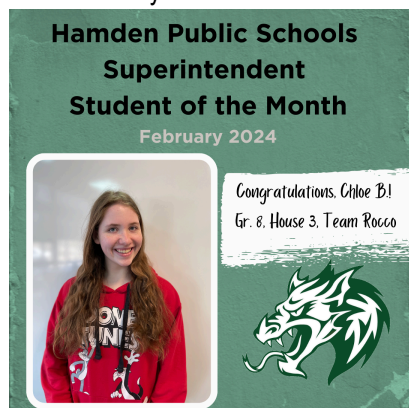


Week of March 6-15, 2024

to register for a conference and you have questions about your child's progress, please email your child's teacher. All email addresses can be found on our HMS website. [Contact Our Staff](#) Parents and students are also encouraged to monitor attendance and grading by checking PowerSchool. The third marking period ends on April 2, 2024.

HPS SUPERINTENDENT STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

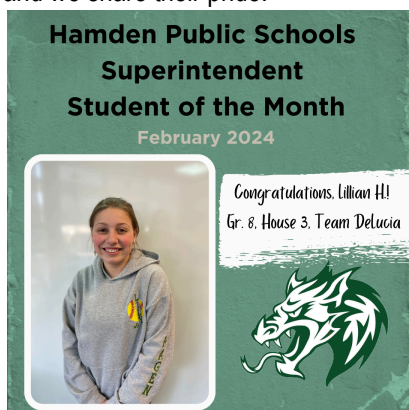
Superintendent Highsmith shined the spotlight on two of our HMS Dragons during the month of February. Chloe and Lillian are outstanding students who make an effort to get involved in the community.



Chloe B., Grade 8, House 4, Team Rocco

The World Language Department proudly nominates Chloe for her outstanding performance in Italian. Chloe is not only a kind, passionate, and considerate individual, but her dedication to her work in Italian class is truly remarkable. In addition to her wonderful personality, Chloe excels in various aspects of her school life, including her involvement in the National Junior Honor Society, School Newspaper, and the World Language Poetry Contest. Her commitment extends beyond academics to her dedication to swimming, participation in the teen advisory board at Miller Memorial Library, and involvement in community service efforts. Chloe has a wonderful support team, including her parents and twin brother. They

are proud of her accomplishments, and we share their pride!



Lillian H., Grade 8, House 3, Team DeLucia

Lillian is not only an exceptional student, but also an exceptional person. She is an amazing addition to any classroom as she is accepting of all people and is a true example of Dragon Pride. Lillian has an eagerness to assist others when they are struggling because she is kind, caring, and is always willing to help other students shine. Lillian is ambitious as she is always working hard, participating in class and asking insightful questions. When she is in a classroom, other students respond to her inquisitive nature by elevating their own thinking. Lillian has incredible leadership qualities inside and outside of school. She is a member of the National Junior Honor Society where she has taken on a leadership role stepping up to take the lead in all fundraising and community service events. Outside of academics, Lillian is also on the softball and volleyball team. On those teams she exhibits the same ambitious behaviors and attitude. Lillian sets the bar high for herself in all areas of her life and is eager to be successful in all she does. She has set future goals for herself and aspires to be a Kindergarten teacher. Lillian is a true example of a student who enriches the classroom and overall school community.

DRAGON PRIDE STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

On Monday, March 4, we recognized students who have exemplified the Dragon Pride expectations. They are students who arrive at school ready to learn; they are present and prepared. We honored students who demonstrated leadership both in the classroom and in our community. We celebrated students who set goals and worked to accomplish them during the first semester. Over 175 students were celebrated in both seventh and eighth grade. Team Leaders introduced students and shared a brief statement acknowledging the reasons they were nominated for this award. Many parents, grownups, and family members joined us for the celebrations. We are grateful for your ongoing support. Ms. Coogan captured a photograph of all students honored. Parents can request a copy of the photograph by emailing her at mcoogan@hamden.org.



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!

STEM AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Parents, are you interested in an enrichment experience for your children? If yes, please contact Ms. Brenna Symonaitis at bsymonaitis@hamden.org to register your child for the remaining three sessions of the STEM course. Students will research, design and build an earthquake resistant structure.

DRAGON'S POST STUDENT NEWSPAPER

The Hamden Middle School Newspaper/News Club has been busy at work putting together the winter issue! You can check out all their hard work by [clicking here](#). A special thanks to the dedicated student contributors who make the paper possible. We'd also like to recognize Wesley R. for creating his own segment on the morning announcements called "Wesley's Wednesdays." Keep up the great work, everyone!



FAMILY PAINT NIGHT Wednesday, March 20th 5:30-8:30 PM

We are so excited to bring back HMS Paint Night. This family engagement program is designed for students and their grownups. The cost is \$10 per painter, and it includes supplies and snacks from Chipotle. Please reserve your spots today by completing this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/fmD6iJsDwFi36MwUA>

Parents can also RSVP by emailing Lauren Gejda at lgejda@hamden.org.

ATTENDANCE COUNTS!

It is quite simple. School is better when our students are present. During the month of March, we are raising awareness by challenging students to be their best selves. First, the eight core teams are competing with each other to earn "The Principal's Cup". The team with the attendance will win the trophy and bragging rights. In addition, students who earn perfect attendance between Wednesday, March 6th and Wednesday, March 27th will be entered into a special raffle. We will select multiple winners from every team for a special luncheon.

While our goal is to decrease chronic absenteeism at HMS, we understand students may need to stay home due to illness. In the event your child must be absent, please call to inform us.

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

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



Who will win **The Principal's Cup** this month? Principal Coogan is eager to find out!

NORWALK AQUARIUM FIELD TRIP

We are planning a field trip to the Maritime Aquarium on Tuesday, March 19th. Students can earn their way on the trip with 100 Dragon Pride tickets. There is still time to reserve a seat. Parents, ask your children if they are earning Dragon Pride Tickets and encourage them to trade in their tickets for a special field trip.

GR. 7 FIELD TRIPS TO URBAN AIR

All four of our seventh-grade teams are traveling to Urban Air in Orange, CT. Parents, please look for the field trip and waiver forms. If you have any questions, contact your child's team leader.

Team Ugolik:

Monday, March 18th

Team Coggins:

Wednesday, March 20th

Team Stanton:

Thursday, March 28th

Team Holt:

Friday, March 22nd

THE DRAGON'S TALE

A school newsletter is an important communication tool. We hope families find the information helpful. We often wonder... Are weekly newsletters effective? Please share your ideas with Michelle Coogan by emailing her at

mcoogan@hamden.org. Families can expect the next newsletter on Monday, March 18th.

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/>



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.