



# HORACE MANN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

JULY, 2009

**WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL**—This important back to school issue of our newsletter contains information you will need!!!!

**YOUR CHILD'S TEAM PLACEMENT:** Your child's homeroom placement and foreign language is on the mailing label of this newsletter—Match the homeroom number to your child's placement on page 5 of this newsletter.

**WE HAVE SPENT MANY, MANY HOURS CAREFULLY PLACING STUDENTS ON TEAMS:** Please do not ask us to change placements at this time. While your child may not be with all of his/her friends, the goal at the middle level is for students to make new friends. Students will have opportunities to be with their friends at lunch time and many of their special classes.

**START/END TIMES:** School begins officially at 7:25 a.m. However, because of the heavy traffic patterns, we encourage parents to drop students off beginning at 7:00 a.m. Mr. Parnell supervises students inside until it is time to go to classes. We begin dismissing bus students first at 1:55, followed by walkers and students being picked up at approximately 2:00 p.m.

PLEASE . . . Follow the pick up and drop off patterns—**DO NOT DROP STUDENTS OFF IN THE PARKING LOT OR ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE SCHOOL**—The line flows smoothly and is set up for safety and fairness.

We do not allow students to walk to the high school access road to be picked up by older siblings—This is dangerous and not acceptable.

**BUS PASSES:** Sixth graders who live beyond two miles from school do not pay for busing.

ALL OTHER STUDENTS MUST PAY (Please contact Lisa Bassignani at 508-553-4831 for transportation information).

All students who ride buses must carry a bus pass with a student photograph. Bus passes will be administered at HMMS beginning the week of August 24th.

**SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM:** We encourage all parents to pay ahead by check as the school lunch program is now automated. Makes things go very smoothly when students are paid in advance. You may purchase for the week/month or just send in money for a certain amount of lunches. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE** to the “Franklin School Lunch Program”. Prices at the middle school level remain the same:

Lunch: \$2.50, Milk: \$.50, Ice Cream: \$.75 or \$1.00.

We will send home information about free and reduced lunch options on the first day of school. Forms will also be available online.

**SUPPLIES:** The following is a suggested supply list. Individual teachers may suggest additional supplies—but these are basic:

Colored pocket folders—one each of Yellow, Red, Blue and Green. Each academic subject folder is the same color for the three years of middle school—Yellow for English/Language Arts; Red for Social Studies; Blue for Math and Green for Science.

One additional color folder for special subjects (Tech Ed.; Health; Computer).

A large binder—three or four inch—to contain the folders and the homework planner (which is provided for all students).

**DRESS CODE:** As this is the time when you may be purchasing back to school clothes, please keep our dress code in mind:

- No short shorts or skirts
- No underwear (straps) exposed
- No bare midriffs
- No low-cut tops
- No pajamas, slippers or curlers

**HEALTH ISSUES:** Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires all seventh graders to have had an adult tetanus shot before entry into the seventh grade. The immunization is due by the start of school. A physical form from a doctor is also needed in seventh grade with proof of scoliosis screening.

**CUSTODY ISSUES:** Please let us know about any/all restraining orders or pertinent custody issues. We encourage both parents to be involved in your child’s education. A non-custodial parent, according to Massachusetts General Law, must simply request in writing all student record information. This includes progress reports and report card transcripts.

**COMMUNICATION WITH US:**

Please check our web site daily for important information about upcoming events.

**CONNECT ED:** In the event of any emergency, the Franklin Public Schools relies on Connect Ed, a program that makes it possible to relay information to your home phone, cell phone, place of work, etc. It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that you update information if numbers have changed!!

**REPORTING ABSENCES: PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY** (before 7:45 a.m.) if your child is not going to be in school on any day—or if he/she will be late. The number to report absences is—508-541-6230—THEN DIAL 1. If you do not call, we assume your child was sent to school, but did not arrive!! **PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CALL!!!**

**EARLY DISMISSALS:** If you are planning to have your child dismissed during the day, please send in a note to the office specifying the time for dismissal. We will provide your child with an office pass to come to the office in time for your arrival. This will allow us to avoid spending huge amounts of time tracking students throughout the building.

**MESSAGES FOR YOUR CHILD:** If you need to get a message to your child during the day, please call us before lunchtime so that we may send the message to your child in the cafeteria and avoid interrupting valuable class time.

**FORGOTTEN HOMEWORK, PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLOTHES, ETC.** We do not interrupt classes to call students to the office to pick up these items. They are welcome to come by the office between classes to see if the items have been dropped off.

**ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL BE BRINGING THIS INFORMATION HOME FOR YOUR RESPONSE:**

- ◆ A form indicating you have read the Student Handbook information relative to Massachusetts General Law, School Committee policy and specific regulations/policies for Horace Mann Middle School. This form must be signed by you and your child indicating you have reviewed the handbook information.
- ◆ Information card for the school nurse—hoping to have everyone's e-mail address, so that we may have a quick way to get out pertinent information to everyone (that is not of an emergency nature)

- ◆ Information card for the office.
- ◆ Information about free and reduced lunch.
- ◆ Permission to allow us to videotape student activities involving your child.

**SUMMER READING:** Please remind your child about our summer reading requirement. There is a special celebration for our students who read 8 books or 1500 pages. THE SUMMER READING LOG SHOULD BE HANDED IN TO STUDENT'S ENGLISH TEACHERS—NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 4TH.

### **OTHER REMINDERS:**

WE ALLOW CELL PHONES TO BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL—BUT these must be locked in student lockers during the day. A gentle suggestion, increasingly students are “texting” until well into the night—might be a good idea for your children to “park” his/her phone with you at night—too tempting, too addicting!!!

Please, in scheduling vacations, do not schedule on school days—We have only 180 days . . . PLEASE SUPPORT US ON THIS ONE!!!

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### **LOOKING FOR LEGO PIECES!**

If you come across any amount of Lego pieces and you are in a quandary as to what to do with them, please think of the Lego Club at Horace Mann Middle School. We are always looking for Lego pieces—a shoe box full or trash bags full. The Legos can be as mixed as can be. Our creative geniuses search for just the right piece to enhance their individual master pieces. Any and all Lego pieces will be welcome.

## HOMEROOM NUMBERS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE SELECTION ARE LOCATED ON THE MAILING LABEL ON THE FRONT OF THIS NEWSLETTER

### GRADE 6 CLUSTER PLACEMENTS:

#### TEAM ONE—MS. FOSTER (FORMERLY MS. SPARKS)/MS. GARSKE

ROOM 1 .....	MS. FOSTER
ROOM 3 .....	MS. GARSKE

#### TEAM TWO—MR. COREY/MS. JAKEL

ROOM 2 .....	MS. JAKEL
ROOM 4 .....	MR. COREY

#### TEAM THREE—MS. METRICK/MR. VACCA

ROOM 6 .....	MR. VACCA
ROOM 9 .....	MS. METRICK

#### TEAM FOUR—MS. LANGMEYER/MS. RENAUD

ROOM 5 .....	MS. RENAUD
ROOM 7 .....	MS. LANGMEYER

### GRADE 8 CLUSTER PLACEMENTS:

#### TEAM ONE—BERGER, CALHOUN, NELLIGAN AND RIDLEY:

ROOM 117 .....	MS. BERGER
ROOM 120 .....	MR. CALHOUN
ROOM 121 .....	MR. NELLIGAN
ROOM 115 .....	MS. RIDLEY

#### TEAM TWO—TBA, TBA, GOLBURGH AND SVEDEN

ROOM 127 .....	TBA
ROOM 123 .....	TBA
ROOM 124 .....	MS. GOLBURGH
ROOM 126 .....	MS. SVEDEN

### GRADE 7 CLUSTER PLACEMENTS:

#### TEAM ONE—ACKLEY, D'ENTREMONT, SCHLIEFKE AND SCOTT:

ROOM 141 .....	MR. SCHLIEFKE
ROOM 139 .....	MS. ACKLEY
ROOM 144 .....	MR. D'ENTREMONT
ROOM 142 .....	MS. SCOTT

#### TEAM TWO—DONALDSON, FORMAN, GARR AND MCGOVERN

ROOM 140 .....	MR. GARR
ROOM 137 .....	MS. DONALDSON
ROOM 138 .....	MR. MCGOVERN
ROOM 135 .....	MS. FORMAN

**IMPORTANT DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:**

<b>September 1</b>	First day of school for students
<b>September 4</b>	Reading logs due Nurse card information due Signed handbook and video permission forms due
<b>September 7</b>	Labor Day—no school
<b>September 10</b>	School pictures
<b>September 17</b>	Parent Information Evening—6:30 to 8:00 p.m.—PARENTS/GUARDIANS ONLY—not for students
<b>September 21</b>	Professional Development Day—students dismissed at 10:40 a.m.
<b>September 28</b>	Yom Kippur—No School
<b>October 12</b>	Columbus Day—No School
<b>October 26</b>	Professional Development Day—students dismissed at 10:40
<b>November 3</b>	Full day Professional Development—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
<b>November 11</b>	Veterans Day—No School
<b>November 25, 26,27</b>	Thanksgiving Break
<b>December 24 - January 1</b>	Winter Break

**IMPORTANT DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:**

<b>January 4</b>	School resumes
<b>January 11</b>	Professional Development Day—students dismissed at 10:40 a.m.
<b>January 18</b>	Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday—No School
<b>January 19</b>	Full day Professional Development—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
<b>February 15-19</b>	February Vacation
<b>April 2</b>	Good Friday—NO SCHOOL
<b>April 19-23</b>	Spring Vacation
<b>May 31</b>	Memorial Day—NO SCHOOL
<b>June 16</b>	Last day of school (subject to snow days/emergency situations—dismissal at 10:40 a.m.)

**MCASTESTING:**

**March 23—April 12**      **ELA/Reading Comprehension**

**May 10—May 27**      **Math and Science**