

Hopkins Public Schools



Hopkins Middle School Newsletter

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"Committed to Quality Education for our Children's Future"

Dear Hopkins Middle School Family,

As you prepare to spend precious time over Christmas break with family and friends, please know that our staff wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.

We look forward to seeing you back at school in the New Year!!!



Christmas Break

starts Wednesday,
December 20 and goes
through Monday
January 1.



Classes will resume on
Tuesday, January 2.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH


- ★ Emily Dimock
- Dean Heiden ★
- ★ Nevaeh Helderop
- Paladin Stanton ★
- Kate Steffes ★
- ★ Adam Weber

CITIZENS OF THE MONTH

- ★ Caleb Bonga
- Gracie Bonga ★
- ★ Ellie Carpenter
- Gracie Kok ★
- Alaina Schans
- Ryan Webb ★



Our Middle School wrestling season is right around the corner! A sign up sheet will be in the MS office upon returning from Christmas break. Practice starts January 15th at the high school. Students must have a current physical on file with the school in order to participate.



Do you want a FREE yearbook?

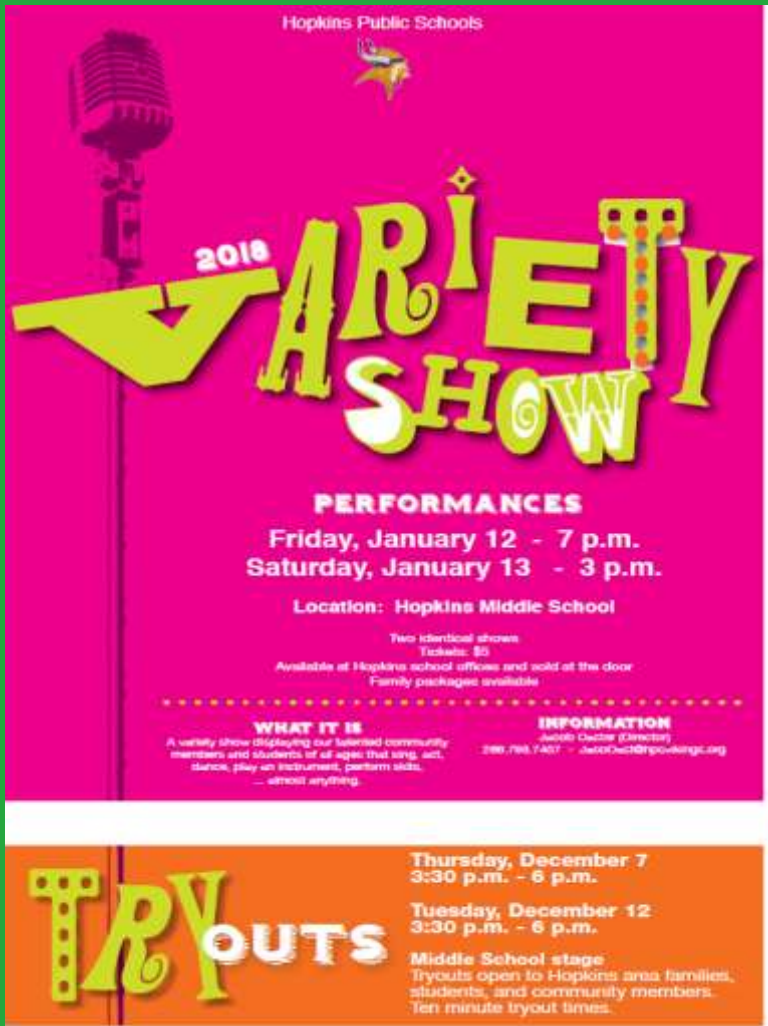
For every box top that you send in you will receive 10 cents off this year's yearbook. Turn them into Mrs. Smith in the HMS Media Center in a baggie or envelope with your name on it no later than February 22, 2018.

Yearbooks

Hardcover - \$25.00
Soft cover - \$20.00

No box tops dated before February 30, 2018 will be accepted.

www.BTFE.com



Hopkins Public Schools

2018 VARIETY SHOW

PERFORMANCES
Friday, January 12 - 7 p.m.
Saturday, January 13 - 3 p.m.

Location: Hopkins Middle School

Two identical shows
Tickets: \$5
Available at Hopkins school offices and sold at the door
Family packages available

WHAT IT IS
A variety show displaying our talented community members and students of all ages that sing, act, dance, play an instrument, perform skills... almost anything.

INFORMATION
Jodie Dactor (Director)
386.786.7467 - jactor@hps.k12nc.gov

TRYOUTS

Thursday, December 7
3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, December 12
3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Middle School stage
Tryouts open to Hopkins area families, students, and community members.
Ten minute tryout times.

Coffee with the Counselor

Parents please come enjoy a cup of coffee and conversations in our Middle School Library with our Counselor, Mr. Crook. We will meet on Wednesday, January 17 at 9:07am. The topic we will be discussing is "Student Stress." There have been several recent reports on how high teenage stress is these days.

Mr. Crook will introduce the topic and has several helpful tips on how to help the teenage stress in your family.

Bittersweet Ski Club passes are available in all school offices. Fill out a form to get your passes today!!!!

Handbook Reviews and Reminders STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY CENTER

Each Newsletter we will review a section of the Hopkins Middle School Handbook. This week we are looking at The SRC procedures (pg 9) If you would like to review the handbook you can find a PDF version on the school website. <https://www.hpsvikings.org/our-schools/hms/student-handbook/>.

DISCIPLINE REGULATIONS

Student Responsibility Center – It is important at Hopkins Middle School that we work together to create an educational environment that fosters mutual respect between staff and students. It is also important that students be allowed to learn and teachers given the opportunity to teach. If a student decides to detract from the integrity of the classroom they will be directed to the Student Responsibility Center. Please review the student responsibility center process below:

Creating Mutual Respect between Staff and Students - Classroom Procedures

If a student disrupts the classroom and teaching process they are asked a series of thinking questions:

- **WHAT ARE YOU DOING?**
- **WHAT SHOULD YOU BE DOING?**
- **I SEE YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO REPORT TO THE SRC?**

Student Responsibility Center

R.O.A.D.

REPRESENT

OWN IT

ACHIEVE

DISCOVER

Responsible Thinking Questions:

1. What are you doing?
2. What should you be doing?
3. What will happen next time you disrupt?
4. Are you willing to work with me on this?



Students are in control of their behavior. We do not control students. We feel it is important for students to be given an opportunity to control what will happen to them. Students will remain in the SRC to work on their behavior plan to regain admission to the classes or activities that they were involved in. Students must obey the following expectations before being allowed back into class.

1. *The student must find enough self-control to remain quiet and not talk to the other students.*
2. *The student must find enough self-control to remain seated in their planning area and not walk around disrupting others who are working on their plans.*
3. *The student must find enough self-control to raise their hand if they need to ask a question of the SRC Coordinator.*
4. *The student must find enough self-control to respect the rights of all staff and students involved in the center.*
5. *The student will be allowed back into class when they successfully negotiate their plan with the staff member who issued the referral.*

If a student cannot find the self-control to follow the rules in the SRC, they will be asked to leave the building. Their parent or guardian will be notified and a conversation/meeting will take place prior to their re-entry to the middle school, the student must fulfill requirements of the SRC and finish their plan of improvement.

~Mrs. Caulder

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Appreciate art

Visit an art museum or gallery over winter break for educational family fun. Encourage your tween to read descriptions of the exhibits. He'll learn about artists and their techniques. He may even want to try his hand at some artwork when you get home! *Note:* Check for free-admission days or holiday coupons.

On top of grades

If your child's school offers an online grade book, check it every week or so. That way, you will stay in the loop and can spot problems early. Try not to overreact to one low score—it could be one small blip or just a tiny fraction of your tween's grade. Instead, look for patterns, and contact the teacher if you have concerns.

Excited about tweens

It's normal to feel a bit sad as your middle grader grows up. But it helps to remember that you have a lot to look forward to. You may discover mutual interests and enjoy discussing various topics as her opinions develop. Plus, you get to witness the excitement of her first school dance, volleyball game, or other milestone events.

Worth quoting

"A hunch is creativity trying to tell you something." *Frank Capra*

Just for fun

Q: How do you turn on the light in a room with a broken light switch?

A: By fixing it!



Be productive!

Homework? Check. Take pictures for photography class? Check. Do the dishes? Check.

Knowing what to do and getting it done will make your tween's life run more smoothly and help her be more successful. Share these four strategies.



1. Pick what's important

Suggest that your child make a daily to-do list—with priorities. She might divide her list into what must be done today and what can wait until the next day. *A good tip:* Encourage her to keep her list manageable. Writing down everything she needs to do all month may just lead to frustration.

2. Use "prime time"

Maybe your tween is a morning person and concentrates better then. If so, she could review for tests on the bus or do projects on weekend mornings. If she's more alert after school or at night, however, she can focus her energies then.

3. Snap into a positive mood

If your middle schooler isn't feeling motivated, encourage her to do something that puts her in a good mood. She might watch birds at the bird feeder, take a walk around the block, or play with slime. Changing her frame of mind can help her get started.

4. Put away distractions

While technology is supposed to help us be productive, it often gets in the way. Have your child place any devices she's not using for homework across the room and shut off. (After all, it's easier to procrastinate with a video if her tablet is powered on and within reach!) 👍

Operation "reset"

Winter break gives your child the gift of extra time. Encourage him to use it wisely with a mix of relaxation and preparation for the new year.

Refresh. Suggest he do enjoyable activities he hasn't had time for. Perhaps he'll read a graphic novel that's been sitting on a shelf or create a workout routine to do with a friend.

Catch up. Ask your tween to think about how he can hit the ground running next semester. If he has assignments due when school begins, he could work on them a little each day. Or he might empty his subject folders by filing returned papers at home and start with a fresh slate in January. 👍



Writing for the real world

As your tween grows up, he'll need to write for all kinds of reasons, whether he's drafting papers for school, writing college essays, or preparing a resume. He can practice by writing for real purposes at home.

Summarize the facts. Writers need to get to the point quickly, because there's so much information competing for people's attention. For practice, your child could write a newscast recapping 2017 family highlights and



send it to relatives. To sum up each event, he should focus on key facts like who, what, when, where, and why. ("Maggie, age 10, joined the Safety Patrol in September at Beacon Elementary School.")

Target your audience. Focusing on who will read his writing helps him make sure it is understandable and includes relevant details. For instance, a student's version of a textbook contains different information than a teacher's. To understand the

difference, your middle grader might create a "how-to" guide for different groups. For example, he could write step-by-step directions for using a remote control, but make one for tech-savvy family members and one for those who aren't. 🍷

Nice thinking!

Becoming a good thinker will help your middle grader solve problems and make daily decisions. Use these fun family activities to grow her creative and critical thinking skills:

■ If an alien came to Earth and found a roller skate, what might he think it could be used for? Take turns calling out answers. For example, your child may say the wheels would make a good back massager. Continue until no one can think of a new answer.

■ Secretly think of an object, and imagine you are holding it. "Pass" it to another person, who tries to guess your item based on how you handle it. For example, how would you hold and pass an ice cube, a bowling ball, a hot potato, or a Frisbee? After guessing, the catcher pretends it's something different and passes it to the next family member. 🍷



Q & A

Handling friendship changes

Q My son no longer wants to hang out with one of his new friends, but he doesn't want to hurt the boy's feelings. What advice can I give him?

A It's common for middle graders to try out new friendships—and just as common for one or both to decide it doesn't work. Let your son know it's okay as long as he's kind about it.

If the other boy invites him to do something, he should respond rather than ignore him and politely decline without a long explanation ("Sorry, I can't"). Also, suggest that he avoid committing to hang out later, so the boy doesn't get the wrong impression that your son wants to get together in the future.

When they see each other at school or events, he should say hello. That can prevent hard feelings and leave the door open for being better friends again later. 🍷



Parent to Parent

No price tag on giving

My 12-year-old daughter, Katie, always wants to give presents at the holidays, but she doesn't have much money. This year, I suggested she think about what could she do for people rather than what she could wrap in a box or bag.

We brainstormed, and I was surprised by where our ideas led. Since Katie likes to sing, she thought of serenading her grandmother with

her favorite song from the 1950s. I suggested she offer her younger brother a "chore-free day," letting him pick a day for her to take over his chores.

Then, she decided to give her favorite teacher a handmade card with an offer to help around the classroom.

It's good for Katie to see that she can be generous without spending money. And I'm hoping that focusing on giving will keep her less focused on getting. 🍷



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting. Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated, 128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630 800-394-9052 • rfecustomers@wolterskluwer.com www.rfeonline.com ISSN 1540-3540

Hopkins Middle School
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HMS Contact Information

ADMINISTRATION:

Scott Stockwell, *Principal*
Pat O'Dell, *Dean of Students*
Todd Crook, *Counselor*
Molly Khang, *Counselor*
Jennifer Hitchcock, *Secretary*

STAFF:

Aleman, Kathleen
Barry, Joseph
Byville, Suzanne
Caulder, Stephanie
Dana, Katie
Dykstra, Krystal
Fisher, Mark
Francis, Cody
Haverdink, Melissa
Hazen, Rick
Irwin, Julie
Johnson, Chris
Johnston, Jennifer
Kerber, Brian
Klumpp, Molly
Marckini, Katelyn
Oaster, Jacob
Postma, Carrie
Quist, Carrie
Reszka, Richard
Rynsburger, T.J.
Schoonveld, Missy
Scudder, Mack
Smith, Julie
Smith, Lesa
Stein, Karen
VerMerris, Steve
Weible, Alexis
Weick, Pat
Williams, Jessica

EXT:

3509
3507
3508
3512
3500

EXT:

3002
3001
3103
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3103
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3129



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dec. 20-29 Winter Break
Jan. 2 Classes resume
Jan. 1/2 day for all students



Happy Holidays

ATTENDANCE

Please call the Middle School office at (269) 793-7407 within 24 hours of your students absence. You may leave a message on our voicemail system day or night. When reporting illness, please inform the secretary of the type of symptoms your child is experiencing (*fever, sore throat, ect.*). If your child is absent 2 days or more, you may request homework. If your student is absent only 1 day, homework may be picked up from their teachers the following day. You may also email absences to jennhitc@hpsvikings.org.

PHONE CALLS

Telephones in the office are to be used for **illness and emergencies only**. Thank you for your cooperation.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Please report all immunizations that your child has had so we are able to keep our school records up to date. All new students and all 6th graders must be completely up to date on all immunizations. Contact the HMS office if you have any questions.

MEDICATION

ALL medications needing to be dispensed to students must be supplied from home. The school does not provide any type of medication. All prescription medication must be provided in a pharmacy labeled bottle. Tylenol/Aspirin must be brought to the office in an unopened bottle. All students requiring any type of medication must have a medication form completed by their parents and on file in the office.

CHANGES in Phone Numbers, Home Address & E-Mail

Please inform the office any time there are changes in your address or phone numbers. We need to have this information so we can update our records and successfully contact you if needed.