

June 2009

Herndon Middle School

Administrators Article

This is our final newsletter for the year and it contains important information for our rising seventh and eighth grade students. We congratulate all our students who have successfully completed the year at Herndon Middle School and we wish the Class of 2013 well as they begin high school next year.

This year our staff worked together on several initiatives. We focused on our bell schedule and the use of time through out the year. Next year we will have a new bell schedule. (A copy is attached.) Our start time which was changed by the school board in May will be 7:53 and our day will end at 2:51. There will be a 30 minute period during the school day which will be designed to support students and recognize students in good standing.

Our school is also making changes in our communication plan. We will publish the Newsletter on line only except for the first and last edition. In addition, we send out frequent announcements via Keep in Touch and we have daily announcements distributed to parents in our *Hawk Crier* email. This spring we hosted a *Curriculum Coffee* for each grade level and we plan more opportunities for parents to come to the school and hear important information from the teachers. We are currently planning how our teachers will use the electronic *IGPro Progress Report* feature of our grading system to communicate more detailed and frequent information regarding the student's learning and status.

The end of the year is a time when we show our appreciation to those who have worked hard to make the school a wonderful place especially those who are moving on due to retirement or the end of their tenure. A big thank you to our PTA, led by president Kerri Mesiah who stepped up to the position at the last minute and has been a positive a supportive partner all year.

Finally, as we get ready for next year we have planned several opportunities for students to participate in preparation classes for our advanced academics program and Jump Start classes for students to make a smooth

transition to middle school. We've attached a flyer for your information and encourage you to contact us if you believe your child would benefit.

As always, we encourage your participation and partnership with the teachers, counselors and administrative staff at Herndon Middle School. We are all committed to the success of every student. Enjoy the summer, thank you for a great year and we look forward to a wonderful new beginning in September.

Clinic End of Year Procedures

PARENTS WHOSE STUDENTS HAVE

MEDICATIONS IN THE CLINIC: You will be getting a letter during the beginning of June reminding you to pick up meds from the clinic. We urge you to make time for this end of year task. Please note that we CANNOT keep medicines in the clinic during the summer. If they are not picked up, they WILL BE DESTROYED. If you want your student to have medications in school next year, you may download the necessary forms from <http://www.fcps.edu/forms.htm>. You can click on the name of the form that you need and print it out.

NJHS News

Did you know that we have 26 eighth graders and 46 seventh graders who have made the National Junior Honor Society? Did you also know that the NJHS is more than just an honor roll? The Honor Society chapter establishes rules for membership that are based upon a student's outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character (plus citizenship for NJHS). These criteria for selection form the foundation upon which the organization and its activities are built. Congrats to all those who have made this prestigious mark!



SCA News

The 8th grade dance is June 12 from 2:20-5:30 in the cafeteria. Tickets can be purchased during lunches from June 1st-9th. The theme is “Surf’s Up”. Students are to meet in the main gym with all their belongings.

Dress Attire: Casual tropical wear. Floral shirts or dresses, shorts and even Flip flops! (still following dress code minus the flip flop rule)

Guidance Department Request

Moving? Please bring in proof of your new address – copy of deed or lease agreement, and fill out a new Emergency Care Information Form and a Student Information Update Form. HMS needs accurate information when trying to contact you! Likewise, if your phone numbers change (home, work, cell) then please let us know about the new numbers. You can update this information directly on line through the Keep In Touch web site.

Keep In Touch (KIT)

The FCPS Keep in Touch (KIT) system now offers users the opportunity to receive specific topics, community outreach messages, and information about specific schools via a subscription service. Messages received from the subscription service will be in addition to the KIT messages you are already receiving.

Additionally, parents can use this service to update contact information for your children in FCPS schools. If you currently have a student moving from one school to another, your KIT membership will automatically move to the new school. For more information and to sign up, please use the link below:

<http://www.fcps.edu/kit/>

Community Service Information

Did you know that all 8th graders must complete community service hours in order to graduate to 9th grade? Did you know that the commitment of community service hours continues through High School? HMS has several avenues for the kids to obtain their hours; there is a link on the HMS web site listing current opportunities. HMS has several opportunities “in house” that students can participate in as well: Paper Recycling, Bottle & Can Recycling, Green Team, After School Tutoring w/ Mike Thomas' program, Mr. Dim's Bike Club, and teacher/staff-initiated projects

Basic School Supply List

3 ring binder and paper, #2 pencils, colored pencils, pocket folder, ball point pens. Once in class, teacher will inform students of additional supplies for class.

Last Chance for Yearbook!

The cost for this year’s yearbook is now \$40. Unfortunately we are no longer able to offer name stamps for the cover. We will most likely run out of yearbooks this year, as we have had to decrease the number of books ordered from our vendor. Please make sure your child is not left out when books are delivered in the spring. Thank you very much for your support!

We look forward to delivering another fantastic HMS Yearbook in June!!

Mark These Dates

- Fall student **Orientation, Sept. 2nd**, 9am – 11am (for rising 7th grade students)
- **Open house, Sept. 2nd**, 4pm – 6pm (for rising 7th and families)
- **First day of school** for the 2009–2010 school year is **September 8th**.
- Herndon Middle **back to school night** is **Sept. 17th** at 7pm

HMS Orientation and Open House

Open House is scheduled for September 2nd from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Parents and students are invited to walk the hallways and get the “lay of the land”. Counselors and Administrators will be on hand, but our teachers will be busy planning for the students and may be away from the building.

Rules, Rules & More Rules

Being in Middle School means more independence for your child, but the SR&R still applies. Students sign the SR&R (Student’s Rights and Responsibilities) contract at the start of each school year. This lists out all the rules for attending HMS and FCPS schools. Below is a short list of the most common issues we encounter here at HMS.

Dress Code: (the basics:) no flip flops, no baggy jeans, skirts and shorts must be longer than finger tip length, no exposed spaghetti straps, no depictions of weapons, alcohol or drugs on clothing, no see-through clothing, no tube-tops, no cleavage or belly exposure. For a more information see the SR&R Manual.

Bus Behavior: HMS expects your child to speak in a reasonable tone, using appropriate language while sitting on any bus in FCPS. Students may ride only their assigned buses, and only use their assigned bus stop.

Ipods and Cell Phones: HMS understands that there is a need for technology devices; however, they are to be turned off and put away during the school day. Lockers should not be considered a “safe” storage place for these devices. These devices will be taken away by faculty members if a student has them out and uses them during the school day. Only a parent may come and retrieve these items in person.

End of the School Day: Walking students leave through the front doors (Exit 1). Bus riders leave through the rear of the building (Exit 6). Once a student leaves the building at the end of the day, they may only return via the front doors (Exit 1). Students participating in afterschool activities may not leave the building and then return.

Kiss & Ride: This drop off point is located in the rear parking lot at HMS. We encourage students to use the bus service. There are specific driving directions and the town of Herndon does forbid certain left turns during school drop off times. For a map of the Kiss and Ride, visit the HMS web site, under the New To HMS link.

Tardy Policy: If a student is late to class/school a second time in one quarter (we give you one late admit per quarter), the student will receive a Monday, 1-hour detention. Each offence beyond that acquires another detention for a longer period of time.

Zero Tolerance for Bullying/Harassment: HMS will not tolerate any form of bullying or harassment. Students can be expelled for such behavior. If your student experiences bullying or harassment of any kind, report it to the main office.

For an electronic copy of the SR&R click below.

<http://www.fcps.edu/ss/StudentServices/SRNR/>

Lunch Accounts

HMS uses www.mylunchmoney.com to recharge lunch credit cards. Students may also use cash to purchase lunches. Like Elementary Schools, students get a choice of what to purchase for lunch, however, there are more choices. Using My Lunch Money.com, parents can specify what types of foods their student can purchase.

Summer Assignments

Aside from the FCPS Summer Reading List, students at HMS are assigned Summer Assignments. The HMS Web Site has a link for summer assignments (yes, 7th graders have one too!)

Adjusting to Middle School – it’s not just for kids!

For many students the middle school experience is full of social and emotional changes. The children your child meets in 7th grade will continue on in school as a graduating class as HMS is the only feeder school for HHS. Patience and tolerance are expected from our students, these practices can best be modeled at home from parents. Students also begin to experience self-responsibility for their homework and grades. HMS staff is here to help you all make that adjustment.

Bell Schedule

The bell schedule for all Middle Schools will change in the 2009-2010 school year. HMS will begin classes at 7:53 AM. The bell schedule has been attached for your reference. (see page 5). We will have rotation days and non-rotation days. On rotation days, students will meet with 6 of their 7 classes. The missed class is made up on the next day—this is relatively easy for the students to follow, however parents often find it confusing. Regardless of rotation or non-rotation days, all students will have lunch and Intervention Time.

New Intervention Program Soon At HMS

Next year HMS will implement a rigorous academic intervention and rewards program aimed at keeping struggling students up to speed on a continual basis. A committee will develop the framework over the summer, and we will send out more detailed information in September.

How Do Parents Keep Up With HMS Events?

Elementary school children get information sent home with them weekly. This does not happen at the Middle School level nor at the High School level. Generally, parents are going to be left in the dark about events if you have to rely on your Middle Schooler to get you the information. The best suggestion we can give you is to sign up or Keep In Touch, and check the Herndon Middle School web page often.

Summer Program Update

Herndon Middle and Herndon High School will offer several programs to rising 7th, 8th and 9th graders this summer. All of the programs are designed with a specific purpose.

Course offerings include the following:

Herndon High School

Rising 9th Grade Summer Intervention Program
ESOL Biology Prep class

Herndon Middle School

Rising 7th, 8th & 9th Grade Summer Intervention Programs
Rising 7th Grade **JUMPSTART** Camp
Rising 7th Grade Honors Math Prep Program
Rising 8th Grade Algebra Prep Program

There are different requirements for each of these programs. With the exception of JUMPSTART, students who qualify for these programs will receive information in the mail.

There are a limited number of spaces in each of the programs, so you should register your child promptly.

If you would like to sign your 6th grader (rising 7th grader) up for **JUMPSTART**, registration forms are located at your child's elementary school.

If you have questions, please contact Jeannine Cotner at jmcotner@fcps.edu or 703-904-4817.

From The Library Circ Desk

We've had a very busy and productive year in the library at HMS. Students and staff checked out more than 14,000 books and materials this year (only through March!). An average of 3 classes came to the library for research or reading lessons every day. The Poetry Café on April 23, with nationally known poet Kwame Alexander, parent/poet Mike Maggio, students and teachers, was an exciting event held after school. Many students shared their own poetry while enjoying snacks in celebration of poetry month.

Special thanks to Mrs. Paul for her hard work and dedication to the library. We could not have survived without the help of our amazing parent volunteers, especially Suzanne Bernard, Sue Altschuler, and Elaine Vollaro. We always welcome parent volunteers' help in the

library. Please contact Peggy Linski at 703-904-4822 or Margaret.linski@fcps.edu

Also, thank you to Ryan Hartmeyer, Herndon High School student intern, who helped us with computer projects and materials processing during the spring semester.

We look forward to seeing rising 7th and 8th graders during library orientation in September. Congratulations and good luck to graduating 8th graders. Remember to keep reading and use the library!

If you're looking for some great books to read this summer here are some of our favorites that we've read this year:

Realistic Fiction: Firegirl by Tony Abbott and Hurricane by Terry Trueman

Fantasy: The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman and Airborn by Kenneth Oppel

Mystery: The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd and The White Gates by Bonnie Ramthun

Science Fiction: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins and Unwind by Neal Shusterman

Historical Fiction: Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson and Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson

Non-Fiction: Chew on This! Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food by Eric Schlosser and Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortensen

Mrs. Linski and Mrs. Ruffle

Herndon Band News

On May 1st, the Concert and Symphonic Bands performed at the "Musical" music festival in Williamsburg, VA. After the students completed their performances, they went to Busch Gardens Amusement Park to enjoy several hours of fun and to participate in a Music Awards Ceremony. This very special event is a great band competition experience and the kids had a terrific time!

The Concert Band received an "Excellent" rating and placed 2nd in Division 1C. Symphonic Band was rated "Superior" and placed 1st in their Division, 1D. They were also awarded the GRAND CHAMPIONS of the festival! Adrian (clarinet), Lauren (french horn), Kathryn (flute), and Margaret (oboe), all members of the Symphonic Band, won Outstanding Soloist Awards.

All of the HMS bands performed wonderfully in the Spring Band Concert on May 12th. The final event of the year will be the Band Celebration and Awards Ceremony on June 3rd at 7:00pm. This event will feature a culminating

performance by our Jazz Band, along with awards presentations and a reception. Invitations have been sent home with band students and replies are due by May 29th. Congratulations to the entire band program for yet another extremely successful and musical year!



Generous Herndon Rotary Contribution

The Herndon Rotary Club recently donated a four octave Musser Marimba to our band program. This beautiful instrument will be a wonderful addition to our percussion sound and will be performed on for many years to come. Mr. Arthur Nachman, the Rotary's President, personally gave an additional gift so that we will be able to purchase a large variety of mallets to use with the marimba.

Herndon Middle School Bell Schedule 2009-2010

Non-Rotation Day Bell Schedule								
	Time Frame							
	7:53-8:40	class 1						
	8:45-9:30	class 2						
	9:35-10:20	class 3						
	10:25-11:10	class 4						
	11:15-12:45	class 5						<i>(or lunch/intervention)</i>
<i>A Lunch/B Intervention</i>	<i>11:10-11:40</i>							
<i>B Lunch/A Intervention</i>	<i>11:40-12:10</i>							
<i>C Lunch/D Intervention</i>	<i>12:10-12:40</i>							
<i>D Lunch/C Intervention</i>	<i>12:40-1:10</i>							
	1:15-2:00	class 6						
	2:05-2:51	class 7						
Rotation Day Bell Schedule								
	Time Frame	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
	7:53-8:50	class 2	class 1	class 1	class 1	class 1	class 1	class 1
	8:55-9:50	class 3	class 3	class 2	class 2	class 2	class 2	class 2
	9:55-10:50	class 4	class 4	class 4	class 3	class 3	class 3	class 3
	10:55-12:50	class 5	class 5	class 5	class 5	class 4	class 4	class 4 <i>(or lunch/intervention)</i>
<i>A Lunch/B Intervention</i>	<i>10:50-11:20</i>							
<i>B Lunch/A Intervention</i>	<i>11:20-11:50</i>							
<i>C Lunch/D Intervention</i>	<i>11:50-12:20</i>							
<i>D Lunch/C Intervention</i>	<i>12:20-12:50</i>							
	12:55-1:50	class 6	class 6	class 6	class 6	class 6	class 5	class 5
	1:55-2:51	class 7	class 7	class 7	class 7	class 7	class 7	class 6

An easy way to think about it: You drop the one class that the day is named after. In other words, on Day 4 you drop your 4th class; on Day 7 you drop your 7th class.

A&B Lunches are 8th grade lunches; B&C Lunches are 7th grade lunches. If you are not at lunch, you report to the class listed in the schedule.

**Going to Herndon Middle School this September?
Free program specially designed for new 7th graders!**

Get a jumpstart on this new experience!

Find out what middle school is all about!

Jumpstart Camp

at

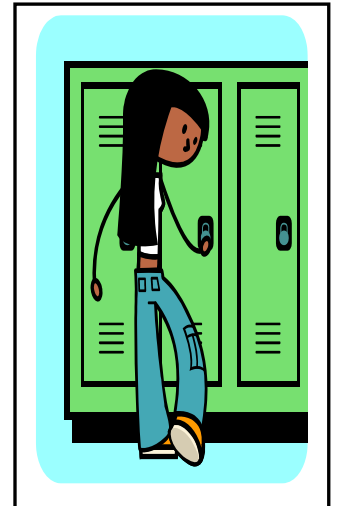
Herndon Middle School

August 3-7

August 10-14

August 17-21

**One week sessions
7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**



Learn Strategies
for a smooth
transition to
Middle School.

Learn where
everything is
located before
school starts.

Learn how to
open your lockers
before the first
day of school.

**Do You Want to Help Your Child Enjoy Middle School?
Do You Want to Boost Your Child's Confidence?
Would Your Child Benefit From Improving Math and Literacy Skills?
Give Your Child a Head Start on Time Management and Study Skills!**

All of these are critical for Middle School Success!

Limited Space!

**Registration forms can be obtained at Herndon Middle School, the HMS
Website or your elementary school.**

**For more information, contact Mr. Mike Thomas at 703-904-4819 or
Jeannine Cotner at Jeannine.Cotner@fcps.edu or 703-904-4800.**

Summer Reading Program

Possible Titles for Summer Reading for Middle School English

When school begins, English teachers will give students time to reflect on their summer reading through discussion and brief writing assignments. Books are available in the schools, public libraries and local bookstores. This is not the complete list of books from FCPS, it is merely our recommendations. Additionally, we encourage students to supplement their reading with newspapers and magazines.

Virginia Readers Choice 05-06

Eragon; Christopher Paolini
Granny Torrelli Makes Soup; Sharon Creech
A Mango-Shaped Space; Wendy Mass
Milkweed; Jerry Spinelli
Olive's Ocean; Kevin Henkes
Riding the Flume; Patricia Curtis Pfitsch
River Between Us; Richard Peck
So B. It; Sarah Weeks
Wish List; Eoin Colfer
The Young Man and the Sea; Rodman Philbrick

Virginia Readers Choice 06-07

Becoming Naomi; Pam Munoz Ryan
Al Capone Does My Shirts; Gennifer Choldenko
Blue Fingers: A Ninja's Tale; Cheryl Whitesel
Chasing Vermeer; Blue Balliett
Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery; John Feinstein
The Sea of Trolls; Nancy Farmer
The Trial; Jennifer Bryant
The Teacher's Funeral; Richard Peck
Worth; A. LaFaye
The Outcasts of Schuyler Place; E.L. Konigsburg

Virginia Readers Choice 07-08

Blood on the River: James Town 1607; Elisa Carbone
Code Talker; Joseph Bruchac
Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue; Julius Lester
Free Baseball; Sue Corbett
Ghost Girl: A Blue Ridge Mountain Story; Delia Ray
Lightning Thief; Rick Riordan
Lizzie Bright & the Buckminster Boy; Gardy D. Schmidt
Sacrifice; Kathleen Benner Duple
Shakespeare's Secret; Elise Broach
Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time; Lisa Yee

Virginia Readers Choice 08-09

Adam Canfield of the Slash; Michael Winerip
Airborn; Kenneth Oppel
Black Duck; Janet Taylor Lisle
Blue; Joyce Moyer Hosstetter
Hattie Big Sky; Kirby Lawson
Hitler's Canary; Sandi Toksvig
La Linea; Ann Jaramillo

The Loud Silence of Francine Green; Karen Cushman
The Mailbox; Audrey Shafer
Surviving Antartica: Reality TV 2083; Andrea White

Recommended Authors:

Sharon Draper
Sharon Flake
Carl Hiaasen
Louis Lowry
Walter Dean Myers
Jerry Spinelli

Recommended Series:

Redwall; Brian Jacques
Traveling Pants; Ann Brashers
Beacon Street; Annie Bryant
A Series of Unfortunate Events; Lemony Snicket

8th Grade Honors Students are to read at least on book from the Battle of the Books booklist on the school homepage, as well as one from this list:

Shabanu; Staples
Red Scarf Girl; Jiang
Daniel Half Human; Chotjewitz
Summer of My German Soldier; Greene
Chinese Cinderella; Mah
Before We Were Free; Alvarez
Farewell to Manzanar; Houston
A Gathering of Old Men; Gaines
Homeless Bird; Whelan
Cuba 15; Osa
Children of the River; Crew
Lupita Manana; Beatty
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry; Taylor

The Honors students should take careful notes on the elements of fiction (below) in the chosen book and be prepared for the writing assignment to be completed in class the first week of school.

Genre, Narration, Characterization, Setting, Plot, Crisis/Conflict, Initiating Event; Point of View, Theme, Author's tone

	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1 Late Bus Day	2 Mrs. Klena to Herndon ES Foreign Language Finals	3 Late Bus Day Foreign Language Finals Battle of the Books 2:30 Band Awards 7:00 PM	4 Late Bus Day Foreign Language Finals Mrs. Klena to Hutchinson ES Drama Performance 7:00 PM	5 Foreign Language Finals	6
	7	8 Late Bus Day SRI Testing Drama Performance 7:00 PM	9 SRI Testing Drama Performance 7:00 PM	10 Late Bus Day SRI Testing Mrs. Klena to Armstrong PTA Meeting Café 7:00	11 Last Late Bus Day SRI Testing Rising 7 th Orientation Mrs. Klena to McNair Chorus Concert 7:00 PM	12 SRI Testing Rising 7 th Orientation SCA Spirit Day 8 th Grade Dance 2:30 to 5:30	13
	14	15 Algebra & Geom Finals SRI Testing 7 th Grade Team Day 8 th Grade Locker Clean Out HHS Graduation	16 Algebra & Geom Finals SRI Testing 7 th Grade Locker Clean Out	17 8 th Grade Team Day HMS Awards Ceremony 7:00 PM	18 Early Release 10:00ish	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30				

June