

T-Bird Times

December 20, 2023



Calendar

December:

21-Jan 3 - Winter Break

Principals Note:

HMS Families,

The first semester of school is officially in the books. Thank you for making this first semester such a memorable and successful one. Every day, I am in awe of our students, teachers, staff, and school community as a whole. I hope everyone enjoys Winter Break and has a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing students back in the building on January 4, 2024!

Below this note you will find the following information:

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

Sincerely,

Nate Winslow
Principal
Harmony Middle School

End of Quarter Grade Reporting

The end of the first semester is nearly here. Our students have had a great first semester of learning and we continue to see the positive impacts of our learning management system, Canvas, in our classrooms. As we gear up for the end of the semester, please take note of the important information below regarding grades and courses in Canvas.

End of Semester Information

At the end of the day on Dec. 20, courses in Canvas will conclude and will no longer be visible on the Canvas Parent app. A concluded course is only visible through the [Canvas Website](#). To view concluded courses, open Canvas in a web browser, log in, and click on the Courses tab. Click View All Courses and scroll down to find the past enrollments. [Access Past Enrollment guide \(Video tutorial\)](#)

Final exam scores and other individual assignment grades can be viewed in Canvas. Semester grades reports will be published in ParentVUE on January 12th.

Need some help?

Blue Valley has a variety of resources available for parent support on the district's Canvas web page, www.bluevalleyk12.org/canvas.

Next Semester Schedule

Parents please have your student check their schedule on Student Vue before returning to school on January 4th.

Harmony Headlines- December

From the writing to the photography, our HMS Newspaper Club has worked so hard on their second issue of the Harmony Headlines! Check it out using the link below.

[Harmony Headlines- December](#)

Games on District Devices

In an effort to reduce distractions in the learning environment for all of our students, beginning on January 4, 2024, all students will have general gaming websites blocked on district devices (examples include: Fortnite, crazygames.com, recreational games, arcade-like games, etc.). Educational games will still be allowed.

Carline Reminders

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

1. Use the east entrance to the front circle. The west entrance is for buses only.
2. Pull forward all the way before allowing your student to exit the car.
 1. 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.
 2. Please have your student exit the car quickly. One slow car can back up the entire carline.
3. Pull to the left after your student exits your car. (this is extremely important to ensure traffic continues to flow)
4. 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
Blue Valley School District

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 Boys Basketball

Tryouts/practices will begin on Thursday, Jan. 4th

Activities

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Ticket information is coming soon for our January performances of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory! Continue to check out www.hmstheater.com as 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.

<https://bluevalleysd-ar.rschoolday.com/familyaccounts/autopopulate/160>

Tutorial links for rSchool- <https://bluevalleysd-ar.rschoolday.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

Huge thanks to Candace King and Stephanie Walters for planning and coordinating the amazing staff holiday luncheon today (see picture). Big thanks to all the parent volunteers who donated

items - it is so wonderful to spoil the teachers and staff before they leave for winter break. Thank you!



Harmony Middle School

Website:

<https://district.bluevalleyk12.org/schools/middle/hms/Pages/Calendar.aspx>

Location: [10101 West 141st Street, Overland Park, KS, USA](#)

Phone: [913-239-5200](tel:913-239-5200)

Twitter: [@HMSTBirds](https://twitter.com/HMSTBirds)



Lori Younger

Lori is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



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