



December 2022 Newsletter

Hanson Middle School

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

781-618-7575 – Main Office

781-618-7375 – Absentee Line

The Holiday Season is now in full swing. The holiday vacation is just around the corner. I encourage you to do everything possible to keep your family healthy and safe. It is very important in these uncertain times to find time each day to have family discussions. Talk about favorite books, memorable stories, and family traditions. Children love to hear tales about your childhood or that of your parents. Even simple, every day occurrences become the foundation of an oral family history to be passed from generation to generation.

If you are fixing any special meals, give your children the opportunity to help you. Let them read the recipe or help with the preparation. Treasure your time together. It is a gift for everyone that is always the right size and price!

On Wednesday December 7 the staff will be participating in school safety training during the afterschool faculty meeting. There will be no after school activities. Please be sure that your student is picked up or takes the bus home.

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

Bill Tranter, Principal



Upcoming Events

Thursday December 1 – 8th
grade orientation at High School
6:30pm

Friday December 2

Student Council Trivia event

Tuesday December 13 Middle
School Concert at WHRHS 7:00
pm

December 23- Early release
11:00 am Professional
Development

December 24 -January 2
Holiday Recess No School

Community Events

School Committee Meeting
Dec. 7, 2022 6:30 p.m.



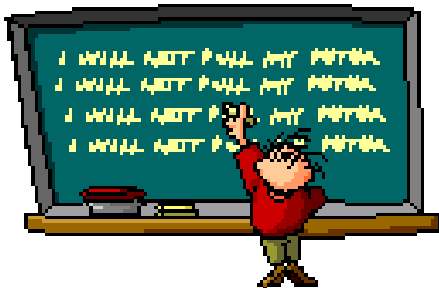
From Guidance – Ms. Sweeney



Grade 8 Parents: Believe it or not... it's getting to be that time of year when we start thinking about transitioning our Grade 8 students to high school!

*"Grade 8 students and parents are invited to the **Whitman-Hanson Regional High School Open House on Thursday, December 1, 2022 from 6:30-8:30PM.** Presentations will be given by each academic discipline as well as a showcase of athletics and extra-curricular activities. Current high school student leaders will be available to lead tours of the building, answer questions, and share their experiences, please join us for this informational event which will begin in the Dr. John F. McEwan Performing Arts Center at WHRHS at 6:30 PM."*

If I can help to answer any questions around transitioning to high school, please contact me at Jan.Sweeney@whrsd.org or 781-618-7575. Best wishes to all our families for a relaxing, happy, and peaceful holiday season!



From The Assistant Principal

After School activities were a success this fall. We were able to run all activities. Thank you to all students who participated and to all staff members who led activities. We plan to begin another round of afterschool programs shortly after Christmas break.

Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 13, for the Middle School Winter Concert. The concert will be held in the WHRHS Performing Arts Center at 7:00.

Parent Pick-up:

Afternoon pick-up has smoothed out as we have progressed through the year. To further streamline the process, please move as far forward as possible in the pick-up line. Staff is present to direct and assist with traffic flow.

SCHOOL NURSE NEWS



ILLNESSES:

- Please continue to be cautious and keep sick children home. If your child is experiencing more than one symptom such as cough, sore throat, congestion, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and/or fatigue, they should stay home and be seen by their pediatrician as needed.
- As always, if your child has a **fever of 100 or higher**, they need to stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours without taking any fever-reducing medicine.
- We ask that you do a home covid test as a precautionary measure, as if they test positive for covid, we are still required to have students and staff quarantine at home for 5 days following onset of symptoms or date of positive test if having no symptoms. If you do not have any covid test kits at home, please call me as I do have a limited number of kits available to give out.

ABSENCES:

Please remember to call the absence sick line (781-618-7375) or the nurse 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.

Additionally, please call the nurse directly to notify of any absences related to a COVID-19 matter.

MANDATED SCREENINGS:

As mandated by the Department of Public Health, hearing, vision, and BMI screenings are conducted annually for **grade 7** students. Additionally, **grade 5** students are required to have vision screening only.

I have completed the vision screenings for grade 5 and will be sending home referral letters for those students who should follow up with their physician or eye doctor.

I hope to start grade 7 screenings after Thanksgiving so, if you **DO NOT want your child to participate in the screenings**, please notify me in writing of this request. You can email me at lisa.godbout@whrsd.org or send in a written note with your child to bring to me.

Once the screenings are completed, parent/guardian(s) will be notified in writing **ONLY** if the student does **NOT** pass the hearing and vision screenings. If you would like the BMI results for your child, you may contact me to request that information be sent to you. If your child is not in 7th grade and you feel that he/she may need a hearing or vision screening done please contact me.

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
781-618-8761

HMS Student Council Proudly Presents a Trivia "Night"

On Friday, December 2, the Student Council will hold its first Trivia "Night" of the year. The event will start at 2:30-4:00. All grades are encouraged to attend. Students will play as teams and answer various trivia questions. There will be refreshments for sale and prizes for the winning teams. Hope to see you there!

8th Grade Washington D. C. Trip fundraising

We have Hilliard's Chocolate bars available for student fundraising. Students or parents can purchase a box of candy bars from Mrs. Laferriere in the main office for \$50. Each box contains 40 chocolate bars which can be sold for \$2.50 each. You make \$30 profit and can apply the money to your students account or use for spending money while in D.C.

Holiday Edition

**Written by: Colby Myers, Prevention Coordinator,
High Point Treatment Center & Brockton Area
Prevention Collaborative**

Brockton Area Prevention Collaborative is made up of five local community coalitions including the Brockton Mayor's Opioid Overdose Prevention Coalition, Bridging LIVES, EB Hope, Rockland CARES and Whitman Hanson WILL. The Brockton Area Prevention Collaborative is a regional group working together to address substance use prevention in the communities it serves.

Peer Pressure is a concept that is often referred to when discussing the "why" behind substance use. We recognize that it doesn't stop in adolescence and continues into adulthood. This makes us question, have we as a society desensitized ourselves to this theory?

Within schools, social groups, and even families, peer pressure is a construct that takes part in guiding our perceptions, attitudes, and most importantly different types of behavior.

Peer Pressure can be seen in two main ways: direct and perceived pressure. Direct peer pressure is the act in which someone explicitly pressures you to do a specific action. This can be accompanied by direct threats or giving some consequence if you do not do that specific act or behavior. Perceived peer pressure is when you behave a specific way or do a specific thing under the thought that if you do not, you will receive negative consequences from a specific person or group.

As we near the holiday season there are many times in which peer pressure can occur and it is often in two main ways. One thing to keep in mind is as college-aged young people come back home, it is a time when many people are getting together for the first time since leaving for the semester. Whether they are out at bars and restaurants in town or celebrating at a friend's house, these are very fun reunions and through harm reduction and healthy decision making it can be both a fun and safe event.

Highlighting the upcoming holidays themselves is important as well. People come together to spend time with loved ones and family; peer pressure does not have to be just within social circles, it can also be within families.

During this holiday season, it is important to remember that we all have various feelings and comfort with many things, especially alcohol, so by understanding and allowing others to make choices for themselves, it can help everyone be able to enjoy themselves and have a happy and healthy holiday season.

