

T-Bird Times

February 28, 2025



Calendar

March:

3 - Boys Basketball Game @ HOME vs OMS (A1) - 3:25 pm

3 - Boys Basketball Game @ ABMS (A2) - 3:25 pm

4 - Boys Basketball Game @ PSMS (A2) - 3:25 pm

4 - Boys Basketball Game @ (A1) TBD

6 - PSAT @ Hilltop Building (8th grade only - Optional)

6 - 7th grade band rehearsal - 3:00 pm

8 - District Solo & Ensemble Festival - Orchestra @ PRMS (6th, 7th & 8th- students who signed up)

8 - District Solo & Ensemble Festival - Band @ OTMS (6th, 7th & 8th- students who signed up)

10 - 6th grade band rehearsal - 3:00 pm

11 - 8th grade one acts - 12:41pm & 2:16 pm
11 - Northwest Area Band Festival (6th, 7th & 8th) - 7:00 pm
12 - 8th grade one acts - 12:41pm & 2:16 pm
14 - No School - End of Quarter
17 - 24 - No School - Spring Break
25 - Return to School
27 - District Middle School Theater Festival @ BVW PAC - 9:30 am
27 - Northwest Orchestra Festival @ BVNW - 7:00 pm

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

HMS Families,

We enjoyed seeing many of you last night for in-person conferences. We also enjoyed the change in weather this week. We hope many of our students had a chance to get outside and soak up some sun and breath in the fresh air!

You have probably noticed HMS staff making an effort to improve the safety and efficiency of our carline this past week. We have received many calls from concerned parents and community members about our carline. This week, we have made it a point to try and get all cars to pull into the carline to drop off and pick up their students. **We need ALL cars to pull into the carline to drop off and pick up students.** This keeps all students safe, improves the efficiency of the carline, and improves the flow of traffic on Switzer, which can be dangerous during our school drop off and pick up times. Again, please sacrifice a few minutes of your time to enter the front circle when dropping off and picking up your students. We greatly appreciate it.

Below this note you will find the following information:

- BVEF Champion for Students Award
- 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

BVEF Champion for Students Award

Do you know a Blue Valley educator who goes above and beyond to cultivate a learning environment where relationships are the cornerstone, where kindness and compassion are guiding principles, and making a profound difference in the lives of young people is not just a goal but a lived reality? Help the Blue Valley Educational Foundation (BVEF) recognize their extraordinary impact by nominating them today for the BVEF annual Champion for Students Award! This \$2,500 BVEF award recognizes three exemplary teachers (one elementary, one middle, and one high) whose impact extends far beyond the learning environment, shaping the trajectory of their students' journeys and leaving an enduring legacy of excellence.

Any member of the Blue Valley Schools' Community (e.g., school administrator, student, family member, staff, etc.) is welcome to submit [one nomination](#) on behalf of an educator (any staff member in Blue Valley Schools - teacher, paraprofessional, administrator, kitchen manager, etc.). The application window will open on February 10th and close on March 7th. To nominate an educator, complete the [2025 BVEF Champion for Students Award form](#) by Friday, March 7th.

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 7:51am.

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 practice day is Wednesday, March 26th (when school resumes) and all registration/physical information will need to have been submitted and reviewed prior.

Need help?

Tutorial Links- <https://bluevalleyksd-ar.rschoolday.com/>

8th Grade Boys Basketball

Come support our TBirds at our home games! We only have a few more games left!

Upcoming Games

Monday 3/3- Tournament

A2 vs. ABMS @ ABMS 3:25pm

A1 vs. OMS @ HOME 3:25pm

Tuesday 3/4- Tournament

A2 vs PSMS @ PSMS 3:25pm

A1 will play if win on Monday vs. TBD

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 Neighborhoodly	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)

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.
- 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)

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 March Celebrations & Observances:

- **The Nineteen Day Fast** - March 1-19 - a time of prayer, meditation, and fasting, some adult members of the Bahá'í faith refrain from food and water from sunrise to sunset each day. This practice might include prayers of spiritual preparation for the new year.
 - **Ramadan** - evening of March 1-30 - the holy month of fasting for the Islamic faith. For some Muslim families, it is a time for introspection, communal prayer, reading the Qur'an, and fasting between sunrise and sunset.
 - **Ash Wednesday** - March 5 - a Christian holiday signifying the first day of the Lenten season, the 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading to Easter. Some families will attend religious services and receive ashes in the shape of a cross on their forehead.
 - **Holi** - March 14 - known as the Hindu festival of colors, Holi honors the triumph of good over evil and marks the beginning of Spring. Some families will light bonfires, throw colorful powder called gulal, eat sweets, and dance to traditional music.
 - **Eid al Fitr** - March 31 - marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting. Some families will celebrate the "Festival of Breaking the Fast" by joining in communal prayer and meals, visiting family, gift-giving, and charity.
-

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

Track Concessions

We need 3 - 4 parent volunteers to work at the outdoor track concession stand for each track meet held at HMS. Meet starts at 3:30 and we like to have the stand open 15 minutes prior so please arrive to set up at 3:00 PM. Track parents will be able to watch their student's events and races. Please contact Erin Albright at Erin.albright@hotmail.com if you have any questions.



Track Concessions

We need 3 - 4 parent volunteers to work at the outdoor track concession stand for each track meet held at HMS. Meet starts at 3:30 and we like to have the stand open 15 minutes prior so please arrive to set up at 3:00 PM.

signupgenius.com

Student Services Update

Harvesters

HMS has a had a unique partnership with our local Harvesters organization which allows us to encourage our families and staff to help reduce food insecurity in the metro area! We have been participating in "Go For the Green" and have been successful for 17 year receiving the honor of collecting the most food of any school in the KC area. Students will have a lesson during their nest to share how their donations impact our community, to understand food insecurity and become familiarized with the amazing work Harvesters does.

HMS Student Council will have barrels set up in the entry the week of March 10th through 13th to allow for donations with an assembly on Thursday the 13th to celebrate. StuCo members will be at the entrance before school to collect items and monetary donations and give students tickets for a lunchtime raffle. We will have daily drawings for those who donate and the winner at each grade level will receive a prize each day. There will also be a prize for the gad level who has the most participation!

The need for food assistance is greater now more than ever with people in our community. Please do what you can to help...for every dollar you donate, Harvester can provide two meals for families in need. We're looking forward to seeing what our T-Bird family can make happen!



Student Council

Student Council members enjoyed passing out snacks and drinks to teachers before parent teacher conferences on Thursday! We are so grateful for our generous community and amazing kids so eager to serve.



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](#)



Lori Younger

Lori is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

