

# The Dragon's Tale

Principal Trauner's Newsletter



**December 12, 2025**

**School Climate Survey for Families:** HMS works closely with educational consultant Dr. Tamika LaSalle on school climate and culture. Your input is valued and utilized in this work. Please take a moment to complete the following survey if you haven't already. Thank you!

[https://gsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b12j3kKs2N4ZFC6](https://gsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b12j3kKs2N4ZFC6)

**Reminder!** December 23rd is an **Early Dismissal** day! Students will be dismissed at 12:05 pm.

**Safety Update:** Please continue to have conversations with your students about their role in school safety, as we continue to practice components of our Emergency Operations Plan each month. Students are an important part of keeping our building safe, from sharing concerns with staff to following the adults' directions. Thank you for your support with this!

**Student-led Conferences:** Student-Led Conferences will be taking place on Tuesday, January 13th. This is a very different format from traditional conferences, in that students present their progress to their parents and a staff member. Therefore, **it is very important that your student attends the conference** that evening! More information will be shared soon on the adults' roles during these presentations so it can be a successful night highlighting student agency.

A component of the SLCs is a student reflection on whether or not they are working towards success in high school. We are emphasizing the District's "On Track for Success in High School" criteria. I will be holding parent workshops in the Spring

around high school readiness and will be discussing the importance of these expectations. It would be helpful to begin conversations with your students now!

### On Track for Success in High School

- At least 6 credits, one of which is English
- Bs or better (3.0+ GPA)
- Better than 90% attendance rate
- No out-of-school suspensions
- Sense of belonging (get involved!)

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### Holiday Concert:

- Come hear our talented HMS musicians at the **Holiday Concert on Wednesday, 12/17!**

Our next Dragon Pride Day is December 23rd.



**HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**DRAGON PRIDE DAYS!**  
EARLY DISMISSAL - 12:05 PM

September 22, 2025	February 9, 2026
October 6, 2025*	February 23, 2026*
October 16, 2025*	March 9, 2026*
October 31, 2025	April 6, 2026
December 8, 2025*	May 11, 2026*
December 23, 2025	June 1, 2026*
January 13, 2026*	June 11, 2026**
January 26, 2026	

*\*Commissioner's Network Professional Learning Sessions.  
\*\*Last Day of School - Subject to Change\*\**

**Dragon Pride 12/23:** Members of the Fine Arts department are hard at work planning for a repeat of this very successful program from last year. The day will feature student and guest performances, an art project, and more!




# HMS PTA Holiday FOOD DRIVE



This holiday season the PTA would like to help HMS families in need, enjoy a holiday meal with their loved ones.



Non-Perishable food items can be brought to the HMS main office between December 1st - December 15th.



Monetary Donation can be made to the PTA using the QR Code below. Please consider donating to support the purchase of a holiday meal.



Any families wishing to receive a holiday meal please email [hamdenmiddlepta@gmail.com](mailto:hamdenmiddlepta@gmail.com) with your name and family size.

[HTTPS://WWW.GIVEBACKS.COM/CAUSES/CTPTA-HAMDENMIDDLEPTA/CAMPAIGNS/HMSHOLIDAYS2025](https://www.givebacks.com/causes/CTPTA-HAMDENMIDDLEPTA/CAMPAIGNS/HMSHOLIDAYS2025)



