

T-Bird Times

January 24, 2025



Calendar

January:

27 - Boys Basketball Game @ HOME vs BVMS (A1-3:25/A2-4:25)

27 - Boys Basketball Game @ BVMS (B1-3:25/B2-4:25)

28 - 5th grade Parent Night - 6:00pm

29 - Boys Basketball Game @ HOME vs PRMS (A1-3:25/A2-4:25)

29 - Boys Basketball Game @ ABMS (B1-3:25/B2-4:25)

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

HMS Families,

Show week was amazing. We are so proud of our students! The last show is tonight and is sold out! That's a huge testament to the amazing production of "All Shook Up." We sure appreciate everyone's support of the musical.

Please see below for information on February parent/teacher conferences. Conferences will be here before we know it.

Below this note you will find the following information:

- February Conferences
- Current 6th and 7th Grade Enrollment
- HMS Social Media
- BV Schools' BV Unmuted Podcast
- Construction Update
- Attendance/Tardies
- Athletics/Activities
- Blue Valley Volunteer Service
- HMS HONOR Code
- Carline Reminders
- Do you have a question or concern?
- Community Celebrations and Observances
- Proactive School Safety
- High School Game Atmosphere
- Harmony Middle School Handbook
- PTO News
- Student Services Update

As always, thank you for your support of HMS. I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Nate Winslow
Principal
Harmony Middle School

February Conferences

We are excited to continue our partnership through our February Parent Teacher Conferences. Our conferences will be both on Zoom and in person. Below is a breakdown of our schedule:

- Wednesday, February 12
 - 3:15 - 5:00 on Zoom by appointment

- 5:30 - 8:00 in person walk in conferences at HMS
 - No appointment needed for walk-ins. Teachers will be set up throughout the building and conference with parents on a first come first serve basis.
 - Walk-in conferences should be limited to 5 minutes.
- Thursday, February 13
 - 7:30 am - 5:30 pm on Zoom by appointment

All teachers will create a Signup Genius that will be shared one week in advance of conferences on February 5 at 3 pm. If you are unable to reserve a timeslot with a teacher on Zoom, please think about attending our in person walk-in conferences on Wednesday evening. During walk-in conferences, teachers will be set up throughout the building and conference with parents/guardians as they show up.

Please reach out if you have any questions. We are happy to help.

Current 6th and 7th Grade Enrollment

It is hard to believe that enrollment for the 25-26 school year is upon us. Counselors will meet with current 6th and 7th grade students next week and discuss the enrollment process for next school year. Each student will receive an enrollment form on January 29th. Enrollment forms need to be turned in by February 6. If you have any questions about the enrollment process, please reach out to the HMS front office. We are happy to help.

HMS Social Media

Follow HMS!

STAY UP TO DATE ON
HAPPENINGS AT HMS



@HMSTBIRDS



HARMONY

MIDDLE SCHOOL



@HMSTBIRDS

BV School Unmuted Podcast

In the latest Blue Valley Schools' BV Unmuted podcast episode, Superintendent Dr. Tonya Merrigan discusses the upcoming Kansas Legislative session and the district's five priority positions with Board of Education members Gina Knapp and Jan Kessinger and Chief Financial Officer Jeremy McFadden.

🔊 To listen to the podcast episode, visit www.bit.ly/BVPriorities.

13th Annual Battle of the Bands- Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, 6:30-10 p.m.

Join friends for a great adult night out with live music, a silent auction, a wine and bourbon pull and more! Proceeds from this annual fundraiser support music and performing arts programs throughout the district, and YOU can be part of the fun! Check out our new location at Fiorella's event space in OP for a great over-21 night out. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and YOU choose the "Best of Blue Valley" live band when the competition wraps up at 10 p.m. Bands are made up of BV parents, teachers and staff and funds provide significant funding for performing arts programs including band, orchestra, choir, theater, debate and competitive speaking. Get tickets today at [Event Details](#).

Can't make it to the event in person? No worries! Visit [Silent Auction](#) to start your bid on incredible auction packages and see what your school submitted. Check back frequently as more items are added to the offerings every week. The auction will close on Friday, February 21 at 8:45 p.m. and you do not have to be present to win!

You can also vote by donation for your favorite adult school-affiliated band, and the winner receives a \$1,000 grant to their school of choice. The 2025 band names, order of performances and school representations are as follows:

Young Medicine- Lakewood Elementary

Modern Thieves- Mission Trail Elementary, Leawood Middle, Blue Valley North

KC Prime- Leawood Elementary and Leawood Middle

Hope to see you Friday, February 21, 2025, as we Rock the Valley for BV Schools!

Construction Update

We are thrilled to be receiving a new multipurpose center/gym at HMS. This is exciting news and we are very thankful that the latest BV Bond passed. I have been told that the construction work will not impact our arrival and dismissal the rest of this school year. The new addition is supposed to be ready by October of next school year. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns about the construction.

Attendance/Tardies

Students should be in the building by 7:45am, as classes start at 7:51 am.

If your student is running late, we will always work with you, you just need to communicate with us each day that they are late. As indicated in our handbook and website, **make sure to let us know that your student is arriving late before 8:10am or it will be unexcused/marked as an absence.** Students are allowed three (3) tardies each quarter and on the fourth tardy, will receive a lunch detention. Teachers will use the same tardy policy for class periods two-nine. This is a BV district policy.

There are several ways to communicate with us to make it easy to report an absence or late arrival:

*Call our office (913) 239-5200

*Send an email to our office attendance account- AttendanceHMS@bluevalleyk12.org

*Use the ParentVue app/website (click 'Report an Absence')

Athletics/Activities

7th and 8th Grade Track

If you're interested in participating in track and field for HMS, please make sure to do the following by Friday, March 14th.

We will not be clearing athletes over spring break. First practice is Wednesday, March 26th and all registration/physical information will need to have been submitted and reviewed prior.*

Have a physician complete a physical

*Feel free to print a copy of the 24-25 participation packet for your physician to fill out at your student's physical appointment. You can also access this on the HMS website.

IMPORTANT: Physicals must be completed/dated after May 1, 2024. All forms/signatures must be completed prior to a student participating in any HMS athletic activity.

[2024-2025 Participation Packet for Middle School Students](#)

*After your physician completes the packet/signatures, please **complete registration/upload pages 3 and 4** the pdf to the [rSchool website](#) (don't forget to include parent signatures as well on these pages).

*Once your registration/physical has been uploaded, our office staff will review and clear student athletes (as a reminder- we will not be clearing athletes over winter break. First tryout day is Monday, January 6th (when school resumes) and all registration/physical information will need to have been submitted and reviewed prior.

Need help?

Tutorial Links- <https://bluevalleysd-ar.rschooltoday.com/>

8th Grade Boys Basketball

Come support our TBirds at our home games!

Monday, 1/27- vs. BVMS

A1/A2- 3:25/4:25pm @ HOME

B1/B2- 3:25/4:25pm @ BVMS

Wednesday, 1/29 vs. PRMS and ABMS

A1/A2- 3:25/4:25pm @ HOME vs. PRMS

B1/B2- 3:25/4:25pm @ ABMS

Champion Hour at BVNW- 8th Grade Students Only

Is your athlete planning on playing football at Blue Valley Northwest next year? If the answer is yes, Champion Hour begins on Tuesday, January 14th from 6-7am at the BVNW Weight Room.

Champion Hour is a pre-season weight program for 8th graders who are preparing to join the

BVNW Husky Football Program, and is led by our Husky Football Coaches. Champion Hour will meet each Tuesday and Thursday morning during the spring semester. Coaches will meet the players in the Commons (entrance of BVNW) to guide them to the weight room if they aren't yet familiar with where it is located. We can't wait to meet the Class of 2029 and begin teaching them how to #PULLTHESLED!

Blue Valley Volunteer Service Award

Please log your community service hours on the attached service log. All volunteer service hours must be submitted by April 18, 2025. Please email the tracking form to eswilson@bluevalleyk12.org or bring a hard copy to the front office. Service hours, as well as the names of students who have completed the top number of credible community service hours will be sent to the district office for recommendation to receive the Blue Valley Volunteer Service Award.

Blank Logs for Printing [HERE](#)

HMS HONOR Code



Harmony Middle School A Community of Honorable Thunderbirds

	H Honesty	O Optimistic	N Neighorly	O Ownership	R Respectful & Responsible
Passing Periods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report behaviors that are not honorable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speak kindly and positively to and with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat others with care and kindness If something does not belong to you, please let it be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be on time and prepared Get to your class using the most direct route. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands and feet to yourself Use an inside voices Walk to class
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make positive choices inside and outside of the classroom Complete your own work Be ethical with computer programs Follow personal device policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model ways that are safe, legal, and ethical Communicate positively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be mindful of what you say Treat others with care and kindness, in person and online Use headphones when around others at an appropriate volume 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use device when prompted Being engaged in classroom learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep track of device, charger, and case by labeling items with name (first and last) Chromebook should be charged Handle your chromebook with care
Before/After School & Assemblies/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay in assigned areas Get permission to go to library and/or breakfast Sit with your assigned group (assemblies/shows) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show compassion to others, especially visiting teams and spectators Speak positively about yourself and others Accept and celebrate growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be inclusive of others Communicate positively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow adult directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate volume while walking the hallways Keep hands & feet to yourself Contribute positively to school community Positively support the activity
Cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eat only my food Only purchase what you will consume/use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking pride in ourselves and school (Clean up after yourself) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be inclusive of others Clean your table/floor with cleaning tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay seated while eating Ask for adult permission to leave the table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate volume Treating others with care and kindness Leave the area better than you found it Wait patiently in line
Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete your own original work Take accountability for your actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain positive attitude Encourage yourself and others Practice a 'growth mindset' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for needs of ourselves and others Accept and celebrate differences Leave learning areas ready for the next class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be on time for class Actively listen and participate Give your best effort 100% of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate volume Be on time and prepared for class with materials Follow rules and routines

Carline Reminders

Please remember to follow our carline rules at all times to ensure efficiency for all.

- Use the east entrance to the front circle. The west entrance is for buses only
 - Please do not park in the marked bussing zone during dismissal.
- Pull forward all the way before allowing your student to exit the car.
 - This is extremely important. Do not stop until you have pulled all the way up as far as you can in front of the school.
 - Please have your student exit the car quickly. One slow car can back up the entire carline.
- Pull to the left after your student exits your car. (this is extremely important to ensure traffic continues to flow)

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Do you have a question or concern? We want to help.

If you have a question or concerns, we want to help! Many times by starting at the building level, you will work with the person who is closest to the situation and will usually have the most information. If you feel further discussion is warranted, the following chart can be used as a guide for whom to call when questions arise on the most common topics.

ADDRESSING QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

Families and patrons should use the matrix below to address questions or concerns. Topics should be addressed beginning at Level 1. If the matter cannot be resolved, it is appropriate to move to the next level with the inquiry.



AREAS OF CONCERN	1	2	3	4	5	6
	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5	LEVEL 6
Academics, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment	Teacher	Assistant Principal	Principal	Exec. Director Curriculum, Instruction & Innovation	Deputy Superintendent/ Superintendent	Board of Education
Activities & Athletics	Coach/Sponsor	Activities/ Athletic Director or Asst. Principal	Principal	Director of School Administration	Deputy Superintendent/ Superintendent	Board of Education
Discipline	Teacher	Assistant Principal	Principal	Executive Director of School Administration	Deputy Superintendent/ Superintendent	Board of Education
Facilities, Grounds & Maintenance	Assistant Principal	Principal	Coordinator Facilities & Operations	Director Facilities & Operations	Deputy Superintendent	Board of Education
Food Service	School Kitchen Manager	Principal	Coordinator Food & Nutrition Services	Director Food & Nutrition Services	Deputy Superintendent/ Superintendent	Board of Education
General Concerns	Teacher	Assistant Principal	Principal	District Level Directors	Deputy Superintendent/ Superintendent	Board of Education
SEL & Mental Health	Teacher	School Counselor, Social Worker or Psychologist	Principal	Exec. Director Curriculum, Instruction & Innovation	Deputy Superintendent	Board of Education
Special Education	Teacher	Assistant Principal	Principal	Assistant Superintendent Special Education	Superintendent	Board of Education
Transportation	Assistant Principal	Principal	Transportation Coordinator	Director Business Operations	Deputy Superintendent/ Superintendent	Board of Education

Community Observances and Celebrations



Community Celebrations and Observances - to promote awareness and appreciation of our Blue Valley families.

Some January Celebrations & Observances:

- **National Poverty in America Awareness Month** - raises awareness about the struggles millions of Americans face living in poverty. It encourages learning about the causes of poverty, supporting those in need, and working to create solutions that promote economic equality and opportunity.
- **World Braille Day** - January 4 - a day to raise awareness and attention to accessibility for those with visual impairments and celebrate Braille's invention. This tactile writing system was invented in the 1800s by Louis Braille.

- **Lohri** - January 13 - celebrated primarily by Sikhs and Hindus, the festival marks the end of the winter solstice and harvesting of winter crops. Some families will sing and dance around a bonfire, exchange gifts with friends and family, and tell tales of bravery.
 - **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** - January 20 - a day that honors the life and legacy of the civil rights leader. Some families will participate in a day of service to their communities.
 - **Lunar New Year** - January 29 - celebrated by families of Chinese and other Asian heritages, some people celebrate with religious ceremonies honoring ancestors, giving and receiving red envelopes containing small amounts of money, lighting colorful lanterns, and eating traditional foods such as dumplings and sticky rice balls that symbolize family unity.
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Proactive School Safety

Proactive School Safety: How Blue Valley Addresses and Assesses Threats

At Blue Valley Schools, student safety is our top priority. Our approach to safety blends proactive prevention, fostering strong adult-student relationships and maintaining robust physical security measures. Central to our strategy is understanding and addressing potential threats.

What Constitutes a Threat?

A threat includes any expression of intent to harm, whether spoken or written. Identifying and responding to these expressions is crucial to the safety of our school community.

The Role of Threat Assessments

Blue Valley's comprehensive threat assessment process has two primary objectives:

- **Preventing Violence:** We work to intervene before potential threats escalate.
- **Resolving Underlying Issues:** By understanding the reasons behind a threat, we can resolve conflicts and provide necessary support.

Structured, Evidence-Based Approach

Blue Valley Schools follows the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG), a nationally recognized, evidence-based program. This approach ensures that we not only prevent violence but also support individuals in need.

Since the fall of 2023, Blue Valley building leaders have been trained in and actively using this Threat Assessment approach. This consistent use of CSTAG has equipped leaders with a common vocabulary and protocol, enabling them to resolve situations more effectively when threats arise.

By staying committed to this structured and compassionate approach, Blue Valley Schools ensures that students and staff are supported, safe and able to focus on what truly matters—learning through extraordinary educational opportunities.

More information about Blue Valley's threat assessment process is available on the [district website](#).

High School Game Atmosphere

Blue Valley families,

We are asking that all elementary and middle school students enter the game with an adult and sit with that adult throughout the game. Please do not drop your child off at a district event without supervision as they will not be allowed to enter. It is challenging to monitor and keep all students safe without the help of our parent community. Thanks for your help with this protocol to make district events a great experience for all who attend. We hope to see your family cheering for our Blue Valley teams this school year.

Matt Ortman
Director of School Administration, Athletics and Activities
Blue Valley School District

Harmony Middle School Handbook

Please use this link to view the [HMS Student Handbook](#). This handbook will be available for students through our All School Canvas page and can be found at the beginning of the student planner.

PTO

Boys' Basketball Concessions

We need two volunteers to work in the concession stand for each home boys' basketball game. One of the volunteers can be a student, however an adult must also be signed up to work with the student. Instructions will be sent to volunteers. For most dates there are two games with the first game starting at 3:30 pm and we like to have the stand open 15 minutes prior so please arrive to set up at 2:55 pm. Both games are typically completed in 2-2.5 hours so we ask that you stay until at least 5:30 pm please.



Boys Basketball Concessions

We need two volunteers to work in the concession stand for each home boys' basketball game. One of the volunteers can be a student, however an adult must also be signed up to work with the student. Instructions will be sent to volunteers.

[🔗 signupgenius.com](https://signupgenius.com)

Battle of the Bands



Blue Valley Educational Foundation is seeking auction items for the

2025 BATTLE OF THE BANDS Friday, February 21, 2025

Battle of the Bands is BVEF's annual over-21 event, raising money for the district's music and performing arts programs and district-wide initiatives. The evening includes live music, a silent auction, wine and bourbon pull, and a light buffet. Parent bands provide the live music and battle it out for the title.

Best Blue Valley Band

The winning band, picked by crowd and philanthropic participation, receives a classroom grant to award to a BV school of their choice.

Wine and Bourbon Pull

The wine and bourbon pull are crowd favorites, selling out before end of the event! We are seeking wine donations with a value of \$25 and bourbon donations with a value of \$40.

Silent Auction Packages

Bidding for silent auction items is open to 350 event participants and online for 33K Blue Valley families and staff. We are seeking donations of single items, merchandise, and services, valued at \$250 or more.

Auction Donation Deadline is February 3, 2025.

Last year's favorite silent auction items included tickets to sports and performing arts events, staycation packages, spa/beauty packages, golf outings, gift card bundles, game night experiences, restaurant passes and date night experiences.

Donor Acknowledgement

For donations valued at \$250 or more, donors will be acknowledged on BVEF social media platforms, email blasts, and wine and bourbon event signage.

Donations are tax deductible. BVEF is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization - Tax ID 48-0357744.

For more information or questions, contact Cindy McAlister at
913-239-4063 or cmcalister@bluevalleyk12.org
15020 Metcalf • Overland Park, KS 66223 • 913-239-4053 • fundbv.org



Student Services Update

Personal Safety Tips for Middle Schoolers

As our children navigate middle school, ensuring their personal safety at home, in school, and online is essential. During this month, our 6th graders will be learning general personal safety, 7th graders will learn about online personal safety, and 8th graders will be learning about healthy boundaries in relationships. Here are some key tips to help keep them safe in various environments:

At Home

- **Emergency Contacts:** Make sure your child knows important phone numbers, including how to reach you and emergency services.
- **Stranger Safety:** Remind them not to open doors to strangers and what to do if they feel unsafe.
- **First Aid:** Teach them basic first aid skills and where to find the first aid kit.

In School

- **Buddy System:** Encourage your child to use the buddy system when walking to and from school.
- **Reporting Issues:** Ensure they understand the importance of reporting bullying or suspicious behavior to a trusted adult.
- **Emergency Drills:** Familiarize them with the school's emergency procedures.

Online

- **Privacy:** Stress the importance of keeping personal information private.
- **Social Media:** Monitor their social media activity and discuss the risks of oversharing.
- **Cyberbullying:** Encourage them to report any online harassment.

Personal Safety

- **Boundaries:** Teach your child about personal boundaries and the importance of respecting others' boundaries.
- **Self-Defense:** Consider enrolling them in a self-defense class to boost their confidence and skills.
- **Awareness:** Encourage them to be aware of their surroundings and trust their instincts if something feels off.

Resources

For more tips and information on discussing personal safety with your child, check out these resources:

- [What If Game to Bring Up Personal Safety with your Kid: Zero Abuse Project](#)
- [Online Safety Resources](#)

By reinforcing these safety tips, we can help our middle schoolers feel secure and confident as they grow. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us.

Harmony Middle School Family Resources:

Catholic Charities of Johnson County - Northeast Kansas

Address: 9806 W. 87th Street

Overland Park, Kansas 66212

Phone: 913-384-6608

Hours of operation: Monday - Thursday 9:00-4:00

Salvation Army in Olathe

Address: 420 E. Santa Fe Olathe, Kansas 66061

Phone: 913-782-3640

Hours of operation: Monday - Friday 9:00-12:00; 1:00-4:00

Village Church Food Pantry and Clothes Closet

Address: 9900 Mission Road Overland Park, KS 66206

Phone: 913-671-2315

Energy Assistance: DCF office: 1-888-369-4777, or www.dcf.ks.gov.

Harmony Middle School

Website: <https://district.bluevalleyk12.org/schools/middle/hms/Pages/Calendar.aspx>

Location: [10101 West 141st Street, Overland Park, KS, USA](#)



Phone: [913-239-5200](tel:913-239-5200)

Twitter: [@HMSTBirds](https://twitter.com/HMSTBirds)



Lori Younger

Lori is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

