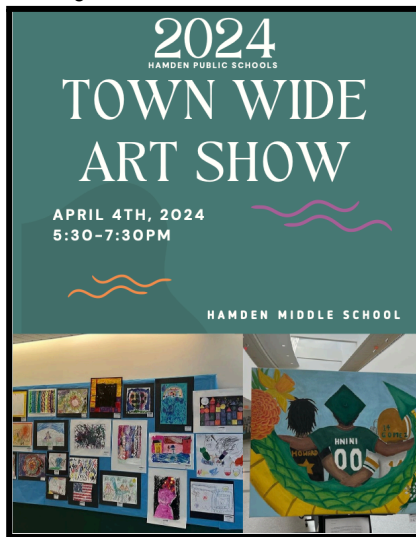


Week of April 1-5, 2024

Please join us at Hamden Middle School on Thursday evening for the district's art show. Doors open at 5:30 PM. Guests will be sure to enjoy artwork created by students across the elementary, middle and high

schools. It is one of our most favorite evenings. All are welcome to attend.



SPRING SPORTS UPDATE

Congratulations to our Student Athletes who earned a place on the 2024 HMS Baseball and Softball teams. Practice begins this week, and games will quickly follow. Best of luck in the upcoming season... Play Ball!

Baseball Team 2024

Coach Rick DeMatties

Benjamin Allen
Brendan Badia
Jermel Broadherst
Luca D'Andrea
Nicholas Demico
Bodyn Edwards
Ernesto Figueroa
Marcos Gonzalez
Mateo Gonzalez
Liam Hice
Kihry Lazaro
Joshua Marczak
Sevario McHugh
Carlo Santana
Antonio Sgambati
Nico Sgambati
Jeremiah Taylor

Softball Team 2024

Coach Kim Mallard

Jocelyn Agosto
Sally Banks
Karri Boyd
Kayla Boyle

Sofia Cossaboom
Gianna Damico
Lily Doniere
Kaylah Goubourn
Sassy Green
Lillian Hagen
Sadie Hallas
Ari Houghton
Alexys Martin
Molly McGreevy
Zoe Nolan
Jael Phillips
Calista Potkay

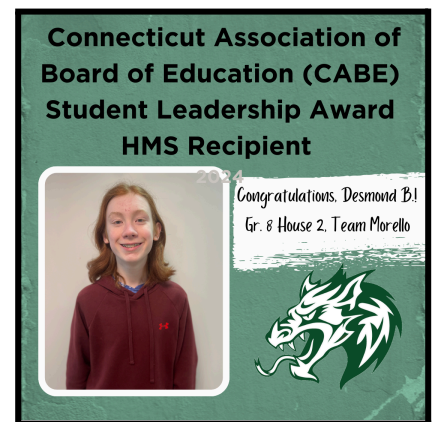
CABE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The CABE Student Leadership Awards Program is designed to honor Connecticut High School and Middle School students who exhibit exemplary leadership skills. Two students from each school, in a CABE member district, are eligible to receive the CABE Student Leadership Award.

Teachers were asked to consider students who demonstrated leadership skills, including:

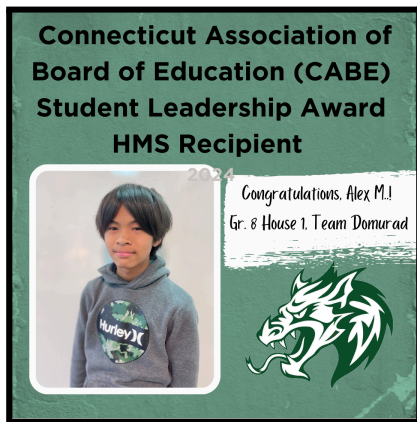
- Willingness to take on challenges
- Capability to make difficult decisions
- Concern for others
- Ability to work with others
- Willingness to commit to a project
- Diplomacy
- Ability to understand issues clearly
- Ability to honor a commitment

We are proud to recognize **Desmond B.** and **Alex M.** with the 2024 CABE Student Leadership Awards.



Desmond B., Hamden Middle School, Grade 8

Desmond is often described as a dedicated, hardworking student athlete. He loves a challenge and schedules time to study and complete assignments. Desmond referred to himself as the "task master", and he is determined to make the most out of his school experience. Desmond's teachers appreciate his kind, respectful disposition and willingness to help others. He consistently earns high grades and accolades from his teachers and peers. Outside of school, Desmond plays hockey, and his commitment to practice and play is top notch. When he commits to a team, he honors it. For instance, he attended every practice and game when he was unable to play due to an injury. He understood it was important to be present so he could watch, learn and support his teammates. Desmond's leadership is admired by so many people, including his younger brother. He will continue to do great things and lead by example.



Alexander M., Hamden Middle School, Grade 8

Alex is a quiet leader who observes the world through the art of photography. He discovered an interest in this form of art, and he started to take sports pictures. Then, Alex joined the yearbook club and shared his gift of photography with our community. His commitment to learning a new skill is admirable. In addition, Alex is a focused student who is concerned about doing well in class. He has learned to advocate for himself and often seeks support from his teachers and classmates. He perseveres when presented with challenging tasks. As a result of his hard work, Alex has many successes, including earning honors. Alex is a positive person who makes others feel happy in his company. His future is bright!

PTA EARTH DAY FUNDRAISER SATURDAY, APRIL 27 10 AM - 1 PM

Our PTA is hosting a special fundraiser for Earth Day, and it is aligned with spring cleaning! It's a Win- Win situation! You gather household items, outgrown clothes & dated media and your donations will help HMS earn money for end-of year events! It's an eco-friendly opportunity to help your community. *What will you donate towards the HMS PTA fundraiser?*

Please click this [LINK](#) if you intend to donate items.



DRAGON PRIDE BUS EXPECTATIONS

Many of our students ride a school bus each day. We want to support our students by teaching them our school expectations for riding the bus. We believe our expectations are aligned with our families' values, and we welcome feedback and suggestions.

Please talk with your middle schooler about the expectations for Insisting on Safety on the bus:

- *Follow adult directions*
 - *Respect personal space....Keep your hands and feet to yourself*
 - *Reduce distractions for bus drivers*
 - *Report any concerns immediately*
- We want our students to arrive at school and then home safely each day. Let's work together to help our students be their best selves.

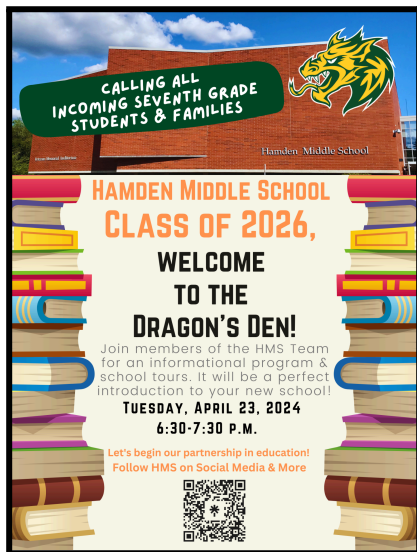
MAGNET SCHOOL EXPERIENCE
ACES at Chase, a Magnet Schools of America 2024 School of Excellence, is expanding from a 6-8 middle school to a 6-12 secondary school. Next year, we will roll the expansion to include 9th grade. As a free, public, magnet school, we offer independent learners an alternative, inquiry-oriented, project-based, STEAM-focused learning environment.

The school is located in Waterbury on a former private multi-building 40-acre park-like campus. Our diverse learning community represents 29 different towns. We currently have a limited number of seats available for our 9th-grade class that will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. We expect each grade level to have approximately 125 students, creating an intimate learning community.

Interested families can apply online at aces.org/chase. For more information, please visit our website, check out [THIS FLYER](#), or contact the school directly.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS

- May 23: Grade 8 Dance
- May 24: Grade 8 Field Day
- May 30: Spring Concert Featuring the HMS Gr. 8 Band, Orchestra, Chorus, and Jazz Band
- June 5: Grade 8 Field Trip to Holiday Hill (Teams Domurad & Rocco)
- June 6: Grade 8 Field Trip to Holiday Hill (Teams DeLucia & Morello)
- June 10: Team Rocco's Eighth Grade Celebration at 9 AM
- June 10: Team Morello's Eighth Grade Celebration at 11 AM
- June 11: Team DeLucia's Eighth Grade Celebration at 9 AM
- June 11: Team Domurad's Eighth Grade Celebration at 11 AM
- June 13: Last Day of School



HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

We are hosting an informational program on Tuesday, April 23rd at HMS for incoming 7th grade students and their families. It is a perfect evening for new families to get to know their new school. If you know someone in town who has a rising 7th grade student, please encourage them to attend this event.

A LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT HIGHSMITH

There is a great deal of excitement surrounding the solar eclipse occurring on April 8, 2024. As educators, we are enthused to see such excitement for a science-related event. We also want to make sure that our solar eclipse experience is as safe as it can be for each and every student. This is especially important given that the process will start at 2:15 p.m., and is not anticipated to conclude until 4:30 p.m. This time frame includes our dismissal times at the high school, middle school, and elementary school levels, which poses a challenge for us. All of the information we are receiving about the solar eclipse emphasizes that, except for a brief total phase of a total solar eclipse, it is not safe to look directly at the Sun without specialized eye protection for solar viewing.

Since this event will take place during the timeframe of dismissal from school -and we cannot reasonably be expected to ensure that none of our students will look up at the eclipse without the appropriate eye protection during this time- we need your partnership in emphasizing the importance of having your child not look directly at the solar eclipse at any time without the specialized eye protection.

There are several ways that staff, students, and families can safely view the solar eclipse. Please see the links below for safe viewing of the eclipse. In addition, below you will find guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education which has a wealth of information about the solar eclipse. Please be sure to remind your child that viewing the solar eclipse must be done safely and that looking directly at the Sun during the eclipse may cause damage to their eyes.

[How to View a Solar Eclipse Safely](#)

[Eye Safety During a Total Solar Eclipse.](#)

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.



ATTENDANCE COUNTS

Congratulations to Team Ugolik, Grade 7, House 2! They were the first team to win *The Principal's Cup* for their outstanding attendance during the month of March. Will they be able to hold on to the trophy in April? Time will tell...

Did you know that 412 students had perfect attendance during the month of March? We know this accomplishment is a reflection of commitment, as well as good health. All students were entered into a raffle, and 40 students enjoyed a special lunch last week.

Our goal is to reduce Chronic Absenteeism, and we are working hard to raise awareness. We love to see our students in school, and we know it is easier to learn when you are present.

