent Portal on PowerSchool. Directions to access the Parent Portal can be found on the HPS website. Click [Here](#).



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Last week, Dr. Karmia Robinson, a special guest speaker, visited HMS and talked with all students about the importance of holidays and celebrations honoring Black history and culture, including Black History Month, Juneteenth, and Kwanza. For instance, Dr. Robinson highlighted the history of Juneteenth - a national holiday as of 2021. It is a time to remember and celebrate the end slavery in our country. Students were exposed to a lecture, an educational talk typically delivered to students at the college or university level. Everyone who listened to Dr. Robinson learned something new. Teachers were proud of our students' behavior in the assemblies. They truly represented our community in an admirable way.



As part of our Black History Month Celebration, Mr. Cebula and Ms. Dawson also interviewed **Ms. Sheena Graham**, a Hamden resident. She is an author, poet and songwriter, and was recognized as an excellent teacher at the district and state levels. Our teachers interviewed her, and the video clips were shared with students on our daily WHMS School News. Ms. Graham shared stories of growing up as an African American student. She explained how

life is not always easy, but regardless of the obstacles people can do great things. Her examples highlighted the importance of goal setting and perseverance. Students listened to segments of Ms. Graham's interview on four different days. Parents, you can also view our daily school news on our [HMS Dragons YouTube](#) channel.

During this final week of BHM, we are enjoying some school spirit days. Please view the week in review above to help your HMS Dragon get dressed for success this week!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADE 7 CHORUS

YES! We could not be prouder of our students. On Friday evening, members of the seventh-grade chorus sang the National Anthem at the Quinnipiac Men's Basketball Game. Mr. O'Herron directed the students, and they sounded AMAZING! We are grateful for all the adults who made this evening possible. It was a wonderful experience for our students and a great reflection on our school.



FREE SKATE THIS FRIDAY
 School Resource Officer DeStefanis

would like students to join the Ice Skating event on Friday, March 1st between 4:00 and 6:00 PM. This event is sponsored by the Hamden Police Department. It is free to students, and there will be refreshments, raffles and prizes. Hope to see you there!

Google Classroom Code: **h7hzvu3**



Dates:
 Tuesday, March 5
 Wednesday, March 6
 Tuesday, March 12
 Wednesday, March 13
 Wednesday, March 20

You must commit to attending all sessions!

EARTHQUAKE STRUCTURES AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Students are invited to sign up for a five-day afterschool enrichment course. They will research, design and build an earthquake resistant structure. Ms. Cooper, Gr. 7 Science Teacher, and Ms. Symonaitis, Science Specialist, are ready to challenge students and help them to discover the science of structures. The registration link will go "live" this Wednesday morning. Interested students must log into the Google Classroom. Code h7hzvu3. Parents, if you want your children to participate in this program, please remind them to register. Space is limited, and we anticipate it will fill up quickly! Questions? Please email Brenna Symonaitis at bsymonaitis@hamden.org.

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. Students should have shared the fundraising forms with their families last week.

Please consider supporting our school community by selling and ordering these fundraising items.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Some of our HMS students were recently inspired to consider how they could give back to the community. With the help of their parents, a small group of seventh-grade students coordinated a clean up effort last weekend. They worked from 10 AM to 3 PM on Saturday and picked up trash in the Whitneyville area. Then, on Sunday they visited HMS to clean the surrounding grounds. They collected 10 full bags of garbage over the weekend! Helen Ward, Vice President of Whitneyville Civic Association, came out to thank our students and acknowledge their efforts for the Whitneyville cleanup. (Ms. Ward joins our students in the photograph above.) Gigi, Annabelle, Elsa, Penny, Noga, Claire, Maia, and Ruth, we are very proud of you.

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

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 [shxzfyp](#).

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>

**Interested in purchasing
HMS Swag?**

Check out this website:

<https://hamdenspiritwear.com/>

FREE SHIPPING!
ON EVERYTHING!
No PURCHASE LIMIT!

**HURRY!
1 WEEK ONLY!!**

Valid 2/23-2/29
www.hamdenspiritwear.com

DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Please review this health assessment each day before entering school

HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?

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

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