

Week of April 22-26, 2024

**Monday,
April 22, 2024 (A3)**

Baseball and Softball Practice
2:50 PM - 4:30 PM

Wednesday,
April 24, 2024 (A4)

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

12:15 PM - 5:00 PM

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



Sign the waiver to ensure your HMS Dragon can participate.

*On Wednesday, April 24th, Teams Ugolik, Holt, Morello, and Rocco will join the Grit 'N Wit team on the back fields. **Waiver Link:** [April 24th](#)

*On Thursday, April 25th, Teams Coggins, Stanton, DeLucia, and Domurad will go outside to compete in the challenges. **Waiver Link:** [April 25th](#)

Our teachers heard about the Grit 'N Wit program from teachers across Connecticut. It is a company that creates custom events like camp team building activities to challenge people physically and mentally. Grit 'N Wit events foster teamwork, a growth mindset, and perseverance, so students are better prepared to take the world head-on. We contracted with Grit 'N Wit to visit HMS. Our intent is to help students mentally prepare for SBAC 2024 where they will persevere to demonstrate all they learned on the state assessments.

Here is what parents need to know about Grit 'N' Wit:

*All HMS students who have a signed waiver will have an opportunity to go outdoors and participate in the physical challenges and mental puzzles.

Time	Block	Period	Wednesday, April 24 (A4)	Thursday, April 25 (B4)
8:00-8:45	1	4	Ugolik	Coggins
8:48-9:33	2	5	Ugolik	Coggins
9:36-10:21	3	6	Holt	Stanton
10:24-11:40	4	7	Holt/Morello*	Stanton/DeLucia*
11:43-12:58	5	1	Morello	DeLucia
1:01-1:46	6	2	Rocco	Domurad
1:49-2:34	7	3	Rocco	Domurad

*Students need to dress for success with sneakers and comfortable clothes. We always encourage layers to accommodate the weather.

***In order to participate, every student must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian.**

1. Click on the links above to sign the waiver for your child.

2. Click on General Admission
3. Enter the parent's first name, last name, and email address.
4. Enter your HMS Dragon's first name and last name.
5. Click your HMS Dragon's Team Name.
6. Read waiver and click I agree to the above additional terms.
7. Click register.

Watch this video: [Grit 'N Wit is coming to Hamden Middle School on April 24th & 25th!](#)

We are very excited to bring this special opportunity to our HMS community, and we want all of our students to have the opportunity to participate. **It is essential that every student have a signed waiver to be eligible.** If parents have any questions, please contact Michelle Coogan at mcoogan@hamden.org.

ESCAPE NEW HAVEN NIGHT

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Cost: \$20.00 per participant

Have you heard of Escape New Haven? It is a team building experience in which groups of people work together to solve puzzles and riddles. We are excited to share that we are bringing Escape New Haven to Hamden Middle School on Wednesday, April 24th. Participants will engage in this special experience and enjoy dinner. You don't want to miss this opportunity. Sign up today!

Escape New Haven Registration Link:
<https://forms.gle/VP484VKQFgWzVHCC7>

You can pay the \$20 fee by sending cash to school or by using Venmo (@HMSDragons). Be sure to include your HMS Dragon's name on the envelope or in Venmo.

PTA EARTH DAY FUNDRAISER SATURDAY, APRIL 27

10 AM - 1 PM

What will you donate towards the HMS PTA fundraiser?

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.

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

SBAC 2024

Our students are ready to demonstrate their learning on the state assessments. Teachers have worked with students throughout the academic year to learn new concepts

and skills aligned with the Common Core State Standards. The SBAC and NGSS assessments are aligned with these grade level standards. These assessments are important to students and parents because they are one indicator of a student's ability to understand content and apply grade level skills. The results help educators also understand how their students are performing in comparison to seventh and eighth graders across the state of Connecticut. This information is used to improve curricula and instruction at HMS. In short, these tests count!

Recently, teachers have engaged all students in individual conferences to discuss previous SBAC performance and to set goals for this year's assessment. We encourage our students to do their best, and we are determined to support them throughout this learning experience.

Our eighth grade students will begin testing on Monday, April 29th. They will complete four separate tests, including

1. NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards),
2. Math CAT (Computer Adaptive Test),
3. Math Performance Task, and
4. ELA CAT.

Parents, you can support your children by ensuring they get proper rest. Consider setting a designated time to turn off technology each evening. Ensure your middle schooler eats a healthy breakfast and packs a water bottle and snacks. Most importantly, encourage your children to do their best. Positive words from their number one teachers make a difference.

We will continue to keep our HMS community informed of testing schedules for both seventh and eighth grade students in future newsletters.

HMS 2024 YEARBOOK

Standard Yearbook: \$25.00

Hardcover Upgrade: \$30.00

Online yearbook orders will close on Wednesday, April 30th. By ordering a yearbook online, parents can guarantee their HMS Dragon will get one. In addition, if your HMS Dragon wants a hardcover yearbook, you must order in advance. Visit this website to place an order:

<https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/SelectJob>

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

DRAGON'S POST: STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Our student reporters worked hard on the latest issue of *The Dragon's Post Student Newspaper*.

Check out this issue online. Well done Newspaper/News Club!
<https://www.hamden.org/hms/families/school-newspaper>



ParentSquare

PARENTSQUARE IS COMING TO HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent Highsmith is committed to improving home-school communication across the district. Parents reported that it can be tricky to keep up with information being sent home by the district and schools, especially if a family has children in multiple schools. ParentSquare is a communication tool, and it will help us to centralize all communication at the district, school, and classroom levels. Hamden will begin to use ParentSquare next year, and parents will receive additional information. We understand the importance of strong communication between HMS and our middle school families. We are very excited to work with parents to make the most of this new communication tool.

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.