

HAMMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL
VIKING TIMES
February 2, 2018

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tuesday, February 6	Report Cards Issued
Friday, February 16	Schools Closed for students
Monday, February 19	Schools Closed – Presidents' Day

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 sixth grade team is excited to start the second semester and the beginning of the third quarter as we move into February. There are a lot of fun and exciting things happening at HMS and these are a few examples.

The Social Studies department will begin studying Sub - Sahara Africa as we begin the third quarter. We will look at ancient civilizations and even study Mansa Musa, who reportedly was/is one of the richest men in the history of the world!

ELA 6 students started to read *Red Scarf Girl* this week. Audio is available on your teacher's Canvas page. Author Ji-li Jiang visited ELA classes today.

ELA 6 GT Students are continuing to read *I am Malala*.

On January 24-25, GT Pre-Algebra took their Unit 2 Test. The results: 11 perfect scores out of 59 students. The average score was 51 out of 55. Way to go! This week in Pre-Algebra we are beginning our unit on Expressions, Equations, and Functions. This unit continues until the middle of 4th quarter. The word problems and applied math tasks make this unit particularly fun for students.

As you can see, we are keeping busy at Hammond Middle School. Please remember that your sixth grader will be taking the Maryland MAP test on February 9 and 12. Please make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and comes in rested and ready to go!

Thank you for your support and for a great year so far!

7TH GRADE

As we enter the second half of our year, we just want to review a few things:

1. Students need to have a neat and organized binder when they enter class. They can use Viking Time on Tuesdays to help them get organized. It really does set the tone for their success.
2. Students need to have loose-leaf paper and a writing utensil (pencil for math) every day. Searching for a writing utensil creates an unnecessary interruption in instruction.
3. Students are not allowed to have gum or candy during the instructional day. This is a HCPSS policy.
4. Students are not allowed to wear their hoods up, backpacks, or purses during the instructional day. This is a HCPSS policy.
5. Students are not allowed to use their phones except during lunch, recess and in class, when directed by a teacher.
6. Please have students designate a regular time to check Canvas throughout the week. It is very important to make sure that their assignments and grades are accurate and that they are not missing anything. This is especially important if they have missed class due to an absence, seminar, or sectionals.
7. We want all of our students to come to school, enjoy learning, and not feel overwhelmed. If they have work piling up, or several large assignments due on the same day, please encourage them to talk with their instructors.
8. We are looking forward to a great second half of the year with a field trip (April 25), field day (date TBD), and lots of fun activities! Keep up the enthusiasm at home...we can't do it without your help on the other end!

Thanks, 7th grade team

8TH GRADE

News from 8th grade!

Field trip permission forms for the upcoming Romeo & Juliet trip in April were due yesterday. If your child would like to attend, and did not return a permission slip, we will accept them until Wednesday, February 7. Please keep in mind that there is no guarantee we will be able to reserve the extra seats. On-line payment is available until midnight tonight. Stay tuned for information on the Genesee Valley field trip, which will take place the same week as Romeo & Juliet.

New Semester Fresh Start! Please encourage your child to put their best foot forward to close out their middle-school experience. We reviewed behavior expectations with them last week and there are lots of fun activities planned to bid them farewell.

RELATED ARTS

Health

Students in Health began the week looking at the components of health and evaluating their health habits. They will need a 2-pocket folder for class (6th gr. section in their binder is okay) and please sign and return the course description given out in class this week.

Visual Art

I'm excited to be teaching my semester 2 classes! All student artists are working on their sketchbook cover designs, in which they are combining imagery related to themselves (their interests, their aspirations, their heritage, etc.) with hand lettering for their names. Our first unit will conclude on February 9th, after which our 8th, 7th, and 6th grade artists will be moving into different units designed to build skills and explore conceptual themes!

World Language

The World Language course registration form was due on Friday, February 2. If your 6th grader is interested please turn it in ASAP. Taking a World Language course will be challenging, but fun! We do a variety of activities to making learning interactive. Be prepared to sing, act, converse, write, and create - all in French or Spanish! In this class, you are encouraged to participate and experiment with the language. Sign up for an experience that will open your eyes to a new language and culture.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The below community notice is neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.

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/>)