

T-Bird Times

October 9, 2020



Principals Note:

HMS Families,

It was a great and fulfilling week at HMS. We were so excited to welcome back our in-person students into the building. Our VirtualED students continued to have success as well. It was ironic that when we were out and about having conversations with students this week, many said they prefer to learn at school as opposed to at home. We laughed and joked about how this might not have been the case for all students a year ago. The energy in the building was amazing and it was good for HMS to have students back in classrooms and roaming the halls. We look forward to more fun next week.

Below my note, you will find the following information:

- Hybrid Information Document and Updates/Reminders
- Arrival and Dismissal
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Picture Day
- Lunch/Breakfast Update

- Red Bag
- Athletics & Activities Update
- Securly
- HMS PTO Update
- Counseling Corner

Please reach out to me if you need anything.

Sincerely,

Nate Winslow
Principal
Harmony Middle School

Hybrid Information Document

Please view this document as it contains important information about Hybrid for in-person learners. This is the same document shared last week. It contains the Hybrid learning calendar, student schedule, and information about in-person learning procedures.

[Hybrid Information Document](#)

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival and dismissal went very smoothly this week. I appreciate everyone's attentiveness with following the car line procedures. Here are a couple of reminders and helpful hints to help us continue to improve:

- Enter the East entrance to the circle drive. The west entrance is for Buses only.
- Pull all the way to the end of the circle regardless of which entrance your student will use.
- Please do not let your student out of your car until 7:30. Doors do not open until 7:30 and we cannot have students lined up or gathering in groups outside the building waiting to get in.
- Once your student exits the car, please pull to the left to begin your exit. This allows another row of cars to pull along the front circle drive.
- Turn right only when exited the campus
- Please do not block the buses as they need to exit the campus quickly to begin running their elementary bus routes.

Parent/Teacher Conferences Save the Date

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held October 28 and 29. An email will be sent next week with instructions on how to sign up.

- Wednesday, October 28 3:15 - 8:00 PM
- Thursday, October 29 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Lunch

Next week, we plan to let students sit in a cohort of their choosing at lunch. Yesterday and today students completed a survey where they listed four students they would prefer to sit with at lunch. Our goal is to make sure all students get to sit with one preferred student. We will still maintain cohorts of 2-4 students at lunch.

USDA extends free meals for students through 2020

As a result of extended USDA funding opportunities, **all students enrolled in Blue Valley will be able to eat for FREE as of Sept. 9, 2020, regardless of eligibility status, until further notice.** This includes **complete breakfast and lunch meals** for students who are dining in-person at the elementary, middle and high school levels, and all students enrolled in the all-virtual model, VirtualED. Please help out the Food and Nutrition Department and consider eating a complete breakfast and lunch meal at school for **free**. A la carte items will be charged at the set price and are not free.

Picture Day

In- Person Learners

- October 14 8:00-11:00 AM Last Names M-Z
- October 21 8:00-11:00 AM Last Names A-L
- Students will be called in small groups to the 7th grade POD to have their picture taken.

VirtualED Students

- November 6 8:00-11:00 AM
- This is a non-school day. Parent/Guardian will need to transport VirtualED students to HMS to have their yearbook picture taken.
- Parents/Guardians may bring their student any time between 8:00-11:00 AM
- Students will enter the gym doors and have their picture taken in the gym.

Picture order forms were distributed Thursday to M-Z and next Monday to all A-L students. There is also a PDF of the order form attached to this email for VirtualEd students.

You may also order securely online at www.schphoto.net

Harmony Middle School

Use the passcode: 315258085

Can we have a contactless photo day? YES WE CAN!

We understand the current school year is posing more challenges than usual. SCH Photo wants to ease each school's mind on how we will make picture day as safe and stress free as possible. To ensure we are following guidelines and protocols set forth by the state, we want to provide a detailed outline of how picture day might look.

- All photographers will be required to wear masks.
- Cameras will be set 6 feet away from the student being photographed.
- Students will enter from one side of the background and leave on the opposite side

- The booster seat will be disinfected after every student.
- Photographers will adhere to a “NO CONTACT” policy.
- Adjustments by the photographer will be done verbally from behind the camera
- Equipment will be disinfected after every school session.

Red Bag

Every year HMS participates in a community service project called “Red Bag.” We adopt children in need from the Kansas City area during the holiday season. In doing so, we provide gifts to them from their wish list. I am amazed year to year on how giving our students and families are here at HMS. This year’s timeline for Red Bag has been moved up due to the needs of families and to allow for Covid procedures to be followed. Beginning on Monday, October 12th, Flex teachers on A-L and M-Z days will introduce Red Bag to our students. Due to our students being both In-Person and Virtual this year, we are asking that families sign up for different items using this [Sign-Up Genius](#). We have adopted 20 children this year and have 10 gifts per child available for sign-up. Gifts need to be unwrapped and labeled according to the letter and number assigned on the Sign-Up Genius. Unwrapped, labeled gifts can be dropped off to the HMS vestibule or the front office from October 19-23. October 26 will be the last day that we will collect gifts and there will be an option to drop them off in a drive through that afternoon. More information will come out closer to this date! Cash and check donations will be accepted in the front office until October 26th. Please make checks payable to HMS PTO, memo line- Red Bag.

We look forward to another great year of giving and we thank you in advance for your generosity! Please reach out to Kelli Haeffner, khaeffner@bluevalleyk12.org or Meg Godderz meggodderz@yahoo.com with any questions!

Athletics & Activities Update

TCB- Taking Care of Business:

TCB is our after school tutoring program which will begin on Monday, October 5th from 3:00-4:00 pm. New this year will be a Virtual TCB option for students who are a VirtualEd student or an at home learner. TCB will be available- Monday-Thursday from 3:00-4:00pm. Locations for TCB for In-Person learners will be shared on the daily announcements and posted on our All School Canvas page including the Zoom link for those who will be joining remotely.

HMS Clubs:

Clubs are open to all students enrolled in In-Person and VirtualEd learning. Clubs may meet in-person, virtual, or utilize a format in which students may attend either in-person or virtually.

The following clubs will begin meeting next week either virtually or in-person.

- Student Council
- Drama
- FCA
- Diversity Club
- Book Club

Please have your student log into the HMS All School Canvas page and click the “Clubs” button for more information about when and where the meetings will occur!

7th and 8th Grade Intermurals:

Upcoming Intermural Competitions:

10/13: 3:30 @ HMS Cross Country Meet

10/15: 3:30 @ HMS Football Game

10/15: 3:15 @OMS Volleyball Game

Securly Home Parent Portal App

While district devices are filtered 24/7, we understand that what each family feels their child should be able to access on district devices outside of the school day is different from household to household. Through the SecurlyHome Parent Portal app, families can supervise their child's technology use on district devices outside of the school day by:

1. Monitoring their child's activity on district devices outside of the BV Network/IP Address
2. Establishing personalized rules/limitations for device use outside of the BV Network/IP Address
3. Filtering content their child is able to access outside of the BV Network/IP Address

Receiving push notifications if their child searches content related to bullying, self-harm or suicide while using a district device off of the BV Network/IP Address. (Parents who download the app will automatically be opted-in to receive real-time notifications if their child searches flagged self-harm content.)

4. Pausing the internet on your child's district device, temporarily disabling online access.
5. Setting offline schedules for your child's internet usage, for instance during dinner and at bedtime.

Once the student enters the school day, the district regains control and devices will follow Blue Valley's established filters until the students leave the BV Network/IP Address again. Download the SecurlyHome Parent Portal app in the [App Store](#) or on [Google Play](#).

More information can be found at <https://www.bluevalleyk12.org/Page/34492>

PTO

HMS Families,

I hope your kids had a great few days back in the building. My daughter was so excited to be at school in person, at least part-time, and as a family we are settling into another new routine. I'm happy to share that even in these changing times, our PTO volunteers are working to push forward our mission of supporting the students, staff, and greater Harmony community. I'd like to give some updates on PTO happenings:

1. Fall sports are on. Usually the PTO hosts a concession stand at our home sporting events. Because of the spectator limitations and knowing that the vast majority of our concession stand customers are student spectators, we have made the decision to NOT open the concession stand at fall events. We will revisit this decision for winter sports. If you are attending an event to watch your kids, please plan accordingly as concessions will not be available for sale.
2. Staff Appreciation is in full force! Thanks to Amy Peterson and Patty Herron for the fun surprise they planned for staff this week to thank them for all they do for the students. Stay tuned for ways your family can get involved in showing our staff how much they are cared for.

3. Great news - our Red Bag tradition will continue! Harmony Middle School has participated in this program for many years, and while it will look a bit different this year it is still a great opportunity for our families to connect with our greater KC community. There is a [sign-up genius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4eaba929a57-hmsred) for families interested in participating. Because the Red Bag organization has pushed up the deadline to turn in packages, items are due back to HMS no later than 10/26. (If link doesn't work, here is the url: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4eaba929a57-hmsred>).

4. Spirit Wear coming soon! Later this month, we will reopen our HMS Spirit Wear store with some great options for our families to show off their T-bird pride. A stylish logo face mask has been added as an option. The link will be included in a T-bird Times on 10/23.

5. A huge thank you to Katie Poppen for coordinating two give-back events and to our community partners Twisters and Chipotle/151st St for their generosity to our PTO. And thank you to our families who showed their support. We raised almost \$150 for the PTO with these events.

As always, you can find general information about the HMS PTO at www.harmonymiddlepto.weebly.com, or feel free to reach out to me or any member of the PTO Executive Committee with questions/ideas/feedback.

Thanks,

Christy LaHood
2020-2021 HMS PTO President
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c.lahood@yahoo.com

Counselor's Corner

October is bully prevention month and we want every child to feel safe and included at HMS. Mrs. Madsen will be presenting a bully lesson to the 6th graders next week. We will be recording the lesson so our remote learners can view it as well. We have plans to include the 7th and 8th grade students later this semester!

While many people associate middle school with bullying, developmentally middle school is the age where students attempt to establish their own identity by "trying out" different hobbies, clothes and friendships. At the same time, they are attempting to figure out what sort of behaviors get them negative versus positive attention.

Adolescents are watching the adults around them and adopting those behaviors. Helping your child not only by listening, but also reminding them of their own positive attributes can go a long way towards insulating them from others cruelty. This bullying prevention month, we ask you to join our efforts by reminding your child that while bullying exists both in the adult world and schools, they control their reaction in all situations. Remind them to empathize with those peers who are cruel as so often they face challenges no one may know about!

For additional resources, please check out the website below.

What is Bullying?

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/facts/index.html>

<https://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/what-is-bullying/>

What are some causes of bullying?

<https://americanspcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Bullying-Causes-of-Courtesy-of-nobullying.pdf>

<https://www.wasatchacademy.org/blog/what-are-some-common-causes-of-bullying/>

Bystanders intervention techniques

<https://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/media/universityofexeter/collegeofsocialsciencesandinternationalstudies/research/interventioninitiative/resources/intervention-strategies.pdf>

What is the school responsibilities on bullying?

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/bullying-what-is-the-schools-responsibility-2609262>

https://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/bullying-school-legal-liability.shtml

<http://preventingbullying.promoteprevent.org/school-and-community-prevention-and-intervention>

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Trish Madsen L-Z

Harmony Middle School

 @HMSTBirds

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 district.bluevalleyk12.org/schools/middle/hms/Pa...