

January 19, 2024

Hello HMS Families,

I hope everyone had a great week!

“Word of the Week” - Vocabulary development is a crucial component of an effective literacy program. Each week, we identify a new vocabulary word that we want our students to become more familiar with and be able to add to their repertoire. Our hope is that by exposing students to a different word every week, they can begin to “own” these words and make them a part of their working vocabulary! We encourage you to find ways to use this word in your conversations with your students whenever the opportunity presents itself!

The “Word of the Week” next week is...Destination!

News and Notes:

- The first home game of the HMS basketball season is January 24th. This year, in order to help with supervision and ensure that students are not left without a ride home, we will be requiring that student spectators for home and away basketball games are accompanied by a responsible adult who remains at the game with them. The adult can accompany up to four students with them. Students will not be allowed to enter the gym without an adult who will take responsibility for them. Again, this is an expectation for both home and away games.
- On February 1st we will be kicking off Black History Month with grade-level student assemblies during Connections. Guest Speaker Nigel Walker will be sharing a message encouraging our students to STRIVE for Greatness, which allows you to create a culture of success to overcome obstacles. He uses his background and the history of his culture as a driving force for his motivation, but the principles of a Great Mind, Great Power, Great Responsibility, and Great Expectations are universal in implementation. We are excited to welcome Mr. Walker to share an inclusive message inspiring all of our students to be their best selves!
- We have a few days coming up in February with some special events that require some adjustments to our day. Please note the dates below and the linked alternative schedules for a couple of the days. If your child normally has Late Arrival or Early Release and will have to miss a class because of these adjustments, please email their school counselor and check in with their teacher to find out what they will be missing.
 - February 8th – Scoliosis for 6th and 8th Grade
 - We will be “flipping” periods 4 and 5 with periods 8 and 9 so that we can complete all Scoliosis screening in the morning.
 - This will impact 6th and 7th grade lunch periods as well. Click the following link for the schedule - [Scoliosis Day Schedule.docx](#)
 - February 13th – 8th Grade visits to High Schools
 - 8th graders will be visiting CHS and AHS in the morning
 - We will be “flipping” periods 2 and 3 with periods 8 and 9.

- Due to late arrival and early dismissal schedules, we will do 9th period, then 8th in the morning and 3rd period, then 2nd in the afternoon. This will not impact lunch periods. Click the following link for the schedule - [Bell Schedule 2.13.docx](#)
- HMS will be conducting scoliosis screening for all 6th and 8th grade students on February 8th. Please review the linked documents below. If you choose to opt your child out of the screening, please fill out the bottom of the Screening Notification Letter and return it to the Front Office by February 6th.
[Parent Scoliosis Screening Notification Letter 2024.docx](#)
[Parent Scoliosis Screening Notification Letter 2023-2024 Final Spanish.docx](#)
[Fast Facts About Scoliosis 2021 - English \(002\).pdf](#)
[Fast Facts about Scoliosis CHOA spanish 2022 \(002\).pdf](#)
- Speaking of scoliosis screening, we are looking for at least 10-14 parent volunteers to help us on February 8th. Volunteers would need to arrive at HMS by 8:30 AM, and we should wrap up screening by about 12:30 PM.

Volunteers will need to complete online (asynchronous) training prior to the day of screening, and will then get a brief overview on the day of screening.

Please click on the [Volunteer Form](#) if you are able to help. We will send you information about the online training in advance of our screening date.

School Activities:

- **Hoops for Heart is coming!!!** - This year to support Heart Month and the American Heart Association, the HMS Physical Education Department will be hosting our Hoops for Heart Basketball Tournament on February 15th in memory of former Hopewell student Chasen Petcovic. The tournament will be during both connections' periods for all grade levels (8th grade – 9:15-10:54, 7th grade - 10:58-12:37, 6th grade 2:26-4:05).

How does the event work? Students can either sign up with a team of 5 players and play in a double elimination basketball tournament, or students can come as spectators to the event! Players and spectators need to purchase a t-shirt to attend. To sign up with your team, reach out to a PE teacher to fill out the required forms. T-shirts can be ordered starting January 22nd, for \$20.00 – prices go up on February 3rd, to \$25.00.

How to purchase a t-shirt:

- **Hoops for Heart T-shirt Link** (Make sure to order for correct Grade level, player or spectator)
- **Concessions from PTA** - During the event PTA will be selling snacks, candy, and event pom poms. All the money raised will go back to the American Heart Association in memory of Chasen Petcovic. If you would like to donate concessions: **Hoops for Heart Concession Donations.**

How can you help? Our school wide goal is to raise \$10,000! We have been a top middle school donor for years, and our wish is to be the highest donor in the state. You can help us reach our goal by encouraging your child to either participate or spectate the event, purchase concessions, or by donating here: [Hoops for Heart Donations/ Sponsor a Student](#)

- **YEARBOOK** - The HMS 2023-2024 yearbook is now on sale on the Jostens website. If you have any questions about yearbook purchases, please contact Mrs. Karen Allen (allenk2@fultonschools.org). The link is: <https://bit.ly/3YpEgAi>
- **YEARBOOK NEEDS YOUR HELP!** The yearbook staff is inviting students and parents to submit photos for the yearbook. If you've got great photos of school and community events or you and your friends just having fun outside of school, we'd like to see them. Our photographers can't be everywhere. Help us get as many photos as possible to create a terrific book everyone will want to have. Ideas can be sports photos from feeder teams, Halloween and other holidays, or pictures of students just hanging out and having a good time on the weekends. There is no limit to the number of photos you can submit. To submit, just click on the link: https://images.jostens.com/0mRzn1-bo_AYGOy_MnaE1TA

Other Items:

- From the PTA:
 - **The PTA is sponsoring the annual 8th-grade dance.** The dance will be on Friday, February 9 in the HMS café 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Students are encouraged to dress to impress. Only enrolled HMS students may attend the dance, no dates or non-HMS students allowed. RSVP and parent permission is required by Friday, February 2. RSVP and registration link: <https://bit.ly/4aN3Tkn>



Interested in volunteering? Click here for an interest link from the PTA -
<https://forms.gle/KBbHHwEwNNYFZnXZ9>

- PTA General Membership Meeting will be held virtually on January 24 at 9:30am
- Please consider signing up to donate concessions for Hoops for Heart Tournament Day. The kids should bring donations to the PE department by Tuesday February 13th. Please use the link to sign up. Thank you! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA4AE2EA4F4C70-47267969-hoops>
- Thanks to all of our amazing business partners!



General Reminders:

- HMS has an email specifically for sending in notes/excuses for student absences. You can email your parent, doctor, dentist, etc. note to HMSAttendance@fultonschools.org. This is not for early dismissal requests. These notes should be sent into the front office with your student in the morning on the day they need to leave early. You do not need to email individual teachers to notify them of an absence.
- If you need to check your child out of school early, **please remember we do not allow checkouts after 3:30!** If they are leaving early, send them in to the Front Office in the morning with a note from you. This makes the whole process easier and more efficient, and prevents us from having to disrupt their class when it's time for them to leave.
- The Front Office closes at 5:00, so please do not expect anyone to answer the phones or be there to buzz you in unless there is an evening activity.

Thanks so much for your support of our school!

Sincerely,

Michael LeMoyne
Principal – Hopewell Middle School

HMS Website - <http://school.fultonschools.org/ms/hopewell/Pages/default.aspx>

Follow me on Twitter - @MichaelLeMoyne

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