

HAMMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL

VIKING TIMES

January 5, 2018

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday, January 12	Found items to be donated.
Monday, January 15	School Closed – Martin Luther King Day
Thursday, January 18	6 pm Spelling Bee (Jan. 23 Snow Date)
Monday, January 22	Incoming 6 th grade Family Orientation
Thursday, January 25	6:30 pm Geography Bee (Jan. 30 Snow Date)
Friday, January 26	3-hour early dismissal – end of marking period

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE:

Parents:

Happy New Year! Our first week back has been short but packed with wonderful instruction.

Some important reminders:

- Please encourage your child to dress appropriately for the weather.
- The “found” items barrel in the gymnasium is overflowing. Unclaimed items will be donated on January 12.
- As the 2nd quarter comes to an end it is a great time to replenish your child’s supplies.

HMS offers after school programs throughout the year. Programs currently in session are:

Beyond School Hours (openings available)

The Beyond School Hour Program is designed to provide opportunities for middle school students to enhance understanding of skills and concepts essential for ensuring student success in two critical areas, reading and mathematics, as well as support critical thinking skills, test-taking strategies, organizational procedures, note-taking strategies, oratory skills, and social development.

The program began on November 14, 2017. Students focusing on reading skills and comprehension meet on Tuesdays; and on Thursdays for math. Students can participate in both sections. Students can join at the start of units within the program. Each unit lasts about four sessions and there are 12 total sessions for each subject. New units for both reading and math will begin on January 9. These are the links for [participation](#) and [bus transportation](#) permission.

Homework Club (openings available)

This is a general session for students that would benefit from a tutoring style class. The session is on Thursday from 3 – 4:30 pm. Bus transportation is available. Please email Mrs. Jacobson for further details. (gabrielle_jacobson@hcpss.org)

Memory Book

These students are creating the 2017-2018 Memory Book. There will be an announcement when the books go on sale.

ESOL Club

This club is for foreign-born students learning and improving their verbal and written English Skills.

Zines and Illustrated Stories

In this intramural students have an opportunity to create and distribute hand-drawn cartoons/comics in a paper magazine format.

Creative Writing Workshop

This intramural is where students can write, provide feedback to each other, and also enter student-writing contests.

As new programs are offered, there will be a general announcement sent.

Dr. Dale

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING MAP TESTING DATES

7th grade Math - February 7

7th grade Reading - February 8

6th grade Math - February 9

6th grade Reading - February 12

8th grade Math - February 13

8th grade Reading - February 14

Make-ups - February 20-23

6TH GRADE

The 6th grade team would like to welcome all of our students back to school...and we hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! While being away for a while was good for the students and staff, it is always nice to get back "on schedule", and continue plugging away towards June and the end of the school year!

Please remind your child(ren) that they need to dress for the elements. This week has been especially cold, and we are sure to have more cold days during the winter months. Classrooms can vary in temperature. Please send students to school with clothing that can be removed if your child is warm...but also put back on to make them comfortable in the cooler classrooms at HMS.

ELA Classes will soon begin their Coming of Age units. Please look for anchor texts to come home in the next few weeks. General classes will read *Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-li Jiang, and GT classes will read *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai.

MAP testing is coming up in the next few weeks as well. The sixth grade MAP tests will take place on February 9 (math) and February 12 (ELA). This is not to be confused with the Social Studies map tests, which will be taken before the end of the second quarter.

The second quarter ends on January 26. Students and parents are encouraged to keep track of grades and assignments on CANVAS to avoid late work. All assignments are due by Friday, January 19, which is one week before the end of the grading period.

7TH GRADE

Seventh Grade is having a great 2nd Quarter so far! Please take a minute to discuss school supplies with your students. We are having a lot of students come to class without a writing utensil (pencil for Math classes please) and not having any paper. This is a class disruption when students have to borrow materials or go searching for them, so please take some time with your student to assess their needs.

Also, we wanted to make sure that you knew how disappointed we were for having to cancel the Medieval Times field trip. We *are* going to reschedule for later in the year and we thank you for your understanding. It was completely out of our control and we really appreciate you supporting us in any way you did that day!

End of Quarter 2 is January 26, so please review Canvas with your student and make sure that they know where they stand in their classes. Also, MAP testing will take place February 7-14. Please keep that in mind when scheduling appointments. Thanks for all of your support at home...we can't do it without you!

8TH GRADE

It has been a tremendous year for our eighth graders already! As a reminder, students are expected to have a book with them at all times. This month, we will be reading both in Viking Time as well as in various classes. The Howard County Library will also be coming to speak with our eighth graders on Thursday, January 11, and students will be able to check out a book at that time. Over the next couple months, we will be reading various speeches from different freedom activists throughout history. Students will then be able to become an activist in our very own Wax Museum. Be ready to rehearse, rehearse, rehearse!

RELATED ARTS

On behalf of HMS staff, we hope that you had a restful winter break. Now that school is back in session, please be reminded that the end of Quarter 2 is only four weeks away! Additionally, most Related Arts classes run for a semester, which means that your child's schedule will change on Monday January 29. Please consult Synergy via HCPSS Connect for more information about your child's schedule.

Please also take the time now to review your child's current grades in their Related Arts classes. Teachers will be posting final report card grades for their courses at the end of Quarter 2.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please visit the Community News and Programs page on the HCPSS website for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations. (<http://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/>)