

# T-Bird Times

December 4th, 2020



## Calendar

### December

**7 - Girls Basketball game @HMS - 3:15 Coach Newell's team will play first followed by Coach Meier's team**

**10 - Girls Basketball game @HMS - 3:15 Coach Newell's team will play first followed by Coach Meier's team**

## Principals Note:

HMS Families,

Happy Friday everyone! We made it through the first week of December and our in person students did very well transitioning back to distance learning. Our VirtualED students continued their strong performance and effort within the VirtualED program. HMS teachers and staff have been working

hard to connect through Zoom with each student. Joining Zoom sessions is very important for our students. Please let us know if there are technical difficulties so we can help troubleshoot and make sure all students are able to attend their scheduled classes each day. On Wednesday, we were excited to receive grant support for the Blue Valley Education Foundation. More information about our surprise BVEF grant is below. The December red/blue calendar and our modified bell schedule are also located below.

Below this note you will find the following information:

- BVEF Surprise Grant Surprise
- Red/Blue Calendar for December
- Modified Block Schedule
- Holiday Support
- Inclement Weather Plan
- Spelling Bee Information
- Counseling Corner

Have a great weekend and let me know if you need anything.

Sincerely,

Nate Winslow  
Principal  
Harmony Middle School

## BVEF Surprise Squad Awards HMS



As we are well aware, so many traditions have been hard to uphold this year, but BVEF's Surprise Squad found a way to make this event happen... with a twist!

Instead of visiting each school in person to hand out teacher and building grants, on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, the Blue Valley Educational Foundation invited representatives from Harmony Middle School to celebrate at Hilltop Conference Center and our administration received a check for \$2,000!

This year, BVEF is funding \$178,000 on building and program grants, suicide prevention programs for middle and high schools and supporting a Career Tech Ed partnership for our students with JCCC. They have funded more than \$6.2 million over the last 30 years.

Our building grant will be used to fund the Hall of Nations, and the idea behind this grant is to purchase flags to represent and celebrate the different countries/nations our students identify with. As a building, we have been attempting to celebrate our students' backgrounds, culture, and history. This would help us do that by displaying flags of many different countries in our commons.

This is one of the best days to be an educator in the Blue Valley district. We couldn't continue to be on the forefront of education without support from BVEF and I'm so grateful that they found a way to continue to support our HMS students and teachers even though they couldn't visit our school.

In addition to our grant funding, HMS also received a beautiful, matted print of a painting by BV alum, and world-renowned artist, Jeff Hanson, which we will proudly display for everyone in the building to enjoy!

To see all the special moments captured on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, visit #BVEFGrants and the BVEF website at [www.Fundbv.org](http://www.Fundbv.org).

## Red/Blue December Calendar

Please scroll to the bottom of newsletter for PDF copies of calendar.

# December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30-Nov	1-Dec	2-Dec	3-Dec	4-Dec
Blue Day	Red Day	Blue Day	Red Day	Blue Day
7-Dec	8-Dec	9-Dec	10-Dec	11-Dec
Red Day	Blue Day	Red Day	Blue Day	Red Day
14-Dec	15-Dec	16-Dec	17-Dec	18-Dec
Blue Day	Red Day	Blue Day	Red Day	Blue Day
21-Dec	22-Dec	23-Dec	24-Dec	25-Dec
Red Day	Blue Day	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break
28-Dec	29-Dec	30-Dec	31-Dec	1-Jan
Winter Break				

# Modified Block Schedule

Please scroll to the bottom of newsletter for PDF copies of schedule.

**HMS In-Person OR Distance Learning Modified Block Daily Schedule 2020-2021**

6th Grade Schedule				7th Grade Schedule				8th Grade Schedule			
Red Day		Blue Day		Red Day		Blue Day		Red Day		Blue Day	
1st Hour Flex	7:41-8:34	Zero Hour Intervention	7:41-8:34	1st Hour	7:41-8:34	1st Hour	7:41-8:34	1st Hour	7:41-9:21	3rd Hour	7:41-9:21
2nd Hour	8:38-10:07	3rd Hour	8:38-10:07	2nd Hour	8:38-9:21	2nd Hour	8:38-9:21	2nd Hour Flex	9:25-10:07	Zero Hour Intervention	9:25-10:07
4th Hour	10:11-10:54	4th Hour	10:11-10:54	3rd Hour	9:25-10:07	3rd Hour	9:25-10:07	4th Hour	10:11-10:54	6th Hour	10:11-10:54
5th Hour	10:58-11:40	5th Hour	10:58-11:40	4th Hour	10:11-11:40	5th Hour	10:11-11:40	5th Hour Lunch	10:58-11:34	5th Hour Lunch	10:58-11:34
6th Hour	11:44-12:27	6th Hour	11:44-12:27	6th Hour Lunch	11:44-12:21	6th Hour Lunch	11:44-12:21	4th Hour	11:44-12:27	6th Hour	11:44-12:27
7th Hour Lunch	12:31-1:12	7th Hour Lunch	12:31-1:12	7th Hour Flex	12:31-1:14	Zero Hour Intervention	12:31-1:14	7th Hour	12:31-1:14	7th Hour	12:31-1:14
8th Hour	1:18-2:50	9th Hour	1:18-2:50	8th Hour	1:18-2:50	9th Hour	1:18-2:50	8th Hour	1:18-2:00	8th Hour	1:18-2:00
								9th Hour	2:04-2:50	9th Hour	2:04-2:50

## Holiday Support

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](mailto:jnwinslow@bluevalleyk12.org) if you would like any assistance during the holidays.

## Delayed Start Learning Day (Inclement Weather) Plans

In Kansas, it is likely over the next several months we'll see forecasts that call for inclement weather. Blue Valley encourages students and families to be prepared by:

- Bringing home district-provided devices daily
- Reviewing 2020-21 inclement weather learning options
  - **NEW! REMOTE LEARNING DAY:** A remote learning day will be used when adverse weather conditions exist that make travel to and from school unsafe. The learning day will include check-ins with teachers and asynchronous work for all students, including VirtualED. Specific details about schedules for the day will be communicated by the school administration and teachers.
  - **DELAYED START:** Delayed starts will be used when temporary adverse weather conditions exist, including high winds, cold temperatures or unfavorable road conditions. A two-hour

delayed start would allow in-person staff and students extra time to arrive at school. This option maximizes in-person instructional time with students. VirtualED students and students learning remotely in the hybrid model would also start two hours late. Specific details about schedules for the day will be communicated by school administration and teachers.

- **TRADITIONAL "SNOW DAY"**: In extreme weather conditions, the district may still call an inclement weather day with no school for all students.

During this ever-changing pandemic, Blue Valley is prioritizing student learning on inclement weather days, whether that learning is in-person or remote. By prioritizing learning, the district avoids having to further extend the school year into June.

Families will continue to receive an email and text message when the school day is modified due to inclement weather. When possible, the announcement will be made the day before so families can plan. General information about inclement weather is available on the [district's website](#).

## Spelling Bee Information

Hello parents! The deadline for signing your student up for the HMS Spelling bee has been extended! You can sign up until **Sunday, December 6**. The following link will get you to the sign up page.

<https://online-test.spellingbee.com>

If you need help registering, the following video will walk you through the registration process:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ThKRsfFiFc>

The testing window opens **Monday, December 7** and runs through **Monday, December 21**.

Students who qualify for the all school spelling bee will be notified by Mr. Bollinger by December 22nd. The All School Spelling Bee will be held on January 4 at 8am via Zoom. We will communicate Zoom information on Dec. 22nd.

The 10 students from each grade level with the highest scores will move on to compete at the school level after the start of the new year.

Our school champion will then move on to represent Harmony Middle School in the Johnson County regional spelling bee.

If you have any questions, please email Mr. Bollinger at [bbollinger@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:bbollinger@bluevalleyk12.org).

## Counselor's Corner

As Midwesterners we are all prepared to buckle down for a possible long winter! This year's additional pandemic challenge on top of our inability to go outside and get some vitamin D may put us all at great risk of seasonal affect or depression. This article shares some common sense but important tips on making it through a potential long winter with positive mental health!

<https://katiecouric.com/health/mental-health/how-to-improve-your-mood-this-winter/?>

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As the article points out, finding ways to be grateful and share kindness are important to our overall mental health as well. This calendar is a great way to challenge family members to do one kind act each day during December!

Please reach out if we can help in any way. Lori Cook (A-K; [lmcook@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:lmcook@bluevalleyk12.org)) and Trish Madsen (L-Z; [tmadsen@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:tmadsen@bluevalleyk12.org))

**KINDNESS CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2020**

**MONDAY**  
1. Share the Kindness Calendar with others and spread kindness  
7. Leave a positive message for someone else to find  
14. Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one  
21. Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you  
28. Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

**TUESDAY**  
2. Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are  
8. Do something helpful for a friend or family member  
15. Contact an elderly neighbour and brighten up their day  
22. Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed  
29. Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

**WEDNESDAY**  
3. Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment  
9. Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead  
16. Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to  
23. Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness  
30. Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

**THURSDAY**  
4. Give kind comments to as many people as possible today  
10. Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them  
17. Practice gratitude. List the kind things others have done for you  
24. Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh  
31. Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2021

**FRIDAY**  
5. Make a gift for someone who is homeless or feeling lonely  
11. Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today  
18. Give away something that you have been holding on to  
25. Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

**SATURDAY**  
6. Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about  
12. Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank  
19. Buy locally and support independent shops near you  
26. Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

**SUNDAY**  
13. See how many different people you can smile at today  
20. Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated  
27. Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

Let's look beyond our differences and help each other. Every act of kindness matters

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS** #DoGoodDecember [www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)  
Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind

Learn more about this month's theme at [www.actionforhappiness.org/do-good-december](http://www.actionforhappiness.org/do-good-december)

## Harmony Middle School

@HMSTBirds

10101 West 141st Street, Overland Park, KS, USA

913-239-5200

[district.bluevalleyk12.org/schools/middle/hms/Pa...](http://district.bluevalleyk12.org/schools/middle/hms/Pa...)