

Hacker Middle School January Newsletter

Welcome back to the start of the second semester! I hope your holidays were enjoyable and you are staying warm, safe and healthy. We are already halfway through our school year and, if history is any indicator, May will be here before we realize it. Please find below what will be helpful information about HMS for the month of January.

Important Upcoming Dates

January 6th – School Resumes

January 7th - 2nd Quarter Report Cards Sent Home

January 18th – No School (Martin Luther King Day)

Upcoming Events

Dress the Snowman

The Hacker Middle School Student Council is conducting a cold weather clothing drive during the month of January. From January 13th – 28th we will be collecting winter outerwear (coats, jackets, hats, mittens, vests, and scarves) for our local community. Items can be brought to school where they will be collected for distribution to local children through a partnership with the Backpack Bridge. This is a great opportunity to help those in our community who might need a little help during these colder months.

Virtual After School Program

Our virtual after school programming will be returning starting Tuesday, January 19th. There are a variety of activities available for your student to participate in including: academic tutoring, cooking, art, astronomy, book club, STEM activities and several others. Please visit <https://forms.gle/vLTGH3C6YdG162uv7> to see the full list of offerings and to sign up.

Other Notes

Operations Update

As we start the new term, we will be continuing in the hybrid model with students attending either the AM (8:00-11:05am) or PM (11:55am-3:00pm) session. Students attending the AM session may continue to have breakfast in the cafeteria prior to the start of class and can order a lunch to take home with them. Similarly, students attending the PM session may continue to have lunch in the cafeteria prior to the start of class and can order a breakfast to take home with them. As has been the case all year, face masks are still required for all students, staff and visitors.

Inclement Weather

Please be sure your student dresses accordingly (e.g. coats, gloves, hats, boots, etc.) as we will be outside as often as the weather allows as defined by the MHSD Inclement Weather Policy:

+10° Students will not be admitted into the building until the admit bell rings. Students will go outside for all recesses.

10° to 0° Students will be admitted into the building early in the morning and will have limited recess activity.

0° and below Students will be admitted into the building early in the morning and will have very limited recess.

During periods of rainy or snowy weather, students will be allowed into the building depending on the precipitation levels.

Also, during the last school board meeting, a change to “snow days” has been implemented. As noted in an email from Mr. Gilbert on December 18th, “snow days” will now be remote learning days. If a remote learning day is needed, notification will go out through the Blackboard messaging service by 6:00am and teachers will be online presenting lessons from 9:00-11:30 and 12:30-2:30. Students will be expected to complete the online work, found in Canvas, associated with these lessons by the stated due date.

Final Thoughts

As I reflect on the first semester, I can't help but be amazed at how smoothly things went given the numerous changes students, families and staff had placed upon them. I am thankful for the patience and support of all involved and recognize this year, perhaps more than previous years, what a great school community we have. Though we still have half of the school year ahead of us, I am optimistic that it will be as successful as the first half!

Please continue to take care of yourself, your family and each other!

Sincerely,
Lonni Smith
Principal