

HENDERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Excellent Community. Superior Education.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS AT HMS

August 7, 2015

Volume 3, Issue 1

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year! A new school year brings excitement for new learning opportunities as well as new beginnings for all students at HMS. We are excited about this school year and are looking forward to another great year. You will see several new faces at HMS this year.

Rebecca Summerlin, 6th mathematics teacher, comes to us from Marshall Middle School in Beaumont ISD. She has over 28 years of teaching experience and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience into the position.

Blake Krukiel, Boy's Physical Education teacher/Coach, is a first year teacher, but brings a lot of enthusiasm to the position. Blake holds a Master's Degree in Kinesiology from Lamar University. Blake is going to coach football, basketball, and track at the middle school level. He attended Hardin Jefferson his freshman and sophomore year before his family moved to the east coast.

Megan Rowe, Girl's Physical Education teacher/Coach, joins our team from Lamar State College-Port Arthur. She was the assistant softball coach. She will be the Head Softball Coach and will help with

volleyball. Megan will run our middle school girls offseason program.

Alisa Courts, Special Education teacher, comes to us from Vincent Middle School in Beaumont ISD. She has 5 years of teaching experience. She is very knowledgeable about special education. We are lucky to have her apart of the HMS team.

Erich Guidry, 7th grade Texas History/Coach, joins us from Stroman Middle School in Victoria ISD. While he was in Victoria, he taught Texas History & US History. He will coach football, basketball, and track.

Micah Vasser, Special Education teacher, joined us in January. She came from Vincent Middle School in Beaumont ISD.

Tera Matak, paraprofessional, worked in Mrs. Daniel's class this past school year while she was out. She did a great job. She is also a certified teacher.

Sheri Brimm, Principal's Secretary, joins us from Lumberton High School where she served as the Registrar. Mrs. Brimm has been a Principal's secretary before. She has jumped right in and is doing a fantastic job.

Dates to Remember:

- 8/24-1st day of school
- 8/26-Volleyball Parent Meeting @ 5:00 p.m.
- 9/7 Labor Day
- 9/8-HMS Connect (Open House)
- 9/10 Football-HJ @ Kountze
- 9/12 Back to School Dance
- 9/14 Volleyball-Silsbee @ HJ
- 9/16 Progress Reports
- 9/17 Football-Tarkington @ HJ
- 9/19 ZAP
- 9/21 Volleyball-HJ @ LCM
- 9/22 Parent Lunch with Students
- 9/24 Football-HJ @ Center (Jasper)
- 9/28 Volleyball- HJ @ WOS
- 10/5 Volleyball- Orangefield @ HJ
- 10/6 Football-Orangefield @ HJ
- 10/7 Progress Reports
- 10/8 Football-HJ @ Orangefield
- 10/10 Volleyball Tournament @ HF; ZAP
- 10/12 Volleyball HJ @ HF
- 10/13 Football-HJ @ HF
- 10/15 Football HF @ HJ 5:00 p.m.
- 10/19 Volleyball-Bridge City @ HJ
- 10/20 Football LCM @ HJ
- 10/22 Football HJ @ LCM
- 10/23 Early Release @ 12:30; Positive Incentive Trip; Halloween Dance

Follow Us On Social Media

Facebook- Henderson Middle School HJISD

Instagram- hendersonmiddle_school

Twitter- @HjhmsMiddle

YouTube www.youtube.com/user/HENDERSONmsHAWKS

Remind 101 text @hmshawks16 to 81010

Character Education

Middle school is a very complicated and complex. Students lives are changing. They are moving from elementary to middle school, which in itself is a big transition not to mention their bodies changing, changing friends, etc. This time is very difficult to navigate through.

Middle school students long for the independence of adulthood; however, they are far from ready to be an adult. During the middle school years, you are stuck in between childhood and adulthood. Students are trying to figure everything out. They are also very influential at this stage, which is one of the biggest reasons I like working with this age group.

People ask me all the time why I work with middle school students and I always tell them that this is the age that you make the most difference. Because adolescents are so influential at this age, we want to continue to set aside time each week to focus on character traits such as: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness/justice, compassion/caring, citizenship, integrity, courage,

diligence, setting & achieving goals, dealing with pressures, preventing conflicts & violence, handling emotions, saying no to alcohol & drugs, friendship, and enhancing self esteem. In the 6th & 7th grade technology classes, they are going to talk about a different character trait every Thursday. We want to encourage you to help us reinforce these traits at home.

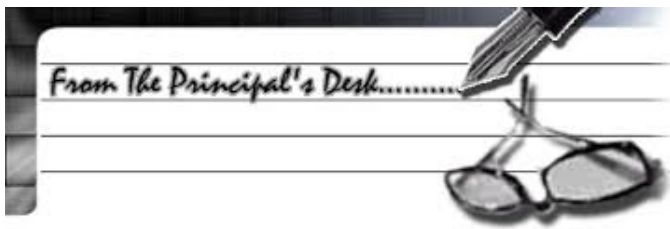
The 8th graders are going to go through a book called, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, written by Sean Covey. The seven traits include: 1) Be proactive; 2) Begin with the End in Mind; 3) Put First Things First; 4) Think Win-Win; 5) Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood; 6) Synergize; 7) Sharpen the Saw. Research shows that these seven habits can allow teens to achieve ultimate success. We want to do everything in our power to help students learn how to cope in the real world. Helen Keller said, "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved." We are here to here to help however we can.

Washington DC/New York Trip

We are thrilled to invite all 7th & 8th grade students on a once in a lifetime trip to our nation's capital and New York City on May 19-24. Our student will experience first hand the rich history of our nation by touring one of the world's most powerful cities. This experience challenges students to role play life from the perspective of our found fathers to the legislators and judges who write and interpret the laws of the land today. It is a 6 day/5 night trip.

Students will tour the following places: Ford's Theatre, Petersen House, U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, National Archives, White House, Washington Monument, Home of George Washington, Pentagon 9/11 Memorial, MLK Memorial, F.D.R. Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery (Tomb of the Unknowns, Changing of the Guard, Kennedy Gravesites, Challenger Memorial), Smithsonian Complex (National History Museum, National Gallery of Art, Air & Space Museum, American History Museum), Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Kennedy Center, Iwo Jima Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Memorial, World War II Memorial, Embassy Row, Washington Cathedral, and the National Zoo. In New York, we are going to visit

The Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Wall Street Area, and 9/11 Memorial just to name a few. We are also going to catch a Broad Way Show and a Yankees game. The itinerary is jam packed with great experiences for everyone. Students will gain a deeper understanding of our history, the consequences of choices, and their role in shaping America's destiny. Our trip, coordinated by School Tours of America, is non-school sponsored. The all inclusive per person tour price is \$2605 for a quad room. The price includes: round trip transportation (excluding luggage fees); secure, quality hotel accommodations, all means (except en route); sightseeing with professional drivers and licensed guides; nighttime private security chaperones; evening activities; 24 on-call company representations at our hotels; comprehensive medical and accident insurance for students and chaperones. Space is limited. For more information, please contact Stephanie Battle (stephaniebattle@hjsd.net).



On behalf of the staff at Henderson Middle School, I am happy to welcome you to the 2015-16 school year! I can not believe the summer is already come and gone. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with our parents as we work together to ensure your child achieves their full potential. At HMS, we understand the importance of needing support from both the home and school so your child can be successful. Our staff desires to have a strong relationship with you so we can make an positive impact on your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our child's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she: 1) attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience; 2) Completes all homework/daily assignments given by teachers; 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills; 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life; 5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject; 6) Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school.

The wonderful Henderson Middle School staff and I feel privileged to be a part of this school family. We thank you for your support and look forward to working with you to achieve success for our children. If you need anything, you can contact me at darrellwestfall@hjsd.net or 409-981-6420 ext 3403.

Assistant Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that summer has flown by so quickly! We are super excited for the 2015-2016 school year. Everything on our campus is literally sparkling with fresh paint on the walls and the floors are shining with their new wax. It is absolutely amazing how much work our maintenance and custodial staff did during the short amount of time we were off campus. Our campus looks incredible inside and out.

We are also looking forward to seeing all of our students new and old back on campus in the next few days. This school year will be filled with new friends, new teachers, and many new learning experiences. We have high expectations for all of our students and we are excited about helping them achieve their new goals.

At registration you will receive the Quick Guide to the student handbook. It is a front back sheet that answers the most commonly asked questions about dress code, attendance, tardies, electronics, etc. You can also access the complete student handbook online at our website, www.hjsd.net. If you have any questions about the upcoming year please feel free to call my office or email. As always, IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A HAWK!



Welcome back! We are in for another great school year at Henderson Middle School. Middle school can be a wonderful time in students' lives, but it can also present challenges. I am here to support and address the needs of all of the students at Henderson. I would like for students to think of my office as a safe haven, where they are welcome at any time. Parents, teachers, and administrators can refer

students to me for a number of reasons. If you would like for me to meet with your child, please let me know. I will be working with students in both individual and group counseling settings. I will also be conducting classroom guidance lessons throughout the year to address topics important to our middle school students.

I am also the school advisor for the HMS after school "Girl Talk" group that will resume meeting this year. "Girl Talk" is a non-profit organization that provides the opportunity for high school girls to mentor middle school girls through weekly conversations and activities that promote self-worth. Stay tuned for the dates of our meetings this year! For more information about "Girl Talk", please contact me, or you can visit www.mygirltalk.org.

In collaboration with you, I look forward to providing essential encouragement and support to your children as they continue to learn, grow, and develop in middle school. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email me: 409-981-6420 ext. 3408 or hannahcarr@hjsd.net.

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