

Moments at the Middle School

From Dr. Lux and Mr. Rice

November 10, 2022

Tomorrow is our last day for the **HMS Food Drive** being led by our Student Council, “Hearts Give Hope.” Founded in 2012, Inspired Hearts and Hands (IH2) works to serve those who are less fortunate in Allegheny and Butler County, namely families who are designated as financially and circumstantially disadvantaged. We plan to help at HMS by collecting non-perishable items so that IH2 can create holiday boxes of food for Thanksgiving!

Please see the attached flier for more details. We have tables set up in both our main lobby and cafeteria. Students may bring in the items noted on the flier to donate to those less fortunate. Each student who makes a donation will receive a raffle ticket and a chance to win a prize!

Children's Grief Awareness Day 11/17/22

This year, **Children's Grief Awareness Day is Thursday, November 17.** HMS is planning on recognizing **Children's Grief Awareness Day on Thursday 11/17** by encouraging students to wear a hat for a donation of \$1.00. In addition, faculty and staff will be encouraged to participate in a fundraiser dress down day, where staff and students will also be encouraged to wear blue to show support. All money gathered from students and staff will be donated to the Caring Place to support their important work. In addition to the Hat and Dress Down Day, students, faculty and staff will also be encouraged to share a message of support on our “Wall of Support” which will be available for students to contribute to during their lunch periods on Wednesday 11/16 and Thursday 11/17.

The Highmark Caring Place, A Center for Grieving Children, Adolescents and Their Families, is a safe place where grieving children and families can come together and be with others who understand what they're going through. An international observance created in 2008 by the Highmark Caring Place, Children's Grief Awareness Day is observed every year on the third Thursday in November (the Thursday before the U.S. holiday of Thanksgiving). This time of the year is a particularly appropriate time to support grieving children because the holiday season is often an especially difficult time after a death. **Children's Grief Awareness Day seeks to bring attention to the fact that often support can make all the difference in the life of a grieving child. It provides an opportunity for all of us to raise awareness of the painful impact that the death of a loved one has in the life of a child, an opportunity to make sure that these children receive the support they need.**

If you have any questions or concerns about your student during this day of grief awareness and recognition, please contact your child's school counselor.

Safe2Say/ALICE Training

Our yearly Safe2Say Something and ALICE training for students will occur today, November 10th and tomorrow, November 11th. We will be leading this training with the help of Officer Good, our School Resource Officer.

Eighth grade students will attend this training on Thursday, November 10th in tutorial. Sixth and 7th grade students will attend this training on Friday, November 11th in tutorial.

“Safe2Say Something” is a youth violence prevention program run by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. The program teaches youth and adults how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, from individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and to “say something” BEFORE it is too late. With Safe2Say Something, it’s easy and confidential to report safety concerns to help prevent violence and tragedies.” (source: <https://www.safe2saypa.org/>)

ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. All administrators and teachers receive yearly training on these widely adopted and research-based strategies to use in the event of a school concern. Students are then trained by our school resource officer and administrators using age-appropriate language to inform students about what to do if an unfortunate event were to occur.

HMS Book Fair: 11/14-11/18

The PTO Fall Book Fair returns to HMS during the week of November 14! Keeping in theme with the fall musical production of Newsies Jr, "The Stories Behind the Stories" event will be a great time for all! For details about the **Book Fair**, please view the infographic here:

[PTO FALL BOOK FAIR @HMS \(2022\)](#)

Middle School Basketball Tryouts

Are your students interested in trying out for basketball? If so, please see the important details below!

Boys Middle School Basketball Tryouts (grades 7 and 8 only):

Coach Mr. Andrews: sandrewsredsox@hotmail.com

Friday, 11/18/22, 8th grade from 4:30 - 6 pm, 7th grade from 6 - 7:30 pm

Saturday, 11/19/22, 8th grade from 8 - 9:30 am, 7th grade from 9:30 - 11 am

Monday, 11/21/22, 8th grade from 4:30 - 6 pm, 7th grade from 6 - 7:30 pm

Girls Middle School Basketball Tryouts (grades 7 and 8 only):

Coach Ms. Bukovac: bukovac@ht-sd.org

Monday, 11/21/22, 3-4:30 pm

Tuesday, 11/22/22, 3-4:30 pm

All student athletes must have an updated Healthy Roster account by **11/16/22**. Please use this link for additional information: <https://hamptonathletics.org/sports-physicalsfamilyid/>

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Mrs. Gibbons at the Athletic Office by emailing her at the following address: gibbons@ht-sd.org

Middle School Wrestling

Are your students interested in wrestling for the middle school team? If so, please make a note about the MANDATORY practice for wrestling in grades 7 and 8.

Wrestling 1st MANDATORY practice (grades 7 and 8 only):

Coach Bower: jamiembower@gmail.com

Friday, 11/18/22, 3 pm, HMS Wrestling Room

All student athletes must have an updated Healthy Roster account by **11/16/22**. Please use this link for additional information: <https://hamptonathletics.org/sports-physicalsfamilyid/>

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Mrs. Gibbons at the Athletic Office by emailing her at the following address: gibbons@ht-sd.org

Attendance Email

If your child is absent or late for school, there is a **new way to send an excuse**. You may now email HMSattendance@ht-sd.org with your child's name, date of absence/tardy, reason for absence, and your name. You may also email a picture or scan of a medical note. Alternatively, you may continue to send in a physical note with your student if you prefer. Please do not email an excuse to an individual staff member.

Please remember, students are permitted 10 parental excuses for absences for the school year. Any further absences must be accompanied by a medical excuse. Students are also permitted 3 parental excuses for late arrivals. Further late arrivals are considered unexcused, unless they are accompanied by a medical note.

Donations for Kenyan Chess Players

HMS student Benjamin Lin, a nationally ranked chess player, initiated a Chess Library fundraiser to support young chess players in Kenya. More information for the fundraiser is in the attached flier. Please consider making a donation to support these enthusiastic learners!

Student Arrival/Dismissal

As a friendly reminder, when dropping off your child, or when picking your child up, please pull up as far as you can in the drop-off line before stopping your car. This helps us to move the car line as quickly as possible to avoid traffic. There are designated spots along the sidewalk for you to pull up and stop your car before your child gets out or gets in. Please see the map below.



Upcoming Reminders for November:

- **Safe to Say & ALICE Training** - Thursday, November 10th (8th grade students in tutorial) and Friday, November 11th (6th and 7th grade students in tutorial)
- **HMS Book Fair** - November 14th - 18th
- **Children's Grief Awareness Day** - Thursday, November 17th (**wear a hat for a \$1 donation**)
- **HMS Musical** - Thursday, November 17th - Saturday, November 19th
- **Be the Change Day (7th grade)** - Tuesday, November 22nd

Club Meetings for November:

- **Homework Club** - M-Th, 2:45-3:45 pm
- **Math Lab** - M-Th, 2:45-3:45 pm
- **Spanish Club - Cooking Event** - November 10th, 2:45 - 3:45 pm, C308 (kitchen)
- **American Sign Language Club** - November 10th, 2:45 - 3:55 pm, F609
- **French Club - Cooking Event** - November 11th, 2:45 - 3:45 pm, C308 (kitchen)
- **German Club** - November 15th, 2:45 - 4 pm, D408
- **Talbot STEAM Girls** - November 15th, periods 7 and 8, Maker Studio
- **Art Club** - November 17th, 2:45 to 4 pm, B209
- **Sci Tech Enrichment Activity** - November 18th, periods 2-7, Maker Studio (sign up in Maker Studio)
- **Yearbook Club** - November 22nd, 2:45 - 3:30, G703