



Lyman C. Hunt Middle School

1364 North Avenue • Burlington • VT 05408
Phone (802) 864-8469 • Fax (802) 864-8467
<https://hunt.bsdt.org>

Melanee Alexander, Principal

Megan Munson-Warnken, Assistant Principal

August 2023

Dear Students and Families,

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration at the Hunt Middle School, I am excited to welcome you to the 2023-24 school year. We hope you are having wonderful summers, and that you are enjoying the cooler weather that signals the arrival of fall. It's no secret: some of us are eagerly anticipating the start of a new and exciting year; some of us are nervous or pessimistic about what lies ahead. All of these thoughts and emotions are natural and welcome, and the adults at HMS are ready to meet each student where they are and support them in carrying whatever they bring to school.

I am thrilled to be your new principal. We will have many opportunities to get to know each other over the course of the year, starting with grade-level assemblies during the first two days and in my multiple visits to classrooms. Dr. Megan Munson-Warnken is your new Assistant Principal, and she is equally as excited to support you, our highly qualified and dedicated faculty, and all the families and community members that make this a great school. Go Panthers!

Schedule

The first day of school is on Wednesday, August 30 for ALL STUDENTS. Again, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are expected to arrive on time next Wednesday. Our main entrance doors will open at 7:50AM, and class begins at 8:01AM. Many of us will be outside to introduce ourselves, remind students of their team assignments, help them get to Advisory, and find out about their summers.

Reminder: August 30 is a Wednesday, so dismissal is at 2:00PM. Sports and clubs begin after Labor Day, so students will be heading off campus directly after school.

We will operate a special schedule during the first two days of school that will be different from a regular school day schedule. This will allow students to spend more time with their Advisory teachers, to acclimate to new expectations, to provide space for questions and concerns with a trusted adult, and to review their individual schedules. More details will be online on our Calendar page.

What to bring on the first day of school (Wednesday, August 30th)

1. Your best self. We want everyone to have an equal opportunity to remake themselves and be the version that tries their best.
2. Your backpack or bag which will be housed in your lockers each day.
3. Your phone if you have one, which will be housed in your locker during the day.
4. A lock for the locker. We will have extras on hand.
5. A writing utensil or two.
6. ONE folder is all you need.
7. An open mind.

Getting to and from HMS

If you bike to school, we have bike racks in front - bring your own lock! We want your bike to be safe, as it cannot be stored inside of the building.

If you are dropping or picking up your student(s) in a car, please pull into the parking lot and park. The area in front of the school is solely for the bus.

If you ride the bus, make sure you adhere to the expectations of GMT. You can find the school trippers schedule at <https://ridegmt.com/gmt-schedules/> under the title of Chittenden County Neighborhood Trippers. Good news, the bus is free until January 2024!

Who is officially part of the Panther Community? Welcome to our newest members:

Jordan Bartlett, French Teacher	Tessa Desisto, Special Educator	Trey Durr, Building Substitute
Charlotte Ide, Special Educator	David Kerr, Band Teacher	Lisa Klarides, Humanities 6
Kassidy O'Connell, 7/8 ELA	Collin O'Leary, Special Educator	Marissa Stokes, Counselor
Richard (Bill) Worthers, Special Educator	Melanee Alexander, Principal	Megan Munson-Warnken, AP

Re: Afterschool Activities

Our gender-specific fall athletic offerings are: Girls Soccer and Boys Soccer.

Fall offerings for all genders and non-binary students: Cross-Country and Field Hockey.

Registration for fall athletics is on www.burlingtonathletics.com, and tryouts start on Tuesday, September 5th. The first competition in any sport is on Monday, September 11th!

Note 1: Our Athletics Team, Quaron “Q” Pinckney and Ryan Hayes are coming to HMS for a meeting afterschool about athletics on Thursday, August 31st.

Note 2: We really want you to try Field Hockey! Clinics are offered before school begins, so get out there and have fun. All are welcome. **Location:** 52 Institute Road. **Dates:** August 24, 25, 31 ♦ 5:30-7PM.

Finally, clubs will be offered at HMS starting in mid-September; and the Miller Center is our “Teen Center” and will operate on Mondays and Fridays on a drop-in basis.

⇒ ⇒ ⇒ Students must be ENROLLED in a club or be on the roster of an athletic team in order to stay at HMS afterschool. More information about offerings and the signup process is forthcoming.

The Panthers can win the first competition by completing the annual student update.

The first school whose families complete the Returning School Registration forms in PowerSchool gets a prize. Let's DO this! Information on how to complete the forms is enclosed. Set aside 15 minutes for this task.

Get Involved in UPCOMING EVENTS

Our community Welcome Back Event features “Playing Fields”, co-sponsored with the Flynn Theatre on Saturday, September 9th at 6:00PM. All age event! Kids and families are welcome.

PTO meets on the First Friday of each month:

September 1st at 7:45AM October 5th 7:45AM November 3rd 7:45AM

Panthers Potluck & Open House is on Tuesday, September 26th 6:00-7:30PM.

Student Advisory Group and Parent Advisory Group information is forthcoming.

It's true: the cell phone procedure IS A THING.

Students and families, please familiarize yourself with the district's cell phone procedures, which applies to both middle schools. It can be found on the www.bsdvt.org website. In a nutshell:

What: Cell phones are not to be used by middle school students during the school day.

Why: Students struggle with the proper use of smartphones and social media. We (school people) as well as national researchers have found that unfettered access to cell phones makes it difficult for students to attend to their work. Furthermore, the majority of incidents of bullying, hazing, harassment, and other conflicts between students are connected either directly or indirectly to social media. Therefore, BSD has designed procedures that limit the presence and use of cell phones during the school day.

How: Power off the phone before you walk in the building. Put your backpack and your phone in your locker when you walk in. Retrieve your backpack and your cell phone at dismissal. OR, feel free to leave it in the office with Ms. McDuff - she will put it into the vault.

#1 goal: Make our school communities safer and help keep students and staff focused on the reasons we are at school: to learn, build relationships with others, and be fully present and engaged members of our school community.

Reach out and discuss your concerns with Ms. Alexander. We don't want to confiscate the phone but will do so to keep our community safe and focused.

Your teachers, administrators, and support staff at the Hunt Middle School are excited for the new year. We look forward to seeing you soon! If you have any questions related to school policy and procedures, schedules, etc. please feel free to notify the main office at (802) 864-8469. An excellent source of information is our district website, www.bsdvt.org; and our school website is coming along!

Sincerely,

Melanee Alexander