

T-Bird Times

February 16, 2024



Calendar

February:

- 19 - No School, Presidents Day
- 20 - 8th Grade Enrollment cards due
- 21 - Basketball Game A Team @ PRMS, 3:25 pm
- 21 - Basketball Game B Team @ Home, 3:25 pm
- 22 - BVNW Counselors visiting One on One with 8th graders (Enrollment)
- 22 - KMEA State Choir (Select 7th & 8th Graders) - Wichita
- 23 - KMEA State Choir (Select 7th & 8th Graders) - Wichita
- 26 - Boys Basketball Game A Team @ Home, 3:25 pm
- 26 - Boys Basketball Game B Team @ OTMS, 3:25 pm

March:

- 1- 7th Grade Band Rehearsal (Band Room) - 3:00 pm
 - 2 - District Middle School Band Solo/Ensemble Festival (OTMS) - 8:00am
 - 2 - District Middle School Orchestra Solo/Ensemble Festival (PRMS) - 8:00am
 - 4 - 6th Grade Band Rehearsal (Band Room) - 3:00 pm
 - 4 - 7th Grade Track Preseason Track Meeting (Students Only) - 3:10 pm
 - 5 - 8th Grade Track Preseason Track Meeting (Students Only) - 3:10 pm
 - 5 - 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Northwest Area Band Festival @ BVNW - 7:00 pm
 - 8 - No School - Professional Development Day
 - 11 - 15 - No School Spring Break
 - 18 - No School - Professional Development Day
 - 19 - 8th Grade Uniform Check Out/Meeting (Students Only) - 3:10 pm
 - 20 - 7th Grade Uniform Check Out/Meeting (Students Only) - 3:10 pm
 - 21 - District Middle School Theater Festival @ BVW - 9:30 am
 - 21 - BVNW Area Orchestra Festival (5th - 12th grades) @ BVNW
 - 25 - Track Practice Starts - 3:10 pm
 - 25 - Track Parent Meeting - 4:45 pm
 - 26 - Track Parent Meeting - 4:45 pm
 - 26 - BVNW Area Jazz Festival @ OMS- 7:00 pm
 - 28 - MNU Jazz Festival - 9:00 am-1:00 pm
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Principals Note:

HMS Families,

We had another good week at HMS. We were interrupted with another day off on Wednesday, but students and staff still had a productive week. Our orchestra students, along with 5th grade orchestra students, performed beautifully at their concert yesterday. Also, our boys basketball team competed twice this week. In the classroom, many great things were happening and students continue to work hard despite all of the interruptions of days off since the beginning of January.

Below this note you will find the following information:

- Help Wanted: Paraprofessionals
- Planning for Inclement Weather Days
- Games on District Devices
- Carline Reminders
- Safe Schools Reporting
- Student Code of Conduct
- Game Atmosphere
- Athletics
- Clubs
- Band, Choir, Orchestra
- GoFan Passes/Ticket Information

- 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

Help Wanted: Paraprofessionals

Come help us out at HMS!!

**WANTED:
HARMONY MIDDLE
SCHOOL
PARAPROFESSIONALS**

*Come help us out at HMS and assist students
throughout the school day with academic
support!*

**PARA 1 AND PARA 11 OPENINGS
7.75 HOURS PER DAY
FULL BENEFITS AVAILABLE**

For more information, see copy/paste the links below:

Special Education Para I:
[https://www.applitrack.com/bluevalleyk12/onlineapp/default.aspx?
Category=Para+Educator&subcategory=Special+Education+Para+I&ApplitrackJ
obId=10555&ApplitrackLayoutMode=detail&ApplitrackViewPosting=1](https://www.applitrack.com/bluevalleyk12/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Para+Educator&subcategory=Special+Education+Para+I&ApplitrackJobId=10555&ApplitrackLayoutMode=detail&ApplitrackViewPosting=1)

Special Education Para II:
[https://www.applitrack.com/bluevalleyk12/onlineapp/JobPostings/view.asp?
Category=Para+Educator&subcategory=Special+Education+Para+II&ApplitrackJ
obId=10824&ApplitrackLayoutMode=detail&ApplitrackViewPosting=1](https://www.applitrack.com/bluevalleyk12/onlineapp/JobPostings/view.asp?Category=Para+Educator&subcategory=Special+Education+Para+II&ApplitrackJobId=10824&ApplitrackLayoutMode=detail&ApplitrackViewPosting=1)

**CONTACT NATE WINSLOW-
JNWINSLOW@BLUEVALLEYK12.ORG
OR
EMILY WILSON-
ESWILSON@BLUEVALLEYK12.ORG
FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

Planning for Inclement Weather Days in BV

As the winter months continue, there is always the possibility of inclement weather. When extreme weather conditions exist, the district may cancel school or utilize a two-hour delayed start when temporary adverse weather conditions exist. When possible, inclement weather announcements

will be made the day before so staff and families can plan. More information about inclement weather (including 2-hour delayed starts) can be found on the district [website](#).

Games on District Devices

In an effort to reduce distractions in the learning environment for all of our students, beginning on January 4, 2024, all students will have general gaming websites blocked on district devices (examples include: Fortnite, crazygames.com, recreational games, arcade-like games, etc.). Educational games will still be allowed.

Carline Reminders

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

1. Use the east entrance to the front circle. The west entrance is for buses only.
2. Pull forward all the way before allowing your student to exit the car.
 1. 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.
 2. Please have your student exit the car quickly. One slow car can back up the entire carline.
3. Pull to the left after your student exits your car. (this is extremely important to ensure traffic continues to flow)
4. Turn right only when exiting the parking lot. Waiting to turn left completely halts our carline.

Also, please DO NOT park along 141st street during pickup or dropoff. This is a no parking zone as it is a safety issue for our students trying to use the crosswalk. Please enter the HMS parking lot to pick up your student after school.

Safe School Reporting

Blue Valley Schools is committed to promoting and fostering a safe environment in and around all of our schools. Through the convergence of physical and intellectual security measures, we are continuously working to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from a wide range of emergencies. Please check out [available ways to report safety concerns](#).

Student Code of Conduct

The Blue Valley Board of Education approved updates to Board Policy [3500](#) - Behavior and Discipline at the August 14, 2023 Board of Education meeting. As part of this approval, there is a [Student Code of Conduct](#) document. We ask all families and students within our school

Administrative actions taken as a result of a violation of the code of conduct are determined following proper investigation, review, and/or consideration of the age/grade of the student, context, and situation in which the behavior in question occurred. The scope of authority of the Blue Valley Student Code of Conduct applies at all times when students are on school buses or other vehicles used by the district to transport students, school district property, or engaged in official school activities. Additionally, **this code of conduct applies to any student whose conduct at any time or place has a direct and immediate effect causing substantial disruption impacting the order of school operations and/or the sense of student and staff safety that exists in the school or school-related environment.**

Students at HMS will be made aware of behavioral expectations and the Code of Conduct through grade level talks next week. Every student at HMS also has our handbook in the front of their student planner.

High School Game Atmosphere

Blue Valley families,

We are excited to have your families come to support our high school activities and athletics. It is great to see the entire community at these events. It is imperative that our parent community partner with us as we work to encourage positive elementary and middle school behavior at high school games or events.

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

Middle School Game Atmosphere

As a reminder for all fans and spectators, please be considerate of our workers running clock, supervising, and keeping score. All of the workers at the middle school games/meets are volunteers who are giving up their time after school to support HMS students and athletics. The goal is to continue to have volunteers to run the events, so please be kind :).

Athletics/Activities

Athletics

8th Grade Boys Basketball

Our boys basketball games have been close and competitive! Our coaches and players have been working hard to ensure an exciting season!

Check out the upcoming games:

Wednesday, Feb. 21st vs. PRMS- A @ PRMS (A2/A1) 3:25/4:25pm; B @ HOME (B2/B1) 3:25/4:25pm

Monday, Feb. 26th vs. OTMS- A @ HOME (A2/A1) 3:25/4:25pm; B @ OTMS (B2/B1) 3:25/4:25pm

7th and 8th Grade Track-

Track season is right around the corner! Please make sure to complete the registration and upload student physicals by Friday, March 22nd. Practice will begin on Monday, March 25th.

<https://bluevalleysd-ar.schooltoday.com/familyaccounts/autopopulate/160>

Clubs

Club info is [here](#) ! You can also check out the HMS All School Canvas tile→Clubs.

Band, Choir, Orchestra

If your student is taking a music course at any point this year, please complete the registration information in rSchool. **No physical is needed (unless participating in athletics)**, but completion of the registration will allow us to access emergency information/use as a permission slip when traveling to festivals and field trips.

When signing up, the system will say athletic registration. Please click continue as band, choir, and orchestra are KSHSAA sponsored. There will be a section for you to select band, choir, or orchestra.

<https://bluevalleysd-ar.schooltoday.com/familyaccounts/autopopulate/160>

Tutorial links for rSchool- <https://bluevalleysd-ar.schooltoday.com/>

GoFan Passes/Ticket Information

Passes/tickets to high school games now available online

Blue Valley is pleased to announce that we will partner with GoFan for all athletic passes and individual high school event tickets for the 2023-24 school year. Fans can purchase passes or

tickets online through their high school's GoFan page. This new pass and ticket process allows Blue Valley to operate a more efficient and professional ticket gate while elevating the fan experience.

[Purchase athletic pass/ticket today.](#)

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.

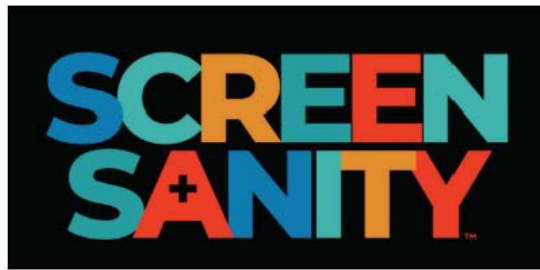
PTO

SCREEN SANITY EVENT (SPONSORED BY HMS PTO):

Please join us for an "Adults-only" event about parenting in the digital age. Tools and resources for navigating smartphones, social media and the online world with our children. The event will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 21st at 7 PM at Harmony Middle School (10101 West 141st Street). This event is free to parents (funded by PTO) - but registration is required. Please see the flyer below with the QR Code to register. If you have any questions - please contact Whitney Johnson at whitney.grabinski@gmail.com.

Sign up form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6MbugAusAjhoB1-3GZ77yIMC4nQrFjb-likgG8lghn9JPsg/viewform?usp=send_form



WHAT: Adults-only event about parenting in the digital age. Tools and resources for navigating smartphones, social media and the online world with our children.

WHEN: Wednesday 2/21, 7pm

WHERE: Harmony Middle School
(10101 W. 141st St)

HOW: Free to parents, funded by PTO.
Registration required via QR code below.



“
As someone who raised five teenagers, I wish I had experienced Screen Sanity's presentation earlier. Their content provides a helpful roadmap for what kids are exposed to and how to navigate things like phones and social media. - Parent Night Attendee
”

PTO THANKS:

Big thanks to Candace King and everyone who donated items for the Staff Appreciation dinner and lunch last week. It was a huge success and the teachers and staff loved having delicious food to eat during conferences. Thank you for your support and generosity!

Huge thanks to Candace King and her family and Arwen Moore and her family for working the HMS Concession stands during our home basketball games. The King family worked the Feb. 5 home games and the Moore family worked the Feb. 15 home games. We greatly appreciate their time and energy! Thanks King and Moore families!

CONCESSION STAND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WEDNESDAY'S (2/21) HOME BASKETBALL GAMES:

We are in urgent need of volunteers for this Wednesday's (2/21) home 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. 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. If you have any questions - please contact Katie Scheibel at katie_scheibel@hotmail.com. Thank you so much for your help and time!



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

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR BLUE VALLEY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION EVENT: BATTLE OF THE BANDS:

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, silent auction, wine and bourbon pull, and a light buffet. Four parent bands provide the live music and battle it out for the title. Please see the attached flyer for more details and ways you can donate an auction item and help BVEF. Thank you for your support!



Blue Valley Educational Foundation is seeking auction items for the

2024 Battle of the Bands RC's Backdoor | Martin City Saturday, February 24, 2024

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. Four 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.

Bidding for silent auction items will be available to 350 event participants and online for 33K Blue Valley families, staff, and district friends. The Foundation is seeking single items, merchandise, and services, valued at \$250 or more. Donations are tax deductible. BVEF is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization - Tax TD 48-1159744.

Auction Donation Deadline is February 2, 2024.

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, outdoor movie experiences, artwork, restaurant passes and date night experiences.

For more information or questions, contact Cindy McAlister at 913-239-4053 or cmcalister@bluevalleyk12.org

15020 Metcalf • Overland Park, KS 66223 • 913-239-4053 • fundbv.org

HMS PTO COMMUNICATIONS & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR OPENING:

The HMS PTO is looking for a parent to take on the Communications & Volunteer Coordinator position for the 2024- 2025 school year. This is a very rewarding volunteer opportunity and you don't have to attend any PTO board meetings! The position involves managing the HMS PTO Sign Up Genius Account (creating and sending out sign ups), HMS PTO Concession Stand volunteers, and the PTO information for the weekly T-Bird Times. If you are interested - please reach out to Katie Scheibel at katie_scheibel@hotmail.com.

Student Services Update

Enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year. If you haven't turned it in, please do so as soon as possible.

To view the 2024-25 Middle School Programming Guide please click the link;

<https://www.bluevalleyk12.org/cms/lib/ks02212623/Centricity/Domain/4506/MS%20PPG%202024-25.pdf>

Enrollment cards for 8th graders are due to our registrar, Vicki Springer by Tuesday, February 20th. On Thursday, Feb 22nd, the BVNW counselors will be here to meet one on one with the students in their alpha during science classes.

This month's BVUnmuted podcast focuses on updated graduation requirements for incoming high school students.

Podcast Link - bit.ly/BVGradReq

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Vicki Springer HMS Registrar vspringer@bluevalleyk12.org 913-239-5216

Lori Cook School Counselor Last Names A-K lmcook@bluevalleyk12.org 913-239-5218

Trish Madsen School Counselor Last Names L-Z tmadsen@bluevalleyk12.org 913-239-5217

REGISTER NOW!

Starting STRONG

MIDDLE SCHOOL EDITION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29
6-8PM | HILLTOP CONFERENCE CENTER



Calling all Blue Valley 5th and 6th grade parents and caregivers!

BV Well and **BV School Counselors, Social Workers** and **Psychologists** invite you to attend a complimentary session designed especially for **5th and 6th grade parents** and caregivers that will address:

- expected **social and cognitive milestones** for 11 to 14-year-olds and the importance of championing your child's **online safety** at this age
- the **number one parent factor that fosters child wellbeing** and what you can do to build and sustain it
- **digital health and wellness** practices for your family

Featuring:

- **Dr. Libby Matile Milkovich, MD**, Pediatrician, Children's Mercy Kansas City
- **Annie Rusthoven, Screen Sanity**, nonprofit whose programs help parents consider technology in their lives and connect with their kids in meaningful ways
- **Panel Discussion** with Dr. Libby, Annie and additional experts

REGISTER HERE



Register by Feb 28th | FREE event

Optional: scan code or click link to [purchase Screen Sanity's Middle School Plugged-in Planner](#). Books will also be available for sale at the event.



Screen Sanity's presentation sponsored by:



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](#)



Lori Younger

Lori is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters