

T-Bird Times

November 3, 2023



Calendar

November:

- 6 - Musical Auditions - 3:00 pm
- 6 - Girls Basketball Game @ BVNW (Feeder Game) - 3:25 -pm
- 7 - Musical Auditions - 3:00 pm
- 7 - Girls Basketball Pictures - 3:00 pm
- 7 - Orchestra Rehearsal @ BVNW (7th & 8th) - 6:30
- 8 - Musical Auditions - 3:00 pm
- 8 - Girls Basketball Game @ HMS vs LMS - 3:25
- 9 - Musical Auditions - 3:00 pm
- 10 - Musical Auditions - 3:00 pm
- 10 - TAN Night - 7:00 pm
- 13 - Girls Basketball Game @ HMS vs PRMS - 3:25 pm
- 15 - 6th grade Band rehearsal - 3:00 pm
- 15 - Girls Basketball Game @ BVMS - 3:25
- 16 - Fall Band Concert @ HMS (6th & Jazz) - 7:00 pm

Principals Note:

HMS Families,

We have officially made it to the month of November, which is another milestone that is hard to believe. This school year is flying by. The month of November also means that T-Bird Activity Night (TAN) is right around the corner. TAN is Friday, November 10 from 7:00-9:00 PM. We always have a great turnout and students have a blast. Tickets can be purchased through ParentVUE until Tuesday, November 7th and then in person at lunch Wed-Friday next week. More detailed information about TAN can be found in the PTO section below. We hope for another great student turnout and thank all of our parents volunteers in advance.

With the weather getting colder and fewer students walking and riding their bikes to school, it is very important that all cars dropping students off follow the carline procedures. Our procedures are designed to keep our students and families safe and the flow of traffic moving efficiently.

Please read below and review the carline procedures to help us be the best we can be.

- Use the east entrance to the front circle. The west entrance is for buses only.
- Pull forward all the way before allowing your student to exit the car.
 - This is extremely important. Do not stop until you have pulled all the way up as far as you can in front of the school.
 - Please have your student exit the car quickly. One slow car can back up the entire carline.
- Pull to the left after your student exits your car. (this is extremely important to ensure traffic continues to flow)
- Turn right only when exiting the parking lot. Waiting to turn left completely halts our carline.

Below this note you will find the following information:

- Holiday Support
- Carline Reminders
- Nurse's Corner
- Safe Schools Reporting
- Student Code of Conduct
- Game Atmosphere
- Athletics/Activities
- Clubs
- Band, Choir, Orchestra
- GoFan Passes/Ticket Information
- Harmony Middle School Handbook
- PTO News
- Student Services Update

As always, thank you for your support of HMS. I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Nate Winslow
Principal
Harmony Middle School

Holiday Support

I would like to make everyone aware of another long standing tradition at Harmony Middle School. We have such an incredibly supportive and philanthropic community that truly strives to make sure our students have what they need to be successful. We also like to make sure our families have what they need as well. With that being said, we would like to offer support to any HMS family in need during the holidays. Please email me individually if your family needs any support this time of year. **I guarantee that you will remain anonymous. I will be the only person that knows you have asked for assistance.** I will personally work with your family to make sure you and your student(s) get what is needed to make sure the holiday season is happy and memorable. Please email me at jnwinslow@bluevalleyk12.org if you would like any assistance during the holidays.

Carline Reminders

Please remember to follow our carline rules at all times to ensure efficiency for all.

- Use the east entrance to the front circle. The west entrance is for buses only.
- Pull forward all the way before allowing your student to exit the car.
 - This is extremely important. Do not stop until you have pulled all the way up as far as you can in front of the school.
 - Please have your student exit the car quickly. One slow car can back up the entire carline.
- Pull to the left after your student exits your car. (this is extremely important to ensure traffic continues to flow)
- Turn right only when exiting the parking lot. Waiting to turn left completely halts our carline.

Also, please DO NOT park along 141st street during pickup or dropoff. This is a no parking zone as it is a safety issue for our students trying to use the crosswalk. Please enter the HMS parking lot to pick up your student after school.

Nurse's Corner

Hygiene Reminders

Middle school students are going through a variety of hormonal changes- oily skin and scalp, sweat, growth of body hair, and body odor. Here are some simple things that you can do to help your student go through these changes:

- Encourage them to wash hands, hair and body
- Wear clean clothing
- Wear deodorant (this is a big one in which we can all benefit :))

Safe School Reporting

Blue Valley Schools is committed to promoting and fostering a safe environment in and around all of our schools. Through the convergence of physical and intellectual security measures, we are continuously working to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from a wide range of emergencies. Please check out [available ways to report safety concerns](#).

Student Code of Conduct

The Blue Valley Board of Education approved updates to Board Policy [3500](#) - Behavior and Discipline at the August 14, 2023 Board of Education meeting. As part of this approval, there is a [Student Code of Conduct](#) document. We ask all families and students within our school community to review the contents, policies and procedures within this [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Administrative actions taken as a result of a violation of the code of conduct are determined following proper investigation, review, and/or consideration of the age/grade of the student, context, and situation in which the behavior in question occurred. The scope of authority of the Blue Valley Student Code of Conduct applies at all times when students are on school buses or other vehicles used by the district to transport students, school district property, or engaged in official school activities. Additionally, **this code of conduct applies to any student whose conduct at any time or place has a direct and immediate effect causing substantial disruption impacting the order of school operations and/or the sense of student and staff safety that exists in the school or school-related environment.**

Students at HMS will be made aware of behavioral expectations and the Code of Conduct through grade level talks next week. Every student at HMS also has our handbook in the front of their student planner.

High School Game Atmosphere

Blue Valley families,

We are excited to have your families come to support our high school activities and athletics. It is great to see the entire community at these events. It is imperative that our parent community partner with us as we work to encourage positive elementary and middle school behavior at high school games or events.

We are asking that all elementary and middle school students enter the game with an adult and sit with that adult throughout the game. Please do not drop your child off at a district event without supervision as they will not be allowed to enter. It is challenging to monitor and keep all students safe without the help of our parent community. Thanks for your help with this protocol to make district events a great experience for all who attend. We hope to see your family cheering for our Blue Valley teams this school year.

Matt Ortman

Director of School Administration, Athletics and Activities

Middle School Game Atmosphere

As a reminder for all fans and spectators, please be considerate of our workers running clock, supervising, and keeping score. All of the workers at the middle school games/meets are volunteers who are giving up their time after school to support HMS students and athletics. The goal is to continue to have volunteers to run the events, so please be kind :).

Athletics/Activities

Athletics

8th Grade Girls Basketball

The season has begun! Check out our game schedule next week and come out to support our Tbird basketball team!

NEXT WEEK preview-

Girls BBall- 11/6 @ BVNW vs OMS 3:25pm/4:25pm

Girls BBall- 11/8 @ HOME vs LMS 3:25pm/4:25pm

Activities

Auditions- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Get excited for the HMS All School Musical Auditions! Come take part in one of the biggest events of the school year! Auditions will take place this coming Monday, November 6th through November 10th. You can find materials by going to www.hmstheater.com and clicking on 'audition materials.' We hope to see SO many of you there!

Clubs

Club info is [here](#)! You can also check out the HMS All School Canvas tile→Clubs.

Band, Choir, Orchestra

If your student is taking a music course at any point this year, please complete the registration information in rSchool. **No physical is needed (unless participating in athletics)**, but completion of the registration will allow us to access emergency information/use as a permission slip when traveling to festivals and field trips.

When signing up, the system will say athletic registration. Please click continue as band, choir, and orchestra are KSHSAA sponsored. There will be a section for you to select band, choir, or orchestra.

Tutorial links for rSchool- <https://bluevalleyisd-ar.rschooltoday.com/>

GoFan Passes/Ticket Information

Passes/tickets to high school games now available online

Blue Valley is pleased to announce that we will partner with GoFan for all athletic passes and individual high school event tickets for the 2023-24 school year. Fans can purchase passes or tickets online through their high school's GoFan page. This new pass and ticket process allows Blue Valley to operate a more efficient and professional ticket gate while elevating the fan experience.

[Purchase athletic pass/ticket today.](#)

Harmony Middle School Handbook

Please use this link to view the [HMS Student Handbook](#). This handbook will be available for students through our All School Canvas page and can be found at the beginning of the student planner.

PTO

T-Bird Activity Night (TAN) is ONE WEEK AWAY:

"It's Tiki Time - Harmony Luau" is the theme for this year's T-Bird Activity Night (TAN). It will be held next Friday, Nov. 10th from 7 - 9 PM. Ticket price is \$15 and includes pizza, water bottle and special treat. Parents can purchase tickets for their students on ParentVue (fee code is PMISC3 and item is "PTO Pre-Pay Thunderbird Activity Night 23-24 HMS) through Tuesday, Nov. 7th. Tickets will be on sale at all lunches Wed - Fri (Nov. 8 - 10) for \$15 Cash. There will be a DJ, music, dancing, inflatables, photo booth, open gym with basketball and volleyball, "Casino Island" with blackjack and roulette, ping pong, raffles (with big prizes) and 8th Grade VIP Tiki Room. ***NEW: There will be a LIVESTREAM of the BVNW State Playoff game shown on the big screen in the Common's Area during the event.*** Students that attend will have a chance to win amazing Visa Gift Cards (valued at over \$600) just for showing up! Any questions - please contact Whitney Johnson at whitney.grabinski@gmail.com.



URGENT NEED FOR PARENT CHAPERONES AT TAN:

Please consider volunteering your time to help set up, chaperone or donate gift cards or items for the Thunderbird Activity Night on Friday, November 10, 2023. If donating gift cards, please drop them in the office with the office staff by Wednesday, November 8, 2023. If you are volunteering to chaperone at event - we are encouraging volunteers to wear Hawaiian attire. Thank you so much for helping to make this a fun night for the students. If you have any questions - please contact TAN Chair Whitney Johnson at whitney.grabinski@gmail.com.



[Thunderbird Activ...](#)

www.signupgenius.com

Please consider volunteering your time to help set up, chaperone or donate gift cards or items for the Thunderbird Activity Night on Friday, November 10, 2023. If donating gift cards, please drop them in the office with the office staff by Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

We need awesome parent volunteers with a great understanding of Blackjack and Roulette. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. We are encouraging our volunteers to dress up in Hawaiian attire please. Thank you so much for your help and time!!!!



[TAN 'CASINO ISL...](#)

www.signupgenius.com

We need volunteers with a great understanding of Blackjack and Roulette. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. We are encouraging our volunteers to dress up in Hawaiian attire please. Thank you so much for your help and time!!!!

TAN Halloween Candy Drive:

Please consider dropping off your left over and/or unwanted Halloween Candy to HMS front office. The PTO will use the candy for prizes and treats at the TAN event on Friday, Nov. 10th. The collection will start Thursday, Nov. 2nd and will run through Wednesday, Nov. 8th. Any leftover candy from TAN will be donated to HMS teachers to use in their classrooms. Thank you so much for your support and generosity!



HMS PTO HALLOWEEN CANDY DRIVE

Please drop off your leftover and/or unwanted Halloween Candy to the HMS Front Office between Nov. 2 and Nov. 8th.

Candy will be used for prizes and treats at the T-Bird Activity Night on Friday, Nov. 10th. Any leftover candy from TAN will be donated to the HMS Teachers to use in their classrooms. Thank you so much for your support and generosity.

We need two volunteers to work in the concession stand for each home girls' basketball game. One of the volunteers can be a student, however an adult must also be signed up to work with the student. Instructions will be sent to volunteers. Game time is 3:25 and we like to have the stand open 15 minutes prior so please arrive to set up at 3:10 pm. Games will be over around 5 PM. Please click on the sign-up link below to volunteer.



[Girls Basketball C...](#)

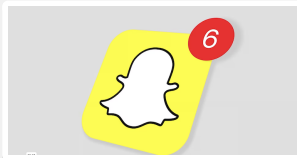
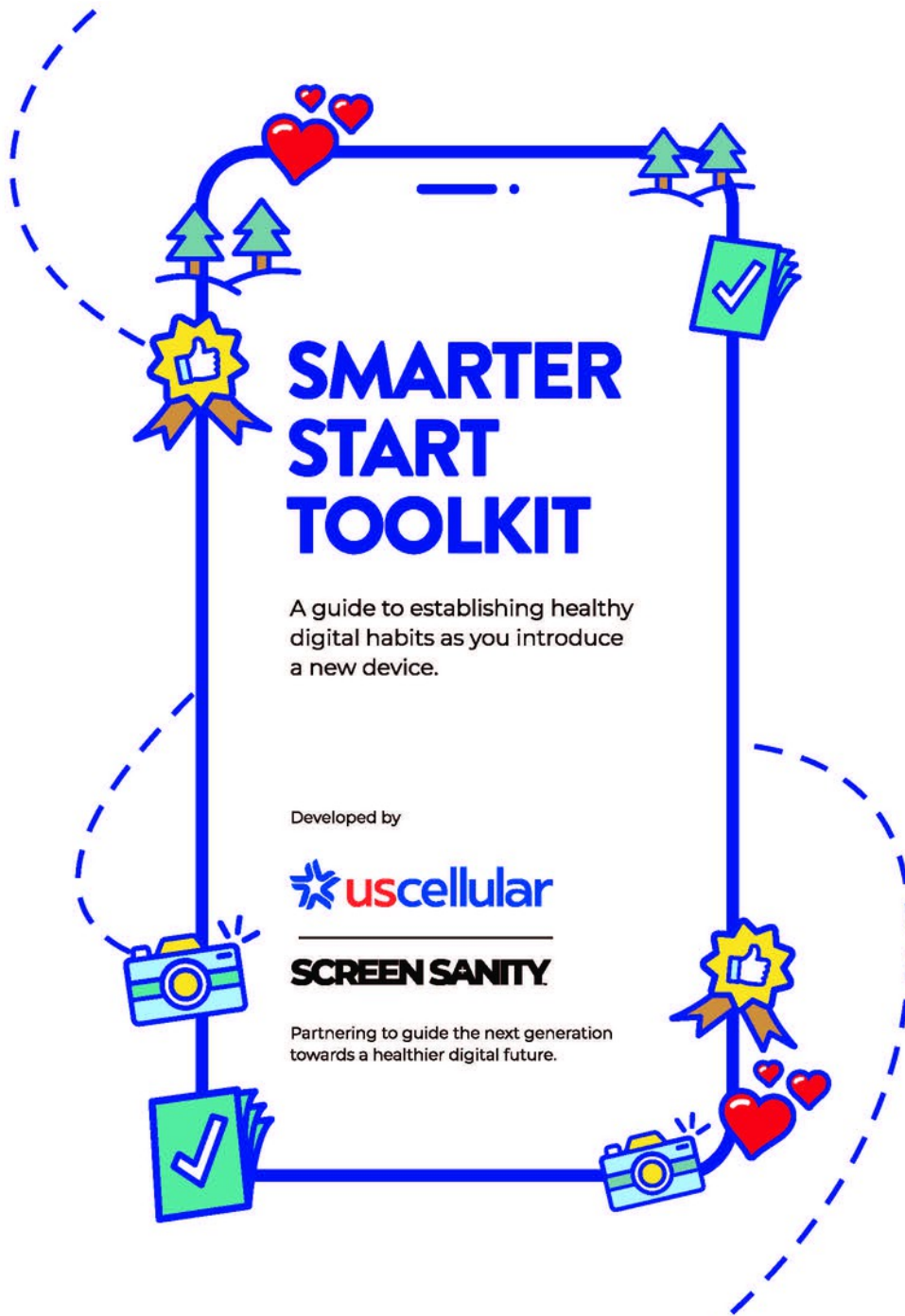
www.signupgenius.com

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Student Services

Counselors and Social Workers heard an amazing presentation Wednesday by the nonprofit group Screen Sanity. This organization aims to help parents navigate the world of phones with their teens.

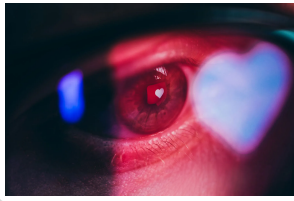
Please check out the attached handout to get ideas on how to set guidelines and have conversations with your middle school child regarding phones and technology.



[Screenagers Blog |...](#)

www.screenagersmovie.com

In the New York Times this last week, there was an article about social media and teens. The article's brilliant graphic captured our young people's digital and emotional reality. The image is all the notifications on their phones, laptops, tablets, etc.



[🔗 The complicated ti...](#)

[19thnews.org](https://www.19thnews.org)

Experts say the relationship between social media, self comparison, body image and self harm means that there's no singular culprit in the youth mental health crisis.



[🔗 'Constant buzzing':...](#)

www.nbcnews.com

A Common Sense Media report finds about half of 11- to 17-year-olds get at least 237 notifications a day. Some get nearly 5,000 in 24 hours. What does that do to their brains?



Harmony Middle School

[🐦 @HMSTBirds](#)

[📍 10101 West 141st Street, Overl...](#) [📞 913-239-5200](#)

[🌐 district.bluevalleyk12.org/scho...](#)

