

Hamden Middle School

The Dragon's Tale

Principal Coogan's Weekly Update



November 23, 2020; Issue 12

HMS CALENDAR NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
23 A	24 B	25 NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK	26 NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK	27 NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK
30 A	1 B HMS Virtual Conferences (5:30-7:30 p.m.)	2 A Asynchronous Learning Day	3 B	4 A
7 B	8 A	9 B Asynchronous Learning Day	10 A Early Dismissal Schedule	11 B
14 A	15 B	16 A Asynchronous Learning Day	17 B	18 A
21 B	22 A	23 B Early Dismissal Schedule Asynchronous Learning Day	24 NO SCHOOL HOLIDAY RECESS	25 NO SCHOOL HOLIDAY RECESS

HMS CONFERENCES * TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020 * 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

IT IS TIME TO REGISTER FOR A CONFERENCE!

Teachers will be hosting virtual conferences with parents on December 1, 2020. Each 10-minute conference will be a Zoom experience. **Teachers will email a Zoom link to parents who register for a conference on or before Monday, November 30, 2020.** It is time to register for a conference now.

Parents will be asked to select one member of the Core Team to meet on this evening. The Core Team is composed of English, mathematics, science, and social studies teachers. We limit parents to only one conference per Core Team to ensure we can accommodate as many parents as possible. **If parents sign up for more than one Core Team teacher, we will honor the earliest conference time and delete the additional conferences.**

Parents can also choose to meet with their child's elective or Encore teachers. The Encore Team is composed of art, music, health, physical education, Contemporary Issues, Global Voices, STEM, and World Language teachers.

Our Core and Encore teachers are eager to connect with parents and share updates from the first marking periods. Parents, teachers and students will also be focused on setting goals for the second marking period. Conference registration will follow the "first come, first serve" model. So, please be ready to schedule your conference!

HMS Conference Registration Links	
ALsC Classrooms	ALsC Classroom Sign-Ups
Grade 7 House 2 (Tremper)	Team Tremper Sign-Ups
Grade 7 House 3 (KidderBlake)	Team Kidder-Blake Sign-Ups
Grade 7 House 4 (Stanton)	Team Stanton Sign-Ups
Grade 7 House 5 (Walton)	Team Walton Sign-Ups
Grade 8 House 1 (Morello)	Team Morello Sign-Ups
Grade 8 House 2 (Rocco)	Team Rocco Sign-Ups
Grade 8 House 3 (Evans)	Team Evans Sign-Ups
Grade 8 House 4 (Domurad)	Team Domurad Sign-Ups
Encore Teachers & PPS Staff	Encore Teacher Sign-Ups
Specialists/SRBI Coordinators	Specialists/SRBI Coordinator Sign-Ups

THANKSGIVING RECESS



School will be closed on Wednesday, November 25, Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We wish everyone in our community a safe, healthy, and happy holiday.

TEACHER APPRECIATION

While 2020 has been a challenging year, we can all find reasons to be grateful. I am asking parents to email me notes of appreciation for our teachers. **Each email I receive will be printed and mailed home to the teacher with a treat.** The gift of kindness and recognition is a great

way to lead up to this national celebration.

(Thanks to the parents who already embraced this idea. Teachers will be thrilled to receive your kind notes in the US mail!)

STUDENT SHOUT-OUTS!



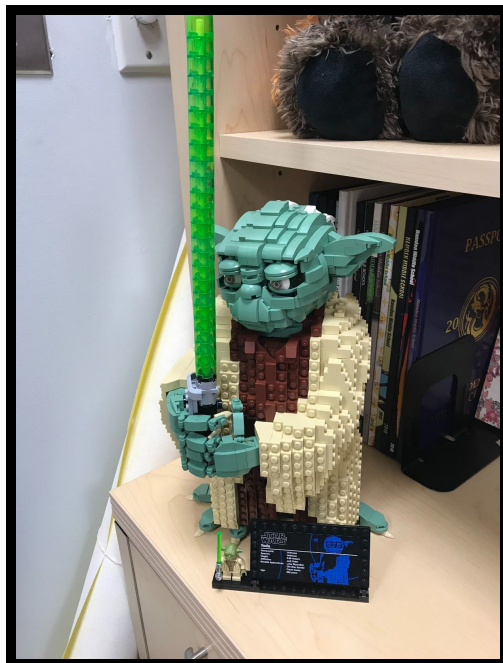
Eighth grade students love their STEM classes! The lessons are engaging, and the hands-on projects provide students with a change to use their creative, problem-solving skills. Caitlyn M. and Jaylyn M. worked with Mr. Stratton to design a robotic peacock. This peacock, named Fernando, is quite magical. His eyes light up and his tail moves up and down. When he is activated, the students play bird calls in the background. It is an awesome accomplishment, and I know the students are proud of

their work. Mr. Stratton admired their persistence with the project. They had an idea, and they worked together to accomplish the plan.

HOME VISITS



Distance Learning will not prevent us from seeing our students. Ms. Mule, SRBI Math Interventionist, and Charles Neal, School Climate Advisor, visited students at home on Thursday. They dropped off some school materials, including schedules and supplies, as well as a tasty sandwich from Chick-Fil-A. We will continue to check-in on our students and support our families. Parents can always contact Michelle Coogan (mcoogan@hamden.org) to request a student phone call or a home visit.



PRINCIPAL COOGAN'S CHALLENGE

LEGOs are a great activity to engage your mind, and it is a perfect break from screen time. Students can create an original design, or they can work to complete a LEGO set. There are so many choices, including Harry Potter, Jurassic World, Minecraft, NINJAGO, SpiderMan, and Star Wars. The challenge is quite simple. Create or build a LEGO design over the weeks of Distance Learning, and bring your final product for the school-wide display. Some students may have LEGO kits at home, and some students may receive a gift of LEGOs for the upcoming holidays. We are ready to support any student who wants to participate and needs a LEGO kit. (Just say the word!)

Interested? Let Ms. Coogan know if you are accepting her LEGO Challenge by emailing her at mcoogan@hamden.org or calling her at 203-407-7131.

Special thanks to Ms. Mitchell, grade 8 school counselor, who shared her LEGO Yoda with Ms. Coogan. It is 1771 pieces of LEGO awesomeness! The force is strong in Jedi Mitchell...

DISTANCE LEARNING SCHEDULE

The Hamden Board of Education approved Superintendent Goeler's recommendation to shift to Distance Learning for all students. All students in both grades will follow this bell schedule while learning at home:

PERIOD	TIME
Period 1	8:13 a.m.-8:52 a.m.
Period 2	8:55 a.m.-9:34 a.m.
Period 3	9:37 a.m.-10:16 a.m.
Period 4	10:19 a.m.-10:58 a.m.
Lunch Break	10:58 a.m.-11:24 a.m.
Period 5	11:27 a.m.-12:06 p.m.
Period 6	12:09 p.m.-12:48 p.m.
Period 7	12:51 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Each day, students are expected to log into their Google Classrooms and join teachers for Zoom meetings. There is an exception; the district has dedicated one day a week for "asynchronous" learning days. On Wednesdays, students are expected to complete assignments, while teachers meet with individual or small groups of students. The posted assignments may be enrichment activities, and teachers may dedicate time for a long-term project. However, students will connect with teachers using Zoom on the remaining four school days.

Parents are encouraged to review the [HPS Parent Guide for Distance Learning](#). It includes information regarding attendance, communication, technology issues, and more.