



Hugo Owens Middle School Parent Newsletter

Calendar of Events

See Page 3 for Winter
Athletic Schedule

January

- 14-15- All-District Orchestra Concert at Greenbrier Middle School
- 16- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-Holiday, Schools Closed
- 17- IB, Science & Medicine Academy, and Technology Academy applications due
- 26- Exams- Early Release for Students, school dismisses at 1:30, end of 2nd grading period
- 27- Teacher Workday, Schools Closed
- 30- Teacher Inservice Day, School Closed

February

- 2- 2nd Grading Period Report Cards Issued
- 4-5- All District Band Concert at Churchland High School
- 10-11- All District Choral Concert at Western Branch High School
- 12- Valentine's Day Dance at 3:45 p.m.
- 20- President's Day-Holiday, Schools Closed
- 29- School Planning Council at 6:30 p.m.

March

- 6-9- Grade 8 SOL Writing Test
- 9- 3rd Grading Period Progress Reports Issued

April

- 5- End of 3rd Grading Period
- 6- Teacher Workday, Schools Closed
- 9-13 (M-F) - Spring Break, Schools Closed
- 19- 3rd Grading Period Report Cards Issued

Next Issue: Spring 2012

Winter 2011/2012

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we approach the midpoint of the 2011-2012 school year, please know how appreciative we are of the support you have shown our students and staff. Your presence at our sports events, musical events, the Barnes and Noble book fair and your support of the Parent, Teacher and Student Association (PTSA) fundraisers all help enhance the learning experience for students at Hugo A. Owens Middle School. Parental involvement is crucial to the educational success of any school. Please continue to support HOMS and our students.

Also, we are proud of our PTSA. HOMS is the only middle school in Chesapeake to have a PTSA. This allows students to participate and have a voice in their educational experience along with parents and teachers. PTSA enrollment continues to grow and has exceeded last year's. Please continue to support the PTSA events and programs here at HOMS.

The students just completed the fall benchmark testing which evaluates their progress through the first eleven weeks of school. Tests were administered in math, science, English (reading and writing), and social studies. Spring benchmark testing will be given in March. Results from the fall and spring benchmark tests will help analyze students' progress and readiness for the end of the year Standards of Learning tests.

You are encouraged to visit the HOMS website to help you stay informed about events and programs at HOMS. If you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions, please contact the school at 757-558-5382 or email me directly at michael.perez@cpschools.com.

Please have a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Michael N. Perez



ORCHESTRA

On October 22, our orchestra students competed against other students in Chesapeake, Suffolk and Portsmouth schools for All-District orchestra. Congratulations to the following orchestra students on making the All-District Orchestra and to McKenna Irby and John Brooks for making first chair. These students will represent HOMS at the All-District Orchestra Concert to be held January 13 at Western Branch High School.

7th Grade Violin

McKenna Irby - 1st Chair
Christen Petersen
Hannah Larson
Iman Jones
Faith Harvey
Brianna Myrick

7th Grade Cello

Matthew Shuma

8th Grade Violin

Kristianna Evans
Faryn Fairweather
Camilla Petersen
Bethany Bunch

8th Grade Cello

Hannah Bird

8th Grade Bass

John Brooks - 1st Chair
Chera Longfritz

CHORUS

Congratulations to 24 chorus students for being selected for the All-District chorus. The following students will represent HOMS at the All-District Chorus Concert to be held February 11-12 at Western Branch High School.

Soprano

Destiny Cates
Kelcie MacMillan
Delaney Wilson
Alexis Robertson
Morgan Brinkley
Kieshana Fontenot
Amanda Wilkins
Orlanda Sykes

Alto

Jazmine Myers
Sharina Sivells
Tatyana Person
Isamar Garcia
Alexis Lazenby
Katie Walters
Delaney Mitchell
Carson Dongon

Baritone

Derrick Brinkley
Dakota Tolentino
Dakota Schmidt
George Russell
David Dang
DeAnte Massenburg
James Kelly
Aiden Mills



BAND

Congratulations to Cameron Simmons and Katie Wax for being selected for the All-District band. Cameron is the 1st chair baritone sax, and Katie is 12th chair clarinet. They will represent HOMS at the All-District Band Concert to be held February 4-5 at Churchland High School.



THANK YOU

HOMS and the library staff would like to thank the music students and their parents for supporting our HOMS Barnes and Noble bookfair which was held November 29. Our band, chorus, and orchestra students treated shoppers to their beautiful music and helped make the bookfair a huge success. BRAVO!! BRAVO!!

2011 & 2012 WINTER & SPRING SPORTS

Please come out and support our student athletes. Admission to all sporting events is \$3.00, and events promptly start at 5:00 pm. Basketball and volleyball games and wrestling matches are held in the HOMS gym. Locations for the field hockey games and the track and field meets are given below.

BASKETBALL



January

- 4- HOMS vs HMS(Away)
- 9- HOMS vs CWM (Away)
- 11- Boys Semifinals at TBA
- 12- Girls Semifinals at TBA
- 19- City Tournament Finals at OSM at 5:00 p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY

March

- 15- HOMS vs JMS (Home)
- 20- HOMS vs GBM (Away)
- 22- HOMS vs OSM (Away)
- 27- HOMS vs DCM (Away)
- 31- HOMS vs GBM (Home)

April

- 5- HOMS vs WBM (Home)
- 19- City Tournament Semifinals
- 27- City Tournament Finals at HMS at 5:00 p.m.

HOMS home field hockey games are held at Grassfield High School. DCM home games are played at Deep Creek Central Elementary. Tryouts for the field hockey team will begin February 19th. For more information contact Coach Boyd by email at Rebecca.Boyd@cpschools.com or at 558-5382.

WRESTLING

January

- 5- HOMS vs HMS (Home)
- 10- HOMS vs CWM(Home)
- 21- City Tournament at Oscar Smith Middle from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



VOLLEYBALL



March

- 15- HOMS vs JMS(Home)
- 20- HOMS vs GBM (Away)
- 22- HOMS vs OSM(Away)
- 27- HOMS vs DCM (Away)

April

- 3- HOMS vs HMS(Home)
- 17- HOMS vs CWM (Home)
- 24-City Tournament: Semifinals

May

- 1- City Tournaments Finals at OSM at 5:00 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

March

- 14- HOMS vs OSM (Away)
- 21- HOMS vs JMS (Home)
- 28- HOMS vs HMS (Home)

April

- 4- HOMS vs CWM (Home)
- 18- HOMS vs GRM (Away)
- 23-City Meet: Boys @ OSH, Girls @OSM
- 25- City Meet Finals at GHS at 5:00 p.m.

Girls' meets will be held at Oscar Smith Middle School, and boys' meets will be held at Deep Creek Middle School. Tryouts for the track teams will start February 19th. For more information contact Coach Brown or Coach Johnson at 558-5382.

GUIDANCE CORNER

Taking a stand to stop bullying

This year one of our focuses has been to take a stand to stop bullying. On October 12, students united and showed their support to stop bullying by dressing in orange for Unity Day. During the month of November, students and staff pledged to "Take a Stand Against Bullying." Activities included surveying students about bullying, signing and reciting the anti-bullying pledge, watching anti-bullying videos on our morning news show, and participating in a Stand-A-Thon during PE classes. All students who successfully completed the Stand-A-Thon received a sticker to show that they pledged to "Take a Stand Against Bullying." As a parent, please continue to talk to your child about what to do if he or she is being bullied or witnesses bullying. Please feel free to contact your child's guidance counselor if you feel there are issues that need to be addressed.

FIELD HOCKEY CONDITIONING

Field hockey conditioning will start Wednesday, January 4 for all girls who are interested in trying out for the field hockey team. Conditioning will be held from 3:45 to 5:15 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Students need to dress warmly and wear appropriate athletic shoes for running and conditioning. Parental permission is required for girls to stay after school, and all girls must provide their own transportation home. For more information, contact Coach Boyd at Rebecca.Boyd@cpschools.com or at 558-5382.

ANNUAL GIFTED EDUCATION FAIR

The Annual Gifted Education Fair will be held Thursday, February 23, 2012 at Greenbrier Middle School from 6:00-8:00 p.m.



CHESS CLUB

The chess club meets every Wednesday after school until 4:45. If you are interested in joining the club, please contact Mr. Kotchik.

RUNNING CLUB: SHAM- ROCK 8K CHALLENGE



This holiday, give your child the gift of fitness by signing him/her up for the Shamrock 8K Middle School Challenge to be held St Patrick's Day, March 17. Your child can train with the HOMS running club and be ready to participate in the Shamrock 8K. No running experience is necessary. Just a willingness to try. For more information on this fun filled and rewarding event, check out the running club webpage on the HOMS website or email Kim.Turner @cpschools.com.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

According to Chesapeake School Board policy, teachers and principals shall encourage students to maintain regular and punctual attendance. Excessive and unexcused absences is harmful to academic development. If your child is absent from school, a note must be provided to explain the absence. When your child is absent for a doctor's appointment, a doctor's note is preferred. If a child has a chronic health problem, medical documentation from a doctor is required to confirm the condition and its impact on regular school attendance. If a student accrues seven unexcused absences, the parent will be asked to visit the school for a conference. Avoid attendance issues by providing written notices explaining your child's absences. Please include the student's full name and homeroom teacher on all notes. Students with excessive and unexcused absences or twelve unexcused tardies that result in missing time from the same bell will be referred to truancy court according to Virginia law. Please contact the attendance clerk or an HOMS administrator with any questions or concerns.



Congratulations!!
Tina Hans
HOMS Teacher of the Year





HOMS SCA NEWS



The HOMS SCA has been very busy this fall and holiday season. We raised over \$2400 for the March of Dimes, organized a very successful canned food drive for the Union Mission, and collected donations for our Holiday Angel Tree. The SCA also sponsored a holiday dance and those who attended had a great time. The SCA would like to thank you for your generosity in supporting HOMS students, the SCA, and our community. Please continue to help us in our future endeavors to support our students and school community.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Our Relay for Life team is gearing up for this year's walk at Greenbrier Middle School May 6-7. Please consider joining our team or supporting our fundraising activities. Help us go for the gold in the fight to find a cure for cancer.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Help us thank Walmart on Grassfield Parkway for their recent donation of gift certificates to help 10 HOMS teachers purchase classroom supplies.



(757) 312-8309
632 Grassfield Pkwy
Chesapeake, VA 23322



(757) 430-7000
Chesapeake VA 23323



MacArthur Center
300 Monticello Avenue, #149
Norfolk, VA 23510
Level 1, Main Monticello Ave. Entrance

Show your thanks by supporting our
partners in education

Seasons' Greetings From the PTSA

At this time of the year, the PTSA would like to extend seasons' greeting to you and your family. We hope you have a merry holiday season and a happy new year.



Thank you for supporting the PTSA fundraisers this fall. We did very well and will be able to help fund worthwhile student activities and programs at HOMS. If you and/or your child haven't joined the PTSA, it is not too late. Students who join will be able to participate in fun Fridays, and other members only activities. Join today and support our students and HOMS community.

UPCOMING SOL WRITING TEST

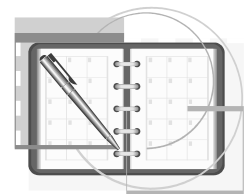


The 8th grade SOL writing tests will be given March 6 - 9. Please put these dates on your calendar and make sure your child is prepared for these tests. If you have any questions, please contact HOMS guidance department.

Rising Ninth Graders Scheduling Fairs

Do you have a rising ninth grader? Grassfield High and Deep Creek High will hold scheduling fairs to help your child select classes for next year.

- Grassfield High will hold a scheduling fair Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. Scheduling information will go home with students on February 9.
- Deep Creek High will hold a scheduling fair Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 pm.



Please contact HOMS, GHS, or DCH guidance departments for more information.



HOMS READS

We have a very successful silent sustained reading (SSR) program here at HOMS. Students get time each day to read in their reading bells or SOL Prep bells. In addition, students should be reading every day at home for an additional twenty to thirty minutes. Research shows daily SSR in a book of the reader's choice is the most effective method of increasing reading comprehension. Help us help your child become a better reader by monitoring his/her reading. Congratulations to all the Mustang readers who made their Accelerated Reader (AR) goals for the first nine weeks and to the students who won the weekly AR bookmark drawings. Also congratulations to the Thoroughbreds, Triple Crown and Navigators for meeting their team goals and winning the Golden Horseshoe for their grade levels. All these students have been rewarded with special treats and/or events for their hard work.



While AR participation is not required, we encourage all students to read AR books, take AR tests, and participate in the AR reward activities. Encourage your child to curl up with a good book this winter.

NEW eREADER POLICY

The school board recently approved the use of electronic reading devices (eReaders). An eReader is defined as a digital device whose primary function is to store books, periodicals, magazines, and other print media. An acceptable use form signed by the student and parent/guardian must be on file before a student may use an eReader for school appropriate reading material during school time. Acceptable use forms may be found on our HOMS website. Students may not e-mail or chat using these devices while on school time. The use of games, music or other entertainment on the eReader is prohibited on school time; on school property, including buses and at school-sanctioned events. Students are responsible for securing eReaders in their lockers when it is not in their possession. If you have any questions about this new policy, please contact HOMS administrators or consult the school board policy manual at http://www.cpschools.com/school_board/manual.php.

The School Store is Open!

Parents, do you hate late night trips to the store to get school supplies? Students can purchase supplies at our school store every morning during homeroom. Some of the items include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Pencils -25¢-50¢ | |
| Pens - 25¢-\$1.25 | |
| Loose Leaf Paper - \$1.00 | |
| Glue Sticks - 50¢ | |
| Index Cards - \$1.00 | |
| Highlighters - 50¢-\$1.50 | |
| Spiral Notebooks - 90¢-\$1.50 | |
| Poster Board - 50¢ | |
| Instrument Reeds - \$1.75 | |
| Student Planners - \$5.00 | |
| Pocket Folders - 50¢ | |
| Colored Pencils - \$1.50 | |
| Scissors - \$1.00 | |
| Report Covers - 50¢ | |

HOMS Spirit Wear on Sale!

- T-shirts - \$10**
- Crew Neck Sweatshirts - \$15**
- Hooded Sweatshirts - \$20**
- Available in black and gold and Sizes S-2XL



Show your school pride at sporting events and pep rallies! See Mrs. C. in the main office between 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

2011-2012 STAMPEDE YEARBOOKS

Pre-order a copy of the 2011-2012 HOMS Stampede Yearbook for \$35.00 until January 20. This year's edition will be in full color. Reserve your copy in-house or online.

- In-house: Your child may pick up an order form from his/her homeroom teacher. Simply fill out the form, attach your payment, and have your child return it to Mrs. Webb in room 713.
- Online: Orders can be placed online at www.jostensyearbooks.com. Personalized items and other special features are available online.

PRE-ORDER THE FULL COLOR YEARBOOK TODAY



All students will be issued new student planners January 31 compliments of the HOMS PTSA.