


The Dragon's Tale

Hamden Middle School Student & Family Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>6 B7</p> <p>Homebase (Period 7 Not Seen)</p>	<p>7 A1</p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Anime Club Dungeons & Dragon Gaming Club Mock Trial Newspaper Club Rainbow Club Student A Team Valentine Heart Decorating YES Club</p> <p>HMS Conferences (5:30-7:30 p.m.)</p> <p>Hidden in Plain Sight Program (5:30-7:30 p.m.)</p> <p>School Governance Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)</p>	<p>8 B1</p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Card Club Diversity & Equity Club STEM Club Student Council</p>	<p>9 A2</p> <p>Superintendent Highsmith Student Advisory Group Meeting (Block 1)</p> <p>Grade 8 Field Trip: Quinnipiac University Basketball Game</p>	<p>10 B2</p>
HMS PTA SPREAD THE LOVE				
<p>13 A3</p> <p>Early Dismissal (12 p.m.)</p> <p>Professional Learning</p>	<p>14 B3</p> <p>HMS School Spirit: Wear Pink & Red</p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Anime Club Dungeons & Dragon Mock Trial Rainbow Club</p> <p>Aladdin Jr. Musical Auditions</p>	<p>15 A4</p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Card Club Diversity & Equity Club</p>	<p>16 B4</p>	<p>17 A5</p>

20 No School Presidents' Day	21 B5 <u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Aladdin Jr. Rehearsal Anime Club Dungeons & Dragon Mock Trial Newspaper Club Rainbow Club YES Club	22 A6 <u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Card Club Diversity & Equity Club Student Council	23 B6 Early Dismissal (12 p.m.) Professional Learning	24 A7 <u>After-School Programs</u> Aladdin Jr. Rehearsal
27 B7 Early Dismissal (12 p.m.) Professional Learning	28 A1 <u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Aladdin Jr. Rehearsal Anime Club Dungeons & Dragon Gaming Club Mock Trial Rainbow Club Student A Team Yearbook Club			

HMS CONFERENCE NIGHT

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

We look forward to connecting with parents on Tuesday evening at HMS. Conference registration information was shared in last week's newsletter. (Click [here](#) to access The Dragon's Tale.) Please register for a conference by Monday morning. Questions? Please contact Ms. Singla at asingla@hamden.org or 203-407-7194.

IT'S A WRAP! MARKING PERIOD 1

Did you see your child's second marking period report card? Parents, you can find report cards on PowerSchool. Here are the steps:

1. Log into the Parent/Student Portal via the full [web version link](#). Note: The Mobile app cannot be used to view the report card.
2. Click on "Student Reports" on the left navigation panel.
3. Click on your report card.
4. If you would like to print a copy of your report card, you may do so by clicking the printer icon on the top right corner of your screen.

If you have any questions, please email Stephanie Bezerra at sbezerra@hamden.org.

LOST AND FOUND

Sometimes we wonder how so many items get lost at HMS. We hope to reconnect students and parents with missing coats, and more. Lost and found items will be on display next week in school and during parent conferences. Items left behind will be donated to our local Goodwill.

VIEW OUR STUDENT NEWSPAPER: THE DRAGON'S POST

Our HMS Newspaper Club and its talented student contributors are thrilled to share their latest issue with you! [View the latest issue, the student-created website & all of The Dragon's Post issues here.](#)

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Hamden Middle School, Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Hamden Prevention Council and Connecticut Association of Prevention Professionals, Inc. present Hidden in Plain Sight- an interactive presentation about what to look for in your teen's bedroom and what to say once you have found it. There will be mock scenarios where the Prevention Specialists will guide attendees, explain various substance use trends, and identify signs and symptoms to watch for with their children at home. We hope you can attend.

NJHS VALENTINE'S SALE

The HMS National Junior Honor Society will be holding a Valentine Bear and/or Valentine's Pencil sale starting Monday, February 6th. All students and staff are invited to purchase teddy bears for \$3.00 or a pencil for \$1.00 during their lunch waves. Both items will be delivered to the recipient on Valentine's Day, Tuesday, February 14th with a personalized message. Let's embrace this time to make a friend feel special!

HMS SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you following us on social media? We would love you to join us on FaceBook (Hamden Middle School), Twitter (@HMSDragons), and Instagram (hms_dragons). You won't be disappointed!



HMS PTA HOST "SPREAD THE LOVE" WEEK

Show your appreciation to our HMS school community by helping spread the love to our teachers and classrooms, which in turn helps all of our children. Students can give donations directly to their Team Leader during the week of February 13th. Parents can also drop them off directly to teachers during Report Card Conferences on Tuesday, February 7th. We are suggesting donations of the following items:

- ★ **Monday 2/13:** Box of Tissues
- ★ **Tuesday 2/14:** Write a note and/or send in a token of appreciation to a

special teacher or staff member

- ★ **Wednesday 2/15:** Pack of Pencils, Pens, Markers, or Colored Pencils
 - ★ **Thursday 2/16:** Pack of Post It Notes, Highlighters, or Stickers
 - ★ **Friday 2/17:** Hand sanitizer, band aids, or cleaning wipes
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HMS PTA PRESENTS A PAINT NIGHT FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

It is important that our students and their parents feel connected to other members of our school community. The HMS PTA is planning a special evening on Tuesday, March 14th. It is a special evening for students and a parent or guardian to participate in a Paint Night. We will send home additional information in future newsletters. Stay tuned!

PARENT FEEDBACK

Cassandra Garrett, Emily Grosshuesch, Liz Howard, Frances Kilkenny, Roxanna Lopez... Your voices have been heard! Thank you for sharing feedback regarding family engagement opportunities. Ms. Coogan will present your



children with a Dragon Pride prize and pass to our HMS Student Center. The HMS School Governance Council and HMS PTA are helping Ms. Coogan plan some exciting opportunities for everyone as we forge through the second half of the year.

CHARGING FOR SCHOOL MEALS AT HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL BEGIN ON MARCH 1, 2023

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 will be the last day for free school meals at Hamden Middle School. Charging for school meals will begin on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. A notification explaining this change was emailed to all households on January 10th. To see the notification and other pertinent information please visit www.hamden.org/families/lunchmenu and click on your school. There, you will find information on applying for free and reduced-price meals, breakfast and lunch prices, the MySchoolBucks payment system, the meal charging policy, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). If you haven't yet applied for free or reduced-price meals, please visit www.hamden.org/mealapplication and do so now.

HPS SUPERINTENDENT STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Anabella C., Grade 7, House 4

Anabella stands out as a leader at HMS. It is clear that Anabella possesses strong interpersonal and communication skills. When working with others, she does a great job including everyone, and she is a taskmaster who keeps everyone on track for success. She always exceeds behavioral expectations; she is a role model for all. Singing is her passion, and Anabella loves performing in the chorus. She also enjoys dancing and is studying Hip Hop at Dance Unlimited. Anabella is an only child, and she was thrilled to share this positive news with her mom. Congratulations, Anabella!



Shianne L., Grade 7, House 3

Shianne is feeling super proud. She earned the honor of HPS Superintendent Student of the Month in both sixth and seventh grade. It is a true indicator that Shianne is an awesome student. She reflected on this award and said she is just a nice kid. (We agree!) Shianne is a creative student, and she loves to draw. Shianne loves to dance; tap is her favorite. Her most important role is being the big sister. She has a younger sister and brother, and she has a baby sibling on the way! We are proud to have Shianne as a student at HMS.

"HEALTHY HEROS" AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Achieve an optimal level of health and well-being for yourself and your children! "Healthy Heroes" is a free, interactive, family-centric after-school program that is committed to empowering students and their families to establish healthy habits and a lifetime of good health.

In this program, the students will receive the following services on a weekly basis:

- age-appropriate health education on healthy eating, physical activity, stress management, personal health, emotional health, substance abuse prevention, social skills, and learning how to be an advocate for self and others
- physical activity with certified fitness trainers
- healthy and balanced meals prepared by a reputable Chef

While the parents will participate in:

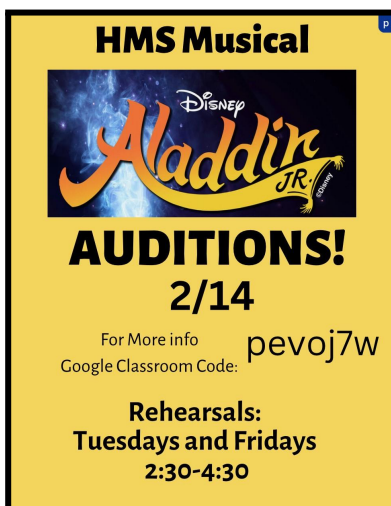
- monthly healthy cooking demonstrations
- monthly fitness sessions (Zumba)
- regular individualized counseling with the Registered Dietitian

The benefits of the program include improved academic performance, health literacy, and mental and physical health for both parents and students.

The value of the program is \$1,500 per student per academic year but it is provided at no cost as it is co-sponsored by the CT State Department of Education and Monitor My Health non-profit. To learn more about the program, or to register for the workshop, please contact us at Michelle Coogan at mcoogan@hamden.org or 203-407-7131.

STUDENT CELL PHONE POLICY REMINDERS

Please remind your HMS student(s) about the current cell phone policy. 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. Cell phones should not be visible during instructional time.



HMS SPRING MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

We are calling upon all of our student actors, singers, and performers. It is time to get ready for spring musical auditions. Patrick Laffin, from the Square Foot Theater, will serve as the Director. (We are thrilled!) Interested students should join the Aladdin Jr. Google Classroom. The code is pevoj7w. When thinking about auditioning, students should be prepared to sing a short bit from any Disney song.

YEARBOOK SALES

Students are working with Ms. Bellmore to design the 2023 HMS Yearbook. It will feature all students, faculty and staff, and it will highlight the events of this year. It is time to order your yearbook by visiting www.yearbookforever.com. Search for Hamden Middle School. The cost of the yearbook is \$30.00.



 **YOUTH DESIGNED BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN** For more detailed information and an entry form, [CLICK HERE](#).

HPS VIRTUAL BULLETIN BOARD

<https://www.hamden.org/families/flyers>

We are often asked to share community flyers. Our district has created a virtual bulletin board for parents to visit and check out local news. Please click on the link above to review recent flyers.