



HMS Family Newsletter

09.10.2023

Dear Families,

Week Two is now under our belts! I imagine it seems like yesterday that your family was *preparing* for the back-to-school excitement, anxiety, or blues... and now those emotions (and many others) are here. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration at HMS, we are so excited to be in our classrooms and hallways again alongside the kids. The energy and the sound of school is real: in the morning we hear chatter and laughter as students gather outside to play games or catch up, metal lockers are singing (sometimes too loudly) as students put away their phones and head to class, the quiet of thinking minds is brief but powerful. In all, we are off to a solid start.

A recap of what's happened so far:

- The first day of school was a great day. All students, grades 6-8, and their teachers came to an assembly in the library. The goal was to invite students into the new vision we are creating for Hunt Middle School; and the main message was “We create the culture we want.” [Here is a pdf of the slideshow](#). What's missing is the camaraderie the kids felt, the student-to-student introductions, and the best part: when asked how they define community, one Panther said, “Community is doing superhero things to save our world.” I nearly cried.
- [Cell phone procedure](#) is in effect and seems to be working well. If you hear differently or have concerns, please let me know.
- We sent home the [Middle School Handbook](#) and the Code of Conduct so that you are aware of the expectations of your student. Both documents are [on our website](#). We also sent home the [Student Contract](#) for your signature; and we will be in touch if you still need to complete this ask.
- Students earned popsicles for on point behavior during lunch - and what a relief during the hot days last week.
- Athletics began and the first competitions are this week! **There's still space on the field hockey and cross country teams - sign up [here](#)**. All events are listed on the [calendar](#).
- If your student wants to play soccer, there's still an opportunity to play with [BFC](#). Scholarships are available.

Take note of these items:

- You can see your student's schedule in PowerSchool. **What are they saying about their teachers, the classroom environment, their hopes for this year?** Please share via email.

- We are building the website to be the house of all information HMS. Check [here for news](#).
- ANYTHING YOU NEED or questions you have: email me at malexand@bsdvt.org

Upcoming - IMPORTANT TO DO'S

- Chromebook distribution is this week. Caregivers must complete the Returning Student Registration in PowerSchool in order for students to be issued their chromebook. NOTE: chromebooks are not sent home with 6th graders.
- Speaking of the Returning Student Registration: These forms ask you to update critical information, such as emergency contact information, medical information, and a device agreement form. This process generally takes about 10 minutes per student, and the update must be completed for all students before the start of the school year. Please **log into your PowerSchool account to complete this update as soon as possible.**
- Afterschool clubs and activities are ready for your student to partake in. [Here is the online signup form.](#) If your student is signed up for an afterschool club:
 - They report to the cafeteria for supper at 3PM
 - Club advisor meets them in the cafe and takes them to the room
 - They are dismissed from the club at 5PM unless they bring written permission from a caregiver
 - No exits and re-entry are permitted
 - Students must be signed up in order to participate
 - The Miller Center will open - teen center style - on October 1 - Mondays and Fridays

EVENTS TO STRENGTHEN and CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

Panthers Potluck & Open House

September 26 6 - 7:30PM

Come break bread and meet teachers!

No sign up required:

6th grade families: bring salad or appetizers

7th grade families: bring a main dish

8th grade families: bring dessert

PTO meeting

October 5

7:45 - 9AM in person or online

LAST ANNOUNCEMENT: Be part of making our Safe Routes to Schools in Burlington

Did you know that physical movement at the beginning of the day helps with mental health challenges, increases attention span and improves academic achievement? The Burlington School District, Burlington Public Works, and Local Motion are working together to form a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Task Force, and we're looking for community members who want to get involved! SRTS is a national program that promotes walking and biking through

infrastructure improvement, education, and incentives to encourage a culture of walking and biking to school. In addition to our District-wide Task Force, we envision school-based groups made up of representatives from staff, administrators, parents and interested community members who will collaborate on events, help the City understand issues that need to be addressed, work to address school travel barriers, and more.

Anyone interested should contact Bonnie Hooper at bonnie@localmotion.org

Sincerely, Melanee Alexander - Principal

A view of “Playing Fields”, hosted by the Flynn Theatre on the HMS campus:

