

August 1, 2018

# Dear Middle School Parents and Guardians:

Summer is passing, and we are looking ahead to the beginning of a new school year at Huntingdon Area Middle School. As your child’s principal, it is my privilege to work with your learners at HAMS, and to see their growth academically, socially, and emotionally during this dynamic point in their lives. Our staff is working hard to make this a productive and challenging school year for your learner.

As we approach the start of the year, we are sharing information below to ensure that everyone is updated with the most current information. Classes begin on Wednesday, August 22, 2018.All learners need to arrive at the Middle School between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m. Classes will begin at 7:50 a.m. with attendance /news/homeroom time. As in past years, homeroom assignments will be posted in the “Back to School” edition of the Daily News. Learners and parents/guardians will be notified via Skyward when schedules are released, prior to the start of school. You may access the 2018-2019 school calendar on our district website [www.huntsd.org](http://www.huntsd.org).

# In order for your learner to get the most out of school this year, we all need to work together, keeping the lines of communication open between home and school. We will make every effort to keep you informed about class and school activities, and update you regularly (at least every 3 weeks via Skyward) regarding your learner’s academic progress. Your learner will also benefit from your direct involvement in his/her education, including creating a positive work environment within the home, and reinforcement of school expectations. In addition, we will be increasing the amount of information shared about the learning process, and the activities involved in helping your learner to develop the skills to become college and career ready through a developing, personalized learning environment, aiming to create the ideal learning experience. Our learners, under the guidance of our staff, are doing great things, and we want to share this information with you!

Please note the following upcoming important dates that our building will be open to parents and guardians:

* **6th Grade and Parent Guardian/New Learner Orientation**
  + Thursday, August 16, 2018 at 1:00 PM -2:00 PM, ***or***
  + Thursday, August 16, 2018 at 6:00 PM -7:00 PM
* **Open House**
  + Our annual Open House will be held for parents/students of all grade levels. This will begin at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 in the HAMS cafeteria

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# We are also pleased to announce that there are several new faculty members at our Middle School this year. We are looking forward to working with the following new people as they serve your children.

* Miss Casey Pasternak - 6th Grade Learning Support
* Miss Kayla Meyers - 7th Grade Learning Support
* Miss Jaime Gingrich - Emotional Support

We also have a change in building leadership, as Mrs. Amy Mykut will be the new Assistant Principal at HAMS. Mrs. Mykut has eighteen years of experience as a middle school teacher at HAMS, and her institutional knowledge and experience working with learners at the middle level will be an asset to our school.

We hope you and your learner(s) have a wonderful school year. Please check with your learners daily for news and information about upcoming events scheduled at the Middle School. If you have any questions or concerns you can reach me at 814-643-2900 ext 2180. We hope to see you at these coming events!

Sincerely,

Travis Lee,

Secondary Principal

Cc: Mr. Fred Foster, Superintendent