

# T-Bird Times

April 5, 2024



## Calendar

### April:

- 8 - FastBridge Testing 7th grade only (taken in ELA class)
- 9 - Track Meet @ HMS vs LMS - 3:25 pm
- 11 - Track Meet @ ABMS - 3:25 pm
- 12 - 8th grade Community Service Day - 8am-12pm
- 17 - Track Meet @ HMS vs PSMS - 3:25 pm
- 17 - FastBridge Testing 8th grade only (taken in ELA class)
- 18 - 8th Grade Band Festival @ BVSU - 9:30am-12:30pm
- 19 - No School- Professional Development Day
- 22 - 7th Grade District Choir Festival @ BVN - 9:30am-12:00pm

22 - 7th Grade Band Rehearsal - 3:00 pm  
23 - 7th Grade Band Festival @ BVNW - 9:30am -12:00pm  
23 - Track Meet @ PRMS - 3:25  
24 - 8th Grade District Choir Festival @ Mid America Nazarene - 9:30am-2:45pm  
25 - Track Meet @ HMS vs BVMS - 3:25  
30- iReady Math Testing (6th-8th) (taken in Math class)

### May:

1 - Orchestra Rehearsal @ BVNW - 6:30pm (7th & 8th)  
1-2 - iReady Math Testing (6th-8th) (taken in Math class)  
2 - Track Meet @ OMS - 3:25 pm  
2 - 7th grade Suessical show - 9:00 am  
3 - Theater/Choir field trip to BVNW Rep show (8th)  
6 - Fastbridge testing (6th-taken in ELA class)  
7 - Stax of Wax @ HMS (6th) - 7:30pm  
8 - Track Meet (location/time TBD - 8th grade only)  
9 - 6th grade band festival @ OMS - 9:00 am  
9 - Husky showcase @ BVNW (7th/8th Choir/Theater)  
10- 5th grade Tour 9:50 am  
14 - 8th grade show - 1:45pm  
15 - Spring Band Concert @ HMS (6th, 7th & 8th)  
16 - MS/ES Spring Orchestra Concert (4th-8th) @ HMS - 7:00pm  
16 - WOF Band Rehearsal (7th & 8th) @ HMS - 3:00 pm  
17 - WOF Choir/Theater trip (7th & 8th) - 9:00 am  
17 - WOF Band trip (7th & 8th) - 8:00 am  
21 - 8th grade Marching Band Parent Meeting @ BVNW - 4:45 pm  
22 - 8th grade catered lunch  
22 - 8th grade Class Picture - 1:00  
22 - 8th grade ceremony practice (after picture)  
23 - 8th grade celebration 8:00 am  
24 - Last day of school release at 10:50 am

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## PRINCIPALS NOTE

HMS Families,

This week students completed both the ELA and Math portion Kansas State Assessments. Our staff greatly appreciated their hard work, focus, and patience as they tested this week. This week, the district also officially announced the last day of school. The last day of school this year is May 24, which will be an early release day with dismissal at 10:50 AM.

Below this note you will find the following information:

- Last Day of School Announced
- Register for the 2024-25 School Year Today

- Solar Eclipse
- Spring Testing
- Honor Code
- HMS Volunteer Service Hours Reminder
- Future Voter Sticker Contest
- Help Wanted: Paraprofessionals
- Games on District Devices
- Carline Reminders
- Safe Schools Reporting
- Student Code of Conduct
- Game Atmosphere
- Athletics
- Clubs
- Band, Choir, Orchestra
- GoFan Passes/Ticket Information
- 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

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## LAST DAY OF SCHOOL ANNOUNCED

As we begin the fourth quarter, the district has determined the last day of school for students for 2023-24. Assuming no unforeseen circumstances cause us to cancel school, staff and families can plan on May 24 as the last day for students in grades K-11. Students in the early childhood programs will have their last day on May 23.

High school finals will occur May 22–24, with building principals communicating the specific schedules to their school families and students at a later date. For more information or to subscribe to the district calendar, visit [www.bluevalleyk12.org/calendar](http://www.bluevalleyk12.org/calendar).

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## REGISTER FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR TODAY

[Middle school registration](#) for the 2024-25 school year is open and [online now](#) for current students and families. Registration is required annually and is the time to update your child's information (phone, email, emergency contacts, health information, etc.). At this time, you have access to pay all required fees except for course fees. Course fees will be assigned in September.

Completing registration now confirms that your child will attend school in August and helps the district appropriately staff classrooms. Thank you for providing important information as part of the registration process. For more registration information, visit [www.bluevalleyk12.org/registration](http://www.bluevalleyk12.org/registration).

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## SOLAR ECLIPSE

On April 8, a total solar eclipse will take place, with those in the Overland Park area having the opportunity to experience a partial solar eclipse, making this a memorable educational experience for our students. The eclipse will last from 12:54-3:11 p.m., with the maximum eclipse occurring at 1:54 p.m.

Because this event will take place during the school day, we want to provide our students with a safe and fun experience. Each building will provide students the opportunity to view the solar eclipse and order solar filter safety glasses that meet NASA's specifications, ensuring every student's eyes are protected throughout the event.

We ask for your support in reinforcing the importance of eye safety with your child ahead of the eclipse. NASA's website offers a wealth of resources on this topic, which you can find [here](#).

If you prefer your child NOT to participate in the solar eclipse viewing, please let your principal know.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's school or class plans, please contact your school directly. We are excited to share this unique event with our students. Together, we can create lasting memories and valuable learning opportunities.

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## SPRING TESTING

Testing will continue through April and into May. See the testing schedule below to ensure that your TBird is present and ready to show what they know!

iReady (aMath if Alg) (6-8th)- April 30th-May 2nd; taken during math class periods

Fastbridge- taken during ELA class periods

6th grade- May 6th

7th grade- April 8th

8th grade- April 17th

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## HONOR CODE





# HARMONY MIDDLE SCHOOL

## H

### **HONEST**

**Be honest - 100% of the time**

Accept the outcome of your choices

**Report behaviors that are not "honorable"**

Complete your own work

## O

### **OPTIMISTIC**

**Maintain a positive attitude**

Encourage yourself and others

**Persevere - practice a "growth mindset"**

Show pride in our school

## N

### **NEIGHBORLY**

**Be friendly and safe**

Speak kindly and be a good listener

**Treat all property with respect**

Help and include others - be a good teammate

## O

### **ON TASK**

**Be on time to class**

Actively listen and participate

**Be prepared with materials**

Give your best effort - 100% of the time

## R

### **RESPECTFUL & RESPONSIBLE**

**Follow rules and routines**

Clean up after yourself and others

**Treat others the way you want to be treated**

Use appropriate language at all times

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## HMS VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS REMINDER

Just a reminder that all student volunteer service hours must be submitted by April 15, 2024. Please email the [tracking form](#) to [eswilson@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto: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.

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## FUTURE VOTER STICKER CONTEST

The Johnson County Election Office is running a contest for K-8 students to design a sticker to be distributed to youth at advance voting and Election Day polling sites. [The submission deadline is May 3.](#) Contest rules and required forms are included in this [Sticker Contest Packet](#) as well as at this [link](#).

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## 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&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&AppliTrackJobId=10824&AppliTrackLayoutMode=detail&AppliTrackViewPosting=1>

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

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## 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](https://www.crazygames.com), recreational games, arcade-like games, etc.). Educational games will still be allowed.

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## 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.

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## 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](#).

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## 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 community to review the contents, policies and procedures within this [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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.

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## 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

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## 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 :).

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## ACTIVITIES/ATHLETICS

### Athletics

7th and 8th Grade Track-  
Come cheer on our TBirds!  
Meets for the week- 4/8-4/12:  
April 9th @ HMS; 3:25pm start for all events  
**April 11th @ ABMS; 3:25pm start for all events**

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## CLUBS

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

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## 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/>

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## 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](#)

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## 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.

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## PTO

### **TRACK CONCESSION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

We need two volunteers to work in the concession stand for each track meet held at HMS. 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. 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. Please click on the sign-up genius link below to volunteer:



## Track Concessions

We need two volunteers to work in the concession stand for each track meet held at HMS. 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)

## 8th Grade Ice Cream Social Topping Donation Sign Up:

We need your help providing toppings for the 8th Grade Ice Cream Bar. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Please bring all donations to the HMS Front Office by Thursday, May 23rd at 12 PM. We also need volunteers to help from 12:30 - 2 PM. You will be able to see the parade around the track if you volunteer. Thanks in advance for your help and time!



## 8th Grade Ice Cream Toppings Sign Up

We need your help providing toppings for the 8th Grade Ice Cream Bar. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Please bring all donations to the HMS Front Office by Thursday, May 23rd at 12 PM. We also need volunteers to help from 12:30 - 2 PM.

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

## 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), the HMS PTO Gmail account, 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](mailto:katie_scheibel@hotmail.com).

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## STUDENT SERVICES

# DEA NATIONAL <sup>Rx</sup> TAKEBACK

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs. The next Take Back Day is April 27, 2024 from 10am-2pm at locations nationwide.

Mark your calendars! The next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is **April 27, 2024**, from 10am-2pm at locations nationwide.

This event, which happens twice a year, is a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs at locations in communities throughout the country. [Find a location near you.](#)

The October 2023 Take Back Day brought in **599,897 lbs. (300 tons)** of medication. [Get more details about the most recent Take Back Day numbers.](#)

This brings the total amount of prescription drugs collected by DEA since the fall of 2010 to more than **17.9 million pounds** of medication.

Learn more about ways to properly dispose of your meds below.  
What Should You Do With Your Unused Meds?

Most people who misuse prescription drugs get them from family, friends, and acquaintances. You can make a difference by keeping track of the medicine you have, by rethinking where and how you keep your medications in your home, and by safely disposing of any unused medications. [Read more about ways to secure your meds and safely dispose of them at home.](#)

## Career Cafe

Dr. Geetha Haligheri came in this week to speak to our 7th and 8th grade students on her role at Children's Mercy as a Pediatric Cardiologist.





## New Resource

New Resource available online for parents from [Understood.org](https://www.understood.org)

Are you wondering why your child is struggling? Figuring out what's going on can feel overwhelming. That's why we're here to help. Introducing a simple step-by-step tool to help you spot signs of learning and thinking differences.

This tool is not a replacement for a diagnostic evaluation; instead, it's designed to empower you to gather the information you need and seek support from practitioners.

<https://www.understood.org/en/take-note>

## Powering Families

A Learning Series from Children's Mercy

Each month Children's Mercy will offer a free online educational event. These events will offer parents and caregivers a chance to connect with Children's Mercy Kansas City experts and partners on a variety of topics. Each event will include information provided by the expert followed by questions from attendees submitted via chat and addressed by the experts.

Webinar topics will include: healthy eating, financial resources, anxiety and depression, kids' safety and more. Be sure and check back as new events will be added each month.

More information can be found at; <https://tinyurl.com/2ep4sj7n>





## 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

