

Monday, September 13, 2021, Issue 3

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>13 A</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>14 B</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>15 A</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>No School Yom Kippur</p>	<p>17 B</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>20 A</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>21 B</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p> <p>Grade 7 Virtual Open House (5:30-7:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>22 A</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p> <p>Grade 8 Virtual Open House (5:30-7:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>23 B</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>24 A</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>27 B</p> <p>Late Bus Begins</p> <p>After-School Clubs Begin!</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>28 A</p> <p>Late Bus</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>29 B</p> <p>Late Bus</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p> <p>HMS PTA Meeting Virtual (6:00-7:00 p.m.)</p>	<p>30 A</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>1 B</p> <p>Fall Sports Practice Session (2:45-4:30 p.m.)</p>

STUDENT ACTIVITIES FUNDRAISER REMINDER



With your help, we will raise funds to support enrichment activities and events at HMS. Parents can show their support by:

- 1.) Ordering cookie dough, desserts, pizza, and more from the Otis Spunkmeyer fundraiser. (Questions? See [last week's newsletter](#) for more details.)

- 2.) Making 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 are dreaming big 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.

We appreciate your ongoing support. #DragonPride

WHAT ARE OUR HMS STUDENTS LEARNING?

-Michelle G. Coogan, Principal

It is important to celebrate teaching and learning at HMS. As building principal, I have the opportunity to visit classrooms and observe teachers and students at work. Sometimes, I get hooked on the lesson, and I join the discussions. In our weekly newsletter, I will often share classroom highlights to ensure parents gain understanding and appreciation of the work done here at HMS. When you ask your child, "What did you learn in school today?" You will refuse the answer, "Nothing."



Last week, our **social studies** teachers presented information about the attacks on our country on September 11, 2001. On Friday afternoon, I joined Mr. Tremper and his seventh grade students. We discussed the difference between a primary and secondary source, and then we watched a few different video clips highlighting the tragedy at the World Trade Center. Students were incredibly thoughtful and asked clarifying questions. Mr.

Tremper shared his experience as a high school student hearing the news in his classroom. In 2001, I was teaching middle school students, and I remember the urge to protect my students from learning the events. It was a frightening time for all of us. Yet, Mr. Tremper and his students discussed the positive outcomes, including the first responders who will always be remembered for their heroic work. Mr. Tremper ended the lesson by introducing students to Wells Crowther, the man in the red bandana. He was an American equities trader and volunteer firefighter who is remembered for saving as many people. We will never forget, and teachers will continue to share how we came together as a country in times of unthinkable devastation.

In **science**, students are learning how to be safe during lab activities. Our science teachers are setting the foundation for a safe environment in which students can experiment and discover scientific principles together. Students are participating in activities, such as singing, drawing, and performing, to demonstrate their understanding of these important expectations. I talked with Ms. Marcoux and some of her eighth grade students last week. They explained how they were using illustrations to highlight safety rules. All students and their parents will sign a safety contract, and students will need to pass a safety quiz with a score of 100 to participate in labs. In the weeks to come, eighth graders will start an earth science unit called *How is the Earth Changing?* and seventh graders will start a chemistry unit called *How Can I Make New Stuff from Old Stuff?*. Both the teachers and the students are excited to engage in all of the hands-on activities and labs these units include!



Imagine running in flip-flops? It is unsafe and difficult to be your best. **Please be sure your children are wearing sneakers to their physical fitness classes.** Students have physical education every other day. (A day or B day.) The four

teachers will always embrace the opportunity to take kids outside, and we believe kids should be running, playing, and learning the importance of exercise.

In both grade levels, students are kicking off the year with a unit called Building a Community of Critical Readers and Writers in their **English** classes. This introductory unit was designed to encourage students to consider who they are and how it influences what they read and write. Books are windows and mirrors that allow the reader to see the world and themselves. Students are learning to look at texts with a critical lens, as well as strategies to have a courageous conversation. When visiting Ms. Coggins and her seventh grade students, I was impressed with their focus and attention when reading a collection of short stories, first chapters, and a variety of novels in a padlet made for them. During this time, I was able to reconnect with one of my old favorites, “Eleven” by Sandra Cisneros. What a powerful story! Yes, it is the idea... we are helping our students better understand themselves and find authors who inspire them.

The best part of my work is visiting classes each day. Stay tuned for future classroom reports and highlights of student learning at HMS...

CHROMEBOOK REMINDERS

Students are reminded to charge their Chromebooks each night. They are tools for learning, and teachers are depending on students to have functioning Chromebooks each day.

Attention Parents/Guardians of 8th Grade Students: It is time to exchange last year’s Chromebooks for new ones! We are fortunate to have new Chromebooks for all of our HMS students this year. Please have your child come to school with BOTH his/her Chromebook AND charger on the date of the exchange.

Tuesday, September 14th: Team Morello & Team Rocco

Wednesday, September 15th: Team Evans & Team Domurad

HMS CLUBS & FALL INTRAMURALS

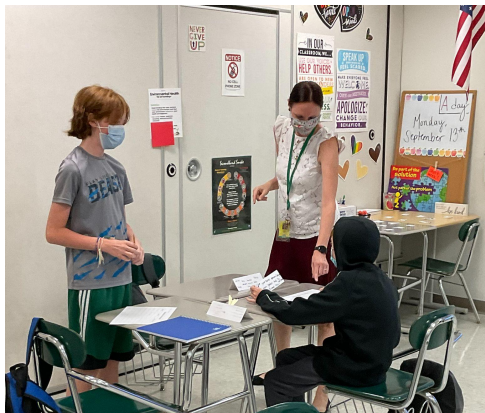
One of the greatest things about middle school is getting involved with after-school activities. We are offering a variety of programs, and we are looking to add more opportunities for students in the weeks to come. In next week’s newsletter, students and parents will learn about the following clubs, including how to join. We anticipate all clubs beginning the last week of September when late buses are available to interested students. For now, we encourage families to discuss the possibility of getting involved. Pump up the benefits... Meeting new friends, exploring topics of interest, challenging yourself to learn new things, and having fun!

HMS Clubs & Intramurals	Club Advisors
Fall Intramurals	Mr. Simone
Jazz Band	Mr. Gunn
The Divide & Conquer Math Club	Ms. Zarate

Mock Trial	Mr. Rocco
National Junior Honor Society	Ms. DeLucia & Ms. Rodriguez
Student Council	Mr. Xavier
Student Newspaper	Mr. Simone
Yearbook	Ms. Boehning

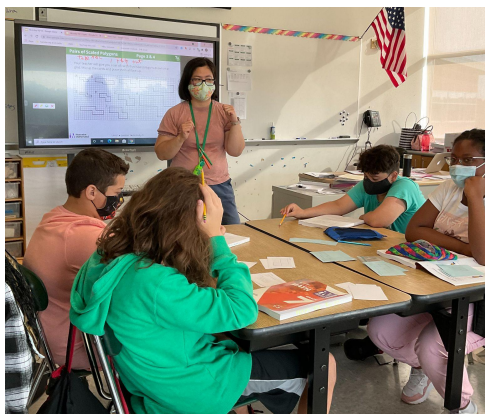
STAFF SPOTLIGHT

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.



We are fortunate to have three Health teachers on our faculty. Ms. Heather Scanlon joined our team and she is currently teaching both seventh and eighth grade students. While she is new to HMS, she has previous teaching experience. Ms. Scanlon reports...

I love the energy of middle school students and I feel lucky to inspire students to make healthy choices. I love to travel, and my favorite vacations have been to Australia, New Zealand, and Iceland.



The math department is thrilled to welcome Ms. Rachel Tsai-Goss to the team. She joined House 2 in seventh grade, and her students her Ms. G. loves to learn and her passion is contagious. She shared the following...

My favorite school memory was in 7th grade when I met a group of friends who liked math challenges and comic books. One interesting fact about me is that I am fluent in Mandarin Chinese, and I am learning Spanish and Korean from friends and TV shows.

SETTING UP A HOMEWORK STATION FOR YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER

By Beth McDonald, SRBI Coordinator

Every parent or guardian wants their child to be successful in school. Creating a homework station at home is just one way to support your child's developing positive study habits. Begin by selecting a specific area for

your scholar to complete homework assignments, projects and papers, read, and study. Having a quiet, comfortable, and uncluttered area that includes supplies needed to complete all assignments helps students in continuing learning after the school day ends. Remember, you don't need to be in a large house or spend a lot of money to make this happen. Consider these simple tips to make it work in any home:

- Find a quiet spot in your home without distractions or interruptions. With your child's 1-1 device, this doesn't have to be in a large corner with a desk and chair. It could be a cozy nook with a homemade lap desk and a bean bag, as long as this space doesn't become a nap zone!
- Be sure your child shares what he or she really needs in this space. Essentials may include pens, pencils, erasers, a hand-held pencil sharpener, college ruled notebooks or three ring paper, graph paper, index cards, highlighters, and a calculator recommended by your child's math teacher. These items can be kept in a basket, recycled milk crate, or on a simple, upcycled shelf.
- Any area meant for homework should be kept clear of other items that leave your scholar feeling distracted, as this will definitely draw attention away from school work.
- Ensuring your student is completing homework in the designated area and not in random parts of your home each day helps build good study skills and self-discipline around homework completion. This routine supports success.
- Consider making this space an enjoyable and calm space with fun or colorful walls, shelving, or accessories. A welcoming space is one your scholar is willing to go to in order to complete school-related assignments. Pinterest has great DIY ideas on a budget.

For more resources and ideas, check these out:

<https://www.cleanandscentsible.com/homework-station-ideas/>

<https://thediymommy.com/budget-friendly-homework-station-for-back-to-school/>

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.

HHS SPORTS & GAMES

We are proud of our high school teams, and we will always support our former students who are now at HHS. Ms. Gannon, HHS Principal, wants to remind students and parents that they are welcome to attend games together. (Every middle school student must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.) **GO DRAGONS!**

COMMUNITY FLYERS



The Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Hamden have partnered to bring you HAMDEN FEST! Come and enjoy one of the BIGGEST events this year that will bring together – businesses, arts, culture & communities.

➔ Business & Community EXPO

- ➔ Arts, Craft & Civic Fair
- ➔ Hamden Road Race & Kids Run
- ➔ Hamden Library Book Sale
- ➔ Kids Zone by Hamden Youth Svc
- ➔ Sports Zone by CFC Arena
- ➔ Food Trucks & Food Vendors
- ➔ Music & Entertainment
- ➔ Community Services

Free Parking & Admission
Parking entrance via Hamden Middle School
Town Center Park, 2761 Dixwell Avenue

For more information, visit HamdenFest.com
To exhibit, visit HamdenRegionalChamber.com



Presented by: **NQ Industries Inc.**
UV Air Purification Systems



10K Road Race begins at 8:30am | 5K begins at 8:45
Register at TeamMossman.com

Proud Sponsors:



BALLET LESSONS

Sponsored by the Hamden Recreation Department
2750 Dixwell Ave. (Hamden Government Center) Hamden, CT #203-287-2579
www.hamden.com

WHO: 5 & 6 year olds & 7 to 10 year olds (boys & girls)
WHEN: Starting Wednesday, October 6, 2021 (10 lessons)
DATES: Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 Nov. 3, 10, 17, Dec. 1, 8 & 13
Make-up date due to inclement weather only: Dec. 22
WHERE: Shepherd Glen School, Skiff St, # 203-407-2070
TIMES: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm for 5 & 6 year olds
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm for 7 to 10 year olds
COST: \$70.00 for residents, \$80.00 for non-residents
APPAREL: Leotards, tights, and ballet slippers recommended no house slippers please!



REGISTRATION: All fees payable in advance. The applicant is considered registered when check and registration form below is received at the Recreation Office. Class size is limited to 12 per students per class, no exceptions! You will be notified ONLY if there is a conflict. If you are not notified, assume you are in the class and go to the first lesson. NO REGISTRATION WILL BE TAKEN AT THE GYM.

DEADLINE: October 1, 2021 or when class is filled. **CAPACITY:** 12 participants per age-group!

Parents/Guardians Please Note: If your child is sick or running a temperature, please do not send them to class. In the event of a COVID outbreak, classes will be cancelled. COVID protocol will be followed throughout the class. For security reasons, participants are not allowed to go outside and wait for their ride home. Please arrive 5 minutes prior to the end of each class and come into the gym to pick up your child. Also, since you will not be allowed to observe your child during lessons, a Visitor's Day will be held on the last day of class. You will receive further information while the lessons are in progress. For cancellations due to inclement weather, please call our recorded announcement @ 203-287-2588. Thank-you for your cooperation.

*****CUT HERE*****

BALLET LESSONS - Fall 2021 (Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Previous Dance Experience? _____ Number of Years _____

E-Mail Address: _____ (H) Phone _____ Cell _____

Please check off age group: (5 & 6) _____ (7 - 10) _____ School attending _____

Please make check payable to "Treasurer, Town of Hamden" and mail along with completed application to Hamden Recreation Dept., c/o Ballet Lessons, 2750 Dixwell Ave., Hamden, CT 06518

Office Use Only: Amount paid _____ Ck # _____ Cash _____ Date received _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. M.' or similar, written over the 'Date received' line.