

The Dragon's Tale

Hamden Middle School
Student & Family Newsletter



December 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>12 (A6)</p> <p>Early Dismissal (12:00 p.m.)</p> <p>HMS Professional Learning</p>	<p>13 (B6)</p> <p><u>After School Programs</u></p> <p>Office Hours Anime Club Card Game Club Dungeons & Dragons Gaming Club Mindful Coloring Mock Trial Newspaper Club Rainbow Club YES Club</p> <p>Lyman Orchard Pie & Cookie Dough Fundraiser Pick Up (1:30-5:00 p.m.)</p> <p><u>Winter Sports</u> Boys vs. Conte (Away) Girls vs. Melillo MS (Home)</p> <p>Winter Instrumental Concert (7:00 p.m.)</p>	<p>14 (A7)</p> <p><u>After School Programs</u></p> <p>Office Hours Equity & Diversity Club Grade 8 Student "A-Team" Meeting Math Club Mindfulness STEM Club Student Council</p> <p><u>Winter Sports</u> Basketball Practice (2:44-4:45 p.m.)</p> <p>Why Hamden High School: An Informational Program (6:00-7:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>15 (B7)</p> <p><u>Winter Sports</u> Boys vs. Bailey MS (Away) Girls vs. Bailey MS (Home)</p>	<p>16 (A1)</p> <p>NJHS Toy Drive Collection during morning drop off</p> <p>Final Day for Toys for Tots</p> <p><u>Winter Sports</u> Basketball Practice (2:44-4:45 p.m.)</p>
<p>19 (B1)</p> <p><u>Winter Sports</u> Boys vs. Amity MS Orange (Home) Girls vs. Amity MS Orange (Away)</p>	<p>20 (A2)</p> <p><u>After School Programs</u></p> <p>Office Hours Anime Club Card Game Club Dungeons & Dragons Gaming Club Grade 7 Student "A-Team" Meeting Mindful Coloring Mock Trial Rainbow Club Yearbook YES Club</p> <p><u>Winter Sports</u> Basketball Practice (2:44-4:45 p.m.)</p>	<p>21 (B2)</p> <p><u>After School Programs</u></p> <p>Office Hours Equity & Diversity Club Math Club Mindfulness NJHS STEM Club Student Council</p> <p><u>Winter Sports</u> Basketball Practice (2:44-4:45 p.m.)</p>	<p>22 (A3)</p> <p>Early Dismissal (12:00 p.m.)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>No School Holiday Recess Begins</p> <p>Holiday Recess 12/23/22-1/2/23 Students return to school on January 3, 2023</p>

EARLY DISMISSAL REMINDER



Hamden Middle School
students will be dismissed at
12:00 p.m. on
Monday, December 12, 2022.

Professional Learning Time for HMS Faculty & Staff!

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TIME FOR TEACHERS

Our middle school team is engaging in purposeful professional development this academic year that is directly connected to improving Tier 1 instruction. We are learning how to write learning targets in student-friendly language and how to use the learning target as a tool throughout the lesson. In addition, teachers are studying how to embed meaningful discourse into lessons. We are also studying how actionable feedback can help students access grade level content and provide an appropriate level of challenge for each student. We are so fortunate to have this additional professional learning time. We are grateful for the patience and support of our HMS community. Teachers are lifelong learners who are in constant pursuit of improved practices for our Hamden students.

LYMAN ORCHARD PIE & COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER PICK UP

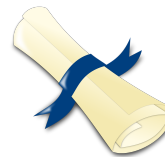
We are grateful for our families who could support the school-wide fundraiser. The frozen desserts are scheduled to arrive tomorrow. Parents can pick up their items between 1:30-5:00 p.m. We will be stationed in the main hallway. Please come to the front doors.

PARENT SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY
Only 40 parents completed this survey
last week. We will extend it one week to

get more feedback from our HMS families.

All HMS parents are encouraged to complete this survey to provide information on your child's experience at Hamden Middle School. Your anonymous feedback will help our team reflect and identify areas of strength and in need of improvement. Your thoughts and suggestions are important to us. [Click here for the parent survey link.](#)

Survey Deadline: Friday, December 16th.



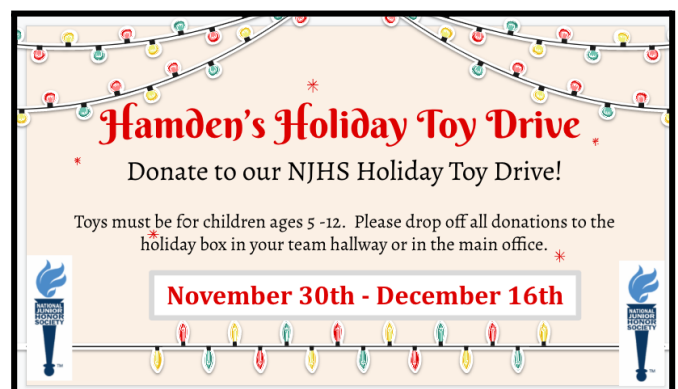
HMS HONOR ROLL (MARKING PERIOD 1)

We are grateful that parents are reading the weekly newsletter and sending feedback to Ms. Coogan.

We learned there was an issue with attendance data, and the good news is that even more students earned honors in the first marking period. We apologize to our students who were accidentally left off the first list. We encourage everyone to check out the revised list. We know parents are proud of their children's academic achievements, and we share their pride!

HMS Honor Roll

If you believe your child is missing from the list, please email Mr. Ortiz at hortiz@hamden.org for grade seven students and Ms. Coffey at jcoffey@hamden.org for eighth grade students.



NJHS TOY DRIVE

The National Junior Honor Society is teaming up with the Keefe Center to bring joy to Hamden families during the holiday season. We will be collecting new unwrapped toys as well as monetary donations for children ages 5 – 12 from now through December 16th. Grade level teams will battle to collect the most toys for a chance to

win donuts and hot cocoa as a thank you for assisting us in this charitable community service project. We will also be collecting donations during morning arrival on Friday, December 16th.

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.

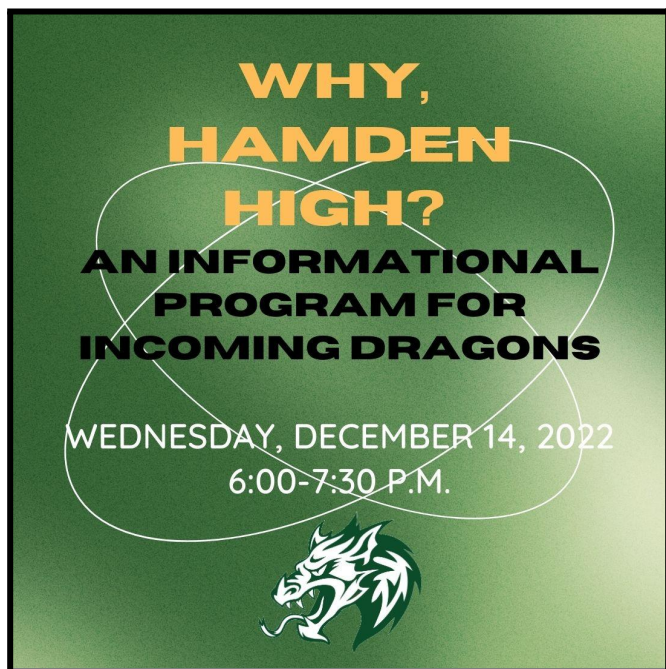
TEAMWORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Over the weekend, two of our seventh grade teams were busy at work in the community. Team Coggins worked a special fundraiser at the Barnes and Noble in Milford. Students greeted guests, wrapped gifts, and played games with shoppers. It was a beautiful day, and the team represented HMS in an amazing way. Team Ugolik went shopping with students and parents at Target in North Haven. They collected monetary donations to purchase toys. Together, they filled four carts and all items will be donated to the NJHS Toy Drive. It was a wonderful experience and a dynamic way to show students how to give back to the community. We are proud of our student leaders.

Our eighth grade students are preparing for the transition to high school. It is an exciting time for students and families. We must admit; we are biased about Hamden High School. We continue to hear great things from our past students, and we follow their successes through high school and beyond! Principal Gannon and the HHS team are prepared to welcome families and share information about our town's amazing high school program.

HHS will host an Open House event on Wednesday, December 14th. Students and families will learn about the academic programs, and athletics, clubs and enrichment programs. There will be a student panel ready to discuss: AP Courses, Art Programming, the Hamden Engineering Careers Academy (HECA), the Culinary Arts Program, Early Childhood Education Program & Nursery School Lab, National Honor Society, and more. We strongly encourage all eighth grade students and families to participate in this informational program.

Parents, please complete this quick [RSVP SURVEY](#) if you plan to attend. Your response will help Principal Gannon prepare for this special event.



WHY HAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL

December 14, 2022

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.



HPS SUPERINTENDENT STUDENT OF THE MONTH Spotlight on Taryn L. (Grade 7)

Taryn is one of a kind, and we just love having her as a student at HMS. Her positive attitude and outgoing personality make everyone feel comfortable in her company. Taryn is a student athlete who plays ice hockey and lacrosse in the

community. Taryn enjoys learning and enjoys working with many different teachers. Ms. Bergstrom, her physical education teacher, nominated Taryn for this distinguished honor. In the gymnasium, Taryn is a leader who consistently models good sportsmanship and teamwork. Way to go, Taryn!

HOLIDAY SHOPPING MADE EASY

We are working with the company Spirit Wear this year. Students and families can order awesome HMS Swag at <https://hamdenspiriwear.com/>. It could be the perfect gift for your middle school scholars...



DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Please review this NEW [Daily Health Assessment](#) with your child every day. This is an important first line of defense in both ensuring the health and wellness of your children and also protecting our entire school community from the risk of infection.

TEST, MASK, GO! What does that mean?

If your child is feeling sick with mild cold symptoms, they may come to school if:

- he/she is fever-free,
- he/she does not live with someone who has COVID in the past 2 weeks,
- he/she tests negative for COVID

They should come to school wearing a mask.

If your child has a fever or lives with a person who recently tested positive for COVID within the past

two weeks, please keep him or her home and call our school nurses at 203-407-7192. Rebecca Iannucci and Kelly Stewart will listen and offer parents advice and support.

