



Michelle G. Coogan, Principal
 Jessica S. Coffey, Assistant Principal
 Hector S. Ortiz Assistant Principal

August 15, 2022

Dear HMS Students and Families,

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Hamden Middle School, it is my honor to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year. We are excited to meet our new students and connect with our returning students. It is a pivotal year for HMS, as we enter our first year in the Connecticut State Department of Education's Commissioner's Network. We will continue to strengthen our educational program with a focus on student engagement and achievement. In addition, we want all students and families to feel welcomed and connected to our community. We have a great feeling about the year to come!

This initial letter contains important information regarding the upcoming academic year. Please read and begin to prepare for the first day of school, **Tuesday, August 30, 2022**. If you have any questions, you can email me at mcoogan@hamden.org.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Many parents have inquired about school supplies. Here are requested supplies for all HMS students:

HMS Recommended Supply Lists		
-Backpack -Lunch bag (optional) -Reusable Water Bottle -Sweater/Sweatshirt -Sneakers	-Composition Notebooks (2) -Pocket Folders (4) -3-ring 1" binders (4) Red: Math Blue: Social Studies Green: Science Black: World Language -3-ring dividers (4) -Loose-leaf paper	-Pencil Case -Pencils, Pencils, Pencils -Erasers (Pencil Toppers) -Pencil Sharpener (Handheld) -Pens (Blue/Black) -Highlighters -Post-It Notes -Box of Tissues (2)
<i>All students will be assigned a locker during the first week of school. Students may choose to personalize their lockers with magnetic mirrors and decoration.</i>		

MASTER BELL SCHEDULE

Our bell schedule consists of seven periods per day, and we follow an A day, B day rotation. Starting this academic year, students will have a 30-minute lunch. Eighth grade students visit the cafe during period 4, and seventh grade students visit the cafe during period 5. Lunch impacts the length of period 4 and 5, and as a result, our periods will rotate. We will follow a 14-day rotating schedule, and students will start with a different period every two days. Parents, if you are confused, please do not worry. We will ensure your children are experts by the end of the first week. We will also explain the bell schedule in greater detail during upcoming informational meetings.

HMS Master Bell Schedule 2022-2023

Bell Schedule

7:40 a.m.	Teachers Arrive
7:45 a.m.-7:55 a.m.	Morning Arrival
7:55 a.m.-8:40 a.m.	Period 1 (45)
8:40 a.m.-8:43 a.m.	8:40 a.m.: Dismiss 8:42 a.m.: Warning Bell 8:43 a.m.: Doors Close
8:43 a.m.-9:28 a.m.	Period 2 (45)
9:28 a.m.-9:31 a.m.	9:28 a.m.: Dismiss 9:30 a.m.: Warning Bell 9:31 a.m.: Doors Close
9:31 a.m.-10:16 a.m.	Period 3 (45)
10:16 a.m.-10:19 a.m.	10:16 a.m.: Dismiss 10:18 a.m.: Warning Bell 10:19 a.m.: Doors Close
10:19 a.m.-11:35 a.m.	Period 4 (76)
11:35 a.m.-11:38 a.m.	11:35 a.m.: Dismiss 11:37 a.m.: Warning Bell 11:38 a.m.: Doors Close
11:38 a.m.-12:53 p.m.	Period 5 (75)
12:53 p.m.-12:56 p.m.	12:53 p.m.: Dismiss 12:55 p.m.: Warning Bell 12:56 p.m.: Doors Close
12:56 p.m.-1:41 p.m.	Period 6 (45)
1:41 p.m.-1:44 p.m.	1:41 p.m.: Dismiss 1:43 p.m.: Warning Bell 1:44 p.m.: Doors Close
1:44 p.m.-2:29 p.m.	Period 7 (45)
2:29 p.m.-2:44 p.m.	Afternoon Dismissal

Lunch Schedule

10:19 a.m.-10:49 a.m.	Grade 8 Wave 1
10:42 a.m.-11:12 a.m.	Grade 8 Wave 2
11:05 a.m.-11:35 a.m.	Grade 8 Wave 3
11:38 a.m.-12:08 a.m.	Grade 7 Wave 4
12:00 a.m.-12:30 a.m.	Grade 7 Wave 5
12:23 a.m.-12:53 p.m.	Grade 7 Wave 6

14-Day Rotation Cycle

	8/30 A1	8/31 B1	9/1 A2	9/2 B2	9/6 A3	9/7 B3	9/8 A4
1	1	1	2	2	3	3	4
2	2	2	3	3	4	4	5
3	3	3	4	4	5	5	6
4	4	4	5	5	6	6	7
5	5	5	6	6	7	7	1
6	6	6	7	7	1	1	2
7	7	7	1	1	2	2	3

14-Day Rotation Cycle

	9/9 B4	9/12 A5	9/13 B5	9/14 A6	9/15 B6	9/16 A7	9/19 B7
1	4	5	5	6	6	7	7
2	5	6	6	7	7	1	1
3	6	7	7	1	1	2	2
4	7	1	1	2	2	3	3
5	1	2	2	3	3	4	4
6	2	3	3	4	4	5	5
7	3	4	4	5	5	6	6

Students will receive their complete schedule during period 1 on the first day of school. In addition, students will be assigned lockers during the first week. They can choose to store books, supplies, cell phones, and backpacks. We will help students navigate their schedules and the building throughout the first few weeks of school. Our faculty and staff are prepared to support all new students with their transition into middle school.

MORNING ARRIVAL

Morning arrival is a busy time. **Students can arrive between 7:45 a.m. and 7:55 a.m.** Our school day officially begins at 7:55 a.m. Punctuality is very important; please know that students who arrive after 7:55 a.m. will miss instructional time in their first class.

Arrival by School Bus

First Student school buses will drop students off along the left side of the building. Students will exit the buses and enter through the nearest open door. First Student is working on bus runs, and final bus information will be posted on the [Hamden Public School website](#).

Arrival by Drop Off or Walkers

Students who are being driven to school should be dropped off in the front of our school building. It is important for private vehicles to remain in a single row and drive until you reach the stop sign. There will be staff outside ready to assist drivers, especially when we are learning the routine. There is a

crossing guard who helps students cross Dixwell Avenue when walking to school. Students who walk or get dropped off will enter through the main door by the office.

Since we anticipate many families will choose to drive their children to school, there will be traffic, especially during the first few days of school. Please be patient, follow staff directions, drive slowly, and be mindful of pedestrians. Parents, you will see many staff members present outdoors to assist your children. Our team is ready to help!

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL

The school day ends at 2:29 p.m. Be sure your children understand their dismissal plans. We will first dismiss students who are walking home or being picked up by a trusted adult. They will exit from the front of the building. Then, we will announce the buses in the order they arrive. Students will meet their bus drivers on the left side of the building. Our dismissal routine takes some time due to bus driver shortages; please know it may take up to 45 minutes to dismiss students by bus.

SCHOOL MEALS & FREE & REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS

Hamden Public Schools will continue its partnership with Whitsons to provide meals for students. Students can pick up breakfast when entering the building and eat in their first period class. Students can choose to bring lunch from home or they can get lunch from Whitsons. Students will have a 30-minute break for lunch in the cafeteria.

Hamden Middle School will be providing breakfast and lunch at no cost for all students at the beginning of the school year because the district is receiving School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) funds. Please note that meals at no cost to all students are unlikely to last all year and are subject to the availability of district funds. Since the availability of meals at no cost will expire when all funds have been expended, it is critical that households submit a free and reduced-price meal application as soon as possible to determine a student's eligibility for this school year and avoid unpaid meal charges. Families who do not qualify for free meals will resume paying for full and reduced-price school meals at some point during the 22-23 school year.

Not only could free and reduced-price meal status benefit your family, it may also help determine eligibility for other programs that could assist students, families, and the school district. Some other programs and opportunities that may be influenced by free or reduced-price meal status include: subsidized musical instrument rentals; discounted internet and WiFi services for your home; discounts on before- and after-school care tuition; free school field trips; eligibility to waive ACT, SAT and AP exam fees, as well as college application fees; and federal education grants for schools, including Title I funding. The 2022-2023 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application can be found at: www.hamden.org/mealapplication.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We understand communication is essential, and we want to work with our community members to effectively share and receive information. I encourage parents and students to follow us on social media: Facebook at Hamden Middle School, Instagram at hms_dragons, and Twitter at

@HMSDragons. We post daily updates, and it is an efficient way to stay connected. I will also send home our weekly newsletter, *The Dragon's Tale*, through School Messenger. Our goal is to consistently share information with students and families in a positive and upbeat manner! Finally, we work to update our school website, and we encourage students and parents to visit often. Check us out at <https://www.hamden.org/HMS>. Most communication will be “paperless,” so it is important to update your current email addresses and report issues if you do not get email updates.

UPDATED HEALTH PHYSICALS & VACCINATIONS (Grade 7 Students)

Incoming seventh grade students are required by state law to have a medical physical before the first day of school, Tuesday, August 30, 2022. Students are also required to have two vaccines, including Meningococcal (MCV) and Tdap. Parents must provide an updated physical to the HMS school nurses. The Blue Forms can be delivered to school on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Students who are not in compliance will not be permitted to start school. *Note: If your child attended elementary school in Hamden, their medical record has been forwarded to HMS.*

CELL PHONE EXPECTATIONS

Teaching and learning is our primary goal, and cell phones distract many middle school students from their work. We understand that we are living in a society where cell phones have become a part of our everyday lives. During the first days of school, we intend to talk with students about how to best use technology at school, including when and where to use cell phones. Teachers and students will create technology agreements for classrooms, hallways, and our cafeteria. Information will be shared with families in our weekly newsletters. We ask for parents to support our efforts by talking with their children and refraining from calling and texting them during the school day.

Effective August, 30 2022, students must keep cell phones away during instructional time unless an adult requires the cell phone use as part of the classroom assignment and for educational purposes. Students in violation of this cell phone policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Hamden Public Schools BOE policy 5131.81.

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

Save this Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83951111943?pwd=N3dNWEpWczhGZUhIMTNBcWZNVWRROUT09>



HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEW STUDENT WEBINAR

Students and families are encouraged to join this school webinar to learn about your new school.

Monday,
August 22, 2022
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

JOIN US...

The Zoom link will be emailed home to all families.

HMS Administrative Team
Michelle Coogan, Principal
Hector Ortiz, Gr. 7 Assistant Principal
Jessica Coffey, Gr. 8 Assistant Principal

We are hosting an informational webinar for new students and families on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Students and parents are invited to log into our meeting. We promise to share important information regarding the school year to come. We believe listening to the webinar will be a great opportunity for students and families to get ready for the start of the school year.

OPEN HOUSE PROGRAM 2022

We will host Open House programs for seventh grade students and their families on Tuesday, September 20 and for eighth grade

students and their families on Wednesday, September 21. Additional information will be shared in future school communications.

LET'S DO THIS!

Summer is a fabulous season to enjoy time with family and friends, but as it ends, it leads us to the start of the new school year. Now, it is time to set goals and prepare for the academic year. Consider the possibilities! Earning honors, striving for perfect attendance, joining a new club, or meeting new friends... What will be your 2022-2023 goal? Dream big, HMS Students! We are ready to challenge and support each of our students.

Individual student schedules are being created and revised. I will send a follow up letter home to all students on Friday, August 19th. At this time, students learn their house assignments, period 1 teacher names and room numbers. Stay tuned...

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle G. Coogan". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Michelle G. Coogan, Principal