

## **Parent Update Week of February 1st**

Good morning! Happy February 1st! Tomorrow is Groundhog and what would Groundhog Day be without a weather event? We have our first Nor'Easter of 2021 visiting us later tonight and barreling through tomorrow to make it a messy day.

For those of you who like countdowns ... 2 weeks until February break :)

### **MS Contact Tracing**

As you saw in the text messages and emails yesterday we had our first large scale disruption caused by COVID. Nurse Hammonds and I, through contact tracing, messaging, and phone calls spent a good part of Sunday ensuring that stakeholders were informed and their next steps. The 8th grade is fully remote this week as our 8th grade staff was impacted being deemed close contacts. Along with the 8th grade staff and cohort B students it impacted one of our world language teachers, an ed tech, and one of our dependable substitutes. 8th grade will resume in-person learning the week of February 8th.

### **HS and MS Staying Open**

HDMS/HS has been one of the few schools in the area to remain open. This is because you, as parents, have been diligent in keeping students home when they present with COVID like symptoms. Please keep in mind that if you, as a parent, are experiencing symptoms that it might be best not to send your student to school. It is only through vigilance and diligence of following protocols that the school can remain open, that students are able to partake in sports, and be able to enjoy other school based activities.

### **A Day in the Life:**

The HD Key Club helped put together a video to allow you to experience what a day in the life of students and teachers is like. Enjoy!

A Day in the Life: Video link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OprJeb7idQMLlikhMAJwnou8notiAiUp/view>

### **MS Yearbook:**

Parents, I sent an email to the students last week to send me candid photos of life during the pandemic. Group shots would be preferred. For 8th grade I'd also love candid photos of students coming up through the years. Please send me jpegs of candid photos by Thursday @ [mtinkham@kidsrsu.org](mailto:mtinkham@kidsrsu.org)

### **Students of the month for November and December:**

**6th grade: Vincent Moren & Elise Inch**

**November: Vincent Moren:**

Steady, conscientious, and focused. He is the model of organization and responsibility, is never late or missing--virtually or in person--and does what he is supposed to do with energy and purpose. When you want to hear from him, you will...and it will be insightful and thoughtful.

**December:** Elise Inch:

Classic social butterfly that loves to interact with peers and loves to laugh. She has learned to balance the social aspect of school with becoming a focused and responsible learner.

**7th grade: Alyssa Williams and Samantha Holsten**

**November:** Alyssa Williams.

Of all of my students she has consistently shown the most drive and interest in improving herself relative to the math curriculum. She presented with various barriers, and a fear of the subject. Since September, she has asked questions in class, attended every one of my Wednesday group sessions as well as independently scheduling through [youcanbook.me](https://youcanbook.me) weekly 1-on-1's with me. Always on time and participates. Outstanding. and it is showing. She is more confident (not 100% for sure, but considering where she was at the start of the year it has been wonderful to see and be part of.)

**December:** Samantha Holsten:

Sam is always an enthusiastic learner! When around her she inspires and motivates others to work harder and get everything done ahead of time. She is also extremely helpful to individuals as well as the school community. . Recently, she went virtual and is still just as enthusiastic about learning as always and always participating even online, which inspires others even more!!

**8th grade: Keegan Cary & Laila Brady**

**November:** Laila Brady:

Laila isn't just a strong student - she has shown tremendous leadership qualities and has taken a role as a class advocate. She has helped her classmates with materials, and is an impressive delegator and communicator. She brings new perspectives and helps others. When a student was having trouble she talked her through it and helped accomplish the goal. She shares her opinion with the class and helps others gain new thoughts and ideas about our work.

**December:** Keegan Cary

Keegan has been a leader in the classroom and on the playing fields. He has excelled, and accelerated, in math class and has moved ahead in several other courses. On the pitch he has established himself as a leader and helped his travel team to a championship. On the court he is seen as a team player and looks to compliment other players.

**9th grade: Karlie Reith & Emily Seymour**

**November:** Karlie Reith

Karlie Reith is a dedicated student and gets everything done in a timely manner! She is a role model in her classes. Karlie is active in soccer, basketball, and band.

**December:** Emily Seymour

Emily Seymour is a go getter who is always doing exactly what is asked, and more. She encourages her peers with kindness and she is a great role model for the freshmen class. Emily is also active in soccer.

### **10th grade: Dorothy Ives & Elijah Huttman**

#### **November: Dorothy Ives:**

Throughout the summer months Dorothy spent countless hours making masks to donate to the school for any student that did not have a mask. Providing various sizes and color patterns Dorothy made in excess of 240 masks. It is evident that Dorothy cares about the well being of both the school and local community. Dorothy also excels in the classroom and on the athletic pitch.

#### **December: Elijah Huttman**

Elijah is being recognized as one of “the best of the best” for 2020 All National Honor Ensembles by the National Association for Music Education. He, along with those others being recognized, played in a virtual event on January 7th and 8th. In March, the Association will release a final recorded performance. Elijah is being recognized for his talent in playing the oboe. He is also adept at playing the viola and tenor sax.

### **11th grade: Hadley Hayward & Devlin Geisler**

#### **November: Hadley Hayward:**

Hadley is at every rehearsal and helps people with parts of a song they might not understand. She asks clarifying questions and is a very active participant in chorus. Because she is so involved, she raises others to a certain standard and she helps people come out of their shell and be the best version of themselves. Hadley is the daughter of Scott and Rebecca Hayward of Farmingdale.

#### **December: Devlin Geisler:**

Devlin has emerged as a leader of the Civil Rights Team and Environmental Club. She has set up communication for both extracurricular activities and helps to move these groups forward by putting ideas into action. Setting up an online communication platform for the Civil Rights Team allows people outside of the club to ask questions about topics they want to know more about. The goal is to increase awareness and understanding of the civil challenges people face in the world today.

### **12th grade: Sarah Benner & Lauren Sylvester**

#### **November: Sarah Benner**

Sarah Benner, as treasurer of Key Club, has taken on more leadership roles this year in the Club. She had handled dues with its members and completed financial business throughout the pandemic. On top of this, she would be a perfect nominee because of her creative ideas for new service projects or planning different ways Key Club can reform previous events this year due to covid. Because of her leadership she has impacted not just the members of Key Club but the underclassmen, teachers and staff in our school and community. Sarah always has a smile on her face and spreads positivity and happiness to everyone. As a senior, Sarah has been accepted to St. Michaels College.

**December:** Lauren Sylvester

Lauren Sylvester is very involved in student-run organizations that help people talk more openly about issues like, mental health, coronavirus, racial injustice, and more.

Lauren has gotten other students more involved in the community and better informed on how they can make an impact on society! As a senior, Lauren has been accepted at Tufts University.

**Athletics:**

Monday Feb 1

3:30 MSJV Boys v Cony / 5:00 MSV Boys v Cony (Munzing media broadcast)

MS Girls @ Cony 3:30/5:00 Bus departure @ 3:05

Wednesday February 3

3:30 MSJV Girls v Richmond / 5:00 MSV Girls v Richmond (Munzing media broadcast)

3:30 MSJV Boys @ Richmond / 5:00 MSV Boys@ Richmond

Thursday February 4

5:15 JV Boys v Richmond / 7:00 V Boys v. Richmond (Munzing media broadcast)

6:00 V Girls @ Richmond

Friday February 5

Saturday February 6

5:15 JV Boys v Gardiner / 7:00 V Boys v. Gardiner (Munzing media broadcast)

5:15 JV Girls @ Gardiner / 7:00 V Girls @ Gardiner

**Late Buses:**

Due to the lack of students using the late bus we have suspended late busses until further notice.

Enjoy the snow!

Mark