

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE

February 20, 2019

Upcoming Events...

- **February 22 & 23 – SMS School Play**
 - **7:00p.m. HHS Performing Arts Center**
- **February 26 – HHS Meeting for all 8th grade girls wishing to try out or be a manager for the 2019 HHS Volleyball Team.** https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/298916/Freshmen_Volleyball_2019-2020.pdf Any questions contact *Ronette Costain*
- **March 13: End of 3rd Quarter**
- **March 14: NO SCHOOL – Spring Break**
- **March 15: NO SCHOOL – Spring Break**

Upcoming 8th Grade Events:

- **NAEP Testing:** The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has been rescheduled to this **Friday, February 22nd**. This national test assesses randomly selected 4th, 8th and 12th grade learners from across the nation to better understand educational achievement in each state. Those 8th grade learners who were originally scheduled to take the NAEP assessment will take it this Friday. Approximately half of all 8th graders were randomly selected for this test, parents of those learners selected were previously notified. Please contact Mrs. Atwood, school counselor, at betsy.atwood@k12.sd.us if you have questions.
- **Plays for Living:** This **Thursday, February 21st**, 8th graders will watch the play 'Where Does it End?' by the Dakota Academy of Performing Arts during their regularly scheduled encore class time. This play is part of DAPA's 'Plays for Living' series. This powerful drama addresses bullying, prejudice, hate and violence. 'Where Does It End?' is intended to illustrate how something that seems like harmless teasing can escalate to so much more. Please contact Mrs. Atwood, school counselor, at betsy.atwood@k12.sd.us if you have questions.

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:

- **Strengthening Families Program:** Interested in having 7 nights donated to strengthening your family? Carroll Institute is offering Strengthening Families at a low cost! Strengthening Families is a program for youth ages 10-14 and their parents. The cost is \$35 per family for the entire program. They will meet Thursdays in February, March and April at St. Michael Parish on 1600 S Marion Road in Sioux Falls. The evening will include a free meal as well as fun and helpful programming focused on communication, setting healthy limits for your child, managing the pressures of teen years and more. Contact Carroll Institute at 605-336-2556 for more information.
- **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:



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

\$2.50

**WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOUR LEARNER IN
ADVISORY FROM LAVA'S JAVA'S ON 3/15!**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SMS STUDENT COUNCIL
EMAIL KIRSTEN.WIEMAN@K12.SD.US TO ORDER!**

- 2019-2020 7th & 8th Grade Registration: https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/298977/2019-2020_7th_8th_Grade_Registration.pdf
- 8th grade girls wishing to play HS volleyball; [https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/298916/Freshmen Volleyball_2019-2020.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/298916/Freshmen_Volleyball_2019-2020.pdf) Any questions contact *Ronette Costain*
- Harrisburg Baseball Association: Registration is open for the 2019 Summer Recreation Baseball and Softball Programs. Register today at www.harrisburgtigersbaseball.com.
- **BE SURE TO CHECK THE LOST & FOUND!!**
- 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.
- 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:

*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.

- https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/295057/A_Flu_Guide_For_Parents_3-1.pdf
- https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/295058/Cold_vs_Flu_3-1.pdf

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!
- 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/HSMSPAWS

Parent Portal:

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

Do you Tweet? Are you on Facebook? Check us out on both Facebook and Twitter.



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