



Monday, March 28, 2022, Issue 26

MARCH 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28A After-School Programs 5K Club Annie Jr. Rehearsal Student Council Yearbook Club	29B After-School Programs Jazz Band Mock Trial Club Rainbow Club	30A After-School Programs 5K Club Annie Jr. Rehearsal Divide & Conquer Math Club Korean Club	31B	THIRD MARKING PERIOD ENDS APRIL 5, 2022.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IS CURRENTLY THURSDAY, JUNE 16th.

THE DRAGON'S TALE - PARENT FEEDBACK

Communication is essential, and we want to hear from our HMS parents. What information do you want to read in our school newsletter? We want to better refine our practice to ensure parents enjoy the school newsletter, and we want the information to be helpful! Please email Michelle Coogan with any ideas for future publications at mcoogan@hamden.org. (Parents, if you respond, Ms. Coogan will enter your child's name into a raffle for a special lunch in the Student Center.)

IT'S THE GREEN & GOLD GAZETTE

Please embrace this opportunity to [read the student newspaper](#). It is great to have our future reporters sharing news about their school. There is a special highlight of our student performers who are preparing for the production of Annie Jr. We are grateful to Mr. Simone and our students who invest their time and energy into sharing updates and more.

POSITIVE POSTCARDS

Teachers have initiated a special campaign to recognize students. Parents, be on the lookout for a special postcard in the mail. Be sure to celebrate with your kids. Remind children when they receive a postcard to say “thank you” to the sending teacher.

COURSE REGISTRATION: ATTENTION FUTURE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS

Is your child currently in seventh grade? If yes, it is time to plan for the transition to eighth grade. Ms. Coffey, eighth grade assistant principal, supports all students in registering for courses next year. The process is ongoing and students have begun the process of selecting courses. There are different course categories, including:

CORE CLASSES

All students will be enrolled in English, math, science, and social studies. This process is done automatically for all students.

STEM CLASSES

In eighth grade all students are exposed to STEM courses, which includes courses on forensics, mechanical engineering, transportation and computer literacy. Students do not need to select STEM, as it is a class that every eighth grader completes.

MUSIC CLASSES

Students who wish to continue taking band, chorus and orchestra will just need to answer the first portion of the registration form. If your child does not wish to continue taking band, chorus or orchestra, I would encourage them to first have a conversation with the appropriate teacher. Then, indicate which music electives they would like to take and make note of the teacher's approval.

WORLD LANGUAGE

All students will be enrolled in the second year of the world language they are currently enrolled in during seventh grade. Students do not need to select their language, as this will be done by their current teacher.

ELECTIVE CLASSES

Descriptions of all electives will be posted in Google Classroom and posted on the HMS website. Parents are encouraged to discuss their child's elective choices at home, as students will be filling out a Google Form to indicate their elective choices. Students who are going to be continuing with band, chorus or orchestra do not need to choose additional electives, as these run for 90 days.

If parents have any questions, please feel free to email Ms. Coffey at jcoffey@hamden.org. We are excited to think about the future.

BASEBALL TRYOUTS

The baseball tryouts began today. Only those students who are registered and medically cleared through Family ID may participate. Tryouts will be over at 4:30 p.m., and students need to provide their own transportation home. We continue to look for a candidate to coach the girls softball team. If you have any interest in coaching or questions about spring sports, please contact Mr. Mandel at rmandel@hamden.org.



Hamden Middle School~ School Based Health Center

SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CLINIC

We are fortunate to partner with Cornell Scott Hill; they ensure our students have access to medical care at Hamden Middle School. There are many services available to your child here, including:

- Physical Exams, including Sports Physicals
- COVID testing~ Rapid, as well as PCR testing
- Any Vaccines, including COVID
- Treatment for asthma, allergies, obesity or other health concerns
- Referral to specialty care
- Sick Visits

Please call our School Based Health Centers' coordinator, Mrs. Carla Leon at cleon@cornellscott.org or 203-407-7223 to schedule an appointment or please reach out to Angela Nardecchia, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC at anardecchia@cornellscott.org with any questions or concerns.

CELL PHONES

As you may recall, we have promoted a "No Cell Phone Zone" at HMS. Through observation, we believe cell phones and social media can be a distraction from learning. Middle school students struggle with managing texts and social media highlights while trying to listen and focus in class. Phones that are beeping and buzzing can also distract peers and teachers. More importantly, we recognize our students need to embrace the time to connect with others in person. The art of conversation is important and rewarding. Lunch is a perfect time to talk with friends. Cell phones are important communication tools, and we know parents will continue to teach appropriate use in social situations and at school.

HMS has a no cell policy that requires students to keep phones off or silenced and in their lockers or backpacks. We will always remind students to silence their phones and put them away. We will always allow a student to call home to connect with a parent, and we will either provide them access to our phones or a private location to call home. In short, we don't want to see or hear them. If a student is refusing to follow this expectation, we will contact you. For consistent or ongoing concerns, Mr. Ortiz or Ms. Coffey may collect cell phones for parents to pick them up.

Please talk with your children and reinforce the school expectations regarding cell phones. We most certainly do not want to waste time over cell phone use! There is so much to look forward to over the next few months. Let's end this year on a positive note.

PARENTS, PLEASE CHECK OUT THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR HMS STUDENTS! ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN.

[Click Here to View the Information Below](#)
(including Rules, Winners, Eligible Entries & Design Tips)

“Positive Choices for a Healthy Hamden” Billboard Campaign Theme: *The Happiness Project*

BACKGROUND

The Town of Hamden Youth Services Bureau and Hamden Public Schools with support from Outfront Media, is sponsoring a Billboard Campaign. This contest is in support of the Hamden Youth Network's prevention efforts. This project is funded by a Youth Enhancement grant through DCF. This year's theme is *The Happiness Project*. The focus of the campaign is on what makes us happy and how we can help to motivate and inspire others to make positive choices!

Some ideas...practice gratitude * help others * exercise * eat right * healthy social connections * talk to a trusted friend or family member * talk to a professional * meditate * express yourself through writing, art, music, movement * spend time outdoors * take a social media break * breathe

Inspire others to make positive choices.

ELIGIBLE ENTRIES

Must be submitted by a Hamden resident youth; follow required design specifications; and have an official entry form completed.

SUBMITTING YOUR DESIGN

Entries must be submitted by 10:00 a.m. on April 5th 2022. Completed forms and art work must be submitted electronically to Susan Rubino, Coordinator for Hamden Youth Services – srubino@hamden.com (you may take a photo of your design and email to Susan Rubino along with the attached completed form)

DESIGN TIPS

- Colors should be bold and show contrast and clarity.
- If words are used in the design (optional), no more than seven words should be used and font should be simple.
- No portrayals of drug use, keep the message positive.
- Designs should be simple and easy to understand in a short amount of time.

PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS Susan Rubino srubino@hamden.com

WINNERS

Three billboard designs for each school level (High, Middle, Elementary) will be selected the third week in February as winners by a judging panel.

1st PLACE: The first prize winner will have their design displayed on three billboards in Hamden.

2nd PLACE: Second place winner will have their design displayed on two billboards in Hamden.

3rd PLACE: The third place winner will have their design displayed on one billboard in Hamden.

(1st place \$300.00, 2nd Place \$200.00, 3rd Place \$100.00)

RULES

- There is a limit of **one billboard design entry** per student.
- Entries should be **drawn** on the provided billboard design sheet in horizontal format.
- **Digital art** should be created in the dimensions of 4.5" (vertical) by 8" (horizontal).
- A **signed Entry Form & Release** must be submitted with the entry.

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Some ideas include: * practice gratitude * help others * exercise * eat right * healthy social connections * talk to a trusted friend or family member * talk to a professional * meditate * express yourself through writing, art, music, movement * spend time outdoors * take a social media break * breathe * inspire others to make positive choices.

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GOOD LUCK, HMS ARTISTS!

**Save the
Date!**



Saturday, April 23rd

10:00am-3:00pm

**Hamden Middle School
2623 Dixwell Ave.**

**Hosted by The Office of the Mayor
203-287-7021 - Joe Derisi, Recycling Coordinator**

[CLICK HERE FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION & RATES](#)



Hamden Recreation Department

2022 SUMMER CAMP INFO!



HAMDEN RESIDENTS ONLY

Regular Registration starts on Monday, April 4th
and continues through

Friday, May 31st; Monday-Friday, 8:45-4:00

At the Recreation Office, 2750 Dixwell Avenue

Special Evening Hours by appointment only

May 25th & June 15th; 5-7pm; call 203-287-2579

Late Registration starts June 1st

Financial Assistance—Hamden Residents Only:

If you are applying for FA, please do not register for
Camp until after your appointment.

Call Community Services (Keefe Center) located

at 11 Pine Street @ 203-562-5129, Ext 1110

beginning April 11th through April 29th

to set up an appointment.

Financial assistance is available for

QUALIFIED HAMDEN RESIDENTS ONLY

(Munchkin, Rascal, Green & Gold Dragons & Extreme Camps only)

Deadline to set up an appointment: April 29, 2022

Dates For Camp:

6/27/22—7/29/22 (subject to change per BOE) No Camp 7/4

Programs available for campers 3 1/2-15 yrs. old

Registration will not be accepted prior to

April 4th



[Link to ACES Open Choice Application](#)



22-23 ACES Open Choice Applications

For suburban families who wish to apply for available seats in New Haven schools.



NOW AVAILABLE ON LINE!*

<http://aceschoicelottery.org>

What is Open Choice?

Open Choice is part of a law passed by the legislature of the State of Connecticut **to help reduce the racial, ethnic, and economic isolation** in Connecticut. It allows students from the suburbs to attend school in New Haven, where there are appropriate grade openings. ACES (Area Cooperative Educational Services) coordinates the Open Choice program in south central Connecticut, in collaboration with the CT State Dept. of Education. New Haven Public School openings for 22-23 are:

James Hillhouse High	Grade 9 & 10
Barack H. Obama University Magnet	Grade PK3, PK4 & K
Bishop Woods Architecture & Design Magnet	Grade K, 1 & 2
Brennan/Rogers: The Art of Communication & Media Magnet	Grade PK3, PK4, K & 1
Celentano Biotech Health & Medical Magnet	Grade PK3, PK4, K, 1 & 2
Christopher Columbus Family Academy	Grade K, 1 & 2
East Rock Community and Cultural Studies Magnet	Grade K, 1 & 2
Harry A. Conte/ West Hills: A School of Exploration & Innovation	Grade PK3, K, 1 & 2
John S. Martinez Sea and Sky STEM Magnet	Grade K
Lincoln-Bassett Community	Grade K, 1 & 2
Roberto Clemente Leadership Academy for Global Awareness Magnet	Grade K & 1



**Open Choice Applications are available on line at <http://aceschoicelottery.org> starting March 1, 2022. It must be submitted by 3:30 PM on 4/1/22.*

For more information please contact Lynn Bailey at (203) 498-6843 or by email at lbailey@aces.org