

Hamden Middle School

The Dragon's Tale: Principal Coogan's Weekly Update



Hamden Middle School Family Newsletter
Monday, August 31, 2020

WEARING A MASK: IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR COMMUNITY

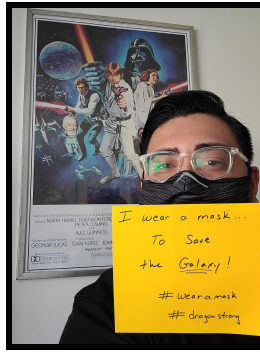
As we prepare for the first day of school, Tuesday, September 15, 2020, **we ask all students who are participating in the Hybrid Learning model to find a comfortable face mask to wear to school.** Students are encouraged to also pack a spare face mask in their backpacks. All members of the school community will wear face masks each day in school.

Following CDC recommendations, students must wear a face mask that covers their nose and mouth, and it must wrap under their chin. **Bandanas, face gaiters, and masks with exhalation valves and vents are not acceptable.** Masks may be homemade, purchased cloth, or disposable face coverings. A multi-ply tightly woven cotton cloth or multi-ply disposable face covering is recommended. If a student arrives at school without a mask, we will provide him or her with a disposable mask to wear.

The recent trend is to find a mask that represents one's interests. When considering masks appropriate for school, please understand we do not want a mask to interfere or distract the learning process. Student masks may not advertise or display the symbols of drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages. Masks should not be racially insensitive or display or imply profane or obscene language or symbols. Finally, masks should not include emblems, insignias, badges, tattoos, gang-related or other symbols where the effect thereof is to unreasonably attract the attention of other students or cause disruption or interference with the operation of the school. Parents should review and approve all masks selected for students.

There will be a few mask breaks throughout the school day. Weather permitting, students will have an opportunity to go outdoors each day for a quick break. They can remove their masks while eating lunch. They can also remove their masks during a bathroom break. At times, students will be permitted to remove their masks during physical education class. We understand the importance of wearing a mask, and we are prepared to support our students with this new requirement.

As a faculty and staff, we are kicking off the year with a special campaign. "I wear my mask for..." We are all committed to wearing our face masks, and we do so for many reasons. Check out these pictures of our teachers.



Michelle G. Coogan
HMS Principal

HMS INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR NEW STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Thursday, September 3, 2020
6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/99582065104?pwd=MDZQdTVuOWRvcWtZVzd0ZUJQUjZlZ09>

Passcode: 726637

Or Telephone:

Dial US: +1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 995 8206 5104

Passcode: 726637

We are hosting a webinar on Thursday evening. Our informational program is designed to support new students and their families, as well as returning students and their families. Members of the HMS faculty will address some of the following topics: A Typical Day at HMS, the Middle School "House" Model & Team Leaders, the Hybrid Learning Model, the Distance Learning Model, the Dragon Pride PBIS, HMS Health Office & School Based Health Clinic, Student Schedules & Bell Schedule, PowerSchool, Lunch Routines, Students Supports, School Sports, Tips for Success, School Communications, and more. Please join us for this virtual experience!

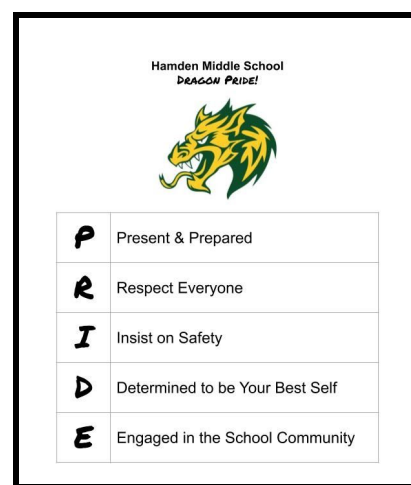
CHROMEBOOK, TEXTBOOK, & LIBRARY BOOKS COLLECTION

Thursday, September 3, 2020

8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

We need your help in collecting textbooks, library books, and Chromebooks. Parents are encouraged to return items to HMS on Thursday. Members of the HPS faculty and staff will be present in the front of the school building to greet and collect returns. Our goal is to keep it simple for our parents!

Incoming Grade 7 Students should return:	Incoming Grade 8 Students should return:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Math textbooks• Library Books• Chromebooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Textbooks• Library Books• English/Language Art Books



DRAGON PRIDE AT HMS

We are proud of our school community, and we strive to teach and model the following core values:

- We are **p**resent and **p**repared for learning.
- We **r**espect everyone on our team.
- We **i**nsist on safety.
- We are **d**etermined to be our best selves each and every day.
- We are **e**ngaged in the HMS community.

During the first weeks of school, teachers will be welcoming new students and reconnecting with our returning eighth grade students. There will be explicit lessons connecting to our PBIS slogan, "Dragon Pride." Additional information will be shared in future school newsletters.

LEARNING FROM HOME

Students will be working from home in both learning models, Hybrid Learning and Distance Learning. It is important to find a quiet, positive work setting. Consider these recommendations:

- Locate a space away from siblings and family pets.
- Set up a clean table or desk near an electrical outlet.
- Be sure there is proper lighting.
- Get headphones or earbuds.
- Organize school supplies in the location.
- Select a neutral background for "zooming" into class, such as a plain wall.

Getting ready for the first day of school is important. We need to embrace a positive mindset and get organized.

HYBRID LEARNING MODEL CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2020

It will be important for families to manage the Hybrid Learning model. As a reminder, students with a last name beginning with A through K are assigned to Group 1. They should report to school on Mondays and Tuesdays, as well as every other Friday. Students with a last name beginning with L through Z are assigned

to Group 2. They should report to school on Wednesdays and Thursdays, as well as every other Friday. The following chart outlines the plan for the first three weeks of school. As a reminder, students must continue to participate in learning when they are home. Students will follow their schedules and log into Google Classroom to connect with their teachers and classmates.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14	15 A First Day of School Group 1 (A-K)	16 B Group 2 (L-Z)	17 A Group 2 (L-Z)	18 B Group 1 (A-K)
21 A Group 1 (A-K)	22 B Group 1 (A-K)	23 A Group 2 (L-Z)	24 B Group 2 (L-Z)	25 A Group 2 (L-Z)
28 No School Yom Kippur	29 B Group 1 (A-K)	30 A Group 2 (L-Z)	1 B Group 2 (L-Z)	2 A Group 1 (A-K)

Group 1 (A-K): 6 days at school & 7 days at home

Group 2 (L-Z): 7 days at school & 6 days at home

Middle School Athletics Update

At this time, we are pleased to announce our plans to offer a fall sports program at HMS. There are three fall teams, including:

- Boys Soccer Team coached by Mr. Jay Cebula;
- Girls Soccer Team coached by Ms. Nora Crann; and
- Girls Volleyball Team coached by Mr. Jimmy Poulsen.

HMS will follow guidance from the DPH and the CIAC. All teams will practice outdoors, and coaches will focus on skill based training. Teams will not compete against other schools, and there will be no games in our conference.

The program will be offered four days of the week, Monday through Thursday. Students will follow the Hybrid Learning model. Students who are participating in Distance Learning are eligible to participate, but must follow the schedule below:

Group 1 (Last Name Begins with letters A-K)	Monday & Tuesday (3:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m.)
Group 2 (Last Name Begins with letters L-Z)	Wednesday & Thursday (3:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m.)

Our after-school program will begin at 3:00 p.m. and conclude at 4:45 p.m. Student athletes will go home after school and then return to school at 3:00 p.m. Students must dress appropriately for practice and bring a personal water bottle. Please note student athletes will not have access to the locker rooms facilities, and coaches are unable to provide water. It will be essential for student athletes to return to practice with the required items.

Parents who are interested in their child playing a fall sport, must complete the online registration using the link below for FamilyID. An email account is required to create an account on FamilyID. Once you complete the registration, the school nurse will review the necessary medical forms and HMS coaches will check for academic eligibility.

<https://www.familyid.com/programs/2020-fall-athletic-registration-3>

Parents who have additional questions should contact Tom Dyer, HPS Director of Athletics, at tdyer@hamden.org or Robert Mandel, HMS Athletic Coordinator, at rmandel@hamden.org.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Back to school shopping is upon us. Stores have prominently displayed pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. **HPS has pre-ordered supplies for all of our students, including a backpack, pens, pencils, colored pencils, composition notebooks, and more.** When supplies arrive, they will be provided to all students in the Hybrid Learning and Distance Learning model. By ordering individual supplies, we will reduce the need to share common supplies in the classroom. For the first day of school, please send your child to school with a pen or pencil, lunch from home or money to purchase a lunch from the cafeteria. If additional supplies are needed, teachers will communicate with parents.