

T-Bird Times

May 12, 2023



Calendar of Events

May

- 16 - 8th Grade show (1:45-3:00)
- 17 - Husky Showcase School Day Show (7th& 8th Choir/Theatre) 1:15-2:30
- 17 - Jr. Thespian Ceremony (3:00-3:45)
- 17 - Spring Band Concert @ HMS (7:00pm-8:00pm)
- 18 - MS/ES Spring Strings Concert@ HMS (7:00-8:00pm)
- 23 - 6th Grade Science Showcase (3:00-5:00pm)
- 24 - 8th Grade Cookout
- 25 - 8th Grade Ceremony / Dave and Busters trip
- 26 - Last Day of School - Dismissal at 10:50

Principals Note:

HMS Families,

Testing is done with the exception of a few makeups to complete with students that were absent. We are so proud of our students' focus and perseverance during the spring testing window. Students completed many standardized tests and we appreciate their effort and the support from our HMS families.

We also want to say THANK YOU to everyone that supported our PTO during "Teacher Appreciation Week!" Our teachers work super hard and it is so nice that our school community comes together every year to run such an amazing week in their honor. Thank you again to everyone that donated or helped support our teachers!

Below this note you will find the following information:

- Registration for the 2023-2024 School Year
- 8th Grade End of Year Events Fee
- Bus Changes for 2023-24 School Year
- Yearbook
- Voracious Vacation Reader!
- Course Fees
- Honor Code
- Safe School Reporting
- Carline Reminders
- Athletics
- Harmony Middle School Handbook
- Notice From the School Nurse
- PTO News
- Student Services Update

As always, thank you for your support of HMS.

Sincerely,

Nate Winslow
Principal
Harmony Middle School

Register for the 2023-24 school year today

[Middle school registration](#) for the 2023-24 school year is open and [online now](#) for current students and families. Registration is required annually and is the time to update your child's information (phone, email, emergency contacts, health information, etc.). At this time, you have access to pay all required fees with the exception of course fees. Course fees will be assigned in September.

Completing registration now confirms that your child will attend school in August and helps the district appropriately staff classrooms. Thank you for providing important information as part of the registration process. For more information about registration, visit www.bluevalleyk12.org/registration.

8th Grade End of Year Events Fee

Please login into ParentVUE and pay the fee to help fund the end of year events for your 8th grade student. We have several fun and memorable events planned that we cannot do without your help. Again, please login and pay the 8th Grade Celebration fee in ParentVUE.

Here are instructions:

- Login to ParentVUE
- Make sure your 8th grade students is selected at the top of the page
- Click on Fees
- Click on Pay Fees
- Select the 8th Grade Celebration fee

You can also bring in cash or check for \$40 to HMS front office

Changes coming for middle and high school bus riders in 2023-24

The Board of Education voted to discontinue Payrider services for middle and high school students, beginning with the 2023-24 school year. The change was approved at Monday night's board meeting. Services will continue for students residing 2.5 miles or further from home to school within their attendance area or who have transportation as part of their Individual Education Plan (IEP). The change does not impact Payrider services for elementary students.

The difficult decision was made at the April board meeting after an administrative update on the state of transportation, followed by recommended changes for the board to consider. The shortage of bus drivers negatively impacts families who participate in the Payrider program and students the district is required by state law to transport. The report notes that throughout this spring, Durham School Services, the district's transportation provider is 12-18 drivers short daily. Hiring hasn't kept pace with driver attrition and absenteeism – an issue that is not unique to Blue Valley.

Impact of the driver shortage includes:

- Buses are late dropping off students for the start of school and late returning students home.
- Delayed arrival of students is a loss of instructional time, which negatively impacts the teaching and learning environment.
- Lack of drivers leads to early dismissal for after-school activities and loss of instructional time.
- Lack of drivers negatively impacts field trips.
- Increased staff workload to adjust, supervise or alternate plans due to late buses.
- Families are inconvenienced by the lack of predictability.

There were exhaustive efforts made this year to avoid further reduction of services to families who pay for transportation. Payrider services for middle and high school students were eliminated for families who lived under 1.5 miles from school. Additionally, school start time schedules were modified to allow more routes to be combined between grade levels.

These efforts, coupled with enhanced recruiting, wage increases and sign-on bonuses, helped temporarily stabilize student transportation. Unfortunately, the changes were not enough to close the gap between the number of requests for services and drivers required to run routes. Our community

and surrounding area aren't providing Durham with enough qualified applicants to cover routes at the current service levels being offered.

Anticipated impact of 2023-24 Student Transportation recommendation:

- Improves services to students who the district is required by state law to transport. The State of Kansas requires that student transportation be provided for students residing 2.5 miles or further from home to school within their attendance area or have transportation as part of their Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- Further closes the labor gap by the elimination of 10 routes. Approximately 764 middle and high school students will no longer be eligible for Payrider services.
- Maintains the elementary Payrider program and balances the number of buses needed at the middle and high school levels to be equal to the elementary schools.

While the news gives many frustrated families hope for more bus service reliability, the district understands that many families will be disappointed they are no longer eligible for bus service. Making the decision today gives families time to plan for safe and reliable transportation next year.

Current middle and high school Payrider program families should expect a notification letter from Durham about service changes.

Yearbooks

Purchasing yearbooks through ParentVUE is no longer available. For those still interested in purchasing a yearbook, please bring \$30 cash or check to the HMS front office.

Voracious Vacation Reader!



Looking for something for your child to do this summer? Encourage them to become a Voracious Vacation Reader! The HMS Library and ELA teachers have worked together to create the HMS VVR program to help keep students reading! [Please visit our website](#) for book recommendations, info on prizes, and more!

Course Fees

Middle school course fee payment for the second semester is open and [online now](#). Your ParentVUE login and password are required to pay course fees.

- Course fees are assigned based on your student's enrollment. Some seventh and eighth grade exploratory/elective classes include course fees.
- Course fees are assigned for the second semester only.

Questions regarding fee payment should be directed to Christina Fowles, HMS Bookkeeper.

Honor Code

We always encourage our students at HMS to embody and represent our honor code. Feel free to discuss what it means to be "honorable" at HMS with your student. As we settle into the school year, it is important that students are hearing this message at school and at home.



Safe Schools Reporting

Please share this message in your upcoming family newsletter:

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](#).

Carline Reminders

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

****This also applies to before and after school activities****

- 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.

Athletics

23-24 Physicals and rSchool Registration

If your student is planning on participating in a sport or activity next school year, you can now register and get a physical uploaded to rSchool. If you have already created an account this year, you do not need to re-register, but will need to have a new physical uploaded.

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

2023 Thunderbird Football Camp

Our HMS football coaching staff is excited to host our annual Thunderbird Football Camp this summer! The goal of this camp is to develop football skills that will allow our players to reach their full potential. This camp is for incoming 6th-8th grade students (both boys and girls).

THUNDERBIRD FOOTBALL CAMP

INFO

When: June 19th-22nd @ 8AM - 10AM

Where: Mon-Wed @ HMS & Thurs @
DAC

Who: All rising 6th, 7th, 8th Graders
interested in football



For more information
reach out to :

Coach Williams
Coach Sanders
Coach Harder
Coach Vanrheenen



FORMS FOUND IN THE HMS OFFICE!

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.

Notice from the School Nurse

IMMUNIZATION NOTICE FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 7TH GRADE

Upon advancement or entry to 7th grade, the Kansas State Department of Health requires documentation of a Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis) booster, and MCV4 (Meningitis) vaccine. To avoid exclusion, documentation of administration of these vaccines must be received prior to the start of school.

Please ensure that your student has written documentation from a medical provider on file at HMS. Verification of immunization must include:

- Student name
- Name of Vaccine(s)
- Date Given: MM/DD/YYYY
- Signature and letterhead of medical provider or official immunization record with lot number and initials of medical provider.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Gigi Touslee, BSBA, BSN RN
Harmony Middle School
gtouslee@bluevalleyk12.org
Office: 913-239-5213
Fax: 913-239-5248

PTO

School Supplies for 2023-2024

Parents if you would like order school supplies online for next school please see the information below on how to order.



EPI SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Order a Pack Today!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Save Time & Money on School Supply Shopping

Exact pack items & brands customized to your school lists.

HARMONY MIDDLE SCHOOL 2023-2024 School Supply Sale

Save Over 40% on Supplies Compared to Other Online Retailers

ONLINE ORDERING ONLY!

Grade Level 2023-2024	Cost Each
6th	\$97.00
7th	\$90.00
8th	\$58.00

**Order Securely Online
Starting Now thru May 23rd!**

1. Go to www.educationalproducts.com/shoppacks
2. Enter the school ID, **HAR784 (3 letters/3 numbers)**
3. Follow the directions to complete your order.
4. Keep your online confirmation as your receipt.

Orders will be charged tax at checkout.

School supplies will be available for pick up at Harmony Middle School at Locker/Picture day on August 8th from 2:00-5:00pm.

For questions, please contact Angela Milliren at amilliren@hotmail.com Lori Younger at 913-239-5212 or lyounger@bluevalleyk12.org



Access the order form by scanning the QR code with your phone.

Teacher Approved • No Crowds • No Guesswork • School-Year Product Quality Guarantee

Teacher Appreciation Week Thanks:

Tremendous thanks to Candace King for planning such an amazing week of delicious food, special activities and pampering for the HMS teachers and staff. Candace did an incredible job coordinating events every day and the PTO is beyond appreciative of her time, energy and hard work. Thanks also to all the wonderful parents who donated gift cards and food and beverage items.

8th GRADE GRADUATION DONATIONS:

The 8th Grade Farewell committee needs donations to help with their two big end of the year events at HMS (BBQ and Ice Cream Social). Please consider donating an item and please bring it into the HMS Front Office by Monday, May 22nd. Please mark donations "8th Grade Graduation." If you have any

questions - please contact Jami Cole at jamilundberg@yahoo.com. Thank you so much for your support and generosity!



[8th Grade Graduat...](#)

www.signupgenius.com

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Student Services Update

Career Fair:


7th and 8th Grade Parents...Please encourage your student to dress professionally for our 2023 Career Fair next Thursday, May 18th from 8-10. We will have 22 amazing professionals in a variety of careers for your student to interact with. Each student will attend four sessions. Please ask them about what they learned from the speakers. Thanks! Lori Cook & Trish Madsen, HMS Counselors






Harmony Middle School

 @HMSTBirds

 10101 West 141st Street, Overl...  913-239-5200

 district.bluevalleyk12.org/scho...