

# THE DRAGON'S TALE

PrinciPAL Coogan's Newsletter



Week of March 31 - April 4, 2025

In this week's issue of *The Dragon's Tale*, parents can learn more about...

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## **1.) HMS CALENDAR: A REVIEW OF THE UPCOMING WEEK**

### **: A REVIEW OF THE UPCOMING WEEK**

**Monday, March 31, 2025**

**No School: Eid Al-Fitr**

**Tuesday, April 1 (B6)**

Bite-Size PD

Grade 8 PACER Test

Team Quinones Field Trip to Regional Water Authority Group 1 (10:00 AM-1:30 PM)

HMS Equity Committee Meeting (2:50-3:50 PM)

### **After-School Programs/Late Bus**

Dungeons & Dragons Club

HMS Drama Club

Office Hours

### **Spring Sports**

Baseball Tryouts (Make Ups & Call Backs)

## **Wednesday, April 2, 2025 (A7)**

End of Marking Period 3

Todd White, Educational Consultant Visits HMS

### **After-School Programs/Late Bus**

Culinary Club

Math Club

News Club

### **Spring Sports**

Softball Tryouts (Make Ups & Call Backs)

## **Thursday, April 3 2025 (B7)**

Amanda Baksa, Educational Consultant, Visits HMS (8:00-11:00 AM)

Team Quinones Field Trip to Regional Water Authority Group 2 (10:00 AM-1:30 PM)

Dragon Pride Movie Club Field Trip to Cinemark Theaters: A Minecraft Movie (1:00-4:00 PM)

Staff Meeting: Building (2:50-4:20 PM)

### **After-School Programs**

HMS Drama Club

### **Spring Sports**

Spring Sports Practice (2:50-5:00 PM)

## **Friday, April 4, 2025 (A1)**

School Safety Committee (8:00-8:45 AM)

School Security Meeting (8:50-9:30 AM)

Team Quinones Field Trip to Regional Water Authority Group 2 (10:00 AM-1:30 PM)

### **Spring Sports**

Spring Sports Practice (2:50-5:00 PM)

## **Saturday, April 5, 2025**

Saturday Support Tutorial Program (9:00 AM-12:00 PM)

Need to see future calendar information? Check out our school comprehensive [HMS Calendar](#) on the school website.

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### **END OF MARKING PERIOD 3**

The last day of marking period 3 is Tuesday, April 2, 2025. (Remember, the date was pushed back one day due to one school closing!) Teachers will be finalizing grades over the next week, and we will publish report cards before spring recess. Parents can always monitor their

children's progress on PowerSchool. It is the perfect time to reflect and set goals for the final marking period of the school year.



### **HMS EARTH DAY CLOTHING DRIVE- A MESSAGE FROM OUR HMS PTA**

Our HMS PTA is keeping up with the traditional Earth Day fundraiser of collecting clothes, soft textiles, small household items, books, and mixed media to donate to Savers in Milford. You can do some spring cleaning and support our PTA! HMS families can drop off donations on the following days:

1. Friday, April 4: Drop off donations during morning drop off and afternoon pick up.
2. Saturday, April 5th: Drop off donations at the Barn Drop near Josh's Jungle between 9 AM and 11 AM.
3. Saturday, April 26th: Drop off donations at the Hamden's Earth Day Event between 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM.

Please email [hamdenmiddlepta@gmail.com](mailto:hamdenmiddlepta@gmail.com) with any questions. Thank you!!!



**Hamden Middle School  
Class of 2027,**

# **WELCOME TO THE DRAGON'S DEN!**

**Monday, April 7, 2025**  
**6:00-7:00 PM**

**Join the HMS Team for an exciting informational session and a fun school scavenger hunt!**  
Get a head start on your new adventure and explore your school in a way that's both fun and informative. Don't miss this perfect opportunity to meet the team, learn important details, and get comfortable in your new surroundings.

 **Let's begin our partnership in education.  
Follow HMS on social media & more!** 

## **WELCOME TO THE DRAGON'S DEN: AN INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM FOR INCOMING GRADE 7 STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

We will host our annual informational program for **incoming seventh-grade students** and their families. Welcome to the Dragon's Den will take place on Monday, April 7, 2025. Doors open at 5:45 PM, and we will kick off the evening at 6:00 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to learn about HMS and meet members of our faculty and staff. We will be serving pizza and cookies in the cafeteria, and families can participate in a fun scavenger hunt designed to showcase our beautiful building. Please help us spread the word!

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### **SPRING INTRAMURALS**

It is time to sign up for spring intramurals! Mrs. Didone will serve as the faculty advisor, and she is planning for yoga (Tuesday afternoons) and soccer (Wednesday afternoons). Interested students can sign up on Google Classroom, code ov77wpex. Parents, if you think your child would be interested in getting involved, please encourage them to sign up. Any questions? Please email Mrs. Didone at [bdidone@hamden.org](mailto:bdidone@hamden.org).

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Dear HMS Families,

Members of the HMS Community have encouraged us to host a celebration of culture. A small group of teachers are working together to plan a special day on Monday, May 5, 2025. We are seeking parents and students who are interested in hosting a table representing their cultures.

We need your help. We published information about Cultural Expressions Day, and we are eager to hear if families are able to volunteer. Please read on to learn more...

Looking forward to hearing from you,  
Michelle Coogan



### **CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS DAY (MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025)**

Join us for an exciting day of cultural celebration and exploration! We are inviting our entire community to come together and share the beauty of our diverse backgrounds. Students will participate in a variety of fun and educational activities, including a "World Tour" in the school gymnasium.

**To make this event even more special, we are seeking parent volunteers who are eager to share their unique cultures with our students and staff.**

As a volunteer, you'll have the opportunity to set up a visual display for a table in the gym. You can showcase a variety of cultural artifacts such as flags, maps, photos, traditional clothing, music, and games. The possibilities are endless, and we encourage you to get creative! Volunteers are needed to be present between **8:00 AM and 12:00 PM**. If you're interested in participating or would like more information, please email **Michelle Coogan** at [mcoogan@hamden.org](mailto:mcoogan@hamden.org).

Let's come together to celebrate the rich cultures that make our community so vibrant!

**CULTURAL Expressions**

**WANT TO SHARE YOUR CULTURE AT HMS?**

**MONDAY, MAY 5TH**

**THIS DAY IS A CHANCE TO SHOWCASE OUR DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS**

**IF YOU WANT TO BE PART OF IT, SEE MR. HUBBARD**

The graphic features a central microphone on a green background. Below it, there are four colored squares (yellow, red, blue, pink) containing black silhouettes of performers: a dancer, a trumpet player, a singer, and a reader.

#### **HMS HAS TALENT! AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENT PERFORMANCES**

Parents, did you know we offer students the chance to showcase their talents? On Monday, May 5, volunteer students will have the opportunity to perform, including singing, dancing, reciting poetry, demonstrating martial arts, and much more. Some students may need a little encouragement to participate, so we ask parents to talk with their HMS Dragons about this exciting opportunity. Interested students can sign up by visiting Mr. Dave Hubbard, art teacher, in room 272. Parents can also contact Mr. Hubbard via email at [dhubbard@hamden.org](mailto:dhubbard@hamden.org).

#### **THE PACER TEST**

In Connecticut schools, the PACER (Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run) test is a mandatory part of the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA) for students in grades 4, 6, 8, and at least once during high school (grades 9-12). Students run back and forth across a 20-meter space at a specified pace that gets faster each minute. Students have to keep running, and when they stop their test is over.

Please help us by supporting our 8th grade students who are taking the Pacer Test with Ms. Alibozek and Mr. Smith on Tuesday, April 2nd. We want our students to do their best on this fitness assessment. Be sure students sleep well and eat a healthy breakfast. We can all encourage students to work hard and show their skills on this test.



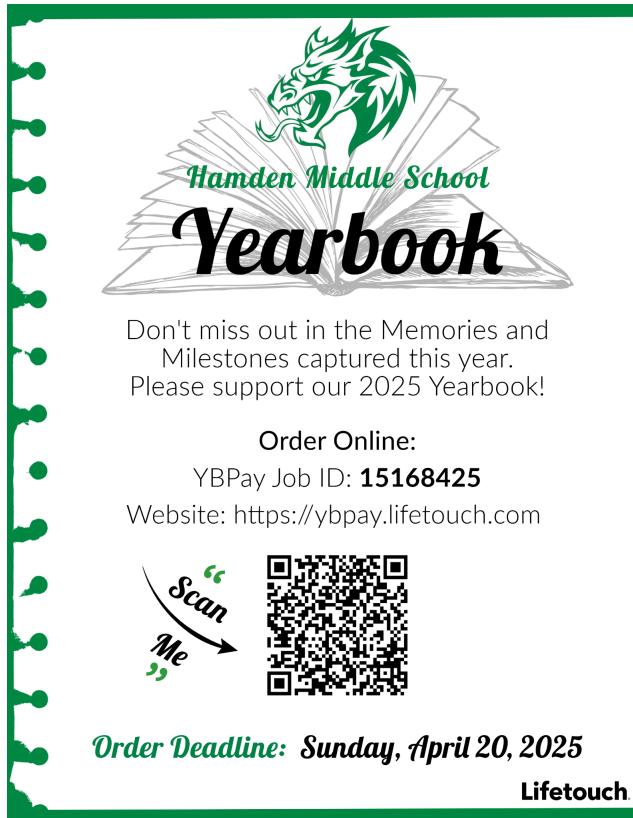
### **OUR HMS DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS “THE MAGICAL LAND OF OZ”**

We hope you can join us for this special performance on April 10, 11, or 12. Our middle school students are working hard to prepare for this performance, and the director Cindy Devoe Simell is taking things to the next level. We hear there will be guest presenters including second graders from our elementary schools.

### **ORDER YOUR 2025 HMS YEARBOOKS**

Ms. Santiago and students are working together to design a beautiful yearbook. Take a moment to order your yearbook now. Visit <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com> Our HMS ID is 15168425. The cost is \$25.00 for a softcover yearbook, and you can upgrade to a hard cover for an additional \$5.00.

**Please note that online orders will close at the end of the month. It is important to order your yearbook now, especially if you want a hardcover copy!**



### **VIRTUAL BULLETIN BOARD**

Did you know there is a virtual bulletin board on the Hamden Public School's website? Informational flyers are posted here. It is a great way to find out more about community events.