



Lyman C. Hunt Middle School Family Newsletter

October 13, 2022

Principal's Corner



Jim Kelley,
Principal

We've finished just over a month of school and the vast majority of students are settling into school routines and learning. It's wonderful to see! There are also a small number of students that are struggling to connect. Teachers, Wellness Space Staff and Admin are reaching out to families and making plans to help these students feel welcome and connected to Hunt and their learning. We are committed to this work until each and every student at Hunt sees themselves as an important, contributing and learning member of our community. We are not there yet and we will not stop working until this goal is achieved.

Ambulance at Open House

During Open House Wednesday, 9/21, a staff member was not feeling well. Our school nurse, Cathay Paradiso, checked in with him and decided that the most cautious approach was to have the ambulance bring the staff member to the ER. I'm happy to report that this staff member is ok, doing well and back at school!

COVID Booster Shot

This is our shot, Vermont! Everyone age 12 and older is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Sign up for your shot today at healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine or follow @healthvermont on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for walk-in opportunities. **#OurShotVT**

Clear the Halls/Secure the Building Actions

We've had to use these actions several times in the first month of school. These actions can be anxiety provoking so I want to explain what they are and when they are used.

These actions are used for lower level disturbances in the school. They are not for serious threats. We use these actions for medical issues where we want to make sure the privacy of the individual is preserved and to allow support for the individual without bystanders. We also use these actions when a student or students are struggling with their behavior in the hallway (**Hold/Clear the Halls**) or outside the building (**Secure**).

These actions are called to reduce student contact, keep the student(s) involved safe and others safe until the responding staff can get the student or students calm and in a safe place. These are not drills we would use for a serious threat. In a **Hold/Clear the Halls**, classroom doors are locked and it's business as usual in the classroom. In a **Secure**, students and staff come inside the building, outside doors are locked, and it is business as usual in the building. Students and staff are free to move about the building. The most common reason for a **Secure** the building is a student who is struggling with their behavior and has gone outside. A **Secure** is used to make sure responding staff can calm the student before they return to the building or go home, depending on the situation.

Jason Reynolds at the Flynn, 10/4

The entire 7th and 8th grade went to see the author [Jason Reynolds](#) at the Flynn Theater. He is a #1 New York Times bestselling author and has many award winning books including: *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks*, *All American Boys* (with Brendan Kiely), *Long Way Down*, and *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* (with Ibram X. Kendi). He has won numerous awards. Thank you to Charles Dabritz, our school librarian, Cara Sawtelle and all the Humanities teachers for making this trip possible. Thank you to the 7th/8th grade Humanities teachers for integrating this into their curriculum preparing students for the visit and the related work following the event.

Options Based Safety Drills

Hunt Middle School in coordination with Burlington School District, the Vermont School



Safety Center and under the guidance of the Vermont Agency of Education will be conducting school safety drills throughout the 2022-2023 school year. Our School Safety Drill Guidance is a collaboration between the Agency of Education and the Division of Fire Service that details the evacuation drill and options based response to an active shooter drill requirements.

According to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) Guidance for “Creating School Active Shooter/Intruder Drills”, *“Safety drills need to incorporate a lockdown response but also an “option-based” approach. An option-based approach means that there are different actions educators and students can take if confronted by an active shooter/intruder (e.g., run away, keep out, and hide).”* According to the NCTSN, the developmental level of our middle school students may allow some students to be ready to actively participate and make decisions when faced with an options-based approach. The purpose of the drills is to allow our students to practice various responses.

We will follow state guidance and announce all “Options-Based Response to Violent Intruder” drills immediately prior to the drill being conducted. This will limit the anxiety associated with these drills and ensure these drills are conducted in a safe and effective manner. For school evacuation drills, we will announce on the day of the scheduled drill, but unlike the “options- based drills” these do not require an announcement immediately prior to the physical activation of the alarm.

We will be pre teaching expectations for both drills in advisory. There will be time for questions and exploration in advisory also. All students will be encouraged to share anxieties at this time and/or to seek support from our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Gould or a school counselor.

Please feel free to discuss these drills with your student to best support them during this time. We are required to perform both an evacuation drills and an options-based drills throughout the year. Any questions, concerns or if you would like your child to “opt out” please contact Hunt Administration at: sgould@bsdvt.org

PTO Meeting

Any and all are welcome to attend the next PTO meeting - in person or virtually.

Monday, October 17th, 6:30-7:45pm at Hunt or via [Google Meets](#)



We'll have Q&A time with Principal Jim Kelley, discuss some funding requests and plan upcoming fundraisers. We hope to see you there!

Outright VT Fire Truck Pull 10/1

Team BEAutiful was well represented by Hunt staff. Each team has to raise a minimum of \$3000 to participate. We took first place in our category for Top Time and tied for Fan Favorite. We have the Golden Firetruck to prove it! Thank you Ms. Fabri for rallying the HMS troops. Here are some pictures from the day that include the following members from Hunt: Ms. Gagnon, Ms. Heber, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Moore and Ms. Putney-Crane. It was quite the joyous event! Here are a few pictures:



PTO Bake Sale, Tuesday 11/8

The Hunt PTO is hosting a bake sale inside the lobby of the Miller Center on voting day (Tuesday, November 8th... please get out and vote!), but we need your help. Please consider signing up to help staff the tables for an hour or two or donate some baked goods. All items will be by donation and money raised goes to support the objectives of the PTO. Thank you for helping to support the work of the PTO! Please use the sign up genius link to sign up. [Hunt PTO Bake Sale](#)

World Language/French has Begun

We welcome Maggie Standley to our Hunt Middle School community. She started teaching French 1 and 2 on Monday, October 3rd. We've done our best to schedule all students who asked for French on a survey sent out in mid September. Starting Quarter 2 we will be opening more sections of this class so that we can meet the demand. This has been a long process to find a language teacher. This position is a one year position as we will continue to seek out a dual licensed French and Spanish teacher for next school year.



Please check regularly for updates; updated 10/11/22

[BSD 2022-23 Calendar](#)

Some Key dates coming up:

October

- 10/17 PTO Meeting at 6:30PM
- 10/26 Picture Retake Day
- 10/26 Early release day; students released at 11:30AM

November

- 11/4 Quarter 1 Ends

WE ARE HUNT

Use Appropriate Language and Volume

Move Responsibly

Respond Appropriately to Each Other

Hunt Middle School
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