



September 2019 Newsletter

Hanson Middle School

<http://www.whrsd.k12.ma.us> On Twitter @HansonMiddleMA

781-618-7575 – Main Office

781-618-7375 – Absentee Line

We are off to a great beginning of the 2019 – 2020 school year. It was very exciting to see all the happy faces coming through the doors on Wednesday morning. In spite of the heat, everyone seems to be adjusting nicely and having newly installed air conditioning is a big plus for students and staff.

September is always a busy month with lots of excitement and activities as we start the New Year. We will be having our open house for parents on Thursday September 5. Please see times and schedule in this newsletter.

Please review the Student Handbook, which can be found on the District Web Page. Please review the bullying policy so that both the parent and student are familiar with the policy.

In this newsletter, you will find information from the school nurse, guidance and the assistant principal. In addition the optional school insurance was sent home and is posted on the school web site.

We are in the process of coming up with activities that will interest the students. We will send the information out to parents and students as soon as it is ready.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Bill



Upcoming Events

Monday September 2

No School - Labor Day

Thursday September 5

Open House/ Meet the teacher

Grade 5 and 6 5:30 - 6:35

Grade 7 and 8 7:00 – 8:05

Friday September 13

5th and 6th grade welcome

dance 5:00- 7:00 pm

Community Events

School Committee Meeting

September 18, 7:00 p.m.

WHSEPAC meeting

September 10, 6-8 pm



New C.I.T.Y Course

As you have seen on your students schedule we are now offering a new course in the related arts block called. C.I.T.Y. This course (Challenges Involving Today's Youth) is a co-taught class with Ms. Storey and the counseling staff. This is part of our ongoing efforts to address the Social and Emotional Learning of our students. The course will meet weekly for approximately 9 weeks. Topics and discussion will be grade level appropriate. Topics may include: Bullying, Self-Image, Internet Safety Community service and responsibility, Team Building activities. Whitman Hanson is part of the CASEL network for Social and Emotional Learning. For more information on Social and Emotional Learning and the CASEL network please watch the short video below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Do1R67Ek0NI>



From Guidance – Ms. Levy and Ms. Sweeney

Welcome back to a new school year! HMS's School Counselors are Ms. Levy (Grades 5 and 6) and Mrs. Sweeney (Grades 7 and 8) and we are here to support your children and you through the Middle School years. If your child is having difficulty with academic, social, or emotional issues, we can help here at school or refer you to outside supports and services. Please don't hesitate to give us a call!

As you help your child adjust to the beginning of the year, please keep in mind that children perform to the best of their abilities when they are well-rested, have eaten a good breakfast, are organized, have a set routine (bedtime, quiet time and place to do homework.) We know how busy life can be and those things can seem nearly impossible at times, but they are good goals to shoot for! It is also so important for kids to be involved in an activity other than academics (musical instrument, drama, sport, etc.) We offer many after-school activities here at school and there are many programs offered through the town. There are typically costs associated with our programs, but please don't ever let a financial hardship be the reason why your child doesn't participate. Give us a call and we'll work things out so your child can participate.

We look forward to working with you and your children this year!



From The Assistant Principal

Morning Drop-off/Afternoon Pick-up:

Students should be prepared for the start of the school day by 7:35 and should be in homeroom by 7:40 to avoid being marked tardy. Students may be dropped off as early as 7:00, but should wait in the cafeteria until the 7:30 bell sounds.

Student safety is always a top priority. Please exercise caution as it can be difficult to see around other vehicles. Be sure not to pass school buses or vans when their red lights are flashing, as doing so jeopardizes safety and is unlawful and subject to fines. Also, please be careful to not block buses when turning into the pick-up/drop-off area, as their visibility as they round the corner by the auditorium is poor.

Please **do not park in the fire lane** or on the roadway beside the auditorium (between the building and the side parking lot). **Parking in the fire lane restricts access to emergency vehicles and access to wheelchair ramps.** Parking beside the auditorium causes bus drivers to have to cross into the left lane, where there is frequently a line of cars waiting in the oncoming traffic lane, making it difficult for buses to safely pass.

After School Activities:

We will be putting together information on after school activities soon. We hope to have information available to students within the next two weeks, with a start date the week of September 25. Please keep an eye on our website and Twitter for updates.

Walking/Riding:

At Hanson Middle we recommend that all students ride the bus or be a car rider to and from school. We do, however, understand that some parents/guardians wish to allow their students to walk or ride a bike to and from school. Middle school students are allowed to walk to and from school with no written or verbal permission from a parent/guardian. The decision to walk or ride a bike is between the student and the parent/guardian. Parents/guardians are reminded that local businesses have asked that students do not hang out in the stores or parking lots. Walking home unsupervised by an adult is a big responsibility and children should take it seriously. If you feel comfortable with your child walking alone, please review the following safety tips with your child.

General safety tips:

- Never talk to strangers and never accept rides from strangers.
- Cross the street only when the sign says walk. If there is not a walk/don't walk sign, then cross only on the green light.

- Watch out for cars making right turns on a red light.
- Always look both ways before crossing the street—look left, look right, look left again—then proceed carefully.
- Walk, don't run across the street.
- Always cross at the corner. Don't cross in the middle of the block or walk in between parked cars.
- Pay attention to traffic sights and sounds. Don't wear headphones or talk on a cell phone on the way to school.
- Stay alert at all times while walking. Accidents can happen when we are not paying attention. Always travel with a friend. Two heads are better than one, especially if there's an emergency. Strangers usually pick on one person, not two.
- If a car follows or beckons you while you are walking, do not approach the car; instead, turn and quickly walk the other direction.
- If you think you are in any danger, yell and run to the nearest store, home or back to school.
- Avoid strangers who seem to be hanging around public restrooms or school campus. Tell your teacher or another adult you trust.
- If you're ever in a situation that makes you feel uncomfortable in any way, you have the right to say no, loudly and clearly, and leave.
- Always stick to the same safe route in going to and coming from school, and never hitchhike!
- If you are approached inappropriately, be sure to report it to an adult and/or call 911 immediately.

Attendance:

Please be sure to review our attendance and tardy policies. Students should be prepared for the start of the school day by 7:35 and should be in homeroom by 7:40 to avoid being marked tardy. If a bus is running late, homeroom teachers will be notified and students will not be marked tardy. Attendance at school is expected of all children on a regular basis. If your child will be absent, please call the school absence line prior to 10:00 A.M. at (781) 618-7375. Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 222 Acts of 2012: The school will notify parents or guardians in the event that a student has missed 5 or more school days, unexcused, in a school year, requesting a meeting to develop action steps for student attendance.

5th and 6th Grade Open House Schedule

Hanson Middle School

September 5, 2019 5:30 – 6:35 pm

5:30 Meet and Greet Parents in the Auditorium

5th Grade

6th Grade

5:55 Homeroom

Block Two

6:05 Homeroom

Block Three

6:15 Homeroom

Block Four

6:25 Homeroom

Block Five

- Parents are to follow their student's **A Day Schedule**. Students are to provide a copy for their parents (They will be given this on Thursday to bring home). Announcements will be made for classroom changes. Time for movement is built into the schedule.
- Related Arts teachers will be available at the beginning evening.
- Each teacher will:
 - Present an overview of the curriculum in subject area, expectations for students in the classroom, homework and grading policies.
 - Answer general questions parents may have.
 - Reminder this is not a parent teacher conference. Parents should contact teachers by email to address any other issue not mentioned above.
 - Open house is for parents only.

7th and 8th Grade Open House Schedule

Hanson Middle School

September 5, 2019 6:00 – 7:30 pm

6:00 Meet and Greet Parents in the Auditorium

8th Grade

7th Grade

6:25 Block One

Block One

6:35 Block Two

Block Three

6:45 Block Five

Block Five

6:55 Block Six

Block Six

- Parents are to follow their student's **A Day Schedule**. Students are to provide a copy for their parents (They will be given this on Thursday to bring home). Announcements will be made for classroom changes. Time for movement is built into the schedule.
- Related Arts teachers will not be available this evening.
- Each teacher will:
 - Present an overview of the curriculum in subject area, expectations for students in the classroom, homework and grading policies.
 - Answer general questions parents may have.
 - Reminder this is not a parent teacher conference. Parents should contact teachers by email to address any other issue not mentioned above.
 - Open House is for parents only.

Whitman-Hanson Regional School District
Office of Special Education

"The Whitman-Hanson Regional School District is in the process of completing a child search in relation to children with special educational needs. If you suspect that your child is in need of special education services, please contact the school principal at the school your child attends or would attend. If you have questions, please contact the Administrator of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services, Ms. Lauren Mathisen at the office of the Superintendent for information about special education programs and the referral process."

SCHOOL NURSE NEWS



WELCOME BACK!!

Did you know that there is a "health services" page on the HMS website? You will find this link under the "students" heading. There is general information about school health services, school handbook policy information, and links for important health and medication forms.

REMINDERS

- Please make sure to complete both sides of the **Annual Student Health Update Form** and return to school as soon as possible.
- Parents of **GRADE 7** students: please send in your child's current physical form and immunization record so I can confirm immunization compliance per state law for all grade 7 students.
- **Medication at school** – The Medication Authorization Form needs to be completed by parent and prescribing doctor in order for me to accept the medicine at school. Please be sure to bring this completed form when dropping off medication to me. Some doctor's may use their own order forms, but the student information and parent section of the Medication Authorization Form still needs to be completed and brought in with the medicine as well. There is a link on the health services site to download this form.

Thank you and as always please contact me with any questions or concerns,

Lisa Godbout, RN, BSN, M.Ed.

Welcome to HMS new staff members

We wish a warm welcome to Ms. Lauren Drosos 7th and 8th Grade English teacher, MS. Christina Lucini Music teacher and Mrs. Kim Wilson 7th and 8th Grade Science, Mr. Alex Schavrein Special Education teacher. Ms. Alicia Horton will be filling in for Mrs. Files until she returns from maternity leave in early October. We are very excited to have these very talented and dedicated individuals on staff.

8th Grade Washington D.C trip

As of September 1, 2019, we have 36 Eighth graders who have enrolled for the Washington D.C trip. Last year at this time we had 6 with a final enrollment of 112. When you sign up for the trip you will be able to pay in monthly installments. The sooner you sign up the lower the monthly payment will be. The cost of the trip is \$1,070 and is all-inclusive. (meals, transportation and lodging). The deadline to enroll is September 30, 2019. Don't wait EF starts booking our excursion in October if you be wait you may be excluded.

How to enroll:

Online:

Go to EFExploreAmerica.com/Enroll and enter our group's tour number: 2266593CE

Phone:

Call the EF Explore America Traveler Support Team at 1-888-333-9756

Helpful Hints for Middle School Families

Set your child up for success this school year with some basic pointers. Suggest that he or she try to follow this checklist, and you will help him or her get off on the right foot:

- Attend school every day unless you are sick
- Get to school on time every day
- Get 8-10 hours sleep each night
- Eat a healthy breakfast each morning
- Pay attention in class
- Write down your assignments for each class in your Agenda book
- Start your projects when you get them
- Complete all your homework on time
- Read for pleasure every day

Food services

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the 2019-2020 school year, we ask that you take a moment and create a free meal account at: www.MyPaymentsPlus.com. Obtaining a free parent account will give you 24/7 access to information such as the balance in your student's school meal account and a record of what he/she has purchased in the cafeteria.

Once your account is created, you can take advantage of other free benefits of the site, such as low-balance e-mail notifications and even the ability to download the free MyPaymentsPlus mobile app, which is available for all iOS (iPhone/iPad) and Android devices. The mobile app will also allow for you to set up push notifications regarding your student's balance.

You can use MyPaymentsPlus website or app to deposit funds directly into your student's cafeteria account using a credit/debit card and electronic check for a small convenience fee. If you prefer auto-payments, you have that ability as well. The system will even allow for you to set the parameters for when you would like an auto-payment to take place.

The MyPaymentsPlus Support Team can be reached Monday-Friday, 7:30-5:30 EST at: (877) 237-0946 or via email at: support@mypaymentsplus.com if you require assistance.

You can also make your payments in your child's school cafeteria. Please make all checks payable to: School Lunch. Our cafeteria staff will apply your payment at no additional charge.

We encourage parents to use the pre-paid options for your children's Breakfast and Lunch Meals.

If your child forgets his/her lunch funds or lunch from home, we will feed your child. However, balances need to be taken care of as soon as possible. We will notify you via email, phone, or letter if you owe any funds. If you are having any financial difficulty, please contact me directly at (781) 618-7477 to see if your family qualifies for assistance.

Thank you for partnering with us in an effort to make managing your student's account easy and the fall transition a smooth one.

Sincerely,

Nadine Doucette
Director of Food Services
Whitman-Hanson Regional School District
781-618-7477
Doucette.nadine@whrsd.org

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

School Council

Are you interested in getting involved with your child's education in another way? If you are, then think about whether you would be interested in joining the Hanson Middle School Council (also called the School Improvement Council). By law, every school is required to have a School Council. The group is made up of parents, teachers, and at least one community member.

The law outlines four major areas of responsibility for councils. School councils are to assist principals in:

1. Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards;
2. Identifying the educational needs of students attending the school;
3. Reviewing the annual school building budget; and
4. Formulating a school improvement plan.

We will meet every other month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, beginning Wednesday, October 9, for about an hour, starting at 3:00 PM, and ending around 4:00 PM

CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN – WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY UPDATING – <http://www.whrsd.k12.ma.us>
Or follow us on twitter @HansonMiddleMA

Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Facilities Management Department

ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION LETTER
For School Year 2019-2020

August 28, 2019

Re: Annual Notification of AHERA Management Plan

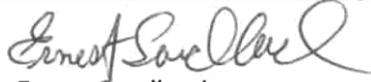
Dear Parents, Teachers, Employee Organizations, Building Occupants and Legal Guardians of Children:

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulations concerning notification of plan availability, please be advised that copies of our District's Asbestos Management Plans are available online at www.whrsd.org under District Departments-> Facilities Services and then selecting Facilities Documents. Plans are also available in our District Central Office during normal operating hours.

The management plans are site-specific guidance documents that the District must follow in managing the asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) present in some of the district schools. The plan is updated to keep it current with on-going operations

and maintenance, periodic inspections and response action activities. In compliance with 40 CFR, 763, subpart E to Appendix C, Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA),

Any inquiries regarding the management of asbestos containing materials in our schools should be directed to our district's AHERA Designated Person, Ernest Sandland, Director of Facilities, who can be reached at Whitman Hanson Regional High School by e-mail at ernest.sandland@whrsd.org and via telephone at 781-618-7435.



Ernest Sandland

Director of Facilities

HMS Student Council Presents

5th and 6th Grade

Welcome Dance!

Music! Games! Movie!
Raffle Prizes!
Raffle Tickets and Snacks
for Purchase!

Who: 5th and 6th grade only!
Date: Friday, September 13th 2019
Time: 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM
Price: \$5.00

STUDENT NAME: _____

STUDENT HOMEROOM: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____

All general school rules apply. Any student who does not follow these rules may be asked to be picked up immediately

Forms and money can be returned to homeroom teacher or at Open House

