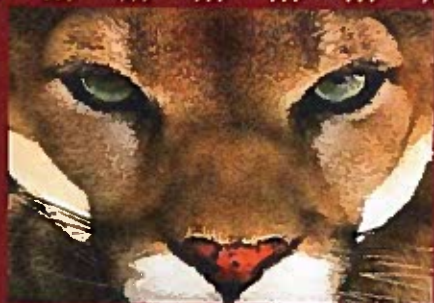


KATHERINE H. HANKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARENT NEWSLETTER

October 2017



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

David Diaz
Principal

Charles Ingram
Assistant Principal

Laura Carter-Walker
Assistant Principal

School Teams
Gladiators

Knights

Spartans

Shining Saints

Titans

Vikings

Warriors



HMS Robotics in Action!

A small group of students from the HMS Robotics Team presented at the Evonik's Community Panel Meeting on September 11, 2017. In attendance were Alexius Kidd, Taylor Ward, Ashton Terrell, and Jarius Watters. The students demonstrated a mini competition, which was a great success. Our students benefited from the experience and we appreciate the time and opportunity provided by Evonik. A second group attended the Industrial Night at Davidson High School. These students learned about putting out fires in industrial situations. We are gearing up for the BEST Robotics Competition. This year's theme is Crossfire. The competition will focus on fire, search, and rescue. Our students will be ready.



IT STARTS WITH US

5750 Katherine Hankins Drive
Theodore, AL 36582
251-221-2200 (P) ~ 251-221-2204 (F)

What's Happening at the Hank?



Hankins Helps Harvey Victims

Hankins Middle School students, under the direction of seventh grade science teacher Mrs. Fuller, collected canned foods, baby wipes, blankets, bottled water, and medical supplies for the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas. Maria Rodriguez is a seventh grade student who assisted with the collections. She said, "It is important to help when people are in need." Madisen Vereen added, "We all have to do our part when devastation strikes." All items collected were given to the Saraland Fire Department to deliver to the recipients in Texas.

2017-18 Scholar's Bowl Team

Congratulations to the following students who made the 2017-18 Scholars Bowl Team: Tia Lofton, Savannah Bennett, Courtney Pierce, Salina Scott, Haley Gwin, Katelyn Barnhill, Ethan Pettis, Terius Cannady, Juan Hernandez, Adriana Benefield, John Johnson, Reese Dickens, and Deanna Lim. These students will compete in their first competition against Grand Bay on October 18th at Grand Bay Middle School.

Worlds of Opportunity Field Trip

On September 20th, 8th grade students attended the Worlds of Opportunity Career Expo at the Mobile Civic Center and explored many of the careers available in our region. Students were able to engage in hands-on activities related to many different industries. Eighth grade Gladiator student Chason Gibson said the most interesting thing he saw at the Expo was a robot that could pick things up and move them around. Ethan Peters, 8th grader on Team Viking said, "I liked the welding simulator because it helped me understand how welding works and it was fun."



The Hankins PTA membership drive continues! A family membership is only \$10.00. Please contact us at hankinsmiddlepta@gmail.com. Jeannie Cordelle, PTA president

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the Media Center during the week of October 30-November 3. Please allow your child to purchase items to support our media center.



One of the hands-on experiences offered to 8th grade students attending the Worlds of Opportunity field trip on September 20th was a simulated childbirth. Here, Hankins' students Emily Brownlee, Ivan Moreno, and Felix Torres-Lopez get hands-on to help deliver a baby.



School spirit shirts and school jackets are for sale in the school office. Spirit shirts are \$10 and may be worn any day of the week. School jackets are solid blue and may be worn in and outside of the building. They are \$30.

Don't Be a Bystander: Stand up to Bullying



Bane Smith, *Cougar Times* Staff Reporter

Bullying is a big problem in many schools, but Hankins Middle School is making every effort to prevent it.

Many time bullies have something going on in their lives and they take it out on others or they have trouble making friends so they bully to look cool.

Hankins Middle School student Chase Tanner says, "Bullying is terrible because it brings people down and make them feel as they aren't important. I don't like seeing people sad."

Chason Gibson, another HMS student has been a victim of bullying. "When I was bullied, it felt like I was small and could not do anything." He wants you to find a teacher and tell them before it gets worst.

Hankins Middle School is committed to stop bullying. October 10-13 is Bullying Prevention Week. Join your classmates in putting an end to bullying.

Greater Gulf State Fair, October 27- November 5

Help support Hankins Middle School by purchasing discount fair tickets online from September 15-October 15

- 1. Visit mobilefair.com**
- 2. Click the "buy ticket" image**
- 3. Select your school from the drop-down menu.**

Bullying Prevention Week is October 9-13. During this week, we will have several bullying activities for students to participate and compete in to create awareness. Collectively, by working together, we can increase awareness and continue to address the problem of bullying.

Yearbooks On Sale Now!

Yearbooks are currently on sale now for \$40. After Christmas, the price will rise to \$45. Don't wait! See Mrs. Hall in room C-305 to purchase a yearbook or purchase online using e-funds.

Statewide Parenting Day

October 16, 2017

Parents and grandparents are invited to have coffee with the principal on Statewide Parenting Day on October 16. Please join us in the HMS Media Center at 8:00 AM. Please also look for your child to bring home his or her first quarter report card on this day.

Chick-fil-A Biscuit Fundraiser

Each month, the Journalism staff will sponsor a chicken biscuit fundraiser. Hankins will earn \$1 for every biscuit sold.

Biscuits are pre-sold each month during homeroom and will be delivered on the last Wednesday of each month during homeroom.

Biscuits are \$3.25. Exact change is appreciated.

Important Dates

October-November

10/03-10/05	End of Quarter Exams
10/4	After School Tutoring- ALL Subjects
10/6	End of 1 st quarter
10/7	Saturday Academy, 8:00-11:30
10/9	NO SCHOOL- Teacher Work Day
10/10-10/13	Bullying Prevention Week
10/10	Epic Science Club- first meeting
10/11	After School Tutoring- ALL Subjects
10/14	Saturday Academy, 8-11:30 AM
10/16	Report Cards sent home; Statewide Parenting Day Coffee with the Principal, 8 AM, HMS Library
10/17	Jim Owens Make-Up and Athletic Pictures
10/18	After School Tutoring- ALL Subjects Scholars Bowl competition @ Grand Bay Middle School
10/21	Saturday Academy, 8-11:30 AM Robotics MALL Day
10/23	Last day to pre-order a Chick-fil-A biscuit for \$3.25
10/25	Chick-fil-A biscuit delivery After School Tutoring- ALL Subjects
10/27	Kona Ice Sold in PE
10/28	Saturday Academy, 8-11:30 AM Robotics GAME Day @ USA Mitchell Center
10/30-11/03	Book Fair in Media Center



Sixth grader Cameron Rigby shows his Cougar Spirit during Hankins' Homecoming Week September 11-15.

Reminder: Math 6 students will be assigned homework Monday-Thursday and collected on Fridays for a grade. Please be sure to check your child's homework daily and assist them as needed. Thank you, Mrs. Mosier and Mrs. Begley

Eighth grade students will be attending the Mobile International Festival on November 16th. Permission forms will be sent home soon. The trip will cost \$15. Money and forms should be returned to the social studies teacher (Mr. Mosier or Mr. Hackett) by October 12th. Chaperones are needed.

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

In the loop

You can stay involved in your tween's education from inside your own home. How? Make what's happening at school a regular topic of conversation. Visit the school website often, and check emails from teachers and the school district. Bring up subjects mentioned, such as school assemblies, or comment on photos that are posted.

DID YOU KNOW?

Having good posture in class will help your middle schooler concentrate. Plus, it puts less strain on his back and lets him breathe better—increasing blood flow to his brain. He could practice while doing homework. Encourage him to sit up straight with his back touching the chair and his knees bent at a right angle.

Fun historical facts

Want to spark your middle grader's interest in history? She could look in library books or online to find unusual stories about the people she studies. *Example:* Before the Civil War, Harriet Tubman once escaped capture by pretending to chase a flock of chickens.

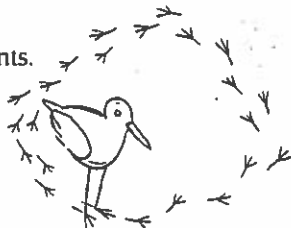
Worth quoting

"Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul." *Pamela Vaull Starr*

Just for fun

Q: "The more of me you make, the more of me you leave behind. What am I?"

A: Footprints.



Tween push-and-pull

Your middle grader lets you into her world one minute, then seems to put up a "Keep Out" sign the next. She needs you—but at the same time, she's pushing away to figure out who she is and to become more independent. Try these ideas for handling classic "now I need you, now I don't" tween behavior.



Challenge: Your child no longer tells you all about her life.

Solution: Instead of pressing her for information, wait until she's in the mood to chat. If she opens up as you're heading to bed, consider staying up longer. Then, listen closely instead of immediately offering your opinion or ways to fix problems.

Challenge: Your tween spends more time with friends and less time with family.

Solution: It's normal for her to want to be with friends. To encourage family time, look for opportunities that appeal to her. Maybe you'll have breakfast together on weekdays or let her do your nails after she does hers.

Challenge: Your middle grader is embarrassed by whatever you do.

Solution: At this age, children want to fit in and are sensitive to what their peers think. Try not to take it personally, and remember that she'll outgrow it. In the meantime, notice what embarrasses your tween, and work around it if possible. For instance, if she doesn't like you hugging her good-bye in front of others, you might say "Love you" and walk away. 👍

Musical learning

Most tweens love listening to music! Use your child's interest to boost his learning.

1. Be a critic. Suggest that he write reviews of favorite songs. He could bring songs to life with *similes*, or figures of speech that compare two things in an interesting way. *Example:* "The upbeat tempo is as thrilling as a roller coaster ride."

2. Think like a songwriter. Picking out the main message in the lyrics—the *theme*—will give your middle grader practice with a key reading skill. What message does the songwriter want to share? Invite your tween to search for songs with similar themes.

3. Find the math. Ask your child to choose a popular song. Can he detect a *pattern* in the lyrics (verse, chorus, verse) or the rhythm (say, the drumbeat)? How many times does the pattern repeat? 👍

