

Wednesday, September 8, 2021, Issue 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 No School Labor Day	7 Labor Day Rosh Hashanah	8 B Gr. 7 Fall Sports Tryouts (2:45-4:30 p.m.)	9 A Gr. 8 Fall Sports Tryouts (2:45-4:30 p.m.)	10 B Gr. 7&8 "Callbacks" Final Tryouts (2:45-4:30 p.m.)
13 A	14 B	15 A	16 No School Yom Kippur	17 B
20 A	21 B Grade 7 Virtual Open House (5:30-7:30 p.m.)	22 A Grade 8 Virtual Open House (5:30-7:30 p.m.)	23 B	24 A
27 B Late Bus Begins	28 A	29 B HMS PTA Meeting Virtual (6:00-7:00 p.m.)	30 A	1 B

HMS FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY



Ms. Coogan and Ms. Rodriguez teamed up to organize a school-wide fundraiser, and they hope families will consider supporting it. The goal is to raise funds dedicated to supporting student activities throughout the school year. Our eighth grade students may recall the guest artists who visited during the *Tell Your Story* experience at the end of our last academic year. Tie Dye day and field days are also some examples of past student activities. We are dreaming bigger this year! Enriching experiences are often the ones kids remember most. With your help we want to work with our PTA, families, teachers and staff to create lasting memories.

Otis Spunkmeyer is a tasty fundraiser. Families can purchase cookie dough, desserts, pizza, and more.

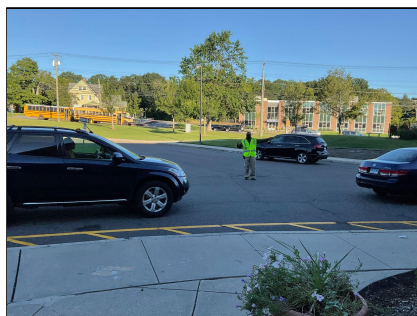
Your child will bring home an informational packet on Wednesday, and you can sell items to family members and friends. Be sure to register at www.ShopFund.com. Share your custom link with family and friends through email and social media platforms. All orders are due by Monday, September 20, 2021. Details on how to place orders are outlined in the packet.

Some parents may want to support the goal of fundraising for HMS Student Activities, but they are not interested in ordering food. If this description fits you, please consider sending a monetary donation.

Interested parents can choose to Venmo their donation to @HMS-Dragon with the memo HMS Student Activities. Or, parents can send a check made out to HMS and students can bring it to the main office. We appreciate your consideration of this fundraising opportunity. #DragonPride

DROPPING OFF YOUR CHILD? PICKING UP YOUR CHILD? READ ON!

We are grateful to our parents who worked with us during this first week of school. We know the traffic can feel overwhelming, and we are confident that it will continue to get better. Here are some tips that might improve your experience:



1. Always pull up as far as you can go. Students can be dropped off in front of the school by the stop sign. Keep moving up as far as you can. More parent cars in our lot equals less on Dixwell Avenue!

2. MORNING: Members of the faculty and staff are getting outside as early as 7:30 a.m. Students can exit their parent's car and stand under the portico until doors open at 7:45 a.m.

3. AFTERNOON: This week, we dismissed our students a little earlier. While this extra time seems to help, we cannot permanently follow this plan. (It reduces instructional time during period 7.) Parents can come early to wait in the lot; however, students will be dismissed at 2:29 p.m.

4. AFTERNOON: Write your child's first and last name on a piece of paper with a dark marker and leave it in the front window of your passenger side of the car. It will help staff find your child and encourage them to get to the car as soon as possible.
5. If your child exits the car on Dixwell Avenue, please be sure they are leaving the car on the right hand side of the vehicle. Then, the child can walk down the grass and onto the sidewalk.
6. Students should only cross Dixwell Avenue by the crosswalk. There is a crossing guard ready to help students safely cross the street.
7. If your child is a WALKER, please email Ms. Singla at asingla@hamden.org. We want parent permission for students to leave school and walk home or to a local establishment, like the Miller Library.

We love seeing our parents! Thank you for smiling and waving. We appreciate your kindness and patience. Your feedback helps us to improve. Please email Ms. Coogan at mcoogan@hamden.org with your ideas.

In regard to bus transportation, we will continue to serve as a liaison between our HMS families and First Student. It has been a challenge due to the bus driver shortage. We are trying to get the First View App up and running. This app uses GPS to allow parents to track their child's bus in the morning and afternoon. First Student is currently updating this database with our students and their assigned buses. We promise to communicate information as soon as possible.



FALL SPORTS

Interested student athletes can try out for girls and boys soccer, as well as girls volleyball on Wednesday, September 8th, Thursday, September 9th, and Friday, September 10th. It is important that parents register on [Family ID](#) (click on the link to learn more!) and submit a current medical physical to the HMS Health Office. **Please note, students must be both registered in Family ID and medically cleared in order to participate in Tryouts.**



Mr. Marcus Walton
Boys Soccer Coach



Ms. Nora Crann
Girls Soccer Coach



Ms. Erin Miller
Girls Volleyball Coach

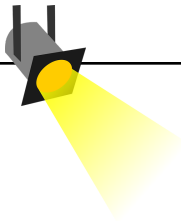


Fall Sports Tryout Schedule

Wednesday 9/8: Grade 7 Tryouts (2:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m.)

Thursday 9/9: Grade 8 Tryouts (2:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m.)

Friday 9/10: Grade 7 & 8 "Callback" Tryouts (2:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m.)



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

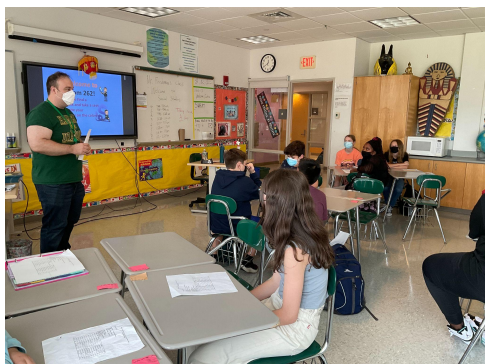
Did you know there are over 90 members of the HMS faculty? We may be biased, but we are incredibly proud of our teachers. Each week we will shine the spotlight on some of our new colleagues.



Meet Ms. Bellmore

Kate Bellmore has been a teacher for nine years. She joined us this year, and Ms. Bellmore can be found in House 5. She is a seventh grade English teacher. We are thrilled to have her at HMS. Here is a bit about our new colleague...

When I think about my own favorite memories being a student, they all involve being completely engaged in an activity led by my teachers for students to participate in together. As a teacher myself, I try to create similar immersive learning experiences for my students. What I love most about my job is learning with my students and seeing them work together to expand their thinking and understanding. An interesting fact to know about me is that I am a bit of a film buff, and I might even try to pass along my experience reading visual texts to my students.



Meet Mr. Frishman

Mr. Frishman is the seventh grade Social Studies teacher for House 5. He has served as an educator since 2007. Last year, he moved from California to Connecticut and was happy to join the HMS team. Here is a bit about our new colleague...

My favorite school memory was when I had the opportunity to work on an archaeological dig in Cyprus (twice!). I love the energy and enthusiasm of my 7th graders, and I often learn so much from my students in any given year. I have travelled to over 25 countries and lived in South Korea for over 9 years. Additionally, I do speak a good amount of Korean, and I do a Korean word of the day in my classes.



JOIN THE HMS PTA!

We hope you will join the HMS PTA this year. The cost is \$10 per family, and you can join [online here](#). Our goal is to increase parent and teacher participation in the PTA, and we hope you will pencil in this date in your calendar. Attending PTA meetings provides parents an opportunity to express their ideas and potential concerns. Parents plan activities designed to unify our community. It is an outstanding way to positively influence your child's middle school experience.

HMS PTA MEETING

*** Tuesday, September 28, 2021 * 6:00 p.m. ***

It will be virtual, so you can Zoom in from home!



HEALTH ASSESSMENT & MASKS

All parents, students, and staff should review the [Daily Health Assessment](#) before arriving at school to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure in school. It is an easy checklist! **Please do not send sick children to school. If your child was in contact with a person who is positive, they should quarantine. If you are waiting for COVID test results, stay home.** Our school nurses are happy to support families by providing information and answering questions. We are so happy to offer in-person learning, and we want our students with us.

In addition, students are required to wear face masks to school. We recommend that our students wear a mask and bring a spare mask in their backpack.

Parents, please talk to your children about properly wearing their masks. Masks should cover the nose and mouth. It should fit comfortably around the face. We need to work together to keep everyone in our community healthy.



TEAM REPORT

Our middle school is composed of teams or houses. Teaming allows for smaller cohorts of students to work together during the day, providing a way for teachers to get to know their students better and thus better meet their social/emotional and academic needs. This approach also provides the opportunity for multi-disciplinary learning - a great way to make learning more meaningful and engaging. There are eight teams; four seventh grade teams and four eighth grade teams. We will often recognize teams for their accomplishments.

Team Rocco is an eighth grade team, and they live in House 2. Today, the team joined together for a meeting and outdoor activities. Mr. Rocco said the students talked with each other about their goals for the year. Teachers discussed a plan to get organized, and together they created a new bulletin board. Then, the team went outdoors to our backfield. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed the time together.

Nice work, Team Rocco! **#DRAGON PRIDE**

Seventh grade students were asked to reflect on their first week at HMS and provide some feedback. Here is a quote from Brooklynn...

"I feel great so far learning at HMS. I feel comfortable with my teachers. I know where all my classes are. I feel that I am in a positive environment."

Thanks, Brooklynn! We are really proud of our seventh grade students. They had an amazing first week of middle school.

CHECK OUT THIS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM!

<https://wearethevillage-ct.org/>

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

AT THE VILLAGE

**Ages
10-17**

**2:30pm
to
6:15pm**

Double Dutch • Dance
***Art Fitness**
***Make Up Tutorial**
***Cooking • Boxing**
***Martial Arts**
Homework Help
***Mentoring**
***Personal Training**
Chess Game Room

Programs with an * requires a monthly membership of \$100 (financial assistance available)

Register: www.wearethevillage-ct.org
 For more information: 203-691-1151

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