

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE

January 23, 2019

Upcoming Events...

- **February 13: NO SCHOOL** – Teacher In-Service 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
 - **Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:00-8:30 p.m.**
https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/291764/Spring_2019_Conference_Initial_Letter.pdf
- **February 14: NO SCHOOL**
- **February 15: NO SCHOOL**
- **February 18: NO SCHOOL** – Presidents Day

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.

South Middle School Registration - Upcoming dates:

Personalized Learning Information Nights:

- **January 21 and 22:** 6th grade parent information session from 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. If you or your learner are interested in registering for the personalized learning program in 7th or 8th grade, these meetings would be a great way to find out more about the program.
- **View For You:** If you would like to come in and see Personalized Learning in Action, please contact the office as we have dates and times set up for 01.28, 01.29, 02.04, and 02.05. Link to RSVP: <https://bit.ly/2VBARNZ>

6 & 7th Grade: Testing for Advanced Learners:

- Testing for the advanced program starts Jan. 15. Testing dates are Jan. 15, 18, 29, 31, Feb. 1 and 2.
- Parents interested in having their 6 or 7th grade learner assessed for the advanced program placement can contact Mr. Hartzler (bradley.hartzler@k12.sd.us), and he will relay the information to Dr. Laurie Wenger, the director of the talented and gifted program.

South Middle School Program Registration will be Feb. 13 at conferences.

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:

- It's hard to believe but it's time for you and your 8th grade learner to start planning for high school! Over the next month, you and your learner have the chance to gain information about the two learning pathways available at the high school (customized and traditional learning). You also have the chance to explore and make decisions about high school classes. Please note that we ask all learners to make the choice between the traditional (TL) and customized (CL) pathways by February 13th at parent/teacher conferences. You and your learner will also walk through their plans for high school registration at that time. Please see the attached letter from Harrisburg High School for parent information night details as well as other dates. https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/291779/HHS_letter-HS_registration_1_.pdf
- **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:

- The Student Council is sponsoring a “Souper” bowl food drive next week. It will be taking place January 28 through February 1. The items brought in will be donated to the Harrisburg Food Pantry. We are going to add a twist to the competition by having the winning advisory be the group who can actually stack their items in the highest tower. We will not be counting the items for a winner, but rather, we will be measuring the height of the towers created.

<https://core->

[docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/291786/Souper_Bowl_Food_Drive.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/291786/Souper_Bowl_Food_Drive.pdf)

Be sure to drop by the SMS Student Council table at Conferences on 2/13!



**ORDER A ST. PADDY'S DAY
CUPCAKE FOR YOUR
LUCKY LEPRECHAUN!**

**CLASS
T-SHIRTS**



**TIGER SPIRIT
BANGLES**

Email Kirsten.Wieman@k12.sd.us to pre-order.

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- Registration is OPEN for 2019 summer baseball and softball programs through the Harrisburg Baseball Association. Find out more and REGISTER at www.harrisburgtigersbaseball.com.
- Winter Weather: https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/245091/WinterWeather_2018-19.pdf
- Safety Policy-- Please be aware that a safety plan has been put into place by the Harrisburg School District. If the office staff is unfamiliar with the individual who is visiting or signing out a student, they will need to show identification. If parents arrange for someone other than themselves to pick up their student, please make them aware of our policy and inform the office of whom will be coming. Thank you.
- BE SURE TO CHECK THE LOST & FOUND
- Link to activities: <https://www.harrisburgathletics.org/public/genie/828/school/7/>
- 6th Grade Team Page: <http://hsms6.weebly.com/>
- 7th Grade Team Page: <http://hsms7.weebly.com/>
- 8th Grade Team Page: <http://sms8th.weebly.com/>
- 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
https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/276903/E-cig-vaping_HMS.pdf

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:

- 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/245886/NEWS_FROM_THE_NURSE.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

News from the Choir Room/Band Director:

- Chamber Choir has begun!! Members were recently selected by audition for the 2018-2019 Chamber Choir. This auditioned group meets Wednesday mornings at 7:30 and during Wednesday's DS.
- **The Concert Choir's next performance is May 13th at 7pm in the High School PAC.** It may be months away, but learners have already started working on the music. Make sure you save the date!
- Congratulations to Kennedy Koch, Stella Yerdon, and Alice Becker for being selected to be a part of the Elementary Festival Choir! This choir will sing during Annual Choral Day Event on the Campus of SDSU in Brookings February 7th.
- Jazz Band will practice Monday & Wed. @ 7:30a.m.
- 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/HMSPAWS

Parent Portal:

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

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