

# Welcome to Hays Middle School!

## We're so glad you're here!

All of us here at Hays Middle School would like to welcome you to our school family! Our teachers and staff love working with middle schoolers and their families. We know starting a new school year can be stressful. We hope this page gives you an introduction to our school and extra services that we provide. We also hope it helps answer any questions you may have. If not, please contact us through any of the ways listed at the bottom of the page. We're excited to welcome your child to HMS!

## Arrival and Dismissal



Students can arrive at school beginning at 7:15 a.m. They should enter through the west side doors leading to the gym. They will wait in the gym, and starting at 7:35, they can leave the gym to work with teachers as needed. Breakfast is available for \$1.70 in the cafeteria beginning at 7:30 a.m.

When the bell rings to dismiss school at 3:15 p.m., students can leave through the front doors, gym doors or other main exits. Buses pick up students in front of the building.

Busing is available in our district to students who live more than 2.5 miles away from school. If you are interested and qualify, please contact USD 489 Transportation at (785) 623-2560.

## Intro to HMS



Hays Middle School offers grades 6-8. We have approximately 750 students and 100 staff members. Our principal is Mr. Tom Albers. Our two assistant principals are Mrs. Shauna Zweifel and Mr. Bruce Rupp.

Our office staff includes Mrs. Janae Atkerson, Mrs. Shari Meredith and Mrs. Kay Taylor. One of these friendly voices will answer the phone when you call the school office at (785) 623-2450. Please call the office if your child is absent or tardy, if you need to pick up your child early, or if your child needs to leave throughout the day for an appointment. Our office staff also collects money for lunches, yearbooks, school shirts, school fees, etc. They also take school physicals and other paperwork.

Our school nurse is Mrs. Bethany Pfannenstiel. Our librarian is Mrs. Karen Wilson.

Our school website is [www.haysfalcons.com](http://www.haysfalcons.com). Please visit and look around at all of the information available. You will find lunch calendars, community resources, athletic schedules, reminders, printable forms, and Frequently Asked Questions.

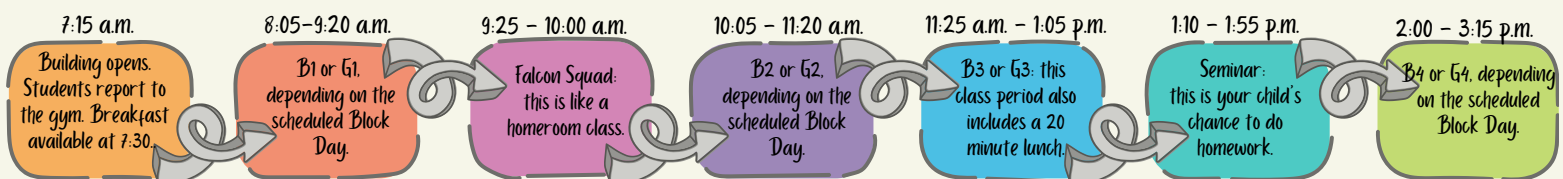
Lunch is available in our cafeteria for \$2.85 each day. Students may also purchase extra cookies for 40 cents each. Students may also bring their own lunch; two microwaves are provided for student use. Families may also apply for free or reduced lunches at [www.usd489.com](http://www.usd489.com).

Our Falcon Parent Squad meets on the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the library. All parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Students are assigned a locker and a lock on their first day at HMS. If your child brings a cell phone, it must be kept in their locked locker during classes.

## A Day at HMS

We operate on a rotating block schedule; four classes each day. Each day is either a Black Day or a Gold Day.



# Mental Health Matters



Each child's physical and mental health are very important to us. On our website ([www.haysfalcons.com](http://www.haysfalcons.com)), we have a page dedicated to available resources for your child's behavioral and mental health.

Our mental health professionals include Mrs. Olivia Zellmer, Counselor (last names A-L); Mrs. Donna Lubbers, Counselor (last names M-Z), Mrs. Julie Zollinger, School Psychologist; and Mrs. Jamie Malone, Mental Health Liaison. Our counselors provide brief individual counseling and small group counseling. Working with parents, counselors can make referrals to Mrs. Malone who coordinates services between High Plains Mental Health and HMS. Mrs. Malone is able to help coordinate individual therapy, medication services, and other forms of support offered through HPMHC.

Schoolwide, our students participate in 7 Mindsets, a Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum. We do SEL on Mindset Mondays during Falcon Squad.

## Other Resources



HMS and USD 489 offer several resources to help families. Here in our building, we have a food pantry if items are needed to help families. The best way to access these resources is to contact the counselors. USD 489 takes part in the federal student lunch program to help pay for breakfast and lunches. If you'd like to apply, the office can assist you. You can also find it on our website or at [www.usd489.com](http://www.usd489.com).

## Athletics & Clubs






Sports are available to our seventh and eighth grade students. Each student participating must have a current physical on file in the office before the first day of practice. Information about sports and tryouts is announced at school and our website. Our sports include: Fall - cross country, football, volleyball, cheer; Winter - Quiz Bowl, basketball, wrestling, cheer; Spring - track and soccer.

Other activities at HMS include: After School Homework Help, Robotics Club, StuCo, Falcon Singers, Gaming Club, Art Club, Literature Club, Gardening Club and more.



## HMS PowerSchool ASSIGNMENT CODES

-  **NHI.** Not Handed In. Finish and submit soon because your teacher won't take it forever!
-  **ASSIGNMENT SUBMITTED.** You submitted it and your teacher needs to grade it. Be patient!
- ERR.** Incorrect Document Submitted – You're right – you did submit something. But it was the **WRONG ASSIGNMENT!** Try again please!
- 0 – FINAL SCORE.** Uh-oh. You probably don't like this score but it's too late to change it.
-  **0 – NHI TURNED INTO FINAL SCORE.** You didn't get your NHI turned in on time. It turned into a zero. It is too late to get any credit for this assignment.

## Technology



Hays Middle School is an iPad school. Your child will be checked out an iPad and a charger block and cord. We expect the iPad to be FULLY charged when they arrive to school each day. Your child will receive a Tech Tips card that can help them as they get used to the iPad and Canvas.

Most of your child's work will be done on the iPad. We use an app called Canvas to manage classes and assignments. While there is a Canvas parent log-in, it is limited, so it may be better to have your child show you how Canvas works.

If the iPad, charger block or cord is damaged and/or lost, your family is responsible for repair or replacement. These charges are specified on the iPad Agreement that you and your student must sign before they receive their iPad.

Our district uses PowerSchool for grades. Please make sure you sign up for a parent account on PowerSchool so you can check grades. You can also set notifications so you are contacted if your child's grades change or if they have what we call NHIs - work that is Not Handed In.