

T-Bird Times

December 8, 2023



Calendar

December:

- 11 - Girls Basketball Game @ HMS vs OTMS (A2/A1)
- 11 - Band Pictures (7th & 8th) @ BVNW - 6:00
- 11 - Winter Band Concert (7th & 8th) @ BVNW- 7:00
- 12 - Spelling Bee - 8:00am
- 14 - Winter Orchestra Concert @ BVNW (6th, 7th & 8th)
- 15 - Elementary Band Tour (7th grade) 10:30-12:30
- 20 - Dismissal at 10:50
- 21-Jan 3 - Winter Break

Principals Note:

HMS Families,

We had a very productive week at HMS. Many students completed both winter Fastbridge and iReady testing. We appreciate our students' focus and determination throughout the testing process. Make up testing will be conducted next week for any students that did not finish or missed testing.

The end of the quarter is fast approaching. Please check in with your student(s) and make sure they are finishing the quarter off strong. Student progress can be tracked through the Canvas parent app or by having your child login and show you their courses from their Chromebook. Below this note you will find the following information:

- Headphones or Earbuds
- iReady/FastBridge Diagnostic Testing
- 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

Headphones or Earbuds

This is a reminder that all students need to carry with them wired headphones or earbuds daily. Students use wired headphones or earbuds almost every day in class and need them to be successful. Please make sure your student has a pair they bring to school every day. Thanks.

iReady/FastBridge Diagnostic Testing Makeups

Students will be completing diagnostic testing if they were absent this week for both math and reading. These tests will give us information about how students are progressing with skills and highlight areas of strengths and needed growth.

Carline Reminders

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

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

8th grade boys interested in basketball, please register through rSchool and provide your physical by Dec. 15th.

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

Tryouts/practices will begin on Thursday, Jan. 4th (must be cleared in rSchool in order to participate and we will not be checking physicals over winter break).

8th Grade Girls Basketball

Check out our game schedule next week and come out to support our Third basketball team!

Next Week preview

Girls BBall-

- 12/11 vs OTMS @ HOME A2 3:25pm/A1 4:25pm
- 12/14 vs LMS @ HOME A2 3:25pm/A1 4:25pm

Activities

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.rschooltoday.com/familyaccounts/autopopulate/160>

Tutorial links for rSchool- <https://bluevalleysd-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

Staff Appreciation Lunch:

The HMS Staff Appreciation Committee is treating our HMS teachers and staff to an end of year celebration which includes a hot cocoa bar, seasonal desserts, gumbo and a seafood casserole. The committee is asking for your help to make this event possible. Please take a look at the requested items and sign up if you are able to contribute to this special event for our deserving teachers and staff. Please note the information in the various slots as to drop off instructions. Packaged items may be dropped off earlier if needed. If you have any questions - please contact Candace King at cking220@yahoo.com. Please click on the Sign Up Genius Link below to sign up:



Teacher Appreciation Holiday Luncheon

The teacher appreciation committee is treating our HMS teachers and staff to an end of year celebration which includes a hot cocoa bar, seasonal desserts, gumbo and a seafood casserole. The committee is asking for your help to make this event possible.

🔗 signupgenius.com

PTO Red Bag Thanks:

Huge thanks to everyone who contributed their time and resources for the annual HMS Red Bag project. This year - we had 91 HMS families participate as we sponsored 29 children. The HMS students wrapped 300 gifts last Thursday and several HMS students and their parents helped deliver the wrapped gifts on Saturday morning. Big thanks to the parent volunteers who helped last Thursday with wrap parties and all the parents who donated donuts for the parties. Lastly - special thanks to the amazing Candace King for leading this charitable event for HMS. Thanks Candace!

PTO Concession Stand Thanks:

Big thanks to Jenna & Graham Foglesong for volunteering to work the HMS PTO Concession stand for the girls' home basketball games. The PTO really appreciates your help and time! Thanks Foglesong family!

Girls Basketball Game Concession Stand Volunteers Needed:

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.



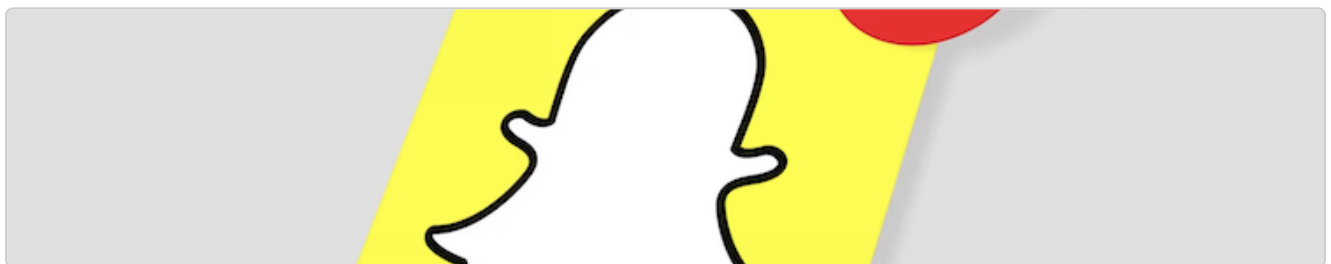
Girls Basketball Concessions

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.

🔗 signupgenius.com

Career Cafe

Mary Helen Horn, President of ZIWI, an international petfood nutrition specialty company, spoke to 7th and 8th Graders about her exciting career and passion for pets and how she uses her skills to make sure they have nutritious food. She shared information with students about the animal health industry hub here in the KC area and a multitude of careers that are available in the industry.



Screenagers Blog | Navigate Notification Overload: Ways parents can help kids

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.

screenagersmovie.com



The complicated ties between teenage girls and social media - and what parents should know

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.

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



'Constant buzzing': Some teens get thousands of phone notifications in a day, research finds

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?

🔗 [nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com)



Harmony Middle School

Website:

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

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Lori Younger

Lori is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters