

# ✦ Knightly News ✦

August 2007

Hollis Brookline Middle School

## *From the Administration*

Change is in the air! Please join me in welcoming three new staff members. **Mrs. Lynn DiZazzo** has joined Team Jordan as an **English teacher**. She comes to us from Windham Middle School where she served as the Literacy teacher. **Mrs. Sheila Mandragouras** has accepted the position of **HBMS Nurse**. She comes with tremendous experience and a comprehensive view of wellness! And lastly, I have had the distinct pleasure of working all summer with our new **Assistant Principal, Mr. Steve Secor**. Although not under contract until July 1, Mr. Secor attended many functions last spring to begin his transition. His strong math background, clear articulation of best instructional practices and compassion for our emerging adolescents will only serve to enhance our program at HBMS.

The **HBMS calendar** is located in your **child's agenda**. Embedded in it are some **important dates**; Open Houses, School Picture Day and the Washington, DC week for grade 8 students in March.

An **informational D.C. meeting** will be held for **parents of 8th graders** on Wednesday, **September 26th**, 6:30 PM at the Hollis Brookline High School **Auditorium**. The itinerary, cost and expectations will be described. This meeting will only be 45-60 minutes. All grade 8 parents are encouraged to attend to hear the behavioral criteria described.

As you know from last year's communication, our **primary building goal** is to input data for our **curriculum maps** through the purchased web-based software, Tech Paths. This task will be time consuming, however once completed our content maps will be used to thoughtfully integrate new initiatives, review NECAP results, identify gaps and/or redundancies, review alignment with State standards and to facilitate connections by sharing content, skills and assessments across all disciplines.

Please take time to review the enclosed **Student Directory Form**. It has been printed for your review should you choose to purchase a PTSA Student directory. **The information printed from our database is exactly what will be reproduced**

## Calendar Of Events

August 22nd— New Registration Orientation - 9-11:00 AM  
August 29th— First Day of School—7th Grade ONLY  
August 30th—ALL STUDENTS  
—Sports Tryouts (see article on page 2)  
September 3rd—No School—Labor Day  
September 5th—Volunteer Orientation,  
9:00—10:30 AM, Library  
September 11th—Open House—Grade 8—6:45 PM  
September 18th—Open House—Grade 7—6:45 PM  
September 19th—Fundraiser Kick-Off  
—School Pictures  
September 26th—D.C. Parent Meeting, 6:30 PM, High  
School Auditorium  
October 8th—No School—Columbus Day  
December 14th—Generations Parent/Student Workshop  
Day—Grade 8

**in the Directory**. If you read inaccurate information, please contact Mrs. Penny Arsenault directly at 465-2223 by September 7th.

We look forward to your involvement in a productive, challenging year.

Respectfully,

*Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal*

### ***Private School Application Process***

Students who will be applying to private schools this year **must** submit all forms, including individual teacher recommendation forms, to Ms. Christy in Guidance. Guidance will then deliver the necessary forms to each teacher for completion. This will allow Guidance to track each student's application and ensure that all forms are mailed together in a complete package. Forms must be submitted **at least two weeks** prior to the application deadline to ensure they are mailed out in time. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Christy

# Food Service Information

Ms. Liz Murray is our Head Cook at Hollis Brookline Middle School. Mrs. Amy Cassidy is the Food Service Director for the Hollis Brookline Cooperative District.



## The Food Service Program

operates on a prepayment system (as well as cash for purchase). If you would like to utilize the prepayment system you may send in a check with your student made out to **Hollis Brookline Hot Lunch**. **Please be sure to include your child's full name** and school ID# on the check. The money is deposited into the student's account and s/he is able to access it via their ID# at the register.

A full lunch is available for the cost of \$2.25. **Please note**, a slight increase over last year. A lunch includes a main entrée, fruit, vegetable, bread/grain, milk, and dessert when

available. Daily alternates include a variety of sandwiches, salads and pizza.

Also available for purchase are bagels, yogurt, baked chips, granola bars, muffins, milk, water and a variety of other snacks.

Please note that if a student owes more than \$4.00, a cheese sandwich lunch will be provided in lieu of the main meal or alternate. At no time, is charging of snacks or beverages allowed.

We are always looking for substitute kitchen workers. If you are interested in working as a paid substitute, please call Amy Cassidy at 465-2269, etc. 245.

Lunch times are as follows:

11:42—12:10 (Grade 8)

12:30—12:58 (Grade 7)



## Bus Safety

There are a number of expectations of students which should assure the safety of all persons while the school bus program is in operation. Please take a few moments to review the following with your child.

Students should:

- 1) remain at a safe distance from roadways at bus pick-up points. If necessary to cross a road, always walk in front of the bus.
  - 2) remain quiet and orderly while riding the bus.
  - 3) remain in their seats until destinations are reached, keeping aisles clear for possible emergency exiting.
  - 4) keep hands and objects inside the windows at all times.
  - 5) HBMS students may choose seats within the first half of the bus.
  - 6) Students may not eat or drink on the bus.
  - 7) Alternate buses will only be allowed when maximum seating has not been reached. A note from home that is also signed by administration must be presented to the bus driver.
  - 8) Students may not board nor get off their bus at the high school.
  - 9) Students must board buses at their home stop. A parent should accompany a student in all other cases.
  - 10) Students are required to arrive at their home stop five minutes prior to the scheduled pick up time.
- Failure to comply with the safety rules and regulations may lead to suspension of riding privileges.
- In advance, thank you for your attention to these expectations. Safety is our primary concern.

## Athletic Spotlight . . . .

### Interscholastic Sports

All students trying out or participating in a fall sport **MUST** have the **Pupil Data/Emergency Form** and a **current physical on file at HBMS** prior to their participation. **Their will be no exceptions!** Practices are held every day there is school, and students representing HBMS are expected to be at all practices and contests.

**Field Hockey** (Coach - Mrs. Smith) Tryouts will begin on Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4:15. All girls interested **must bring** shin guards, a colored mouth guard covering all teeth, cleats, water bottle and a change of clothes. All girls should be picked up behind the Middle School promptly at 4:15.

**Girls Soccer** (Coach - Mr. Gray) Tryouts will begin on Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4:15. All girls interested **must bring** shin guards, a colored mouth guard covering all teeth, cleats, a water bottle and a change of clothes. All girls should be picked up behind the Middle School promptly at 4:15.

**Boys Soccer** (Coach - Mr. Lyle) Tryouts will begin on Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4:15. All boys interested **must bring** shin guards, a colored mouth guard covering all teeth, cleats, a water bottle and a change of clothes. All boys should be picked up behind the Middle School promptly at 4:15.

**Girls Volleyball** (Coach - Ms. Dunbar) Tryouts will begin on Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4:15. All girls interested **must bring** knee pads, sneakers, a water bottle and a change of clothes. All girls should be picked up behind the Middle School promptly at 4:15.



**Boys and Girls Cross Country** (Coaches - Mr. Johnston, Mr. Picariello) Practices will begin on Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-3:45. All students interested in distance running (meet courses are approximately 2 miles) should bring running shoes, a water bottle and a change of clothes. Any student that does not make the above teams may join the cross country team at that time. All students should be picked up behind the Middle School promptly at 3:45.



## REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

The Health Office would like to remind you of State guidelines for entrance to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. All entering 7<sup>th</sup> graders must have a second **MMR** (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) immunization record on file in their school health record. Students born after 1/1/94 must also have **3 doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine**. Students also need to have had the **Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccine** or have a history of disease as reported by the parent or health care provider. It is possible that your child may have had these immunizations and the school does not have a record. In order to facilitate entry to school in the fall, parents of students who did not have these immunizations on record were contacted this spring. If your child received these immunizations during the summer, documentation should be forwarded to the Middle School as soon as it is received.

Tetanus immunizations are required every 10 years for State compliance. Please check your child's last dose at your next physician's visit. For most students, this will be due during 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Hollis Brookline School Board has a policy requiring a recent physical for all entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. If this physical was received after March 1, 2007, it will meet requirements for all activities during the two years of Middle School. There will be some students who have had a physical within the past year, but not since March 2007. These students should provide a copy of their physical to the school. They will also need to provide a copy of their next annual physical as well.



### USB FLASH DRIVE

The Hollis Brookline Middle School strongly encourages students to have a USB Flash drive. This item will make the

transporting of MS Office documents and other school-related files easier. In the past, there have been many compatibility issues with floppy disks between home and school. USB Flash drives have reduced those conflicts. Your child does not need a USB Flash Drive larger than **512 MB**. Make sure that the USB Flash Drive **does not have any "security" software** installed (U3). This causes conflicts as well. Many USB Flash drives can be found at around \$20 each or less depending where you look. Suggested places:

TARGET / target.com    COMPUSA / compusa.com  
STAPLES / staples.com

A search on the web can produce more. During August, many stores will place common back-to-school items on sale. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

### PEANUT FREE AREA IN CAFETERIA

As a larger population of students begin to have allergies to peanuts, we have established procedures that will help protect students while at school. We ask that parents consider carefully ingredients that may be included in any food prepared for school events or activities.

Due to this increasing need we have also established a peanut free area in the cafeteria for the 2007-2008 school year. There will be two tables designated as peanut free. These tables will be clearly marked. In addition, snacks will be fruit only.

If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Mandragouras, School Nurse at 465-2223.

Save The Date . . . September 22, 2007

Jordan's Walk for Wishes & Dash for Dreams

*In Memory of Jordan D. Coffey*

Proceeds to Benefit



New Hampshire

Website: <http://huskeynh.tripod.com/>

E-Mail: [huskeynh@aol.com](mailto:huskeynh@aol.com)

PO Box 193

Brookline, NH 03033

*We will be known forever, by the tracks we leave behind*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

PLEASE CONTACT SHARON COFFEY AT: [huskeynh@aol.com](mailto:huskeynh@aol.com) or call 673-3922

### Breakfast Anyone?

We need your input! Breakfast is being considered at HBMS. Our first goal is to get an approximate number of interested students. Please either email [arsenaultp@sau41.k12.nh.us](mailto:arsenaultp@sau41.k12.nh.us) or call 465-2223 to let us know: **Yes**, I would like my child to participate in a breakfast program, or **No**, I am not interested.

Thanks in advance for your time and thoughts!

## LIFE SKILLS MISSION STATEMENT

Hollis Brookline Middle School promotes the development of life skills through: music, physical education, art, computer, family and consumer science, guidance, tech ed, library media and technology, and wellness. As an integral part of a student's academic and social well being, a Life Skills curriculum fosters a well-rounded student who can realize and fulfill his/her potential to be a productive member of society. Life skills develop strategies for our students to appreciate and confront real-life experiences. We strive to present a variety of formats to teach our students:

- ◆ *Critical thinking skills* to solve problems in different situations
- ◆ *Effective communication* in a variety of settings
- ◆ To think and *express* themselves *creatively*
- ◆ *Self-awareness* physically, mentally, emotionally and socially
- ◆ How to recognize and accept social, physical and *cultural differences*
- ◆ How to appreciate, recognize, and demonstrate different levels of *craftsmanship*
- ◆ *Time management* and wise use of resources
- ◆ The connection between school and *career opportunities*
- ◆ How to make safe, *healthy decisions*

Physical education is a requirement for all students. Students are required to wear sneakers and change into appropriate clothing for every class. A combination locker is assigned to each student for their clothing and valuables. It is a **year long** class that meets every other day. In seventh grade students will have **Ms. Bottcher** and complete units in tchoukball, field hockey, volleyball, personal fitness, team handball, basketball, pickleball, badminton, sport stacking, track and field, archery and adventure education. In eighth grade they will have **Mr. Johnston** and participate in frisbee, soccer, volleyball, adventure education (including the climbing wall), fitness, basketball, lacrosse, and golf.

**Music** education is also a requirement for all students. It is a **year long** class that meets every other day. Music classes include band, chorus, and general music. Band and chorus ensembles perform a minimum of two concerts per year, one in the winter and one in the spring. General music students complete units on guitar, piano, music composition and music appreciation. There are two teachers involved in the music program. **Mrs. Spencer** teaches chorus and general music. **Mr. Depine** teaches band and general music.

The other Life Skills teachers rotate through the four teams. **All students** will take **all** of the Life Skills classes; however, will have **one at a time** for each quarter of the year.

**Mrs. Papadeas** is the **art** teacher. **Team Hypatia** will start with art. The art program at HBMS encourages students to be creative and to use their imagination in problem solving activities. From their own personal expression of life and through applied learning, students experience age appropriate drawing, painting and 3-D assignments. All of the art supplies will be provided for the students, but it is required the students have pencils for drawing. At the end of the art rotation students can keep and share with you their art portfolio.

**Mrs. Sarvaiya** teaches **family and consumer science**. Students on **Team McAuliffe** will begin the year in family and consumer science. Students need the following:

- Hand sewing needles-in a variety of sizes
- Straight pins
- 12 different colors of felt fabrics
- Colored pencils, eraser and a ruler
- A half yard of the fabric of your choice
- Sewing box/empty shoe box
- Matching thread
- Stuffing for pillow

**Tech Ed.** is taught by **Mr. Picariello**. Mr. Picariello will start the year with **Team Jordan**. There are no specific materials needed for the first day of Tech Ed. class.

**Ms. White** is the **wellness** teacher. **Team Prescott** will start the year with Ms. White. Topics will include eating disorders, alcohol awareness, HIV awareness and CPR/First Aid. All eighth grade students will have the opportunity to become certified in Adult, Child and Infant CPR/First Aid. All wellness students should be sure to have a small folder with two pockets and 3 ring prongs to insert handouts. They should also keep a supply of white lined paper. As part of the wellness curriculum **Ms. Christy**, the guidance counselor, will be working with students on career development.

The computer technology education program, managed by **Mr. Gruce**, was changed last year. To better support the new **Information and Communication Technologies Literacy Standards** ([www.nheon.org/oet/standards/ICTLiteracy.htm](http://www.nheon.org/oet/standards/ICTLiteracy.htm)) passed last year by the New Hampshire State Legislator, Computer Technology Instruction will be integrated directly into the content areas. This team teaching approach will show students that computers are becoming more integrated beyond the classroom. It will also allow students to demonstrate and build on their skills.

At the end of their Eighth Grade year at the Hollis Brookline Middle School, an **electronic portfolio** of work will be evaluated by a group of teachers. The evaluation will determine whether or not a student has adequately demonstrated proficiency in using these technology tools to access, manage, integrate, evaluate, and create information across all content areas. **Mr. Gruce** is excited at the prospect of working with colleagues in this new way. The teachers here at the Hollis Brookline Middle School have many projects and activities that challenge the students, as well as support the new standards.

Life Skills teachers genuinely look forward to beginning the school year. We welcome those who are new to the Hollis Brookline Middle School community and are eager to see those who are returning. See you soon!

# FIRST DAY JITTERS

Please help with your child's first day jitters by reviewing with him/her the following information.



**Grade 7** students will arrive on Wednesday, August 29th. They will be greeted by staff on the north side of the building. (The same procedure will be followed for grade 8 students on Thursday, August 30th.)

**ROCK lists will be posted** on the side wall for easy viewing. Teachers and students will congregate in the general areas of their lists. When signaled, **teachers will escort their group** into the building.

Our first day will include orientation time. Administration will be present during all lunches to answer student questions.

Should you have a specific question regarding our opening day, please feel free to call us at 465-2223.

## NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

On Wednesday, August 22nd at 9:00 a.m. we will hold an orientation for all new students (both 7th and 8th) who have registered this summer. Please join us!

## Bus Routes

Complete bus routes will be posted on the front doors of the Hollis Brookline Middle School, on Friday, August 24th. Routes will also be publicized in all the local newspapers.



## Hollis Brookline Middle School Expectations!

- Manage Yourself
- Cooperate with Others
- Respect Personal and Public Property
- Act in a Healthy and Legal Manner

# MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ? - Does every student have a locker?

✓**Yes**, all students will have their own locker with a combination. Lockers are large, therefore may accommodate sports gear, coats, books and backpacks. Combinations should not be shared with anyone.

## ? - Do I need to call the office when my child is absent?

✓**Yes please!** We do follow up on all student absences with phone calls unless we have heard from you.

## ? - When should I write the school a note?

✓Please send a note, via your child, when he/she will be dismissed early or when requesting permission to ride a different bus.

## ? - Is there a specific spot to drop off my child in the morning?

✓**Yes**. Use the drive to the left of Farley and proceed to the front of the building for drop off. (Busses will use the drive to the right of Farley and travel behind the building for drop off.) We ask you to not idle your vehicle at the end of the day when picking up your child. Please turn your engine off. Go green!

## ? - What time does school start?

✓Our day begins promptly at 7:15 a.m. and dismissal is at 2:15 p.m.

## ? - How will my child know which bus to take?

✓Bus routes will be posted on the front doors of HBMS on August 24th. They will also be published in the local newspapers.

## ? - How do I know if there are any changes to afterschool sports?

## Welcome to the HBMS Library Media Center

- By C. Jahns

The Library Media Center becomes very busy with the many activities of fall. New books will be on display throughout September and student orientations will be scheduled the first few weeks. Parents are invited to visit the media center during our HBMS Open House night. Also, check the Library Media Center page on the school website for information throughout the year.

With so many sports and numerous activities for middle school students, it can be a challenge to find time to pursue reading at home. One way to encourage reading is to talk about books; how do you choose a good book? What makes an intriguing character? What type of plot interests you? A great list of "Best Books for Young Adults" is available at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/06bbva.htm>

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a rapidly growing division of the American Library Association (ALA), sponsors an annual Teens' Top Ten (TTT) where books have been chosen by students nationally: <http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten/teenstopten.htm>

They also promote "Teen Read Month"; watch for more details in September!

## VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATED

Two years is a small slice of your child's development, yet early adolescence is such an important time. Join us during your student's seventh and eighth grade years! Participate in any way you are able. All involvement has positive affects.

An early orientation is planned for September 5th, at 9:00 a.m. at HBMS library. We look forward to meeting you.



## APPEARANCE AND DRESS

The matter of dress and appearance is, for the most part, a matter of individual taste. Students must, however, respect the learning environment. Any appearance or dress which would cause a distraction from the learning process, infringe upon the rights of other students or dress that is unsafe will not be tolerated.

1. Dress and grooming should be clean.
2. Immodest clothing will not be tolerated.
3. Students may wear shorts however, shorts and skirts must be at least mid-thigh lengths.
4. Students may not go barefoot at any time.
5. Students must wear a shirt at all times inside and outside school buildings.
6. Abbreviated tops such as halters, tube or thin strapped tank tops are not permitted.
7. Shirts advertising illegal substances, violence or vulgarities should not be worn.
8. Students may not wear hats at any time (including bandanas and visors).



## WASHINGTON, DC March 25 — March 28, 2007

Attention Grade 8 students and parents! Our eighth grade Washington, DC trip has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 25 through Friday, March 28, 2007.

A parent information evening has been set for September 26th at the HBHS auditorium, 6:30 p.m.



## ROCK TESTIMONIALS

On the last day of school grade 7 students were surveyed for facts, feelings and questions regarding their year in ROCK. Over 75% of the students answered, "Yes, ROCK has helped me." Direct quotes follow:

- "It's helped with organization. If we never cleaned lockers, I'd always be late for class."
- "Helped me meet new people on a different team."
- "I was able to talk about real events and have time to read."
- "It gave me an opportunity to relax and get organized."
- "It helps me get ready for the day. I wouldn't like going to another class first. ROCK makes me aware of what's happening on the news. It helps my reading skills."
- "ROCK has given me a chance to ask questions, get used to things, organize and plan for the day. It gives me a chance to get collected in the morning."
- "ROCK has helped me everyday to figure out my schedule."

## EMERGENCY FORMS

Dear Parents and Students,

In order to facilitate a smooth entrance to school, we are requesting that an *emergency form* and a *current physical* be on file prior to the start of school year. All 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to have a current physical on file in the Health Office. (Please note, we have no standard physical form. Whatever your doctor provides you with is acceptable.) ***Pupil Data/Emergency Forms*** need to have current information annually. For your convenience we are enclosing an emergency form to be completed and returned to HBMS before the start of the school year.

***Students who plan to try out for a fall sport will have met the initial contract requirements, once the above described paperwork has been completed and returned. School tryouts for fall sports are scheduled to begin August 30, 2007.***

If you have any questions, please call the HBMS office at 465-2223.

Sincerely,

Patricia Goyette, Principal

Gayle Bottcher, Athletic Director

Sheila Mandragouras, Nurse

## PTSA HIGHLIGHTS

I hope you will join me in warmly welcoming back our 2007-2008 PTSA Co-Presidents: Sue Holroyd and Ruth Kabel. We have met to begin planning our year. Please place **September 21st**, 8:30-10:00 on your calendar for the **first PTSA meeting** of the year. (Please note, monthly meetings will be held the third Friday of each month.)

As principal of Hollis Brookline Middle School I need to compliment and **applaud the work of PTSA**. On average 30 parents and community members meet monthly to discuss upcoming events, plan parent evenings, problem solve areas of need and give feedback to me. Rather than bringing 'private agenda issues' parents focus on what is best for all of our emerging adolescents. Meetings are positive and productive! Please plan to get involved.

The fall **Magazine Drive** is our main fundraiser. Volunteers will coordinate the drive this year. The kick off date is Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in supporting this initiative please phone Mrs. Desmarais at 465-2223. We also will continue to participate in the **Box Tops 4 Education**.

Our **Volunteer Orientation** is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**, 9-10:30 in the HBMS library. Please plan to attend to hear of the many ways you can become involved. We view you as an integral part of our learning community.

Please take a moment to complete the enclosed PTSA paperwork. This is your PTSA and you as the many volunteers make the difference! I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDENTS

¡Hola a todos! Bonjour tout le monde! We hope you are enjoying your summer with your family. Mrs. Banks, Mrs. Cloutier and I are looking forward to meeting our new 7th grade students and catching up with our returning students. We have a couple of things we'd like you to know for your return to school.



**First, 8th grade students, please remember to bring in your 7th grade class notes. We ask that students return to 8th grade with these notes.**

Second, we ask that students entering **8th grade purchase a dictionary**. Foreign language dictionaries can be found in many stores including WalMart and K-Mart. Any edition or publisher is fine. We recommend that you avoid "elementary" dictionaries.

Additional supplies needed are:

- **1" binder (may be combined with another class), filled with 100 sheets of lined paper and pencil pouch,**
- **5 dividers,**
- **Colored pencils or markers,**
- **Several packages of 3"x5" index cards,**
- **Box of tissues (optional)**

Thank you for your help with this. Enjoy the remainder of your summer! Hasta las vista, Au revoir!

Sincerely,

Janet Lash, Claudia Banks, June Cloutier



## ATHLETIC FEE

Parents and students, participation on an interscholastic team will require a **\$25.00** fee with a family limit of **\$100.00**. All monies will support championship banners, coaches awards and replacement uniforms.