



Herkon Middle School

Home of the Hawks

Herkon Middle School
29 Billings Road
Herkon, ME 04401

Zackary Freeman
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Melissa Biehn
Dean of Students
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August 8th, 2022

Herkon Middle School Community,

I hope you are enjoying a great summer; with only a few short weeks left until school begins, I wanted to provide you with some important information. School starts for all grades on August 30th, 2022. We are ready for a great school year ahead!

Open House: August 25th

On August 25th, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, we will be opening our doors to the families of Herkon Middle School. During this time, parents and students will get to meet their new teachers, have a chance to tour the building, and be given a paper copy of the student's schedules. All are encouraged to come by for a few minutes and get acquainted with the building and some new and returning faces among the staff.

Please know that schedules are being placed in PowerSchool, they will be complete over the next week.

2022-23 Bell Schedule

All grades will have the same schedule this school year. *This schedule is a change as grades six through eight will only have six periods instead of seven. This increases academic instruction time, reduces transitions, and better supports students' outcomes overall.*

Period	Times	Notes
Homeroom	7:40 - 7:50	
Period 1	7:54 - 8:51	
Period 2	8:53 - 9:50	
Period 3	9:52 - 10:49	
Period 4a	10:51 - 11:12	5th Grade: Lunch 6th Grade: Lunch 7th Grade: Study Hall/RTI 8th Grade: Study Hall
Period 4b	11:14 - 11:35	5th Grade: Recess 6th Grade: Study Hall/RTI 7th Grade: Study Hall 8th Grade: Study Hall
Period 4c	11:36 - 11:57	5th Grade: Study Hall 6th Grade: Study Hall 7th Grade: Study Hall 8th Grade: Study Hall/RTI
Period 4d	11:59 - 12:20	5th Grade: Study Hall/RTI



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		6th Grade: Study Hall 7th Grade: Lunch 8th Grade: Lunch
Period 5	12:22 - 1:19	
Period 6	1:21 - 2:18	The main office will dismiss in the following order: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent Pick-Up• Buses• Walkers, no later than 2:28• Athletes and Herkon Rec students will be dismissed with walkers unless otherwise directed by Rick Sinclair

School Hours: School doors open at 7:30 am. *This is a change from the past two years to align with pre-COVID 19 and our abilities as a school to ensure proper student supervision.* Students must proceed to the HMS gymnasium. Students must remain in the HMS gymnasium until they are dismissed for homeroom at 7:40 am. Students are not to be in the building before 7:30 am. *Exceptions can only be made through conversations with the administration.* On occasion, teachers may make arrangements to meet with students at an earlier time for academic assistance or an activity. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 am to 7:50 am.

Honors Courses

Herkon Middle School will continue to offer an honors math course during the 2022-23 school year. It is important to note that there will not be an honors course for ELA beginning this school year, though. This was a decision made by ELA teachers last spring after looking at the research. Even though there will not be an honors course, we will ensure enriching activities in all classes to ensure all students are challenged appropriately.

Frequent Communication

Our theme this school year is "Resetting Herkon Middle School." The focus is to look at the procedures and expectations we had before COVID-19 and implement them again. The first important change that you will notice is that every four to five weeks, you will get a report on your student's efforts in each of their four core subjects. This report will provide you with key information about your student's work completion, their effort, their preparedness, and their behaviors while at Herkon Middle School. I believe that a student is best supported when we work together.

Importance of Attendance

After COVID-19, we saw a tremendous decrease in average student attendance. While we do not want students to come to school while sick, they must be at school every other day of the school year. We can not teach a student if they are not attending school. We all know that we tried our best to provide continuity to education during COVID-19, but there is no substitute for being at school and learning directly from a teacher. This year we will be working with families to get students to every day of school they can be at. We need your help, though; please talk to your child about the importance of being at school. If your child feels overwhelmed or unsafe at school, please report it. We will address issues that lead to students' unwillingness to attend school.



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Parent Advisory Council School Supplies

Hermon Middle School is incredibly fortunate to have a great parent-school partnership. This partnership is the Parent Advisory Council. This council has purchased the following school supplies for students that will be passed out to all students on the first day of school.

- 1" Binder
- A composition notebook
- A two-pocket folder
- Two pencils

If you need more supplies due to financial strain, please reach out to Lisa Roy, school counselor, who will coordinate with the parent advisory council.

Additionally, if you are interested in participating in the parent advisory council, the next meeting is on September 14th, 2022. Please reach out to Katie Bartley at hmspac22@gmail.com for more information.

2022-23 School and District Goals

Hermon Middle School is in the process of developing our 2022-23 school year goals. These goals will surround the following three areas.

- Increasing Student Attendance
- Increasing Student Math Competencies
- Decreasing Student Behavior Issues

Hermon School Department also has two goals, which are:

- Developing and implementing the highest caliber curriculum, which will be published
- Implementing supports and interventions within the classroom

We will be working in tandem with all stakeholders to ensure we can accomplish these goals. I firmly believe that Hermon Middle School is capable of greatness!

In Closing

I have only been at Hermon Middle School for a month, but I am learning how amazing the staff are. We have the keys to being one of the best middle schools in the state. This year my personal goals surround developing great relationships with all stakeholders, learning as much as I can about this school, and communicating with all as frequently as I can. We, together, will ensure Hermon Middle School is the best.



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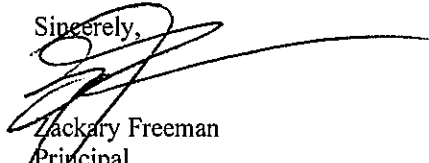
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If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached by phone at 207-848-4000 ext. 2011 or, if you prefer, email at zack.freeman@schools.hermon.net. I look forward to working with every member of this community.

Sincerely,



Zackary Freeman
Principal
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