

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE

November 28, 2018

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Upcoming Events...

- November 30: This last September, Brayden Mager, a South Middle School 6th grader, died because of complications awaiting a heart transplant. Liberty Elementary School and the Mager family would like to celebrate and honor Brayden by installing a Buddy Bench on the Liberty Elementary playground.

Brayden loved to play and laugh, he also loved super heroes and Disney. On **Friday,**

November 30th, learners and staff are invited to wear a Super Hero or Disney costume or shirt, and donate \$1 or more to honor Brayden & to raise money for Brayden's Buddy Bench! [https://core-](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/263225/Brayden_Super_Hero_Disney_Day_4.pdf)

[docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/263225/Brayden Super Hero Disney Day 4 .pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/263225/Brayden_Super_Hero_Disney_Day_4.pdf)

- **December 3:** There will be one last informational meeting for the Utila, Honduras trip planned for the summer of 2019. The meeting will be at 5:30pm in Choir Room on December 3 and should be done by 6:00pm. The attached flyer has some basic information about this trip. Please email Darren.ellwein@k12.sd.us if you have questions. [https://core-](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/264840/Utila_2019_flyer.pdf)
- **December 6:** 8th Grade Event (High School Musical, Game of Life)
- **December 21:** Early dismissal @ 1:15p.m.
- **December 24-December 31: NO SCHOOL Holiday Break**
- **January 1, 2019: NO SCHOOL** – New Year's Holiday
- **January 2: NO SCHOOL**
- **January 3: CLASSES RESUME**
- **January 11: End of 1st Semester**

Attendance: Just a reminder if your learner is going to be absent or late for school, to call the school office at 605.743.2567 option 4-1 **before 9:00AM daily**. If your learner is going to be out for an extended period of time and/or you would like classwork for the day, please let the office know about attendance and contact your learners advisory teacher for missing work.

From the Assistant Principal:

Greetings:

I wanted to inform parents of our tardy policy. If a learner is tardy three or more times to a class, the learner talks with me. The Discipline Matrix, which is located in the Student Handbook, is followed. If you would like to see your learner's tardies--check Parent Portal under the Attendance Tab.

Success Advisory/Directed Studies is a resource at Harrisburg South for those learners who are beginning to fall behind academically. By being paired with a grade-level facilitator and tutor, a plan is made at the beginning of the day, and then the learner will check out with the grade-level tutor at the end of the day. Parents/Guardians will receive an email notification on Monday morning, and learners will see on their Flex Scheduler their involvement starting on Tuesday. Success Advisory runs from Tuesday-Monday of each week.

Power Hour is a resource provided for learners who would like to complete their assignment before going home. At these sessions, there is a grade-level tutor as well as a facilitator who can help complete the assignments and get any questions answered. There are two sessions for Power Hour: morning (7:30-8:00) and afternoon (3:05-4:00). If interested, fill out the form: [Power Hour Sign Up](#).

With the increased academic expectations, come academic supports, and one of the communication tools we use at Harrisburg South Middle School to help bridge the gap between home and school--and make sure we hold every learner accountable for each assignment--is the program named ICU. In the event a learner gets a late assignment, an email will be sent home letting you know what assignment is not completed and when the assignment is turned in. If you would like text notifications as well, please contact the office.

Another communication tool used with parents/guardians is an email sent home on Wednesday for those learners who are beginning to show academic struggles. This tool is frequently a good indicator of learners who may be issued the academic support listed below.

These grade-level tutors are the following:

- Mr. Sam Lenz: Sixth-Grade Tutor
- Mr. Adam Anderson: Seventh-Grade Tutor
- Mr. Rob VandeLune: Eighth-Grade Tutor

Saturday School is a resource which both Harrisburg Middle Schools use to support academic achievement and help learners get up to speed as quickly as possible. If a learner has three+ outstanding assignments on the ICU database Thursday afternoon, an email will be sent to parents/guardians letting

them know his/her learner has been issued the academic support of Saturday School either that week or the following week. More instructions will take place through this communication detailing the support.

As always, if you would like more help with anything related to HSMS, please contact the office, or you can contact me directly at Bradley.hartzler@k12.sd.us.

Thanks,

Brad

From the Counselor:

On Thursday, December 6th, eighth grade learners will have the chance to view the Harrisburg High School musical, receive an overview of high school programs and participate in a special event called the Game of Life. On top of that, they have the chance to play at Air Madness during the school day! Please see the attached documents for event details as well as a waiver for Air Madness.

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/260286/Game_of_Life_-_Parent_Letter_with_Schedule_2018_copy.pdf

Finally, we need parents and other adult volunteers to help with the Game of Life from 10:45am-2:30pm on December 6th. If you are interested, please sign up at <http://bit.ly/HHSGameofLife>. Feel free to contact me with any questions about this exciting day.



It's that time of year again! HSMS is sponsoring a Holiday Giving Tree. The tree will be located in the front office at HSMS and Betsy Atwood, School Counselor, will organize all confidential applications.

Need Assistance? If your immediate family would benefit from gift-giving assistance this season, please complete the attached form and return to Betsy Atwood, HSMS Counselor. Copies are also available in the HSMS main office. https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/260361/2018_HSMS_Giving_Tree_Application.pdf

Want to Help? Community members are welcome to purchase gifts for local children in need through the HSMS Giving Tree. Gift requests will be hanging on the tree starting November 16th.

Change War: HSMS will host a Change War between advisory classes. The Change War will begin on Monday, November 26th and it will conclude on Friday, December 7th. All change placed in an advisory's bucket will count towards the advisory and all dollars placed in an advisory's bucket will count against them. Winning advisory classes in each grade level will receive a pizza party before winter break. Proceeds from the Change War benefit local families this holiday season by funding gifts for the Giving Tree.

Dates to Remember:

- All Giving Tree forms should be turned in to Mrs. Atwood by Friday, November 30th
- All donated gifts for the Giving Tree are due back to Mrs. Atwood by Wednesday, December 12th
- Families receiving Giving Tree gifts should plan to pick them up at HSMS on Monday, December 17th or Tuesday, December 18th.

If you have questions about the Giving Tree, please contact Mrs. Atwood at 743-2567 ex 5143 or email at betsy.atwood@k12.sd.us.

Backpack Program: HSMS is partnering with Feeding South Dakota again to provide the Backpack Program to youth in need. This program provides food to identified children on Friday afternoons to ensure that they have access to food over the weekend. Food packs are placed discretely in the student's locker each week, they include meal items as well as snacks. Please contact Betsy Atwood, HSMS Counselor, if your child could benefit from this program.

LSS Mentoring: Interested in helping kids? Do you have an hour to share each week? Lutheran Social Services is always looking for new mentors. The LSS Mentoring program matches community adults with a child who could use an extra caring adult in his or her life. All mentoring happens at school, during the school year. Most mentors meet their mentee for lunch once a week in a semi-private location at the school. They enjoy lunch and often play a game or do crafts. Mentoring relationships can make a huge difference in the life of a child! If you are interested, apply at https://www.lsssd.org/what-we-do/child-adolescent-services/mentoring/become_a_mentor.html. You can also contact Lisa Falon-Schulz at 605-444-7804 for more information. Make sure to indicate which schools you'd like to mentor at. We'd love new mentors here at HSMS!

PATH: Is your child struggling with anxiety or symptoms of depression? Are they having trouble managing their anger? If your child could benefit from mental health counseling but barriers like finances, insurance, travel or schedules are standing in your way, PATH could help! PATH stands for 'Providing Access to Healing'. It's a United Way initiative that works with Lutheran Social Services to place licensed mental health therapists in area schools to work with students who are in need of mental health services. PATH is not a free service, rather it works with your health insurance to provide easy access to counseling. If lack of insurance or high co-pays are an issue, LSS will work with families to explore ways to make counseling affordable. For more information, contact Betsy Atwood, HSMS Counselor.

Questions about any of these programs or other counseling needs can be directed to Betsy Atwood, HSMS Counselor, at 605-743-2567 ext 5143 or betsy.atwood@k12.sd.us.

Other news:

- Winter Weather: https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/245091/WinterWeather_2018-19.pdf
- **Be sure to check the lost & found for missing items**
- Link to activities: <https://www.harrisburgathletics.org/public/genie/828/school/7/>

- Harrisburg Tiger T-Shirts for sale (Orders due 12/5): https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/265105/TIGER_MOM_Order_form.pdf
- This last September, Brayden Mager, a South Middle School 6th grader, died because of complications awaiting a heart transplant. Liberty Elementary School and the Mager family would like to celebrate and honor Brayden by installing a Buddy Bench on the Liberty Elementary playground.
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- 6th Grade Team Page: <http://hsms6.weebly.com/>
- 7th Grade Team Page: <http://hsms7.weebly.com/>
- 8th Grade Team Page: <http://sms8th.weebly.com/>
- Lifetouch Offer: https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/263236/Lifetouch_Shutterfly_Offer_Flyer.pdf
- As E-Cigarettes and vaping become more prevalent, the Harrisburg School District wants to provide information on the topic.
https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/260699/E-CigaretteVapingHandout.pdf
- 7th Grade Boys' Basketball Team Practice: Freedom – Dan's Bus and/or Terry's Bus
- 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Team Practice: Liberty – Mike Bus and/or Ethan's Bus
- Do you have a bunch of old costumes and toys sitting around your house collecting dust? The HSMS MakerSpace is looking for GREENSCREEN PROPS! Send any old hats, costumes, and anything that might be used as a prop to school with your child, and have them drop them off at the library with Ms. Jones. Let the Green Screening BEGIN!!!
- All 7th and 8th graders from South as well as North Middle Schools are invited to travel to California this summer! See the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, Yosemite National Park, and much more during a fun packed whorl wind trip. Please contact Mrs. Tschudy if you would like more information.
- SMS Robotics practice will be every Tuesday & Thursday from 3:05-4:45 in the Tech Ed room
- Video Game club will meet on Mondays after school 3:10-4:00 in room C115
- Dance Club will meet after school in room C120 on Tuesdays
- Drone club will meet on Wednesdays before school @ 7:00 a.m.
- Oral interpretation Club will meet after school 3:10-4:00 in room D134 on Wednesdays
- Art Club will meet Thursdays after school until 4:00p.m.
- ASL club will meet Thursdays after school until 4:00p.m. in Ms. Stassi's room(C127)

- Volunteers of America Street Outreach: If you are homeless, runaway or at-risk of being, come visit with a VOA support person on Thursdays at the High School from 12-1, no appointment needed <https://www.voa-dakotas.org/our-service-areas/homelessness>

From the Nurse:

*Please read News from the Nurse:

- https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/245886/NEWS_FROM_THE_NURSE.pdf
- Is it a cold or flu? Both are respiratory illnesses, but are caused by different viruses that may require special diagnostic tests. Learn some of the differences between cold and flu. https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/263229/Cold_or_Flu_.pdf
- https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/261348/Cold_of_Flu_.pdf

*If your Learner will require medication or cough drops for the 2018-2019 school year, Harrisburg School District requires a new Medication Authorization Form to be completed. This form is available on the Harrisburg School District website. A signed form will need to be completed by the parent/guardian for all over-the-counter medications. Prescription medications will need to have a signed Medication Authorization form signed by both parent/guardian and physician. Medication must be delivered directly to the school nurse/aide or trained personnel by parent/guardian in the ORIGINAL pharmacy or manufacturer's container. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Deb Backman, RN

605-743-2567 ext. 5205

From the Chorus/Band Director:

- Time for some Jazz!
 - **Jazz Band will practice Monday & Wed. @ 7:30a.m.**
 - **We need a trap set & guitar - Come check us out!**
- Reminder that Show Choir practices are Tuesday and Thursdays at 7AM in the Choir Room
- Show BAND practices are on Fridays @ 7:30 in the Band Room

From Harrisburg Food Services:

Please put your learner's name on the check when sending lunch money to school.

This is a reminder that all parents and/or guardians should utilize the My School Bucks website to set low balance notifications and view their students account balances and purchases. To set up an account please go to www.myschoolbucks.com and click on Sign Up Today! You can also find a link to the website on the Harrisburg School District website under Current Families & clicking on Food Services. If you have questions or difficulties, please see the How to Video's under the help tab or contact My School Bucks directly. Their toll free number is also listed under the help tab on their website.

HSMS FCCLA:

For more information about our chapter and to follow us - please find us on:

Instagram: HSMS_FCCLA

Twitter @ HSMSFCCLA

Facebook: @hsmsfccla

HSMS PAWS:



Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/HSMSPAWS

Parking Lot Drop Off/Pick Up Loop Safety:

1. When entering our school to drop off or pick-up students, please use the South entrance. Drive forward through the loop and use the North exit. (see map below)
2. The front loop of our parking lot is for drive-through and pick-up/drop off only. It is a tow away zone since it is our Fire Lane to be used in the event of an emergency. NO cars should be left unattended or parked in this zone for any reason and for any amount of time. If you need to park, please use the designated "Guest" parking or the regular lot.
3. When dropping off or picking up students, please use the RIGHT HAND LANE ONLY, and expect students to use the doors on the right side of the vehicle. In this manner, it is less likely for students to have to walk in front of a waiting

car. Please **DO NOT PARK IN THE CROSSWALK**, it makes especially dangerous for students and staff to cross the lane.

4. When using the drop off/pick-up lane in the afternoon, please pull forward to where the bus parking starts by the library (see "X" on map below). **Please do not block the handicap spaces or visitor parking if someone is parked in a space.**
5. Thank you for all your help and cooperation to keep everyone safe and still allow for everyone to get to school on time.



Parent Portal:

Are you signed up for Parent Portal? Contact Jean Hudson at 605-743-2567, ext. 3001 if you need to sign up.