

Hacker Middle School September Newsletter

We're still settling into the school year, but there is still a lot going on! Find a few important upcoming dates, events and other information below.

Important Upcoming Dates

September 6th – No School (Labor Day)

September 13th – 1st Quarter Midterm

September 24th – Spirit Day (wear your orange and black!)

October 1st – No School (Teacher Professional Development Day)

Upcoming Events

First Quarter Midterm

Even though it feels like the school year just started, we are on the cusp of the midterm for the first quarter. First quarter midterm grades will be available through Canvas on Monday, September 13th. Should you have questions about your student's grades, please contact their teacher directly.

After School Program

We are happy to announce that, through the award of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, we will be providing onsite afterschool activities for all interested fifth and sixth grade students. Beginning Monday, September 13th, academic tutoring, and activities such as book club, art, and STEM projects, will be available. We will be sending out a schedule and sign up information soon – stay tuned!

HMS Spirit Wear

Hacker Middle School spirit wear is now available for purchase using our online store! There are many options available for purchase including t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and even a mask starting as low as \$5.00. These are made to order items and can only be purchased through the website: <https://donnelley.itemorder.com/> and enter sales code CWKDK. I have also attached the order flyer for you to preview. The deadline to order is Saturday, September 18th and items will take about 2 weeks to arrive.

Safety Procedures

Safety Drills

On occasion, we will have various safety drills (ex: fire, lockdown, etc.) at Hacker to ensure everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency. Should there ever be a serious situation, you will be notified via a Blackboard message to apprise you of what has happened.

Parent / Guardian ID Check

As in previous years, our school continues to use access control to ensure student safety. What this means for you and your student is that during school hours all exterior doors will be locked, including the front door, limiting access to the building. To gain entry, you will need to press the call button to the left of our front door ***and*** present a photo ID to the camera before being allowed in the building. To aid the flow of traffic, the front door will be unlocked in the morning prior to student entry into the building (beginning at 7:30a.m.) and after students have been dismissed for the day (until 4:00p.m.). This procedure has been implemented to provide the safest environment possible for students and staff.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

Please remember that if you are dropping off or picking up your student from school you do so on Jackson Street on the school side of the road. Please do not use the bus drop off zones (N. 4th E and E. 2nd N) or the parking lot between Hacker and Bennett Mountain High School. While it may seem trivial, in doing so, we are better able to keep our students safe while keeping the bus lanes open.

Other Information

Contact Information

Please take a moment to review your contact information in PowerSchool via your Parent Portal and ensure we have the most up to date information in the event we need to contact you or your student's emergency contacts. We have had more incidents than I can count recently of not being able to reach parents and guardians when needed because of bad phone numbers in the system. Please also make sure to update this information in both the Update Demographics and Emergency Messaging tabs to ensure you receive important messages.

Canvas

Last year school year, the district implemented the Canvas learning management system for students. Not only is Canvas the program students use to access and complete assignments when working online, it also has a parent portal side that allows you to see your student's assignments, due dates and grades (like the upcoming midterm grades). Information on how to create your parent account can be found here (you will need to scroll down a little once you are on the page): <https://sites.google.com/mtnhomesd.org/mhsdcanvas/home>.

Student Illness

As you are aware from the COVID-19 advisory emails you receive, we do have students who have tested positive for COVID-19. While we have been fortunate and most of these cases have not been present on campus, we have had several who have been in the school environment resulting in quarantining of other students. We ask that you monitor your student for symptoms and, if present, they stay home from school. While we want them here, we want to minimize potential exposures that keep others from coming to school. Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Loss of smell or taste
- Cough
- Muscles aches
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- New or unusual headache
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose

If your student has one or more of these symptoms, we ask that they stay home until they completely resolve for not less than 24 hours or, should you choose, a negative COVID test is obtained. Erring on the side of caution will help us keep more kids in school.

Final Notes

Overall, we have had a great start to the school! Students and staff alike are settling into the routine of the school year and getting down to the business of education.

With that, please know we have an outstanding, dedicated staff here at Hacker who work very diligently to provide your student the best learning opportunities. While there may be times we won't see things in the exact same way, as parents and educators, we are all working to help your student build the knowledge and skills to help them be successful in their future.

Thank you for your continued support as we work each day to provide your student with a quality education.

Sincerely,
Lonni Smith
Principal