

T-Bird Times

February 8, 2024



Calendar

February:

- 9 - No School
- 12 - BVNW Counseling visiting with 8th grade
- 12 - Boys Basketball Game A Team @ BVMS, 3:25 pm
- 12 - Boys Basketball Game B Team @ Home, 3:25 pm
- 13 - Future Husky Enrollment Night, 6:00 pm
- 14 - Boys Basketball Game A Team @ Home, 3:25 pm
- 14 - Boys Basketball Game B Team @ ABMS, 3:25 pm
- 15 - Orchestra Pictures @ HMS, 5:30
- 15 - Orchestra Concert 5th-8th, 7:00 pm

- 19 - No School, Presidents Day
- 20 - 8th Grade Enrollment cards due
- 21 - Basketball Game A Team @ PRMS, 3:25 pm
- 21 - Basketball Game B Team @ Home, 3:25 pm
- 22 - BVNW Counselors visiting One on One with 8th graders (Enrollment)
- 22 - KMEA State Choir (Select 7th & 8th Graders) - Wichita
- 23 - KMEA State Choir (Select 7th & 8th Graders) - Wichita
- 26 - Boys Basketball Game A Team @ Home, 3:25 pm
- 26 - Boys Basketball Game B Team @ OTMS, 3:25 pm

March:

- 1- 7th Grade Band Rehearsal (Band Room) - 3:00 pm
- 2 - District Middle School Band Solo/Ensemble Festival (OTMS) - 8:00am
- 2 - District Middle School Orchestra Solo/Ensemble Festival (PRMS) - 8:00am
- 4 - 6th Grade Band Rehearsal (Band Room) - 3:00 pm
- 4 - 7th Grade Track Preseason Track Meeting (Students Only) - 3:10 pm
- 5 - 8th Grade Track Preseason Track Meeting (Students Only) - 3:10 pm
- 5 - 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Northwest Area Band Festival @ BVNW - 7:00 pm
- 8 - No School - Professional Development Day
- 11 - 15 - No School Spring Break
- 18 - No School - Professional Development Day
- 19 - 8th Grade Uniform Check Out/Meeting (Students Only) - 3:10 pm
- 20 - 7th Grade Uniform Check Out/Meeting (Students Only) - 3:10 pm
- 21 - District Middle School Theater Festival @ BVW - 9:30 am
- 21 - BVNW Area Orchestra Festival (5th - 12th grades) @ BVNW
- 25 - Track Practice Starts - 3:10 pm
- 25 - Track Parent Meeting - 4:45 pm
- 26 - Track Parent Meeting - 4:45 pm
- 26 - BVNW Area Jazz Festival @ OMS- 7:00 pm
- 28 - MNU Jazz Festival - 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Principals Note:

HMS Families,

It was nice to see so many of you at parent/teacher conferences the past two days. We appreciate the partnership we form for the betterment of our students. We hope students enjoy their extended weekend and we look forward to seeing them on Monday.

A special thanks goes out to our wonderful PTO and all parents/guardians that volunteered and donated food items for our staff appreciation conference meals. The meals are always fabulous and our staff greatly appreciates being taken care of during these long days.

Below this note you will find the following information:

- Harmony Superstars Program

- Help Wanted: Paraprofessionals
- BV Resource Fair
- Future Husky Enrollment Night
- Planning for Inclement Weather Days
- Games on District Devices
- Carline Reminders
- Safe Schools Reporting
- Student Code of Conduct
- Game Atmosphere
- Athletics
- 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

Harmony Superstars Program

Harmony Superstars is a program HMS started during the 2022 school year where a student is chosen every week based on the HMS Honor Code. The name is announced over the microphone at each grade level lunch on Fridays and the winning students are given a note from a teacher and a gift card!

We would love to continue this positive behavior program this year at HMS! We had enough gift cards when we asked in September to get us to the end of January, but we are needing more so we can continue to award our awesome students through May!

Please review the available slots below and sign up to bring at least one \$5.00 gift card from a local business. The front office will have an envelope to collect the gift cards and you may bring them up to school at your convenience. *If you are coming for parent conferences, that would be a fantastic time to bring them.*

Thank you for helping us recognize our amazing students at HMS!

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Harmony Superstars 2024

docs.google.com

Enrollment: Current 6th and 7th Grade Students

Enrollment for the 2024-2025 School year is right around the corner. HMS counselors will be visiting students during Flex class on January 26 to discuss enrollment and distribute enrollment forms. Enrollment forms are due on February 1 and can be turned in to the student services section of the front office.

More information on enrollment can be found below in the student services update.

Help Wanted: Paraprofessionals

Come help us out at HMS!!

**WANTED:
HARMONY MIDDLE
SCHOOL
PARAPROFESSIONALS**

*Come help us out at HMS and assist students
throughout the school day with academic
support!*

**PARA 1 AND PARA 11 OPENINGS
7.75 HOURS PER DAY
FULL BENEFITS AVAILABLE**

For more information, see copy/paste the links below:

Special Education Para I:
[https://www.applitrack.com/bluevalleyk12/onlineapp/default.aspx?
Category=Para+Educator&subcategory=Special+Education+Para+I&AppliTrackJ
obId=10555&AppliTrackLayoutMode=detail&AppliTrackViewPosting=1](https://www.applitrack.com/bluevalleyk12/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Para+Educator&subcategory=Special+Education+Para+I&AppliTrackJobId=10555&AppliTrackLayoutMode=detail&AppliTrackViewPosting=1)

Special Education Para II:
[https://www.applitrack.com/bluevalleyk12/onlineapp/JobPostings/view.asp?
Category=Para+Educator&subcategory=Special+Education+Para+II&AppliTrackJ
obId=10824&AppliTrackLayoutMode=detail&AppliTrackViewPosting=1](https://www.applitrack.com/bluevalleyk12/onlineapp/JobPostings/view.asp?Category=Para+Educator&subcategory=Special+Education+Para+II&AppliTrackJobId=10824&AppliTrackLayoutMode=detail&AppliTrackViewPosting=1)

**CONTACT NATE WINSLOW-
JNWINSLOW@BLUEVALLEYK12.ORG
OR
EMILY WILSON-
ESWILSON@BLUEVALLEYK12.ORG
FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

Future Husky Enrollment Night

8th Grade Parents, You're Invited to Future Husky Night!!

YOU'RE INVITED!

FUTURE HUSKY NIGHT

Tuesday,
February 13th,
6:00-8:00 PM @ BVNW
Performing Arts Center
(PAC)



GET COURSE ENROLLMENT INFO FOR FALL 2024

MEET BVNW ADMINISTRATION, COUNSELORS & TEACHERS

LEARN ABOUT BVNW ELECTIVE COURSES @ OUR ELECTIVES FAIR!

✓Get your BVNW enrollment form.

✓Hear from teachers about 9th grade classes to help you make decisions for enrollment.

✓Learn about our district graduation requirements.

BVNW CLASS OF 2028

This evening is designed for both students & parents to attend!

Planning for Inclement Weather Days in BV

As the winter months continue, there is always the possibility of inclement weather. When extreme weather conditions exist, the district may cancel school or utilize a two-hour delayed start when temporary adverse weather conditions exist. When possible, inclement weather announcements will be made the day before so staff and families can plan. More information about inclement weather (including 2-hour delayed starts) can be found on the district [website](#).

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.

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

Our boys basketball games have been close and competitive! Our coaches and players have been working hard to ensure an exciting season!

Check out the upcoming games:

Feb. 12th vs. BVMS- A @ BVMS (A2/A1) 3:25/4:25pm; B @ HOME (B2/B1) 3:25/4:25pm

Feb. 14th vs. ABMS- A @ HOME (A2/A1) 3:25/4:25pm; B @ ABMS (B2/B1) 3:25/4:25pm

7th and 8th Grade Track-

Track season is right around the corner! Please make sure to complete the registration and upload student physicals by Friday, March 22nd. Practice will begin on Monday, March 25th.

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

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.schooltoday.com/familyaccounts/autopopulate/160>

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

URGENT NEED FOR HMS CONCESSION STAND VOLUNTEERS FOR WEDNESDAY's (1/31) HOME GAMES:

We are in urgent need of volunteers for our remaining home basketball games. We need two volunteers to work in the concession stand for each home boys' 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. We like to have the stand open 15 minutes prior so please arrive to set up at 2:55 pm. Both games are typically completed in 2-2.5 hours so we ask that you stay until at least 5:30 pm please. If you have any questions - please contact Katie Scheibel at katie_scheibel@hotmail.com. Thank you so much for your help and time!



Boys Basketball Concessions

We need two volunteers to work in the concession stand for each home boys' 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

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR BLUE VALLEY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION EVENT: BATTLE OF THE BANDS:

Battle of the Bands is BVEF's annual over-21 event, raising money for the district's music and performing arts programs and district-wide initiatives. The evening includes live music, silent auction, wine and bourbon pull, and a light buffet. Four parent bands provide the live music and battle it out for the title. Please see the attached flyer for more details and ways you can donate an auction item and help BVEF. Thank you for your support!



Blue Valley Educational Foundation is seeking auction items for the

**2024 Battle of the Bands
RC's Backdoor | Martin City
Saturday, February 24, 2024**

Battle of the Bands is BVEF's annual over-21 event, raising money for the district's music and performing arts programs and district-wide initiatives. The evening includes live music, a silent auction, wine and bourbon pull, and a light buffet. Four parent bands provide the live music and battle it out for the title:

Best Blue Valley Band

The winning band, picked by crowd and philanthropic participation, receives a classroom grant to award to a BV school of their choice.

Bidding for silent auction items will be available to 350 event participants and online for 33K Blue Valley families, staff, and district friends. The Foundation is seeking single items, merchandise, and services, valued at \$250 or more. Donations are tax deductible. BVEF is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization - Tax ID 48-1159744.

Auction Donation Deadline is February 2, 2024.

Last year's favorite silent auction items included tickets to sports and performing arts events, staycation packages, spa/beauty packages, golf outings, gift card bundles, outdoor movie experiences, artwork, restaurant passes and date night experiences.

For more information or questions, contact Cindy McAlister at 913-239-4053 or cmcalister@bluevalleyk12.org

15020 Metcalf • Overland Park, KS 66223 • 913-239-4053 • fundbv.org

HMS PTO COMMUNICATIONS & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR OPENING:

The HMS PTO is looking for a parent to take on the Communications & Volunteer Coordinator position for the 2024- 2025 school year. This is a very rewarding volunteer opportunity and you don't have to attend any PTO board meetings! The position involves managing the HMS PTO Sign Up Genius Account (creating and sending out sign ups), HMS PTO Concession Stand volunteers, and the PTO information for the weekly T-Bird Times. If you are interested - please reach out to Katie Scheibel at katie_scheibel@hotmail.com.

SCREEN SANITY

Our PTO, in partnership with Heartland Elementary and Harmony Elementary PTOs, we will be hosting a FREE event on February 21st at 7:00pm at HMS for all parents and caregivers. The event is focused on parenting in the digital age and will give parents tools and resources to successfully navigate smartphones, social media, and online tools.

About Screen Sanity:

Today's parents have countless resources to help them raise a child, yet we are the first generation to ponder questions like, *When should I get my child a smartphone? How should I prepare them for social media? And, how can I keep them safe online?*

A few years ago, we began asking the same questions for our own kids. So, we did what young parents do, and sought advice from parents in the season ahead of us. But, as we begged them to share wisdom, we noticed a hopelessness in their responses. Their faces would drop and they often said, "I don't know, but do something differently than I did."

That's when Screen Sanity became a reality. Founded in 2018 by a trio of moms, our nonprofit helps families and communities pursue digital health in order to reduce loneliness, depression, anxiety and suicide in a socially isolated society. The need for our programs and resources has only grown in a post-pandemic world, with screens and devices seeping into every corner of our children's lives. Our broader resources and tools are designed to support families on every leg of their digital parenting journey – helping them to quickly navigate to the issue that is most pressing for their own family. Our goal is to build trust with families so when they hit a new technology milestone, they know exactly where to turn.

Learn more about Screen Sanity at



Screen Sanity | Tips, Tools and Trainings for Raising Digital Natives

Screen Sanity is an international nonprofit that provides tips, tools and trainings to raise happy, healthy kids in an increasingly digital world.

[🔗 screensanity.org](https://screensanity.org)

Student Services Update

Enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year forms were sent out and due last week. If you haven't turned it in, please do so as soon as possible.

To view the 2024-25 Middle School Programming Guide please click the link;
<https://www.bluevalleyk12.org/cms/lib/ks02212623/Centricity/Domain/4506/MS%20PPG%202024-25.pdf>

Our 8th graders will be getting a visit from their future high school counselor on Monday, February 12th. During this visit they will be able to ask questions regarding high school, classes and enrollment.

Personalized enrollment materials will be handed out at Future Husky Night at BVNW on February 13th.

Enrollment cards for 8th graders are due to our registrar, Vicki Springer by Tuesday, February 20th. On Thursday, Feb 22nd, the BVNW counselors will be here to meet one on one with the students in their alpha during science classes.

This month's BVUnmuted podcast focuses on updated graduation requirements for incoming high school students.

Podcast Link - bit.ly/BVGradReq

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Vicki Springer HMS Registrar vlspringer@bluevalleyk12.org 913-239-5216

Lori Cook School Counselor Last Names A-K lmcook@bluevalleyk12.org 913-239-5218

Trish Madsen School Counselor Last Names L-Z tmadsen@bluevalleyk12.org 913-239-5217

NATIONAL COUNSELING WEEK

HMS proudly celebrated National School Counseling Week 2024 this week with the theme, "School Counseling: Standards-Based, Student-Focused." The week was intended to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. National School Counseling Week, presented by ASCA, highlights school counselors' tremendous impact in helping students achieve school success and plan for their future. National School Counseling Week is always celebrated the first full week in February.

Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Madsen work hard at HMS to help every student succeed every day at HMS. From academics to lessons, groups, Sources of Strength, and individual support for students, they help kids learn to advocate for themselves, stay motivated, connect to their school and be the best they can be before heading to high school!

This year, Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Madsen have met with students over 750 times. Forty-five kids reached out to seek help on a google form that all students have access to. Counselors have been to every grade level for lessons on bullying and friendship, social media, drug and alcohol prevention, suicide prevention and will speak to students about college and career interests this spring!

If you haven't met your child's school counselor or you would like to know more about what they do every day at HMS, please feel free to reach out!

Mrs. Cook (students A-K; 913.239.5216) or Mrs. Madsen (students L-Z; 913.239.5217)



FEBRUARY 5-9, 2024

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

SCHOOL COUNSELING: STANDARDS-BASED, STUDENT-FOCUSED

8TH GRADE SOURCES OF STRENGTH

8th grade Sources of Strength members treated staff with a much appreciated snack cart on Wednesday after school to give them some fuel for a long evening of conferences!



REGISTER NOW!

Starting STRONG

MIDDLE SCHOOL EDITION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29
6-8PM | HILLTOP CONFERENCE CENTER



Calling all Blue Valley 5th and 6th grade parents and caregivers!

BV Well and **BV School Counselors, Social Workers** and **Psychologists** invite you to attend a complimentary session designed especially for **5th and 6th grade parents** and caregivers that will address:

- expected **social and cognitive milestones** for 11 to 14-year-olds and the importance of championing your child's **online safety** at this age
- the **number one parent factor that fosters child wellbeing** and what you can do to build and sustain it
- **digital health and wellness** practices for your family

Featuring:

- **Dr. Libby Matile Milkovich, MD**, Pediatrician, Children's Mercy Kansas City
- **Annie Rusthoven, Screen Sanity**, nonprofit whose programs help parents consider technology in their lives and connect with their kids in meaningful ways
- **Panel Discussion** with Dr. Libby, Annie and additional experts

REGISTER HERE



Register by Feb 28th | FREE event

Optional: scan code or click link to [purchase Screen Sanity's Middle School Plugged-in Planner](#). Books will also be available for sale at the event.



Screen Sanity's presentation sponsored by:



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](#)



Lori Younger

Lori is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters