

HMS Parent Survival Guide

2022-2023

When does the school day start and end?

The HMS school day runs from 8:25 a.m.- 3:15 p.m. There is an 8:15 a.m. bell that allows students to go to their lockers and classrooms. Most students arrive between 8:15 a.m. and 8:20 a.m. to have time to get to their lockers and then to their first class. Students must be in their first classroom when the 8:25 a.m. bell rings or they will be marked tardy.

What to do if my child is late to school?

All doors to the school are locked after the tardy bell rings at 8:25 a.m. Any student arriving after 8:25 a.m. will need to enter through the main entrance doors 909C on top of parking deck, north side, and ring the doorbell to gain entry. We will also need to auto unlock the entry into the office. Once inside, students must proceed to the Student Services office to sign in and receive a pass to class. Tardiness is considered unexcused unless a parent sends an email, voicemail or note to Mrs. Racine in Student Services: gracine@d181.org or 630-861-4700 ext. 4703.

Where do I park if I have to come into the school building during the day?

Parking is available in the lot outside the main entrance on the top of parking deck, north side, (enter on Washington St.). Parking passes are not required.

Where are the bike racks if my child rides a bike to school?

The bike racks are located on both the west side of the building off Washington St., and the east side of the building, off Garfield St. Please remember to always secure bikes with a lock. The school district is not responsible for bike loss due to lack of locking bikes to the racks.

What happens if my child forgets to bring a lunch/instrument/homework to school?

You can drop-off items for your child at the drop-off center in the foyer inside the main doors. The main doors, labeled 909C, are located off the parking lot on the north side of the building. Ring the doorbell for entry and state your purpose for visiting. There are three cubbies and cabinets, one for each grade level, situated between the outer and inner doors; place lunch/books in the appropriate grade level space. Instruments should be handed to office staff and will be placed in Student Services for student to pick up during band or orchestra class when their teacher will send them to pick up the instrument. Make sure whatever you drop-off is labeled with your child's first and last name, and grade. Materials are not delivered to classrooms. Students are expected to pick up their lunches and delivered items and will not be called out of class to do so. If your child realizes they have forgotten something, they may check the drop-off center on their own at any time with their teacher's permission. If you are dropping off something valuable such as a cell phone, money or an instrument, you can leave it with the secretary in the office and it will be kept for your child to pick up. **PLEASE NOTE: There is no food delivery service allowed this year for parents/guardians or students to order.** Parents/Guardians are still allowed to drop items off themselves.

When is lunchtime at HMS?

If you are dropping off lunch for your child, make sure it arrives before lunch starts!

Short Advisory Day M/Th/Fr

6th Grade: 10:52-11:22

7th Grade: 11:39-12:09

8th Grade: 12:25-12:55

Long Advisory Day Tu/We

6th Grade: 11:05-11:35

7th Grade: 11:49-12:19

8th Grade: 12:33-1:03

How do I put money on my child's school I.D. card so s/he can buy hot lunch?

Please see instructions on the D181 website cafeteria page: <https://www.d181.org/cafeteria>

I am looking at my child's class schedule. What is an "A Day" and a "B Day"?

Students are scheduled for 9 periods each day including daily advisory class (first thing every morning) and lunch. Most students are scheduled into Math, LA, Science, Social Studies for their core classes. Most will also have a World Language class. A and B Day schedules allow for full rotations of alternating elective encore classes as well as for additional math instruction. Short (Mon, Thur, Fri - 5 minutes) and Long (Tue, Wed-25 minutes) advisory schedules allow for a consistent check-in each morning with an advisory teacher, with two days per week dedicated to a slightly longer time period for extra tasks as required. The building schedule for daily times of each period for short and long advisory days is available on our HMS web page as well as on the back cover of the student planners.

What do we do if my child forgets something on the bus?

Most of the time, the bus driver will try to keep lost items like lunch bags on the bus, in hopes of reuniting them with their owners. Your first step is to have your child check with the bus driver the following day. If the lost item is not on the bus, you can call the bus company directly; they have a lost and found. Call First Student Bus Company at 708-352-9050.

What do we do if my child forgets homework/books/folders at school?

Most teachers post assignments and other pertinent information on Google Classroom or a website and will share that information with their students on their first day. If a forgotten textbook is needed for homework, there are two things you should know. First, many of the HMS textbooks are available online (teachers will give each student a user ID and password). Second, the Hinsdale Public Library usually has a copy of the HMS textbooks at the main desk in the Youth Services Department. You can't take these home, but you can make copies of needed pages, or use them at the library. If your child has forgotten folders or paperwork needed to finish homework, they can come back to the building *before 4:00 p.m.* The HMS main entrance doors are locked after school, usually by 4:00 p.m., but students often call a classmate who can share homework assignment information. As stated above, most teachers post this information on an easily accessible site.

I have to take my child to a doctor's appointment during school? What should I do?

You can call or e-mail the Student Services secretary, Mrs. Racine gracine@d181.org, or 630-861-4700 ext. 4703), to report that you will be picking up your child during the school day. Mrs. Racine will inform teachers that your child should be excused at a particular time, so for the least disruption to class time, it is important to inform Student Services in a timely manner. It's your child's responsibility to remember what time you are picking them up, they will not be called out of class. The parent or approved designated adult (18 yrs or older) must come into the building to pick up their student in order for a student to be released.

My 6th grader is excited to be at HMS. What clubs and activities are available?

We are pleased that we will be starting the school year with Cross Country which is the only sport in which 6th graders may participate. There are a number of clubs and organizations for your 6th grader to join. Look for information about the HMS Activities Fair which will be held in the fall (date and time TBD). Both students and parents are invited to attend. Teacher sponsors and student members of all extracurricular options will be there and available for questions.

When are gym uniforms issued?

All students who have pre-ordered, paid PE uniforms will receive them in one of their first PE classes. Teachers will have all sizes available and will assist students in selecting the appropriate size. PE uniforms should be ordered on your Skyward account under "Fee Management".

I have a question. Can I call or e-mail Ms. Burke?

There are many avenues for assistance at HMS, and of course the administrators, Ms. Burke, Mr. May and Mr. Reid will make themselves available whenever you wish to speak to them and will return your call or email if they are not immediately available. They are all happy to speak with parents when they are available. Please contact the administrative assistants (Mrs. Vescovi - Admin Assistant to Ms. Burke & Mr. May; Mrs. Salach - main office; Mrs. Racine - Student Services) for immediate access. They can provide answers or direct you to the appropriate administrator or department for further help. *Please be sure to bring concerns to the teachers first! They are willing to address any concerns you may have.*

How can I register for the PTO, get information about volunteer opportunities, and more?

Check out the PTO website at <https://www.hmspto.org> for lots of valuable information about HMS and the HMS PTO. Make sure you register for the weekly eblast to find out about volunteer opportunities and other exciting HMS happenings. You can also email the PTO at president@hmspto.org to inquire about open positions.

Important Dates:

- ***Back to School Day – Monday August 15 – 9-11 6th Gr / 12-2 7th & 8th Gr***
- ***The first day of school for D181 students will be Monday, August 22, 2022, 8:25 - 3:15***
- ***HMS Curriculum Night – Tuesday, August 30, 2022***
- ***School Pictures – Friday, September 2, 2022 – Makeups and retakes Thursday, October 27, 2022***
- ***First PTO Meeting – September 9, 2022 at 9:30 AM in the HMS Library/MRC***