

# The Dragon's Tale

## Hamden Middle School Student & Family Newsletter



### October Calendar 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>17 - A2</p> <p>Homebase - Period 2 Not Seen</p> <p>Theater Practice "The Alibis"</p>	<p>18 - B2</p> <p><b>Fire Prevention Assemblies</b></p> <p>Late Bus</p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Fall Intramurals: Flag Football Grade 7 Student "A-Team" Meeting Mock Trial Rainbow Club Student Newspaper</p> <p>High School Presentation: Lyman Hall (2:30 p.m.)</p> <p><u>Fall Sports</u> *Boys Soccer vs. Dodd MS (AWAY) *Girls Soccer vs. Dodd MS (HOME) *Girls Volleyball vs. Dodd MS (AWAY)</p>	<p>19 - A3</p> <p>Late Bus</p> <p>Theater Practice "The Alibis"</p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Equity &amp; Diversity Club Fall Intramurals: Cross Country Jazz Band Math Club</p> <p>High School Presentation: Eli Whitney Technical High School (2:30 p.m.)</p> <p><u>Fall Sports</u> *Boys Soccer vs. Amity MS Bethany (AWAY) *Girls Soccer vs. Amity MS Bethany (HOME) *Girls Volleyball vs. Amity MS- Orange (HOME)</p>	<p>20 - B3</p> <p><b>Early Dismissal- 12:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>HMS Professional Learning Time (12:45-3:45 p.m.)</p>	<p>21 - A4</p> <p>Theater Practice "The Alibis"</p>
<p>24 - B4</p> <p>Homebase - Period 4 Not Seen</p> <p>Theater Practice "The Alibis"</p>	<p>25 - A5</p> <p>Late Bus</p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Fall Intramurals: Flag Football Mock Trial Rainbow Club Yearbook YES Club</p> <p><u>Fall Sports</u> *Boys Soccer vs. Melillo MS (AWAY)</p>	<p>26 - B5</p> <p>Late Bus</p> <p>Theater Practice "The Alibis"</p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Equity &amp; Diversity Club Fall Intramurals: Cross Country Grade 8 Student "A-Team" Meeting Jazz Band Math Club</p>	<p>27 - A6</p> <p>HPS Superintendent Student of the Month</p> <p><u>Fall Sports</u> *Boys Soccer vs. New Haven MS (AWAY) *Girls Soccer vs. New Haven MS (HOME)</p>	<p>28 - B6</p> <p>Theater Practice "The Alibis"</p>

	*Girls Soccer vs. Melillo MS (HOME) *Girls Volleyball vs. Melillo MS (HOME)	Student Council  High School Presentation: Sound School (2:30 p.m.)  <b>Picture Retakes!</b>		
31 - A7  Homebase - Period 7 Not Seen  Theater Practice "The Alibis"	1  No School - Professional Learning Day			

*Our school calendar will be updated each week.*

---

## **FIRE PREVENTION MONTH ASSEMBLIES - TOMORROW (10/18/22) SECOND NOTICE**

October is Fire Prevention Month. Parents may recall leaders from our Hamden Fire Department (HFD) visiting elementary schools to raise fire safety awareness in previous years. We are proud to now offer our middle school students an opportunity to learn about fire prevention. Their message is important to ensure your homes and families are protected.

On Tuesday, October 18th, all middle school students will attend an assembly in the auditorium. Representatives from the HFD will share information regarding the real impact of house fires - not the dramatic scenes one can see on a television program! Students will learn how important it is to quickly notice signs of a problem and to immediately act. House fires can start in the kitchen, and the firefighters will share tips to avoid larger problems. (Never throw water on a grease fire!) Students will also learn how to safely charge their electronic devices. Several house fires started as a result of cell phones and laptops being charged in a bed. Students will also be reminded to always check fire alarms to be sure they are properly working.

The information presented in this assembly will be extremely helpful. **We want parents to let us know if their children may be sensitive due to previous experiences or fears of fire.** We can accommodate students who may need to talk to a school counselor or potentially miss the assembly. Please email Ms. Coogan at [mcoogan@hamden.org](mailto:mcoogan@hamden.org) with any concerns or questions.

We are grateful to our local fire department for taking the initiative to talk with our middle school students. Information is power!

---

## **IMPORTANT REMINDER - NO PHOTO**

We love to celebrate our students, and we often publish pictures in our newsletter, website, and social media accounts. Students' names are not shared, unless parents give permission. We understand that some parents may be thrilled to see their children celebrated, while others do not want their child's picture published. **Parents who DO NOT want their children's image to be posted are encouraged to email Ms.**

Coogan at [mcoogan@hamden.org](mailto:mcoogan@hamden.org). We will always honor parent requests.

---

## **WHMS SCHOOL NEWS - AN AVENUE FOR COMMUNICATION**

Communication is key to our success. We try to keep our families informed through our weekly newsletter, website, and social media posts. In middle school, we also begin to empower our students to be informed. Every day, our students listen to WHMS School News. The student news anchors share important information. Parents can also listen to the brief news broadcast. Visit our [HMS webpage](#). Scroll down to Quick Links and click the "[View the Morning Announcements on Principal Coogan's YouTube Channel!](#)" Ms. Coogan will do her best to capture the student news in *The Dragon's Tale*. Yet, she would encourage families to check out the videos. It is one more way to stay connected.



---

## **WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATION BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Attention student athletes and families who are interested in trying out for the HMS basketball teams: It is time to register!

Step 1: Please visit this [website](#) to sign your child up to try out. All families must use [Final Forms](#) to register.

Step 2: As part of the registration process, families must submit a current **Health Assessment Form** prior to trying-out for any sport. Physicals are valid for 13 months. If you have any questions regarding the Health Assessment Form, please contact our school nurses at (203)407-7192.

Step 3: Maintain passing grades. We want our student athletes to demonstrate excellence in the classroom by earning passing grades. If a student is failing two or more classes, he/she will not be eligible to try out for the team.

Mr. Mandel oversees the athletic program at HMS. Parents who have questions regarding try-outs and school expectations for student athletes can contact him at [rmandel@hamden.org](mailto:rmandel@hamden.org).

---

## **NEED TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD EARLY?**

We understand our parents may need to pick up their children early from school at times. We get it: doctors and dentists appointments can often

only be scheduled during the day. **We ask our parents to always pick up before 2:15 p.m.** Visit the main office and our wonderful clerks will call your children's classroom to have them dismissed. Please understand that we cannot call children down to the office between 2:15 and 2:30 p.m. because we are preparing for the end of the day dismissal.

---

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION and 504 SOFTWARE CHANGE**

*Karen Habegger*

*Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services*

On July 1, 2022, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) required each town in the state to transition to a new software program, Connecticut Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS), which would accommodate all new Individualized Education Plans and 504 Plans moving forward. Training opportunities were provided for staff at the middle to end of last school year and have continued this summer and fall. As with any new software, there are many glitches in the CT-SEDS program, but the CSDE and the software company are working to address them as quickly as possible.

We will be using a combination of *IEP/504 Direct*, the older software program, and *CT-SEDS*, the new software program, this year. If you have a meeting to review and revise your child's IEP/504, for example, we will use IEP/504 Direct. If there is an annual meeting or your child is new to Special Education or to 504, we must use CT-SEDS. Hamden pupil personnel service staff has been working hard to adjust to and learn this program. They are quickly becoming proficient, but the many problems with the software have prevented timely finalizations to IEPs and 504s. Rest assured that we are working closely with the CSDE, and they are working as quickly as possible to resolve the problems that all staff around the state are encountering.

*It is important to understand that special education and 504 programming is NOT changing! We are using different software only.* Please contact me or Michael McDermott at the Central Office with any questions. I am also hoping to get to a SEPTA Meeting soon to discuss this change in software with you directly.

---

### **SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL**

School Governance Councils (SGCs) provide an

opportunity to engage with families and community members in the essential dialogue about student achievement and preparing all students for success. This group of teachers, parents, and community members will work with school administrators to review school improvement plans. Our HMS SGC will meet the last Tuesday of each month starting on Tuesday, October 25th at 6:00 p.m.

The following parents have volunteered their time to serve on the HMS SGC. We are grateful for their support.

1. April Smoke-Collins
2. Asia Goubourn
3. Barry Kleinfeld
4. Danielle Means
5. Heather Porto
6. Dan Smolnik

If a parent expressed an interest in serving on the HMS SGC and they are not listed above, he or she should contact Michelle Coogan at [mcoogan@hamden.org](mailto:mcoogan@hamden.org).

---

### **HPS VIRTUAL BULLETIN BOARD**

<https://www.hamden.org/families/flyers>

We are often asked to share community flyers. Our district has created a virtual bulletin board for parents to visit and check out local news. Please click on the link above to review recent flyers.

---

### **DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

Please review this NEW [Daily Health Assessment](#) 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.