

From: Brian Pittman/HollyRidgeMS/WCPSS
To:

Date: Saturday, August 22, 2009 06:38PM
Subject: Hornet eNews Update, 8/30/2009

To: All Holly Ridge Parents
From: Brian Pittman, Principal

Hornet eNews Update, 8/30/2009

Topics Included:

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1. First Week Review

I am happy to report that the atmosphere within our building during the first week of school was overly positive and focused on the possibility of the year. Some classes are larger than what we would like, but based on our enrollment, we will be able to add some staff after the 10th day of school - the day when our official student count will take place. Also, with some crowded hallways on the first day, we have made some changes to the bell schedule (having 6th grade transition by themselves and then transitioning 7th and 8th graders together) and to traffic patterns in the building to alleviate congestion in the hallways. These efforts seem to be working and we will continue to find ways to make improvement.

2. Curriculum Maps

All students were given a copy of the curriculum map for their grade level. This document provides essential skills and content to be covered in the first quarter of the year. Please take a look using the link below. We will work with all students to ensure they can show how they have shown progress on the essential skills that are listed. When that cannot happen, we will enroll students into the intervention class for the 2nd quarter to better support them. Seek our your teachers for more information.

<http://hollyridgems.wcpss.net/academics.htm>

3. Parent Conferences

Parent conferences can always be scheduled with teachers for the first and third Thursdays of each month. Call Ms. Branch in the Guidance Office to set one up (577.1339).

4. Pledge for Success

We met with all students on the second day of school to share expectations for the school year. In doing so, we asked all students to sign a Pledge for Success card. We know that success will only come if parents, students, and staff are working together to make it happen. Please visit the link below to view the pledge cards. I encourage you to talk with your student about their pledge. We will send a copy of the parent pledge home with students this week. If you are willing, sign that pledge and return it to school with your student once you have discussed it with them.

<http://hollyridgems.wcpss.net/pledge.htm>

5. Yearbooks On Sale for Discount

Yearbooks can be purchased online at the link below or by phone at 1-866-282-1516. Yearbooks at the discounted price of \$32 if ordered before September 15. Please direct questions to our yearbook advisor, Ms. Jennifer Cave, at jcave@wcpss.net.

[CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE ORDERS](#)

6. Spirit Wear

Tie Dye shirts mentioned in the last update are still available from Ms. Cave before school while supplies last. Visit the link below to see the shirt.

<http://hollyridgems.wcpss.net/images/tiedye.JPG>

7. Fall Athletic Tryouts

If your student is participating in fall athletic tryouts, please consult the schedule on the main page of the HRMS website. This week we have tryouts for soccer, volleyball, and cheerleading. As a reminder, athletic physicals are required to participate in tryouts.

8. Wake Wednesday: An Update

This past week was the first one-hour early release for HRMS. During this time, teachers met in teams specifically aimed at discussing the essential skills listed on the curriculum maps. They started exploring the question, "What does mastery/success look like for each essential skill?" In other words, How do students / parents know they are on track? Teachers will begin communicating to both students and parents answers to these questions in the weeks to come.

9. Upcoming Events

Monday, Aug. 31 - Cheerleading & Volleyball Tryouts Begin

Tuesday, Sept. 1 - Girls' Soccer Tryouts Begin

Wednesday, Sept. 2 - Wake Wednesday / 1 Hour Early Release

Monday, Sept. 7 - No School / Holiday

Wednesday, Sept. 9 - School Picture Day

10. Useful Links

Daily Announcements: <http://hollyridgems.wcpss.net/announcements.htm>

Daily Instructional Postings: <http://hollyridgems.wcpss.net/faculty.htm>

HRMS Calendar: http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=swebb@wcpss.net&ctz=America/New_York

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

Brian Pittman, Principal

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