

Hamden Middle School

The Dragon's Tale: Principal Coogan's Weekly Update



Hamden Middle School Family Newsletter Monday, September 14, 2020

TOMORROW IS THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

As a parent of a Hamden Public School student, I understand families may feel a bit overwhelmed with school communication. In an effort to share information, school leaders are sending home emails, voice messages, tweets, and more. Sometimes, it can feel like too much information to digest! However, over communication is best at this time in our community.

I would encourage parents to skim past issues of *The Dragon's Tale*, our school newsletters. These documents can be found on the [HMS website](#). Parents can also view the [HMS Informational Webinar](#). I think parents will find these resources informative.

In hopes of keeping it simple and connecting with our students and families, Ms. Coffey and I made a brief video to help everyone prepare for the first day of school. Please take some time to watch it tonight.



[PREPARING FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL](#)

I will see you tomorrow morning!
-Ms. Michelle Coogan

MORNING ARRIVAL

Members of the HMS faculty prepared a video to help students prepare for morning arrival. We have some awesome teacher actors. Please be sure to watch this video to get information about riding the bus, getting dropped off at school, and entering the building. (Families may have already watched this video; I emailed it home to families last week.)

[HMS MORNING ARRIVAL](#)

STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

We understand our priority will be to take care of our students needs, including their emotional needs. We have an outstanding team of professionals who are ready to work with students and families.

- **SCHOOL COUNSELORS:** Ms. Angela Salerno is supporting seventh grade students, and Ms. Andrea Mitchell is supporting eighth grade students. They are available to help students navigate the middle school years.
- **SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS:** Mr. Ronald Hoyt, Ms. Erin Miller, and Ms. Susan Paluzzi will support students with individual educational plans (IEPs), as well as students who are in need. They will be organizing and facilitating PPT meetings. They are here to help students be successful in school.
- **SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS:** Ms. Raquel Cooper, Ms. Taryn Scecina, and Mr. Glenn Xavier will work with students in both grades. They provide social and emotional support, and they help students develop important skills to help them navigate relationships with teachers and peers. They will host 504 meetings, and oversee 504 plans. They offer counseling support to students with IEPs, and they are available to help all students at HMS.
- **SCHOOL SPEECH & LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS:** Dr. Elizabeth D'souza and Ms. Melissa Rowe are ready to provide services to students in small groups or individual sessions. They help students understand what they read and hear, as well as how to communicate information with others. (In the video, you will see Ms. Mital. She will be working at West Woods School this year, and Dr. D'souza will be here with us at HMS.

Please watch this video to meet the [HMS Support Team](#).

A NOTE FROM THE HMS HEALTH OFFICE

Did you know all seventh grade students must have an updated physical with documentation of two vaccines, **MENINGOCOCCAL** and **T-DAP**? It is a state law that students cannot begin school without these vaccines. **There are currently 116 seventh grade students**

who are not medically cleared to begin the school year.

Families will not have access to PowerSchool, and students cannot begin school tomorrow either in person or online. Please contact Nurse Julie Beaver at jbeaver@hamden.org or Nurse Rebecca Buenano at rbuenano@hamden.org or call the Health Office at 203-407-7192.

NEED HELP WITH POWERSCHOOL OR STUDENT SCHEDULES?

All questions regarding PowerSchool or ParentPortal should be directed to Stephanie Bezerra, HMS PowerSchool Clerk at sbezerra@hamden.org. All questions regarding your child's schedule should be directed to Jessica Coffey, Gr. 8 Assistant Principal at jcoffey@hamden.org.

HMS OPEN HOUSE

The annual Open House program will take place on **Tuesday, October 6, 2020**. (5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.) This date was rescheduled due to the delayed start to the school year. Information regarding the virtual program will be shared in future communications.

HMS CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2020

This monthly review will help parents and students remember what Hybrid Group should report to school each day. Remember, students who are home are still responsible for learning on the days they are home.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14	15 A First Day of School Group 1 (A-K)	16 B Group 2 (L-Z)	17 A Group 2 (L-Z)	18 B Group 1 (A-K)
21 A Group 1 (A-K)	22 B Group 1 (A-K)	23 A Group 2 (L-Z)	24 B Group 2 (L-Z)	25 A Group 2 (L-Z)
28 No School Yom Kippur	29 B Group 1 (A-K)	30 A Group 2 (L-Z)	1 B Group 2 (L-Z)	2 A Group 1 (A-K)

Group 1 (A-K): 6 days at school & 7 days at home

Group 2 (L-Z): 7 days at school & 6 days at home