

Horace Mann Middle School

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Franklin, MA 02038
508-541-6230
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Michael Levine
Interim Principal

Paul Parnell
Assistant Principal

August, 2010

Dear Parents:

I hope that this letter finds you well rested and enjoying your summer. I am honored and excited to be appointed the Interim Principal at the Horace Mann Middle School.

We have been interviewing throughout the summer for an 8th grade ELA teacher and for a Reading Specialist. I am happy to report that Sarah Krellenstein has been appointed as the 8th grade ELA teacher and Erin O'Leary has been appointed as the new Reading Specialist.

I look forward to the many events (socially, school-related, etc.) planned for 2010-2011. As the principal, I am committed to supporting students in every manner possible in order to ensure a full, gratifying and pleasurable year. To that end my door is open to students at any time.

Lastly, my expectations and standards for all students are quite high. I trust students to act within reason and do what is right. I expect common courtesy, decency, reasonableness, common sense, and good judgment from all students at all times; in return, they will be treated in the same manner. I care very much about my students and try to be personally involved in as much of the school as possible (academically, athletically, culturally, and socially).

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Mr. Parnell and/or I will be in the office almost every day in August. Please stop in to say hello if you are in the building.

Sincerely

Michael Levine
Interim Principal



HORACE MANN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

JULY, 2010

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 is on the mailing label of this newsletter—Match the homeroom number on the mailing label to the homeroom listed on page 6 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 23th.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM: Lunch may be prepaid online at MyNutrikids.com using your child's id which is found beside your address on the front page of this newsletter. Please see the School Lunch Program website for details of this program: <http://www.franklin.ma.us/auto/schools/FPS/lunchprogram/default.htm>

You may also pay in advance by check made payable to "Franklin School Lunch Program". Please include your child's full name and/or ID number on the memo line. There is no minimum or maximum amount to pre-pay. Checks may be dropped off at the school's office or given to Mr. Parnell.

Lunch may also be purchased daily with cash.

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 FOR SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES. (Sixth grade students see supply list on Page 5) 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 in mind that at Horace Mann we strictly adhere to the dress code:

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

** Please review our complete dress code in the Parent/Student Handbook

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.

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 INTO STUDENT'S ENGLISH TEACHERS—NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 3rd.

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!!!

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.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY: This past spring the Massachusetts Legislature passed Chapter 92 Acts of 2010 on bullying and cyberbullying laws. The new laws called for very specific policy and protocols to be established by all schools in the Commonwealth. There will be an Addendum attached to this year's Parent/Student Handbook where we have provide our vision, mission, policy and procedures regarding the handling of reported incidents on bullying and cyberbullying for students, parents, staff and administration

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.

SIXTH GRADE SUPPLY LIST

It is suggested (but certainly not required) that sixth grade students have the following materials:

Three ring binder (binders which may be zipped closed are great)
One three-hole punched durable pocket folder
Subject dividers (write on tabs so that the subject label does not fall out are easier for the students)
Hole reinforcements

OR

Plastic Accordion File (with at least ten but no more than thirteen pockets)

Suggested supplies for school:

One-inch binder (hard covered for math)
Three-hole punched *wide* lined paper
Three-hole punched pencil pouch
Supply of blue or black erasable pens
Supply of pencils
Supply of red pencils or red pens
Two different colored highlighters
Basic set of twelve colored pencils
Supply of 4 x 6 lined white index cards
Ten clear heavyweight plastic sheet protectors
Calculator (does not need to be scientific)
Electronic spell checker (optional)
A package of sticky notes (any size)

Suggested supplies for home:

Poster board
Glue
Scissors
Dictionary and Thesaurus
Metric ruler
Protractor

Note*** **An assignment book and homework folder will be provided by the school.**
Every weekend it is required that binders be cleaned out and supplies replenished.
Extra supplies should be kept at home.

Absolutely no gel pens, white out or permanent markers are to be used in school.

HOMEROOM NUMBERS ARE LOCATED ON THE MAILING LABEL ON THE FRONT OF THIS NEWSLETTER

GRADE 6 CLUSTER PLACEMENTS:

TEAM ONE—MRS. FOSTER/MS. JAKEL/MR. COREY

ROOM 1	MRS. FOSTER
ROOM 2	MS. JAKEL
ROOM 4	MR. COREY

TEAM TWO—MRS. GARSKE/MRS. LANGMEYER/ MS. METRICK

ROOM 3	MRS GARSKE
ROOM 7	MRS. LANGMEYER
ROOM 9	MS. METRICK

GRADE 7 CLUSTER PLACEMENTS:

TEAM ONE—MRS. ACKLEY, MR. D'ENTREMONT, MR. SCHLIEFKE AND MRS. NADREAU:

ROOM 139	MRS. ACKLEY
ROOM 141	MR. SCHLIEFKE
ROOM 142	MRS. NADREAU
ROOM 144	MR. D'ENTREMONT

TEAM TWO—MR. MITCHELL, MRS. FORMAN, MR. GARR AND MR. MCGOVERN

ROOM 135	MRS. FORMAN
ROOM 137	MR. MITCHELL
ROOM 138	MR. MCGOVERN
ROOM 140	MR. GARR

GRADE 8 CLUSTER PLACEMENTS:

TEAM ONE—MRS. CARROLL (FORMERLY MS. BERGER), MRS. COTILLO, MR. NELLIGAN AND MRS. RIDLEY:

ROOM 115	MRS. RIDLEY
ROOM 117	MRS. CARROLL
ROOM 120	MRS. COTILLO
ROOM 121	MR. NELLIGAN

TEAM TWO—MR. O'BRIEN, MR. VACCA, MS. GOLBURGH AND MS. KRELLENSTEIN

ROOM 123	MR. VACCA
ROOM 124	MS. GOLBURGH
ROOM 126	MS. KRELLENSTEIN
ROOM 127	MR. O'BRIEN

IMPORTANT DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:

September 1	First day of school for students
September 3	Reading logs due Nurse card information due Signed handbook and video permission forms due
September 6	Labor Day—no school
September 8	School pictures
September 9	Rosh Hashanah—no school
September 23	Parent Information Evening—6:30 to 8:00 p.m.—PARENTS/GUARDIANS ONLY—not for students
October 6	Professional Development Day—students dismissed at 10:40 a.m.
October 11	Columbus Day—No School
November 2	Full day Professional Development—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
November 11	Veterans Day—No School
November 24, 25, 26	Thanksgiving Break
December 9 & 10	Report Card Conferences—students dismissed at 10:40
December 24 - January 2	Winter Break

IMPORTANT DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:

January 3	School resumes
January 13	Professional Development Day—students dismissed at 10:40 a.m.
January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday—No School
February 21-25	February Vacation
March 17 & 18	Report Card Conferences—students dismissed at 10:40
April 5	Professional Development Day—students dismissed at 10:40
April 18-22	Spring Vacation
May 30	Memorial Day—NO SCHOOL
June 15	Last day of school (subject to snow days/emergency situations—dismissal at 10:40 a.m.)