

Har-Bur Happenings

Two Great Towns. One Awesome School. Endless Opportunities...

Good Morning HBMS Community,

Wow...we have so much to be proud of and grateful for. We have completed our first 2 quarters, half a year! Report Cards will be available for review through Powerschool on February 2nd at 3:00pm February 5th will make our 100th day of school. To celebrate, our Student Council has put together a Spirit Week for HBMS. Please see below for information regarding the events. We hope all students participate.

National School Counselor Week Feb 1st-5th. We are so lucky to have an amazing group of school counselors. We want to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication this year in providing excellent service to our students, families and staff.

If you have a reluctant reader, we encourage you to look at the article below from our Reading Department titled How to Motivate a Middle School Reader. A study by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies “found that kids Leisure reading is linked to increased cognitive development—in other words, clearer thinking, better problem-solving, and improved decision-making.” My (Joe) favorite tip is to make time for reading. I turn off everything distracting, grab a book I am reading and sit next to my children as they read.

Warm Regards,

Joe and Peter

Please follow us on [Instagram ...@Harburhuskies](#)

School Information and Reminders:

- **Pick-up Reminder:** Please remember that after our buses leave at the end of the day the 5th and 6th graders are let out first. Please let parents of the younger students line up for pickup first. We are reminding parents to leave the first three pods closest to our school for the buses and wait in the other parts of our parking lot. We are reminding students to maintain physical distance from one another. Please support this from your perspective as well.
- **Temporary Distance Learning Plan:** The following is for students that need to be out of school for a short period of time. Students should access their teachers' TEAMS pages at the normally scheduled time. Teachers have the choice of asynchronous assignments posted daily with consistent check-ins during the time out, live streaming from class to the students at home or a combination of the two depending on the lesson and day. The tasks that are assigned would need to be completed in the timeline the teacher gives to determine attendance/engagement.
- We are seeing an uptick in forgotten PLDs and many students needing to charge throughout the day (even within the first few hours of school). Please remind your child to charge the PLD

at home. Classrooms have a charger just in case, but the spare does not help when there are multiple students in each class needing to charge at the same time. Additionally, please remind your child to fully shut down and restart their PLD's so that the updaters can automatically be installed.

- The **Technology Assistance** page for the district is live and can be accessed at the following link: www.region10ct.org/technology. To submit a Help Desk Ticket do the following:
 - Go to www.region10ct.org
 - Go to "Parents" and scroll down to the last entry "technology assistance"
 - Go to Other Resources:
 - Submit a Help Desk ticket
 - Fill out the Help Desk ticket and one of our tech people should get back to you. Please make sure to put in the student's full name, grade, and a description of the problem.
- All **5th and 6th grade students** are invited to attend our next 5th and 6th Grade Book Club of this school year! **The Book Club** will be held after school via Zoom so that participants can participate from home. Our Zoom will be on Wednesday, February 10th at 4:00 to discuss *The Last Boy at St Edith's* by Lee Gjersten Malone, the book selected by students among several choices at our prior Book Club gathering. It is described by Kirkus Reviews as "a funny, emotional book that will quickly become a favorite to many a reader". We will play a book-themed game of Kahoot prior to discussing the book together. Multiple copies of the book are available and can be delivered to a student's homeroom if requested. Please email Mrs. Bohan or Mrs. O'Connor if you are interested in joining us at bohana@region10ct.org or oconnorr@region10ct.org
- An important note: If we have a **2-hour delay** due to weather all students, regardless of if they are in person with us or in our opt-out distance learning classes will follow our 2-hour delay schedule. It is also posted on the Har-Bur Website under the School Information Tab.
- This is a reminder that students may go outside for mask breaks and will play outside for recess as long as it is above 25 degrees with the windchill. Please make sure that your kids have appropriate outerwear for cold weather - i.e. coats, hats, and gloves. Thank you!
- **The week of February 1st-5th will be an exciting Har-Bur Husky Spirit Week here at the middle school.**
 - **Upcoming Spirit Days:**
 - Monday - Pajama Day (wear your coziest pajamas, bathrobes, and slippers)
 - Wednesday - Team Spirit Day (wear your favorite sports-related clothing, hats, jerseys, and team uniforms)
 - Friday - 100th Day of School Celebration (wear your favorite blue and white clothing and school spirit wear)
 - **Spirit Week Activities include:**
 - **100th Day of School Poster Contest:** If you like to draw, consider designing a poster about Har-Bur, the # 100, or anything school-related. Bring it to the Main Office or email a photo of your work of art to Ms. Hubbard at hubbardl@region10ct.org All posters are due on Wednesday morning. Teachers will vote for their top 3 favorites and gift card prizes will be awarded on Thursday afternoon.

100th Day of School: On Friday Har-Bur will be celebrating our 100th day at school. Student Council will be rewarding all of our hard work in this most unprecedented year by awarding \$100 worth of gift cards to a few lucky students and providing special treats to our teachers to thank them for their efforts. The

PTO has generously donated \$100 in gift cards as well to be given to a few lucky staff. Winners will be announced throughout the day.

Daily Sports Trivia Contest: Each morning students should check their email for the link to the Sport Trivia Question-Of-The-Day. One winner from each grade will be called down at the end of the day to win a special prize.

*Contest and prize winners will also be posted to your School Counselor's Teams Page so be sure to check there.

Finally, it's also Souper Bowl Week! Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-inspired food drive that unites communities throughout the nation around the energy of America's most popular sporting event. Due to Covid, we have more families than ever in need of help so we will be collecting non-perishable food items in the main lobby to be donated to the Burlington Food Pantry. Students will place their food in the box of the football team they hope to win the Super Bowl and we'll see which team comes out ahead. We encourage our opt-out students and families to stop by the school anytime as well with any donations.

- **The Reading Department wanted to send this for your consideration.** <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/how-to-motivate-a-middle-school-reader>

	<p>How to Motivate a Middle School Reader Common Sense Media</p> <p>Try these six tips to get middle schoolers reading: Let them choose what they read: Having control over what they read increases kids' motivation to do it. And don't criticize their choices or formats -- books, ebooks, graphic novels, articles.</p> <p>www.common sense media.org</p>
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- **Substitutes:** Regional School District #10 is currently looking for substitutes. Across the country, teacher subs are in high demand. Being a substitute teacher with Region 10 allows for a flexible work schedule and guarantees a daily rate of \$90. There is also a potential for permanent employment, as a teacher, paraeducator, or permanent sub. with benefits. No certification is required. A Bachelor's degree or an Associate's degree, with the willingness to apply for a substitute waiver, is all that is required. If you are interested in assisting professionals in an educational setting and possess good judgement, are adaptable, and are accountable with good communication skills go to www.region10ct.org to apply.

- **Schedule:** Our school has a four-day rotating schedule. If we miss a day of school due to weather, we no longer skip that day in the rotation. Instead, we are “Pushing” the days. For instance, if there is no school on February 1st and it is a day 1, February 2nd would become a day 1.

February	1	2	3	4	5
Day	1	2	3	4	1
February	8	9	10	11	12
	2	3	4	1	X

COVID ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES:

We appreciate everyone’s adherence to the guidelines below. It is essential that students do not come to school if:

- They have had close contact (at least 15 minutes, within 6 feet) with a person that has tested positive for COVID-19.
- **They, or a member of your household, has been tested for COVID-19 because of symptoms and/or potential exposure and you are awaiting results.**
- Your family has traveled to any of the states on the CT Travel Advisory list (<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>)
- You screen them before school, and they have any of the symptoms below:
 - fever of 100.4 or higher
 - chills
 - a new uncontrolled cough
 - difficulty breathing
 - a sudden loss of taste or smell

If your child is ill and will not be attending school (this includes students that are attending school remotely), please call our school nurses, Beth Niedmann for Grades 7-8, and Kristen Belmonte for Grades 5-6, to report their absence and the reason for the absence.

Important Dates:

February 2 – Report Cards available on PowerSchool at 3pm

February 12 – No School for students – Teacher Professional Development

February 15 – No School – President's Day

February 24 – Parent Conferences 3:20-5:20pm via Zoom. Invitation made by Teams

February 25 – PSAT 8/9 during the school day

Contact Information:

Have questions for us? Here are some quick contacts:

Information for all teachers and staff is available on the Region 10 website: www.region10ct.org

Principal – Joe Masi: extension 17558 – masij@region10ct.org

Associate Principal – Peter Bogen: extension 17512 – BogenP@region10ct.org

Counseling Office – Karol Nicoletti: extension 17506 – NicolettiK@region10ct.org

Nurse's Office Grades 5 and 6 – Mrs. Kristin Belmonte: extension 17310
- belmontek@region10ct.org

Nurse's Office Grades 7 and 8 – Mrs. Beth Niedmann: extension 17507
- niedmanne@region10ct.org

**HAR-BUR
HUSKIES**