

Monday, February 14, 2022, Issue 22

FEBRUARY 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14B	15 A	16B	17 A	18B
School Spirit Wear Red for Valentine's Day After-School Programs Annie Jr. Student Council HMS School Climate Committee (2:45-3:45 p.m.)	Signs of Suicide Lesson Team Coggins After-School Programs Jazz Band Rainbow Club Mock Trial	After-School Programs Korean Club	EARLY DISMISSAL 12:00 p.m. Professional Development (12:45 p.m3:45 p.m.)	Last Day for the NJHS LLS Fundraiser After-School Programs Annie Jr.
21	22	23 <mark>A</mark>	24B	25 <mark>A</mark>
No School Winter Recess	No School Winter Recess	NJHS Applications Due After-School Programs Annie Jr. Divide & Conquer Math Club Korean Club Student Newspaper GGG	After-School Programs Ski & Snowboard Club (2:45-8:00 p.m.)	After-School Programs Annie Jr.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IS NOW WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022.

Reminder: If you are picking up your child earlier than regular dismissal time, please arrive before 2:15 p.m.

HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to our students exceeding academic expectations! Students who earn all As receive the distinction of High Honors. Students who earn all As and Bs are recognized as Honor students. Finally, we pay tribute to all students who earned As and Bs with only one C; these students earn Honorable Mention.

Hamden Middle School Marking Period 2 (November 8-January 26)			
Grade 7 Honor Roll	Grade 8 Honor Roll		

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Our community is celebrating Black History Month in many ways. Sharing information through our morning broadcast has become a tradition at HMS. Members of the faculty prepare and present messages on the morning announcements. Students learn about historical figures, as well as current leaders who make our country a better place for all.

We invited parents to join us this year. Ms. Nicqueva Haughton, also known as Vayda's mom, spoke to students on Tuesday morning. Her message of respect and appreciation had a positive impact on our community. She also challenged everyone to spread kindness through compliments. She reminded us that Black History Month is a time to honor the people who made an impact on our history, but it is also a time for the younger generation to consider how they will make a positive impact on the world.

We know it may be challenging to join us early in the morning, but if you are interested, please contact Michelle Coogan at mcoogan@hamden.org or 203-407-7131. Interested parents should:

- Prepare an announcement and share it in advance with Principal Coogan.
- Identify a February date to visit HMS.
- Arrive at school by 7:45 a.m. Help greet students and "go live" on the morning announcements at 8:05 a.m.

Parents can leave immediately following the broadcast program. We strongly encourage all parents to consider this opportunity. We know our students will love seeing members of their family joining our celebration.

NJHS: COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT (FINAL WEEK)

Hamden Middle School is proud to support The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). LLS is a group that works really hard to help people who get sick with blood cancer get better through a community event called "Light the Night". We are collecting donations for LLS, and we are in the final week of this community service project. Each homeroom has a collection page to document donations as a team, and you can even set up an online giving page so your family and friends can support you by donating to LLS. Here at Hamden Middle School we always strive to help others, and we've set a goal to raise \$2022 to help cure blood cancers and support patients in our community with LLS. We know we can hit that target when we all do our part. Let's do this, HMS!

TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

A Message from Daniel Cocchiola, Coordinator of CCP and Director of HECA

Teacher recommendations are complete, and Course Selection for Rising 9th graders is upon us. On Monday (2/14), your children will receive a lesson on how to select their courses in the portal. On Monday afternoon we will open the portal for parents, and give parents through February break to look through our course catalog and make some decisions about what electives to choose. To see the lesson your children will receive, and to prepare yourselves, see here. Parents can also view a 17-minute video prepared early this month, here.

HHS: HAMDEN ENGINEERING CAREERS ACADEMY (HECA)

Applications for HECA will open on February 15th. <u>See the program description here.</u> Please review the letter below from Mr. Cocchiola.



Hamden Engineering Careers Academy

Program Director Daniel Cocchiola

Hamden High School 2040 Dixwell Avenue Hamden, CT 06514 Phone: (203) 407-2040 Fax: (203) 407-2058

PrincipalNadine Gannon

Assistant Principals Darce DeCosta Lisa Dyer Scott Trauner Tegan Willis The Hamden Engineering Careers Academy \underline{HECA} is currently recruiting applicants for our 2022-2023 student cohort. We invite you to our Open House event on Tuesday, February 15th, 2022 – live and in person in the Hamden HS auditorium at 6 pm. Masks are required for entry. Click the hyperlink above to learn more about our extraordinary program.

HECA is dual enrollment program with our partners at Gateway Community College and ManufactureCT whereby students will have the opportunity to earn an Associate of Science Degree in Manufacturing Engineering (65 college credits) while enrolled as a student at Hamden HS! Students can use this training to gain direct entry into Connecticut's booming high tech and high skill manufacturing sector, or they can choose to transfer the Associates Degree to satisfy the first half of a 4 year Bachelor's Degree. Students can additionally parlay this rigorous program to greater access to highly selective colleges.

The Associate's Degree pathway in HECA is designed as a demanding academic program that will push the boundaries of the school day and the school year. There will be summer classroom and internship requirements, and there may be semesters with an extended school day. Within HECA, pathways exist for Associate's Degree completion in a 4th year, a 5th year, and also there is a pathway for a Computer Aided Design (CAD) certificate. This certificate meets workforce readiness standards, and the credits are also transferable to four year colleges.

Hamden Public Schools, and our partners, are proud of this bold and innovative program. We have worked closely to bring this tremendous opportunity to the students and families of our town. We envision HECA participants to reflect our diverse community makeup, and hope to include students from varied backgrounds, interests, cultures and abilities. Applications open on February 15th, and will remain open through March 18th. Selection is based on a weighted lottery.

Access to the application can be found here. (Beginning on February 15)

Kindest regards,

Dan

D7 Cocchiola

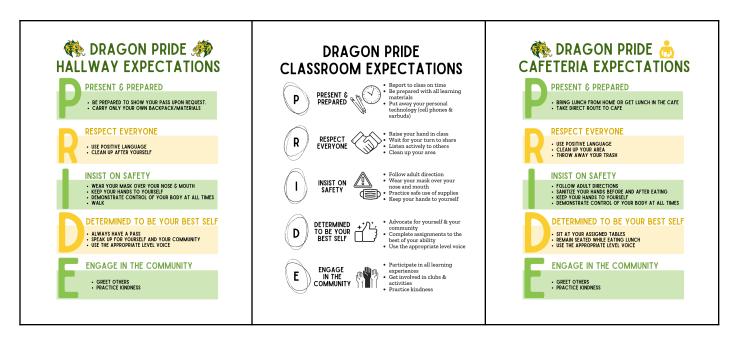
Daniel T Cocchiola HECA Director CCP Coordinator Hamden PS dcocchiola@hamden.org



TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Last week, school administrators met with all students at HMS through Town Hall Meetings. Each House scheduled a time to visit Ms. Coogan (HMS principal), Ms. Coffey (Grade 8 Assistant Principal), and Mr. Ortiz (Grade 7 Assistant Principal) in our auditorium. Ms. Coogan welcomed students and shared some reasons that families choose to live in Hamden. While there are many reasons, it seems that most folks believe our diversity is our greatest strength. Ms. Coogan couldn't agree more. She stated that working and learning in a diverse community is an asset, and we are fortunate to be members of the HMS team. Ms. Coogan continued to explain that being members of a diverse community also means we have responsibilities to take care of each other. Together, the administrators reviewed expectations to ensure all students are positive members of the school community. Students heard the following messages:

- Words are powerful, and we must think before we speak, write, or post information. It is important to
 consider the intent of your message, but also the impact it might have on others. We identified that
 words can hurt, especially if they are putting down someone based on their identity.
- Social media is a great tool, but it must be used responsibly. Be mindful of what you post, as well as what you follow and like. Everyone has a digital footprint, and this footprint is a reflection of you. As middle school students prepare for the future, we encourage all to consider their existing footprint and to be sure it is something they would like their grownups and others to see. We also asked students to promote our school in a positive manner (Check out hms_dragons on Instagram). We also explained that we are tired of the shade! Don't bring our school down with negativity.
- HMS promotes positive behaviors through our Dragon PRIDE PBIS program. We reviewed the
 expectations to be PRESENT & PREPARED, RESPECT EVERYONE, INSIST ON SAFETY,
 DETERMINED TO BE YOUR BEST, and ENGAGE IN THE COMMUNITY. Check out the following
 posters to better understand the expectations.



Being members of a diverse community, we must lead by example. We are proud to be a part of the HMS team. Our students make us smile each day, and we want the best for them today and into the future. Town Hall Meetings is one way we can share a message with each other. #DragonStrong





Our student actors are diligently practicing every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in preparation for their performances of Annie Jr. We are so impressed with their commitment. Please be sure to save these dates in your calendar.

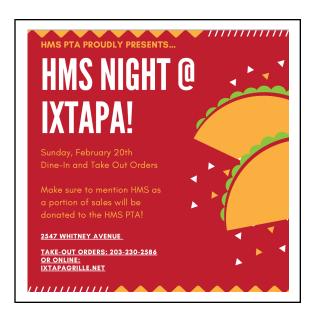
Friday, May 6th at 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 7th at 1 p.m. & 8 p.m.

You don't want to miss this show!

HMS PTA UPDATES

- 1.) PTA Executive Board Positions are open for the 2022-23 academic year. If you are interested in getting involved and serving as the PTA President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary, please email hamdenmiddlepta@gmail.com.
- 2.) Save the Date: Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 26th at 6 p.m.
- 3.) Special thanks to all who made a donation to the Hoodies for the Holidays. Several students went home with new gear for the winter months. We also collected some funds that will be dedicated to helping students in need. It was a wonderful experience for our families to support students in our school.
- 4.) We have a suggestion for all parents. Skip cooking dinner next Sunday evening, and order a delicious family meal from Ixtapa Family Mexican Restaurant located at 2547 Whitney Avenue. Be sure to mention the HMS PTA, and this local restaurant will make a donation to our community. See advertisement below:



HAMDEN HERO

A few years ago, Superintendent Goeler encouraged school leaders to recognize positive members of the community through his Hamden Hero initiative. Over the next few weeks, we will highlight one of the five HMS nominees for Hamden Hero.



CHERYL KASPRZYCKI Hamden Youth Connections Founder

Ms. Kasprzycki is a Hamden citizen who is determined to make a difference by providing unique mentorship experiences for our middle and high school students. She has often heard people saying, "Our teenagers do not have enough opportunities to get involved." Her vision was to provide after school experiences to connect students with leaders in the community. Together, they complete real projects, such as building the LEGO wall in the HMS Student Center. The mentors have many skills and talents, such as carpentry, culinary, and technology. The professionals are eager to work with students aspiring to learn more about career opportunities.

We admire Ms. Kasprzycki's commitment to our community. She has a "can do" spirit, and she is ready to take on any challenge, especially if it supports the young adults in our town. She is preparing for future sessions, and will be sure to promote Hamden Youth Connections in all school communications.

SPRING SPORTS

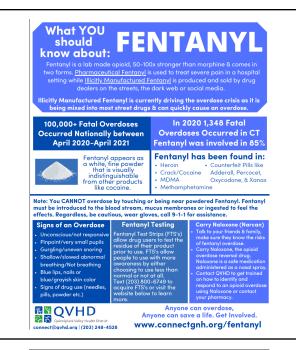
It is time to register for spring sports at HMS, including **baseball** and **softball**. Parents should visit the Family ID website on the <u>Athletics page of our school website</u>, and enter the necessary information. Students must have an updated physical to try-out and participate in the season. Physicals must be less than 15 months old. Our baseball/softball season ends in May 2022; therefore, an updated physical must be dated from February 2021 or later. In addition, students must be academically eligible to participate. Parents, if you have any questions regarding spring sport registration, please contact Mr. Rob Mandel at mandel@hamden.org.

FOLLOW HMS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Please follow us on Instagram at hms_dragons. We post daily reminders and recognize our dedicated staff and amazing students. Information is also posted on FaceBook. Search for our Hamden Middle School group. Finally, parents can also check us out on Twitter @HMSDragons. Social media is an excellent communication tool. It is a quick, easy way to stay connected.

FENTANYL AWARENESS

In light of the tragedy that occurred at the Sports and Medical Science Academy in Hartford, our public health partners at the Quinnipiack Valley Health District have provided some excellent messaging, training, and awareness handouts on the issue of Fentanyl in the State of Connecticut and our community. In 2020, there were 1,348 overdoses in Connecticut and Fentanyl was involved in 85% of these cases. Please stay informed. Together, we can prevent illness or death as a result of this drug.









Christopher Melillo, Assistant Superintendent

February 2, 2022

Mental Health Wellness Days

Dear Hamden Families,

This communication serves to provide information related to new legislation passed during the 2021 Legislative Session. Public Act 21-46, An Act Concerning Social Equity and the Health Safety and Education of Children, Section 19 (a) and (b), defines and allows students to take two Mental Health Wellness (MHW) Days in a school year.

Hamden Public Schools will follow these guidelines when families decide to implement Mental Health Wellness Days:

- 1. Students are limited to two MHW days per school year;
- 2. MHW days cannot be taken on consecutive school days, (e.g., Friday and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday);
- 3. MHW absences will only be excused when <u>parent or guardian permission is communicated</u>, regardless of the number of absences a student has accrued in the school year;
- 4. MHW absences will not be included in reporting or referrals related to truancy or loss of credit;
- 5. MHW absences will count towards chronic absence calculations as students are missing opportunities to learn in school:
- 6. Students accessing Mental Health Wellness days will be <u>required to consult</u> with a school mental health professional upon their return to school.

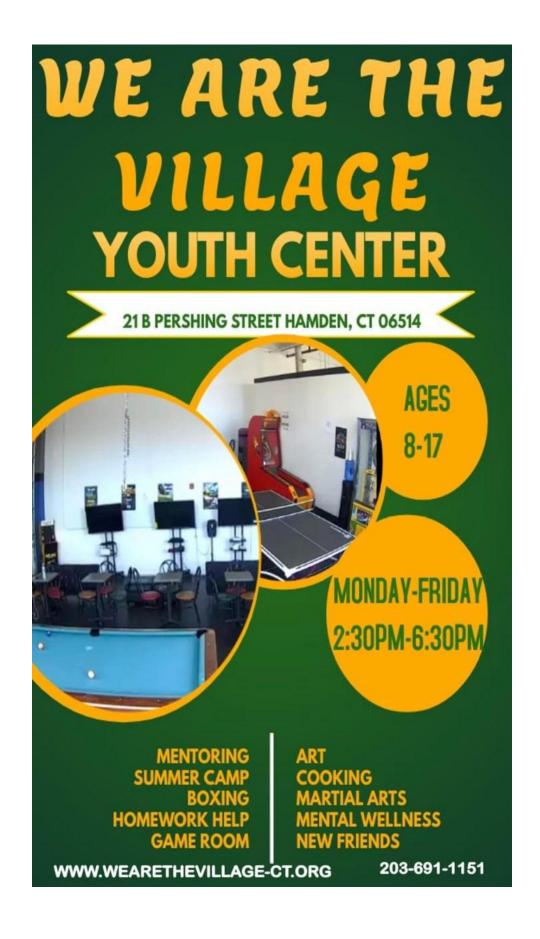
Mental Health Wellness Days should be used to help students cope with anxiety brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. If you or someone you know are in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8222) or text the Crisis Text Line (text HELLO to 741741), 24/7/365. Call 911 in an emergency.

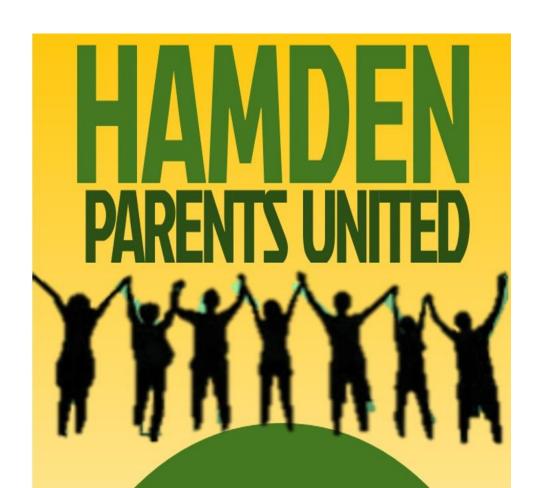
Sincerely,

Christopher Melillo

Assistant Superintendent

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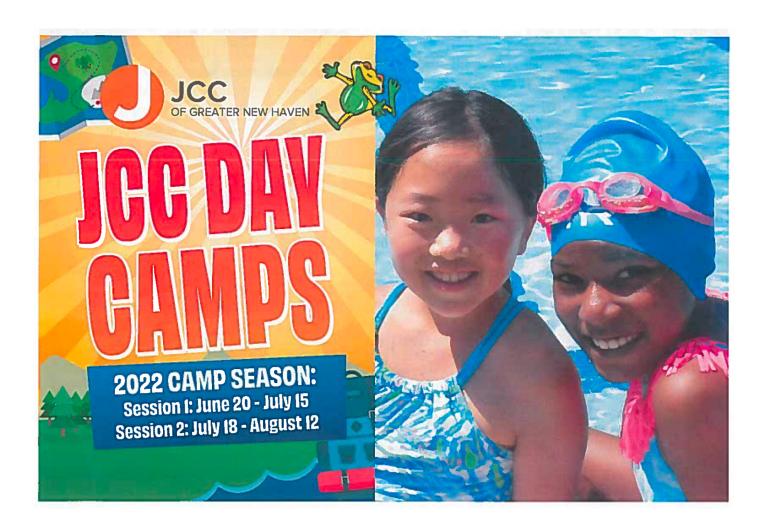


HPN was created to connect parents, students and school administration& staff to resources, information and most of all, to one another. We are a group of parents who specialize in Love and care. We understand that in order for our children to know that we are there is TO BE THERE! Together we will become The Village that our children need so very badly. Will you join us in our fight to SAVE OUR KIDS?

JOIN US TUESDAYS @ 6:30PM VIA ZOOM MEETING ID 273 647 3603

WE NEED YOU!!!

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL: HAMDENPARENTSUNITED@GMAIL.COM





CT Earth Day Scholarship Contest \$1,000 WINNING PRIZE!

Contest

In today's world, we are always looking for ways to help save the planet and increase sustainability. Do you have a creative way for us to keep reusable items out of the landfills?

Create an entry using this prompt as the question and theme.

- → You may choose to submit an essay, poem, photo, video, painting, multimedia project, or any other original idea outside of the box
- Winners: This competition is virtual and the winners will be announced on Earth Day, April 22, 2022! The winning submissions* will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.
- → Deadline: Entries due by Friday, April 1, 2022. *1 high school and 1 middle school submission will be selected. Prize will be split equally if group entry

Entry Rules:

- 1. One submission per person/group
- Written entries are limited to 500 words and video entries are limited to 2 minutes
- Winning entries may be requested in person at The Junkluggers in Seymour, CT

- Entry form should include the full name(s) of the participant(s) attached to submission
 Entries are completely virtual and will not be accepted in physical/hard copy
 Participants must complete the Entry Form

How to enter:

Complete the Entry Form and submit it to your school project coordinator.

School coordinator will gather entries and submit to The Junkluggers by April 1, 2022.

The contest is open to all CT public middle (grades 6-8) or high (grades 9-12) school students. Entries may be submitted either as individuals or groups of 2.

Entry Selection:

The Junkluggers will pick the top two winners based on alignment to the topic, originality, creativity, and presentation.

To get you thinking:

- Have you seen a landfill?
- · Do you know what types of items are recyclable?
- · What excites you about this topic?
- Is there a specific area within sustainability that you're interested in?
- What ideas or suggestions do you have to keep items out of landfills?

For more info:

Scan: Learn about The Junkluggers! Questions: Joy@junkluggers.com





CT Earth Day Scholarship Contest OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

ENTRY INFO

Entry forms must be legible, complete, and submitted with your entry. All applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, April $1^{\rm st}$ 2022.

STUDENT/TEAM INFO	Entries may be submitted either as individuals or groups of 2

First Name*:		Last Name*:			
Town/City*:	School*:		Grade*:		
Phone Number*:		E-mail*:			
School Phone Number*:					
Additional Team Member's Information (if applicable)					
First Name*:		Last Name*:			
Town/City*:	School*:		Grade*:		
Phone Number*:		E-mail*:			

ENTRY INFORMATION Please indicate the medium of choice for your entry?

					,,.	
O Essay	y O Poem	O Photo	O Video	O Painting	Other:	
THE A.E.						

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Please initial by each.*

- By submitting an entry. Participant irrevocably grants to The Junkluggers, its designee, affiliates, successors and assigns, the non-exclusive, rrevocable, fully paid, universal license to use, copy, sublicense, transmit, distribute, publicly perform, publish, delete and/or display the submission in full or in part in The Junkluggers operations and in any media.
- _I will be able to bring the original content to The Junkluggers Headquarters in Seymour, CT should my entry be selected If my completed form is not legible, I understand that my submission will not be presented to the judges and will be omitted from scholarship consideration.

*denotes a required field

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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT® FOR HEALTHY LIVING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



TIME FOR KIDS TO BE KIDS

Summer Day Camp

Camp Mountain Laurel is the place to make every precious summer day a great one!

CAMP MOUNTAIN LAUREL provides children and teens with an opportunity to have fun, meet new friends, play and create memories that last a lifetime.

At our Summer Camps and Clinics, participants gain a sense of accomplishment, build relationships and find their sense of belonging. It's an opportunity for physical, social, emotional and cognitive learning experiences. For families, our Summer Camps and Clinics offers a peace of mind knowing that your child is in a safe and enriching environment.

AGES

Classic Camp - Ages 3-15 Specialty Camps- Vary by age

LOCATIONS

Camp Mountain Laurel – 2705 Downes Road, Hamden, CT

REGISTER

Registration is now open! Download or pickup your registration packet one of our program sites.

OPEN HOUSES

Please come visit Camp Mountain Laurel and meet the staff.

Saturday March 12 10am-1pm Saturday April 30 10am-1pm Saturday May 14 10am-1pm Saturday June 4 10am-1pm



HAMDEN/NORTH HAVEN YMCA

2705 Downes Road, Hamden CT 06518 **P** 203 535 2569 **F** 203 787 0804 **W** hnhymca.org

PRESENTED BY FAVOR'S LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Join FAVOR, Inc for a virtual **COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**

*This community conversation is specific to families whose children utilize AAC (augmentative and alternative communication) devices.

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS AND EXPERIENCES ABOUT THE CHILD-SERVING SYSTEMS IN CONNECTICUT

1. WHAT'S WORKING FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD(REN) 2. WHAT'S NOT WORKING 3. HOW CAN WE IMPROVE SUPPORTS/SERVICES FOR YOU AND YOUR **CHILDREN**

> February 17, 2022 6:30pm to 8:00pm

REGISTER HERE:

HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/COMMUNITY-CONVERSATION-ONAUGMENTATIVE-ALTERNATIVE-COMMUNICATIONDEVICES-TICKETS-256306538757

Connecting to Care is a partnership that focuses on coordinating access to qualify care through a youth-guided and family-driven approach. To improve mental health outcomes for children in Connecticut, Connecting to Care seeks to charge the way that the system operates so that all children have the opportunity to thrive



connectingtocarect.org plan4children.org









