

Monday, December 6, 2021, Issue 15

A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL COOGAN

Dear Parents and Families,

Over the weekend, I received many emails from concerned parents. I appreciate your willingness to share your thoughts and ideas. I understand it is a challenging time for our community. There is a common thread... we want our schools to be safe so our children can focus on learning. It is reassuring to know we have this wish in common.

As you know, Superintendent Goeler is working in collaboration with Mayor Garrett and Police Chief Sullivan to investigate the social media threats and to plan for a safe reopening of Hamden High School. The threats are directed at the high school community, and it was determined the elementary and middle schools should open with increased police presence. We received tremendous support from our School Resource Officer, Jeremy Brewer, and other officers who patrolled the campus on Friday. I anticipate increased support throughout this week. In addition, our team of security guards and school climate specialists are a tremendous resource within our community. They know our teachers and students. They have strong connections with our students and families, and they work each day to support transitions and routines. As a result of this support, we are prepared to continue with teaching and learning at HMS.

On Friday, I addressed our student body through morning announcements. I shared the concerns at our high school, and reminded everyone how important it is to report any problems, including posts on social media. I referred to the "see something, say something" motto, and encouraged all students to report concerns to parents and adults. Ms. Tresselt, school counselor, and I also reminded students that there are many trusted adults at HMS. In addition to parents and families, students can share their concerns or worries with teachers, school counselors, social workers, psychologists, climate specialists, administrators and more. We recognize the current events create stress and worry for children. We are helping kids feel safe at HMS. We will continue to reach out to students through morning announcements, classroom visits, and informal check-ins throughout the upcoming week.


Our school district has created routines for emergency drills that we teach and practice with our students. This week, we will continue to teach students the importance of listening to adults. Our faculty and staff are trained to respond to a crisis and keep students safe. We will discuss, model, and practice the routines for a lockdown drill. It is important for parents to understand our plans. We do not want to create stress or feelings of anxiety. We believe practicing emergency drills is a strategy to demonstrate our preparedness. The lockdown drills will be clearly communicated in advance to our community. Please ask your children about the practice of emergency drills and reassure them that they are designed to ensure safety at school.

While the threats of school violence were directed toward Hamden High School, we will continue to nurture a safe school environment for all schools within our district. We appreciate the ongoing support of parents and families, as these life skills are learned at home and reinforced at school. Together, we can help our kids make positive choices for themselves and our community. Finally, I encourage all members of our community to virtually attend the Special Board of Education meeting tonight. It will be an important opportunity to learn about our district's plans for increased school safety measures. (Please refer to the image below for details.)

There is so much to celebrate at HMS. Our students are busy learning with their teachers. The National Junior Honor Society is hosting a community fundraiser to support the Toys for Tots drive. Students are playing basketball and getting ready for the Ski Club. Our aspiring actors are learning their roles for *Annie Jr.* So many children earned [High Honors and Honors](#) during the first marking period. I wish our weekly newsletter could focus on our students and their positive contributions to HMS. However, I understand it is important to communicate information regarding school safety at this time. Please continue to send me your thoughts through email or phone calls. Your feedback is important to me.

Sincerely,

Michelle G. Coogan

 <p>HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING <u>AGENDA</u></p> <p>Monday, December 6, 2021 Public Session: 6:00 – 8:00 PM Location: BOARDROOM AT 60 PUTNAM AVE. HAMDEN, CT 06517</p> <p>To attend virtually please click the link below to join the webinar: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83679532730?pwd=L1NJdHJXSj9BSkx4WFozM2tsYmYyZz09</p> <p>Passcode: 773422 Or Telephone: Dial: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 Webinar ID: 836 7953 2730 Passcode: 773422</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Call to order and roll call2. Information Item<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Review of district safety and security concerns3. Adjourn	<p><u>HPS BOE ZOOM LINK</u></p> <p>BOE Meeting: Monday, December 6th 6PM to 8PM</p>
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HMS SECURITY TEAM

			
Aaron Hawkins "Coach Hawk"	Faleisha Johnson "Faleisha"	Bennie Mayes "Coach Bennie"	Marcus Pink "Marcus"

It is always nice to connect a name to a face! We are fortunate to work with dedicated individuals. Each day they strive to have positive interactions with our students. They monitor the routines of the day, and encourage children to be their best. Our guards have a variety of experiences that help them to be successful in their work at HMS. They are coaches at heart... teaching our students how to embrace life as a middle school student.



HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

The National Junior Honor Society in conjunction with the Hamden Community Keefe Center is holding a Holiday Toy Drive. We are currently collecting toys for children between the ages of 0 and 12. Boxes are located in each team hallway where students can drop off unwrapped toys. On Friday, December 10th, we will be standing outside during morning arrival to accept donations. Parents can drop off an unwrapped toy or drop a dollar or two in the donation bucket. Cash donations will be turned into toys for the holiday season. Help us bring moments of cheer to our Hamden community!

WINTER INTRAMURALS: SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

Mr. Cebula is organizing the winter intramural club, and all students are invited to join. Mr. Cebula met with interested students this morning. [Students received this packet of information.](#) Students can sign up to go skiing or snowboarding at Mount Southington Ski Area, located in Middlefield. Space is limited to 50 students, so if you are interested please respond as quickly as possible.

DECEMBER 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>6A</p> <p>PICTURE RETAKE DAY!</p> <p>After-School Programs (2:44-3:32 p.m.) Office Hours Annie Jr. Rehearsal Student Council</p> <p>Basketball Practice (2:44-4:44 p.m.)</p>	<p>7B</p> <p>After-School Programs (2:44-3:32 p.m.) Office Hours Board Games NJHS Meeting</p> <p>Basketball Games HMS Boys VS North Haven MS (Home) HMS Girls VS North Haven MS (way)</p>	<p>8A</p> <p>Girls Who Code Assembly (9 a.m.)</p> <p>After-School Programs (2:44-3:32 p.m.) Office Hours Annie Jr. Rehearsal</p> <p>Basketball Games HMS Boys VS Betsy Ross Arts Magnet (Away) HMS Girls VS New Haven MS (Home)</p>	<p>9B</p> <p>EARLY DISMISSAL (12 NOON)</p>	<p>10A</p> <p>NJHS Toy Collection Parent Drop Off during morning arrival</p> <p>School Spirit Pajama Day</p> <p>Annie Jr. Rehearsal</p>
<p>13B</p> <p>After-School Programs (2:44-3:32 p.m.) Office Hours Annie Jr. Rehearsal Student Council Yearbook Club</p> <p>Basketball Games HMS Boys VS Melillo MS (Home) HMS Girls VS Melillo MS (Away)</p>	<p>14A</p> <p>After-School Programs (2:44-3:32 p.m.) Office Hours</p> <p>Basketball Practice (2:44-4:44 p.m.)</p> <p>HMS Band & Orchestra Winter Concert (7:00 p.m.)</p>	<p>15B</p> <p>After-School Programs (2:44-3:32 p.m.) Office Hours Annie Jr. Rehearsal Divide & Conquer Math Club GGG Student Newspaper</p> <p>Basketball Practice (2:44-4:44 p.m.)</p>	<p>16A</p> <p>Basketball Games HMS Boys VS Bailey MS (Home) HMS Girls VS Bailey MS (Away)</p>	<p>17B</p> <p>School Spirit Friday Flannels Annie Jr. Rehearsal</p>
<p>20A</p> <p>After-School Programs (2:44-3:32 p.m.) Office Hours Annie Jr. Rehearsal Student Council</p> <p>Basketball Games HMS Boys VS Amity MS (Home) HMS Girls VS Amity MS (Away)</p>	<p>21B</p> <p>After-School Programs (2:44-3:32 p.m.) Office Hours</p> <p>Basketball Practice (2:44-4:44 p.m.)</p>	<p>22A</p> <p>After-School Programs (2:44-3:32 p.m.) Office Hours Annie Jr. Rehearsal</p> <p>Basketball Practice (2:44-4:44 p.m.)</p>	<p>23B</p> <p>School Spirit Holiday Cheer</p> <p>EARLY DISMISSAL (12 NOON)</p>	<p>Holiday Recess begins on 12/24/21.</p> <p>Students return to school on 1/3/22!</p>



COVID-19 Vaccines Are Now Available For Children Ages 5-11

226 Dixwell Ave, New Haven • 8:30AM – 6:00PM
428 Columbus Ave, New Haven • 8:30AM – 4:30PM

WALK-IN OR BY APPOINTMENT



For an appointment, call: 203-503-3000

WWW.CORNELLSCOTT.ORG     

11/2021