



## October 2023 Newsletter

# Hanson Middle School

<http://www.whrsd.k12.ma.us>

781-618-7575 – Main Office

781-618-7375 – Absentee Line

There are some wonderful things happening both in and outside of the classrooms. I am so proud of the great work that our students and teachers are doing.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Progress Reports will be available online on Infinite Campus Portal on Wednesday, November 8th. As a reminder, the portal will be closed to parent viewing the week prior to Progress Reports. For future planning Parent Teacher conferences will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking for volunteers to serve on the School Council. If you are interested, our first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 11 at 3:00 pm. Please contact Mrs. Laferriere in the main office.

The administration and staff of Hanson Middle school are committed to a safe and secure environment and a positive learning experience for all of our students.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Bill Tranter, Principal



### Upcoming Events

**Friday October 6-** Early release  
11:00 am dismissal

**Monday October 9 -** No School  
Columbus Day

**Wednesday October 11–** Fall  
Picture retake

**Saturday, October 21st** (10:00  
AM – 1:00 PM)  
Open House at South Shore Tech

### Community Events

**School Committee Meeting**  
October 11, 6:30 p.m.





### *From Guidance – Ms. Levy, Ms. Sweeney and Ms. Fischbach*

Summer is officially over and fall has arrived which means one thing... We are all back in school mode and ready to have a successful year! Although each child is different and learns differently, here are a couple of things that you can do at home to help your child be their best this year. ~Ms. Levy

How can I help my child **SUCCEED** in school?

Stay involved and feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

Do not talk negatively about your child's teacher or school.

Make sure your child is getting plenty of sleep and is ready for school each day.

Help your child with his/her homework every night.

Ask your children about school and encourage them to talk about their day.

Read with your child every night.

Teach your children to be responsible for their actions and their schoolwork.

fun-in-first.blogspot.com

## Grade 8 parents... some dates for your calendar:

Wednesday, October 18th (during school day)

Presentation by Whitman-Hanson Regional High School and South Shore Tech

Saturday, October 21st (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM)

Open House at South Shore Tech



### *From the Assistant Principal*

Afterschool activities are off to a great start! We were able to run all but one of our offerings. Please remember that students should be picked up by 3:50. We will offer another round of activities in January.

#### Attendance:

As a reminder, please be sure to review our attendance and tardy policies. Students should be prepared for the start of the school day by 7:35 and should be in homeroom by 7:40 to avoid being marked tardy. If a bus is running late, homeroom teachers will be notified and students will not be marked tardy. Attendance at school is expected of all children on a regular basis. If your child will be absent, please call the school office prior to 10:00 A.M. at (781) 618-7375. Pursuant to Chapter 222 Acts of 2012: The school will notify parents or guardians in the event that a student has missed 5 or more school days, unexcused, in a school year requesting a meeting to develop action steps for student attendance. Absences may be excused for the following reasons: illness or quarantine, bereavement or serious illness in family, weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child, or the observance of major religious holidays.

#### Electronic Devices:

As Chromebooks have been provided to all students, students do not need access to personal electronic devices. As the policy is written, the use of electronic devices, unless allowed by teacher/administrator for educational purposes, is not permitted during the course of the school day; this includes lunch time. Students should keep phones turned off and away. Headphones should not be used unless for an educational purpose. If you need to reach your child, **we ask that you refrain from texting or calling them**. Instead, please contact the main office.

#### Afternoon Pick-Up:

When picking children up afterschool, we ask that you do not arrive too early, as traffic is preventing buses from getting to the school before dismissal time. In front of the school, please be sure not to block the bus lane. Doing so often causes the buses to have to cross the double yellow line into oncoming traffic waiting to enter the pick-up loop. Once in the pick-up loop, be sure to leave plenty of room for school vans to park in the pick-up area. Please do not park in front of the vans. Once vans leave, pull up as far as possible.

# Notes from the School Resource Officer

Hello Hanson Middle School Parents,

The School and I have a couple concerns regarding pick-up and drop-off at the school. First is the process as a whole. In the mornings, we must remain single file to ensure the safest drop off routine. Please refrain from going around another vehicle and have the patience for the single file line to move in due time. In the afternoon for pick up, please remind your student to keep an eye out for whoever is picking them up. At times you may have to wait for your student to get outside, in that case please pull up as far as you can to allow others to pick up their students.

Our second, but most important concern, is regarding the school vans. We have a handful of students who get picked up and dropped off in a white school van. These vans are designated as school buses, equipped with school bus signs, and flashing lights. According to the law, when they are boarding students on and off, you CANNOT go around them. This excerpt is from **M.G.L Ch 90 Section 14;**

***“When approaching a vehicle which displays a sign bearing the words "SCHOOL BUS" and which is equipped with front and rear alternating flashing red signal lamps which are flashing, as provided in section seven B, and which has been stopped to allow pupils to alight from or board the same, a person operating a motor vehicle or trackless trolley shall, except when approaching from the opposite direction on a divided highway, bring his vehicle or trackless trolley to a full stop before reaching said school bus and shall not thereafter proceed until the warning signals are deactivated, unless directed to the contrary by a police officer duly authorized to control the movement of traffic. Any person who violates the preceding sentence shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$250; and for a second offense by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000; and for a third or subsequent offense by a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,000.”***

We bring you these concerns and reminders to simply ensure the safety of our students during these heavy traffic times. We all want to drop off or pick up as quickly as possible, but we need to make sure everyone is safe during this process.

Thank you for your understanding of the above,

Officer Derek Harrington  
School Resource Officer  
Hanson Police Department



# RESOURCE FAIR

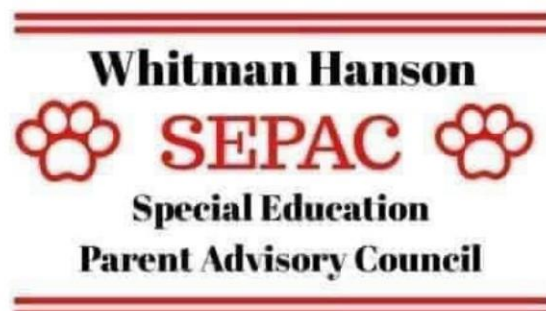
Saturday, October 21, 10am-3pm  
**Whitman Hanson Regional High School**

**Sensory Friendly Touch-A-Truck**  
10am-12pm



**Connect with 20+ agencies providing services to the special needs community in a family friendly environment including:**

- Therapies
- Advocates
- Social Services Organizations
- Home Supports
- ABAs



For more Information contact us at  
[whsepac@gmail.com](mailto:whsepac@gmail.com)

# SCHOOL NURSE NEWS



- **Are you an RN who would like to be a substitute nurse? The WHRSD nursing team is looking for sub nurses. You can decide if you would like to sub only at your child's school or all the schools. You could also be a sub nurse who only goes on field trips. If interested, please contact Lisa Tobin at [lisa.tobin@whrsd.org](mailto:lisa.tobin@whrsd.org).**

## **ABSENCES:**

- Please remember to call the absence sick line (781-618-7375) or the nurse/main office directly to report your student absent and be sure to include the reason for absence. I will be following up with phone calls home as needed regarding illnesses and absences.
- Please call the nurse directly for any COVID -19 illness/absence. It is still highly recommended that you do an at home Covid test if your child has symptoms to help you determine whether to send your child to school. As with any cold/flu symptoms it is always best to keep your child home until symptoms are improved (and fever free) so that your child is comfortable and able to participate fully at school.

## **REMINDERS**

- **PARENTS OF GRADE 7 STUDENTS:** If you have not done so already, please send in your child's current physical form and immunization record so I can confirm immunization compliance per state law for all grade 7 students.
- **MEDICATION AT SCHOOL** – The Medication Authorization Form needs to be completed by the parent and prescribing doctor in order for me to accept any medicine at school **including epi pens and inhalers**. Please be sure to bring this completed form when dropping off medication to me. Some doctors may use their own order forms, but the student information and parent section of the Medication Authorization Form still needs to be completed and brought in with the medicine as well. This form can be downloaded from the school website on the "health services" page.
- **EPI PENS AND INHALERS** – If your child has a prescribed epi pen or inhaler and you have not yet brought it in for this school year, please remember to do so as soon as possible.
- **INJURIES/RESTRICTIONS:** If your child has sustained an injury, we must have a note from the doctor stating the child's physical limitations/restrictions, including a gym excuse note and order for the use of assistive devices such as crutches or a wheelchair.

Thank you and as always please contact me with any questions or concerns,

Lisa Godbout, M.Ed., BSN, RN  
[lisa.godbout@whrsd.org](mailto:lisa.godbout@whrsd.org)  
781-618-8761

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington D.C trip

As of September 29, 2023 we have 55 Eighth graders who have enrolled for the Washington D.C trip. When you sign up for the trip you will be able to pay in monthly installments. The sooner you sign up the lower the monthly payment will be. The cost of the trip is \$1,273.00 and is all-inclusive. (meals, transportation and lodging). The deadline to enroll at this price is Friday October 6<sup>th</sup>. Don't wait! Explorica starts booking our excursion in October. If you wait you may be excluded.

### How to enroll:

**Online:** The registration link is [www.explorica.com/Tranter-5155](http://www.explorica.com/Tranter-5155)

Beginning in October we will be doing the Hilliard's Chocolate fundraiser to help students and families pay for the trip. You buy the box of 40 chocolates bars from us for \$50 and sell each bar for \$2.50. The money you make is yours to keep. You can apply it to the cost of the trip or use for spending money on the trip. A few years ago, we had several students raise enough money to pay for the entire trip.

## Student Council News

The HMS Student Council is back up and running for the 2023-2024 school year, with Mr. Merritt and Mr. Every advising. We already have a lot of exciting ideas for the year! The Council held their elections to choose new officers for this year at their September 27th meeting. We congratulate Isabel Bickford-D'Agostino as our new President, Taylor McCarthy as Vice President, Keira Gavin as Treasurer, and Aoife Flynn as Secretary. We look forward to a new year with this new administration!

Following our 5th/6th Grade "Welcome Back" Dance last week, Student Council will be holding two events in the near future. The first will be a Trivia Afternoon for all grades beginning at 2:30 and ending at 4:00 on Friday, October 20th. Students are invited to create a team and challenge their classmates to see who knows the most trivia. Tickets are \$5 per person. Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams. Refreshments will be available for purchase during the event. More information to follow as the event nears.

In the not so distant future, 7th and 8th Graders will have their first dance of the year on Friday, November 3. Tickets will be \$5 and will be sold during lunches. Refreshments will be sold at the dance. Hope to see you for both events!

Student Council will be continuing Citizen of the Month this year beginning with our first group for the month of September. For those new to HMS, Citizen of the Month is a program we started last year to recognize those students who day in and day out, exemplify what it is to be a "good citizen". "Citizens" are recognized for displaying kindness, caring, empathy, leadership, and good character, and we recognize one student per grade each month who displays these characteristics to their peers, teachers and HMS Community. Monthly winners will be announced on school announcements, be recognized in the HMS Newsletter and Student Council Instagram

account, as well as be awarded a certificate and ribbon, and be welcomed to a pizza lunch with Mr. Tranter, Mr. Belvis and Student Council advisors.

As a reminder, Student Council will generally meet every other Wednesday with both advisors, and meetings will usually last until about 3 or 3:15. New members are always welcome to join throughout the school year!

## School Council

Are you interested in getting involved with your child's education in another way? If you are, then think about whether you would be interested in joining the Hanson Middle School Council (also called the School Improvement Council). By law, every school is required to have a School Council. The group is made up of parents, teachers, and at least one community member.

The law outlines four major areas of responsibility for councils. School councils are to assist principals in:

1. Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards;
2. Identifying the educational needs of students attending the school;
3. Reviewing the annual school building budget; and
4. Formulating a school improvement plan.

**We will meet 4 times during the school year. The meeting schedule is as follows: Wednesday October 11, Wednesday December 13 Wednesday February 14 and Wednesday May 15 each meeting is about an hour, starting at 3:00 PM, and ending around 4:00 PM.** Emails will be sent prior to each meeting to inform you whether it will take place or is being cancelled and the reason for cancellation.