



HMS News and Notes

August 2020

Dates to remember:

August 3rd–12th

Middle School office open for registration of students that are new to the district. Call 995-5421 to set up appointment.

August 11th—Open House

Gr. 5 and New Students
6:00 to 7:00 PM

Gr 6, 7, and 8th 7:00 to 8:00 PM

August 13th

School begins at 8:00 A.M. with early dismissal at 1:30 pm

September 4th – Labor Day –NO SCHOOL

Sept 10th– Picture Day

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WELCOME BACK!!!!



Principal's Page

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!! The HMS family has surely missed your children. I'd venture to say that you've missed us having them as well:) HAHA!! We are in a time in our lives like no other. Showing each other GRACE, PATIENCE and KINDNESS will be in high demand this year. As I write for this newsletter, I know that we are starting school on Thursday, August 13th.

I'm hopeful that we will be in the building together for the entire year, but I also know that things could change sooner or later. We will do our best to keep you constantly informed. Please check in frequently on our Holdrege Middle School Facebook page for updates.

We welcome five new staff members this year:

Roxanna Fees - 7th grade Science

Morgan Sentelle - Band Director

Pat Hellriegel - Media Specialist

Chris Wilbur - Custodian

LaRae Axtell - Custodian

Lisa Swift– Paraprofessional

Please stop in to pick up your child's schedule and other important information on Tuesday, August 11th:

6:00 - 7:00 pm 5th graders and those new to HMS are invited to stop by.

7:00 - 8:00 pm 6th, 7th and 8th graders can stop in

The first two days of school are August 13th and 14th with a 1:30 dismissal time.

See you soon!!

Back to School Night

Holdrege Middle School Open House

Tuesday, August 11th

6:00 - 7:00 5th Graders and Students New to HMS

7:00 - 8:00 6th, 7th and 8th Graders are invited to come pick up their schedules.

****Please limit the number of family members you bring into the building.**

****Please practice social distancing. Masks are encouraged but not required.**

- Students will receive information regarding the upcoming school year, including schedules and HPS calendar
- 7th & 8th grade students need to pay their \$30 computer usage fee
- Students may purchase an activity ticket in the office for \$35
- Students may also come to the office to put money in their lunch accounts. It is easiest to pay by check, including the student's lunch account number in the memo portion of the check. Lunch numbers will remain the same as they were last year.

***ALL fees must be paid for with a separate check or cash. Activity passes, computer

"If you're not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you're determined to learn, no one can stop you."

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Welcome Back To School!

I would like to take this opportunity to especially welcome all 5th graders and new students and their families to HMS! It is always an exciting time to begin a new school year. This year will be somewhat different, given the situation we're in; however, know that I am here along with the rest of our caring staff to help each student be successful.

This year's theme is: "THE DUSTER WAY!" THE DUSTER WAY will focus on these three elements: BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE and BE SAFE!

The three most important school supplies for the new school year will be:

PATIENCE, FLEXIBILITY and GRACE.

If you or your son/daughter have any questions, needs, or issues of concern, please don't hesitate to email me at (jean.berreckman@dusters.org) or call me here at school (995-5421). I look forward to all that this year has in store for us! Remember that together, on THE DUSTER WAY, we will succeed and see the year through!

Mrs. Berreckman (Mrs. B.) :)

School Lunch Information

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH FORMS— Please fill out one lunch form per family, listing all children in Holdrege Schools. Return as soon as possible to HPS Central Office if you wish to qualify for the first meal. Students qualifying for free or reduced price lunches will also qualify for the breakfast program as well as other programs (free activity ticket, free assignment notebook, etc.) by completing the fee waiver form included in this mailing.

LUNCH PRICES FOR 2020-2021 School Year:	
Lunch	\$3.10
Breakfast	\$1.85
Extra Entrees	\$1.80
Extra Pizza	\$1.95
Extra Milk	\$0.45
Adults	\$3.80

LUNCH ITEMS:

The lunch program is managed by Lunchtime Solutions. It is important that all checks for the lunch program be separate from other purchases made at school. Lunch money will be accounted for entirely separate from other monies. To find the most accurate and current menu go to our website (dusters.org) and find "Lunch Menu" options as you hover over "Links" on the right hand side of the top banner.

The lunch program does sell extras so be aware if your child is buying extras, their lunch money will not go as far. Extra items are not included in Free and Reduced Lunch prices. There is an option to block your child from purchasing extras. Call Central Office if you would like to use this feature. You can monitor your child's lunch account balance and make payments to your child's lunch account on Infinite Campus.

LUNCH TIMES FOR 2020-2021

1st Lunch will be from **11:25 - 12:05**

Fridays **11:00 - 11:40**

5th grade eats first while 6th grade is at recess

6th grade eats second while 5th grade is at recess

2nd Lunch will be from **12:10 - 12:50**

Fridays **11:45 - 12:25**

7th grade eats first while 8th grade is at recess

8th grade eats second while 7th grade is at recess

CELL PHONE USAGE:

Cell phone usage is strictly prohibited during the school day, which runs from 7:50am-3:30pm. Students are permitted to possess and use cell phones before and after school, provided that the student follows handbook policy. The first time a student is found to have a phone in their possession during the school day, the phone will be kept in the office the remainder of the day and student may pick up after school. On the second offense the phone will remain in the office until a parent comes to pick it up. The third and subsequent violations will result in the student having to pay a \$10 fine prior to picking up the phone. **Refer to handbook policy for additional information.

**"Education is not
the learning of
facts but the
training of the
mind."**

—Albert Einstein

Electronic Devices: Please do not send or allow students to bring any electronic devices to "play on" before, during or after school (this includes lunch). These items may include, but are not limited to: tablets, kindles, nooks, iPad and iPod. If an individual classroom teacher allows a device for reading, then he or she will supervise that in their room. Reading in the library will be from an actual book or school issued device. **Please refer to handbook

New Tech Support Email:

A little change this year for your tech support needs. We will be using support@dusters.org for a contact email. Your request will go to Rustin Harms, James Reed and the Tech Team at ESU. Any issue big or small. Thank you.

DRESS CODE: When buying school clothes for your child, remember that we do not allow the following: bare shoulders, spaghetti straps, bare stomachs, dresses or shorts that are shorter than the tips of their fingers, clothes that have obscenities written on them or clothes that promote drugs and alcohol. Please make sure that your child has the proper attire on before they leave for school so that they do not have to call home for a change of clothing.

Picking Up and Dropping Off



The circle drive on the south side of the school is a bus pick up/drop off area and a fire lane access ONLY. There will be no pick up or drop off in this area.

The east side of the building and The Tassel parking lot across the street will be designated for student pick up and drop off.

The east side of the building will have two lanes. The inside lane will be for drop off and pick up. The outside lane will be for through traffic to go to the east parking lot.

When you drive through the pick up lane, if your child is there you may stop and pick them up. If they are not there you will need to drive around and park in the parking lot or exit the parking lot and drive through

For the system to work smoothly, it is important that parents do not sit in the pick up lane waiting for their child, as this will back up traffic.

The building opens at 7:30 for students in the morning so you may drop them off at any time from 7:30 to 7:55 in the morning.

The busiest time that parents drop students off is 7:45 to 7:55.

If you do not want to wait in line dropping your child off, earlier is recommended.

We also start serving breakfast in the middle school commons at 7:30.

The school day begins at 8:00 am and 8:01am is tardy.

ACTIVITY TICKETS:

Activity tickets are available to all Holdrege Middle School students for \$35. (Please keep these checks separate from other monies). The activity tickets will admit you to all home Holdrege High School and Middle School contests with the exception of any conference, district or state contests that we may host.

Tickets may be purchased in the Holdrege Middle School Office. 7th and 8th graders who go out for an athletic team sport will be required to purchase an activity ticket.

****Adult season tickets are sold at the High School.**

****Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches can have that fee waived by turning in the "Sharing Information" (Waiver) form.****

BOOK BAGS: Book bags will be used to carry books to and from school only. All book bags are to be kept in the student's locker, during the school day. Students will have plenty of room for their book bags and coats in these lockers. To keep the lockers in good shape students will not be allowed to glue, tape, or attach objects inside their lockers but magnets are acceptable. **REMINDER:** Lockers are school property and can be searched at any time.



Immunizations:

Students are to be up to date on their immunization records. State law tells us that any student who is not current on immunizations will not be allowed to begin school.

Physical Cards: Students grades 7th and 8th, planning to participate in sports, must have a physical before they are allowed to practice or play. Be sure to get your physicals completed as soon as possible! **Reminder—ALL seventh grade students need to have a physical and are to bring their physical forms to the office with the front and back all filled out.** Local physicians have school physical cards.

INSURANCE COVERAGE: Insurance forms will be sent home with students at orientation. If you are interested in purchasing this insurance, fill out the form and mail it to the address on the form.

INSURANCE WAIVER FORM: If you do not wish to purchase the insurance, and/or feel you have adequate insurance for your child, you will simply sign the handbook signature page.

HEALTH INFORMATION A health information sheet must be on file for each student. These will be sent home in the back to school packet with other required forms.

MEDICATIONS: If for any reason your child needs to take medication during the school day a parent or guardian will need to fill out the medication administration form which can be found on the school website under the health services tab or can be picked up in the middle school office. All medication must be in the original labeled prescription/over the counter bottle and turned into the office. If you have questions please contact our school nurse by email at: ashley.billeter@dusters.org

STUDENT ABSENCES: If your child is absent on any day, please call the school office before 8:00 a.m. to inform us of the absence. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent, please send a note to school with your child. The note should be shown to each of your child's teachers and then brought to the office. A parent or guardian may call or send a note to the office when the student is tardy.

“TO KEEP THE
BODY IN
GOOD HEALTH
IS A DUTY...
OTHERWISE
WE SHALL NOT
KEEP OUR
MIND STRONG
AND CLEAR.”
— BUDDHA

**Holdrege Middle
School Office**

600 14th Ave.
P.O. Box 2002
Phone: 308-995-5421
Fax: 308-995-4970



Mission Statement

"The mission of the Holdrege Public Schools is to prepare students to be life long learners and productive, responsible citizens by providing a quality education in cooperation with family and community."

[www.holdregedusters.org **]**

Fall Sports Meetings

7th & 8th Football— Those interested in playing football will sign up during class on the first day of school - Thursday, August 13. We will checkout gear after school on Friday, August 14 and start practicing on Monday, August 17. All 7th graders need to have a physical turned in before they can practice. It is recommended that 8th graders have a physical, but if they had a physical last year, they will be eligible to participate. Please contact me if you have any questions. **Brian Komenda**

brian.komenda@dusters.org

7th/8th Cross Country—Meeting Thursday, August 13th after school in Mrs. Fuehrer's Room (112)

8th Volleyball — Meeting Friday, August 14th @ 1:30 in Mrs. Ericksen's Room (101). Practice begins August 19th right after school till about 5:30

7th Volleyball- Meeting Friday, August 14th @ 1:30 in Mrs. Fee's Room (114). Practice begins August 19th right after school till about 5:30.

Newsletter: The hardcopy of this first newsletter is the only newsletter that we send out in the mail. Most parents prefer to receive it via e-mail or it can be accessed on the school website, or facebook.

Supplies Needed for Holdrege Middle School

2020-2021

All students will receive one planner free of charge to start the school year. A \$5.00 fee will be charged for any additional planners. Below are items needed for each grade level.

5th Grade

2-1 subject spiral notebooks-70 count wide ruled

(No multi-subject notebooks)

3 ring binder 1.5 inch , no larger

2 elastic cloth book covers-Jumbo

Inexpensive headphones in a Ziploc bag

(labeled, with students name)

DO NOT bring anything that is not on the list

1 pencil bag with 3 ring holes

#2 lead pencils

1 standard boxes of tissues

Deodorant-NO SPRAY

6th Grade

Pencils

Red pens

2 blue or black pens

4 dry erase markers & 1 eraser

Colored Pencils

Folders or some organizational tool- NO Trappers

1 (1") 3 ring binder (Science)

Pencil bag

2 regular Book Covers

Highlighters (yellow and green)

1 box of tissues

3 spiral notebooks

Deodorant-NO SPRAY

Individual Sharpener

7th Grade

Pens- black or blue

Pencils

Pencil bag

Colored pencils

Loose leaf paper/neat notebook

Calculator

1 pkg red pens- a must

Accordion folder or pocket folder(1 per class)

1-3 inch binder(3 ring binder for Science)

Glue stick

Ruler

1 large box of tissues

Scissors

Erasers

Deodorant-NO SPRAY

1 spiral notebook for math

Highlighters

Black/Blue Expo Markers

Supplies Needed for Holdrege Middle School

2020-2021

8th grade

1 -box of 12 colored pencils

2- blue or black ink pens

1- set of highlighters (assorted colors)

2 -(1") 3 ring binder (to be left in English/Science Room)

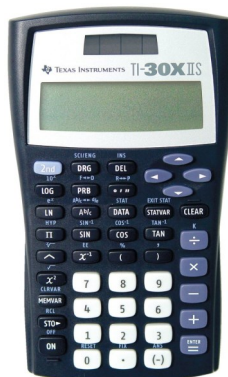
1- pkg. red checking pens

1 -box of tissues

1- large binder or accordion folder

TI-30 IIX calculator (optional)

Narrow ruled notebook paper (1 per class) or loose leaf paper



1 -pkg/box #2 lead pencils

TI-30 IIX calculator (optional)

1 -ruler

1 -pack of dry erase markers

2 spiral notebooks

P.E.

5th & 6th grade students need tennis shoes for P.E

7th & 8th Grade P.E supplies

T-shirt, athletic shorts, tennis shoes, sweats for cold weather, combination lock

7th & 8th Grade Physicals

All incoming 7th grade students are required to obtain a physical and be fully immunized, which means boosters may be needed. Seventh grade physicals will meet the requirements for the athletic physicals for the school year. If you are an 8th grader and never played a sport you will need to have a physical. If you played last year, you are good for this year. For more information, contact your physician or Ashley Billeter, our school nurse. All local physicians have Holdrege Public School physical forms in their offices.

5th and 6th grade Music/7th and 8th Choir

5th and 6th grade Music: 1 pocket folder, 3-5 pencils , 1 box of tissues, 1 dry erase marker

7th and 8th grade Choir: 1 box of Kleenex

Phelps Memorial Therapy Center will be offering free backpack screens and have information about what to look for when buying PE/sports shoes at Back to School night. They will have a booth set up with the PMHC logo. If you are interested in having your child screened to assess their backpack for proper fit to help prevent back and shoulder issues, please have your child bring their backpack that night. Thank you!

TEAMMATES MENTORING PROGRAM -

What is TeamMates? TeamMates Mentoring Program is a school based mentoring program founded by Tom and Nancy Osborne in 1991 with the vision of University of Nebraska Head Football Coach Tom Osborne and his wife Nancy. The mission of TeamMates is to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential. One goal of the TeamMates program is to see youth graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education. We currently have 68 mentees who are matched starting in the 5th grade and continue to stay with their mentor until they are seniors. We graduated nine mentees with the class of 2020. Five of the seniors applied for our local TeamMates scholarship and received this scholarship to help with college expenses.

What is a TeamMates Mentor? A TeamMates mentor is someone who provides a young person with support, friendship and a positive example. TeamMates' Mentors want to help students be all that they can be. (We currently are in need of more mentors. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, you may apply online at team-mates.org or you may email me or call me here at school.

Who could be a Mentee? Any student could benefit from having a mentor. Having an adult who will listen to them, cheer for them, encourage them to become whatever it is that they want to become. Young people like to be around positive adult role models. (If your son/daughter is wanting to be in TeamMates, please contact me here at school).

***UPDATE AS THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS** - Mentors will not be coming into the school due to Covid 19. Information from our TeamMates Central Office Staff in Omaha: We believe it's crucial that our matches can continue to meet, so we are working diligently to put tools in place that will allow our local programs to facilitate video match meetings and electronic communication. Although schools and communities may be restricted from meeting in person, our goal is to provide all matches the opportunity to continue to participate in TeamMates. Stay tuned for more information as the year progresses.

Jean Berreckman and Denise Stevenson - Co-coordinators of TeamMates.

COVID-19 Virus Response in School Food Service: What Lunchtime Solutions is doing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

As the beginning of the school year approaches, we know schools and families face difficult decisions and obstacles from the impact of COVID-19. As your school food service provider, Lunchtime Solutions is taking action to provide a safe work environment for our employees and a safe food service experience for our student customers. These actions include tools and employee training for executing our program in your schools safely, including changes in operations and the number of entrée choices we serve.

Our commitment to safety has never been more important as we face the challenges of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Changes in the foodservice program:

You may notice several changes in breakfast and lunch service as your student returns to school in the fall. Dependent on your school and local health advisories, there could be several things that look different; however, you can still expect healthy and delicious food options that your student will enjoy and that meet USDA regulations as part of the National School Lunch Program.

1. Options: To begin the school year, menu options will most likely be limited, and your student may notice less choices offered daily. Our options, even though limited, will be choices the students love, ensuring a high level of satisfaction.

A. If students visit the cafeteria and come through the line, every option will be individually wrapped or served directly to students, making self-serve stations limited to obsolete.

*Decreasing choices while still serving options will help keep the line moving faster with less congestion and crowding of students. This in turn, will provide a safer food service experience for student customers.

*When possible, we have transitioned most options to individually wrapped items to further increase safety measures.

B. If schools opt to have students eat in the classroom, options could be limited due to ordering and delivery constraints.

C. Students will see fewer offerings in fruits and vegetables.

*As an additional safety measure, self-serve fruit and veggie bars will be eliminated and replaced with staff serving students fruit and vegetable choices. To the best of our ability we will offer choices that students like and will eat. How these will be served will be dependent on each school building.

2. Supply shortages: Food and supply shortages are very fluid, and we ask for your patience with our staff as menu option changes are inevitable.

*Many suppliers are seeing challenges with providing everything we order due to manufacturing and supply chain limitations related to COVID-19.

_You may have experienced this personally when you go to the grocery store or order groceries online.

*Due to these potential shortages, some items are no longer available, and some will be substituted with similar options.

*Our menus may change without notice due to supplier shortages.