

HMS News

April/May 2009

Herndon Middle School

Administrators Article

Spring is almost here and I can feel the excitement as we anticipate this school year ending and a new year beginning. It seems like we've just started and in a blink, it will be June.

The fourth quarter will be packed with activities and challenges. The 8th grade students visit Herndon High School on April 24th. Our current 7th graders are getting ready for their new role as the "upper classmen" in middle school and our 6th grade elementary students will visit in June to get their first tour of the building. Amidst all the excitement, we administer the very important SOL exams beginning the week of May 18th. **You can keep track of all these activities by looking at the calendar attached to the newsletter and checking the HMS website regularly.**

We have several transition activities planned. In addition to the school visits, our counselors will also visit elementary schools to and talk to students about the middle school program. In late May and June I will also visit each elementary school to have a **class meeting** with the graduating 6th grade class. I can't wait to meet all our new 7th grade students. The dates for all these events are also on the HMS Calendar.

As I talk to parents and teachers and our students services and guidance staff they all want to know how we will ensure students are placed in the right classes when they transition to a new grade at Herndon Middle School. We all need to work together to make the best decisions for our students so that they are challenged in their academics and supported according to what skills and knowledge they have developed. In order to inform our parents about the course offerings and academic program I will host two **"Curriculum Coffees"** at Herndon Middle School. The information session for rising 7th grade parents is scheduled for April 22nd from 9:00 to 10:30 and the session for rising 8th grade parents is scheduled for April 30 from 9:00 - 10:30. We will discuss the core academic requirements, core curriculum frameworks and the honors program. I will have teachers presenting information on specific core areas and there will be time for questions and discussion.

I am very excited about meeting with parents at our school and providing an opportunity for our wonderful teachers to talk about

the curriculum and phenomenal educational program we have at Herndon Middle School.

Justine Klena, Principal

SCA News

Talent Show- April 29 during school

Talent Show Practice 4/20, 4/23 & 4/27

Spirit Day 4/29 Sunglasses Day

Spirit Day 5/29 Wacky Tacky Day

Chorus News

On Friday, March 13, the Herndon Middle School Select Men's Choir and Select Women's Choir performed at the District XII Choral Festival at McLean High School. They performed for a panel of 3 judges as well as several other music faculty and students. Their performance consisted of a series of prepared music and a short sight-reading passage. Both the Men's Choir and the Women's Choir performed very well, and had prepared some difficult pieces. They received a rating of II (the second-highest possible) for their prepared songs, and a rating of I (the highest possible) for their sight-reading. On another note, they were complimented highly on their conduct and demeanor both upon entry to the festival (when another group was performing) and later in the audience. They truly represented Herndon Middle School and made the director and chaperones proud.

Congratulations Choirs!

College Partnership Program (CCP)

College Partnership Program has two more meeting dates left for this school year:

- 1) April 15
- 2) May 13

PTA Information

We are nearing the end of the school year! SOLs are close to completion, end of year projects are being assigned and the HMS PTA Board are working fast and furiously toward the end of year activities.

Although our second semester Touching Bases was cancelled due to inclement weather, I hope you reached out to your child's teachers to discuss any concerns or issues you may have had. It is important to understand Touching Bases serves as one of the many vehicles Herndon Middle School offers for parents and teachers to communicate. Feel free to contact teachers via email or telephone at any time to keep a finger on the pulse of your student's progress.

Middle school goes so fast; it is a huge transition for rising 7th graders, while the 8th graders seem to have forgotten how difficult their previous year was. Every spring brings activities to prepare the 8th graders for high school and their completion of middle school. The first of these many activities is the 8th Grade Career Day on March 24th. Many thanks go to Laura Cudahy, Committee Chair, who has worked tirelessly to make this Career Day a success. I'd also like to thank those that have volunteered their time to be on the panel and to the Hospitality Committee for providing lunch.

Lastly we are in the process of planning the 8th grade dance. Please look for additional information from the Dance committee. This year, unlike any other in recent years, we are in desperate need of parental donations and contributions. If you are interested in learning more please feel free to contact me or Courtney Linden.

The HMS PTA Board is accepting nominations for next year's PTA Board. We have many, many positions, some requiring greater time commitments and others requiring minimal time. The PTA is an integral part of the HMS community, please consider joining.

With kindest regards,

Kerri Gilmore Mesiah
PTA President
kgmesiah@gmail.com

HMS Band News

Congratulations to our band students for their fine performances at the District 12 Band Festival held on March 6th & 7th at Marshall High School. The Concert and Symphonic Bands played 3 prepared pieces and 1 sight-reading piece for a panel of 4 band judges. The judges awarded the Symphonic Band an Excellent rating and the Concert Band a Superior rating. Way to go, HMS bands!

Summer Band Camp

Have you started thinking about how your child is going to spend his/her summer? How about band camp?

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to continue playing, and polish skills they've worked hard to acquire during the school year. Students will gain confidence for next year, and interact with like-minded students. Here is some basic information concerning two of our local and reasonably priced camps:

Franklin Band Camp – to be held at Franklin MS, Monday through Friday, June 24 - July 17, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$165 if paid before June 12th, \$175 after that. Go to www.fcps.edu/FranklinMS for an application form and more details.

Some additional information on Franklin Music Camp:
Students have the opportunity to study the following instruments:
All brass, woodwinds, percussion and string Instruments

The camp is offered to the following Band and String students:
Grades 3rd – 10th
Beginning Band / Orchestra
Cadet Band / Orchestra
Concert Band / Orchestra
Symphonic Band / Orchestra

Activities:

Four classes daily
Two ensemble classes
One instrument class (equal to a private lesson)
One sectional class
Two master Classes with professional musicians
Lunch from 11:00 – 11:30

All students receive a camp t-shirt
Final concert featuring all performing ensembles July 17th

There are also application forms in the band room and your child is welcome to take one. Please consider this great opportunity!
Sharon J. Bonneau, Director of Bands, HMS

April	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 3 rd Grading Period Ends	3 Teacher Work Day	4
	5	6 Spring Break	7 Spring Break	8 Spring Break	9 Spring Break	10 Spring Break	11
	12	13	14	15 CCP 2:30 Café Drama Club 7:00 PM	16 Spelling Bee Practice 2:30 Auditorium Drama Club 7:00 PM Auditorium	17 3Q Report Cards Dist Spring Portraits	18
	19	20	21 Osprey's Field Trip	22 7 th Grade Curriculum Coffee 9:00 AM Spelling Bee 7:00 PM	23 PTA Pyramid Luncheon 11:30 AM Talent Show Practice 2:30 Pm	24 SCA Spirit Day HHS Orientation	25
	26	27	28 Chorus Concert 7:00 PM	29 Talent Show Practice 2:30 PM	30 8 th Grade Curriculum Coffee 9:00 AM		

May	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
							1 Music Dept Field Trip Pelican Field Trip	2
	3	4	5 Orchestra Concert SOL Training	6 8 th Gr Honor Roll 8:00 AM NJHS Practice 2:30 PTA 7:00 PM Library SOL Training	7 7 th Gr Honor Roll 8:00 AM NJHS Practice 2:30 SOL Training	8 SOL Training Klena visits Aldrin	9	
	10	11	12 Band Concert 7:00 PM	13 CCP 2:30 Café NJHS Practice 2:30	14 NJHS Induction 2:30	15	16	
	17	18 SOL Window	19 SOL Window	20 SOL Window	21 SOL Window Klena visits Clearview	22 SOL Window	23	
	24	25 Memorial Day	26 SOL Window	27 SOL Window Klena visits Dranesville	28 SOL Window	29 SOL Window SCA Spirit Day	30	
	31							

