

# KATHERINE H. HANKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL

## PARENT NEWSLETTER

September 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



### Welcome Back to School!!

Hankins Middle School welcomes you to the 2017-18 school year. We are looking forward to a great year of academic and personal growth, challenges, and accomplishments. With nearly 800 students, we serve a diverse group and we are fully committed to helping each and every student reach their full potential.

Our vision is to immerse students in a literacy-based curriculum with a wide scope of experiences that will prepare them for high school and to be college and career ready. This year, we have two teams per grade level and have all-new team names. Robotics, journalism, band, and drama are some of the electives offered this year. In addition, reading and math enrichment programs are provided for students based on certain criteria.

Hankins is proud to be a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) school. Students are allowed to bring their own electronic devices (iPads, Tablets Kindles, etc.) to use in the classroom for educational purposes.

New this year, Hankins will offer subject tutoring in math, language arts, social studies, and science each Wednesday after school from 2:45-3:45. Additionally, Saturday Academy will provide students the opportunity to receive additional tutoring in math and reading. The school website will have dates posted on the calendar and the time is from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

We believe the best education comes from teachers, students, and parents who work together as a team. Please feel free to call the office to ask questions or schedule a conference.

### 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?

### Homecoming at Hankins

The Student Council will host Homecoming Week September 11-14. Each day, students are invited to dress according to a theme. On Thursday, the HMS Cougars will play our homecoming game against Semmes Middle School at 4:00 PM. The spirit week will culminate in a Homecoming Dance on Saturday, September 16 from 6:30-9:00 PM.

### Cheerleaders Excel at Camp

This summer the cheerleaders attended camp at Auburn University and received all gold ribbons for their performances and an invitation to cheer at the Buffalo Wild Wings Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Florida! Also, Salina Scott was chosen as an All-American Cheerleader!

### Scholar's Bowl Tryouts

Open to all grade levels, Scholar's Bowl is a fast-paced academic competition team. Tryouts will be held Tuesday, September 12, 2017 until 3:30 in room C-304, Mrs. Steiner's room. Students who make the team must be able to stay for after-school practices each Tuesday. Competitions will be once a month on Wednesday afternoons.

### Robotics Club

The first Robotics club meeting will be held in Mrs. Howard's room on September 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:45-3:30 PM. Other important dates to note are September 11- Robotics Industry Night at Davidson High School, 6:30-8:00 PM and September 16- Robotics Kick Off Day at Davidson High School, 9:00 AM- NOON.

### Epic Science Club

Epic Science Club is an after school club open to students in all grades. Club members will engage in hands-on science experiments in a fun and casual setting. Epic Science Club applications will be available on September 18 from your child's science teacher. Applications are due by September 22.

### Notice to Parents of 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Students

Math 6 (Mrs. Mosier and Ms. Begley) will have homework Monday-Thursday. Math homework sheets will be checked daily and turned in on Fridays. Please help your child practice his or her math skills daily.

### Worlds of Opportunity- Grade 8

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council is presenting the 2017 Worlds of Opportunity Career Expo. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will attend this free program at the Mobile Civic Center and spend two hours exploring many of the careers available in our region. Permission forms were sent home in August.

Please join Hankins PTA! A family membership is only \$10.00. Please contact us at [hankinsmiddlepta@gmail.com](mailto:hankinsmiddlepta@gmail.com). Fundraising information is coming! Jeannie Cordelle, PTA president

### FREE MICROSOFT SOFTWARE

MICROSOFT OFFICE, INCLUDING WORD, POWERPOINT, PUBLISHER, AND EXCEL IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS THROUGH THEIR OFFICE 365 ACCOUNTS. THESE ARE ONLINE VERSIONS WHICH ALLOW STUDENTS TO CREATE AND STORE DOCUMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, AND SPREADSHEETS. NO DOWNLOAD IS REQUIRED.





HMS T-Shirts are on sale in the office for \$10. These may be worn as part of the everyday uniform. School jackets are also available for purchase in the office for \$25. T-shirt model: Jada Colvin, Team Titans

#### Attendance Matters!

Please ensure your child is present and on-time for school each day. HMS rewards students for good attendance by allowing grade levels with nine or fewer absences to wear school-approved blue jeans the following day. Each afternoon, teachers will let students know if they have earned this privilege. School-approved blue jeans must be natural blue denim that fit at the natural waist, must have belt loops and be worn with a belt, and must be free from writing or embellishments.

## FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR ALL STUDENTS AGAIN THIS YEAR



We are pleased to announce that MCPSS will continue to allow all students in the district to receive free lunch again this year. They will also continue to receive free breakfast. School lunch and breakfast menus can be found on the HMS website.

#### *Key to Success: Be Prepared*

One of the best ways to make sure your child has a successful year in school is to be sure that they have the necessary daily supplies. Basic items such as a book bag, pencils, and paper are essential items to do assignments, take notes, and stay organized. Students are encouraged to use their school planner, record homework assignments, test dates, and school events. Checking your child's planner will help keep you informed.

### ***A GREAT BIG "THANK YOU" TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS IN EDUCATION!!!***

*Mitsubishi Polysilicon*

*Marine Well Containment Company*

*Beard Equipment Company*

*Chick-Fil-A*

## HOMEcoming WEEK: SEPTEMBER 11-15

### *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.



2017-18  
HMS Football Schedule

8/24	Washington	Home
8/31	Alba	Home
9/7	Causey	Away
	Game @ Baker	6:00 PM
9/14	Semmes	Home
9/21	Burns	TBA
9/28	Clark	Away
10/5	Phillips	Home
10/12	First round playoff-	TBD
10/19	County Championship-	TBD

2017-18  
HMS Volleyball Schedule  
\* All games start at 4:00 \*

9/05	Washington	Home
9/06	Grand Bay	Away
9/11	Phillips	Home
9/13	Causey	Away
9/18	Washington	Away
9/20	Semmes	Away
9/25	Burns	Home
9/27	Clark-Shaw	Home
10/2	Grand Bay	Home
10/4	First Round Playoff*	
10/6	County Championship*	*TBD

Important Dates

September-October

09/04	NO SCHOOL- Labor Day
09/07	Progress Reports sent home
	First Robotics meeting, 2:45-3:30
09/09	Saturday Academy
09/11-09/14	Homecoming Week
09/12	Scholar's Bowl Tryouts, Room C-304, 2:30-3:30
09/13	After School Tutoring- ALL Subjects
09/16	Saturday Academy
	Homecoming Dance 6:30-9:00 PM
09/18	Epic Science Club applications are available
09/19	Open House, 5:30 PM
09/20	After School Tutoring- ALL Subjects
09/22	Epic Science Club applications are due
09/23	Saturday Academy
09/27	After School Tutoring- ALL Subjects
09/28	Kona Ice sold in PE classes
09/30	Saturday Academy
10/03-10/05	End of Quarter Exams
10/4	After School Tutoring- ALL Subjects
10/6	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter
10/7	Saturday Academy
10/9	NO SCHOOL- Teacher Work Day
10/11	After School Tutoring- ALL Subjects
10/14	Saturday Academy
10/16	Report Cards sent home

**To schedule a conference, please call 251-221-2200**

**For Teachers:** Ask the front desk clerk to leave a message for your child's teacher. Teachers are not available to take calls during school hours.

**For Counselors:** Ask for Mr. Bethea or Mrs. Haney.

**For administrators:** Call the school and the front desk clerk will direct you to the appropriate person or take a message for an administrator to return your call.

*InformationNOW* allows parents to view their child's grades, attendance, schedule, and other information. You can find a link to the login portal on either the school or district website.

During the 2017-2018 school year, Hankins Middle School will implement a school wide mentoring program to build stronger relationships with our students. It is our hope that this will enhance our school climate and culture and give students a safe place to express concerns and needs. Students will meet with their mentor teacher twice a month.



# Hankins Middle School

Excellence in Action

5750 Katherine Hankins Drive • Theodore, AL 36582 • Phone 251-221-2200 • Fax 251-221-2204

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This year Hankins Middle School will be offering a special opportunity for Tutoring on Wednesdays from 2:45-3:45. Students may pick a subject of their choice and receive additional guidance. Students may also use this time for makeup work that has not previously been completed.

Wednesday Tutoring 2:45-3:45		Subjects and Teachers:
September	13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	
October	4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>nd</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Math- Trentham (C-300)
November	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Language Arts- Steiner (C-304)
December	6 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup>	Science- Fuller (F-609)
January	10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup>	Social Studies- Mosier (C-305)
February	7 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	Electives-Smith (D-401)
March	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	
April	11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	
May	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	

Saturday Academy will also continue on select Saturdays throughout the school year for Math and Reading; those students who participate will receive bonus points in those classes. **Students who sign up for Saturday Academy are expected to attend at least 75% of the tutoring sessions offered during the quarter.**

Students attending *Saturday Academy* for tutoring *should not* bring their book-bags and they *are not* required to be in school uniform *unless* they are assigned to attend by an HMS Administrator.

Saturday Academy 8:00-11:30		Schedule
September	16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	
October	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:00-8:10 Students assemble in the A-Hall Computer Lab to Sign In
November	4 <sup>th</sup>	8:15 – 9:45 Segment 1 – Reading
December	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:45-10:00 Break/Snack
January	13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	10:00-11:15 Segment 2 – Math
February	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	11:15-11:30 Wrap Up and Exit Slips
March	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	
April	14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	
May	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	

If you would like your child to participate in the *HMS After School* tutoring and/or *HMS Saturday Academy*, please complete the section below and return this letter to the school. If you have any questions about tutoring please contact Mrs. Smith at the school.

My child, \_\_\_\_\_ will attend the *HMS After School* tutoring and/or *HMS Saturday Academy*,

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Administrators

David Diaz  
Principal

Laura Carter-Walker  
Assistant Principal

Charles E. Ingram  
Assistant Principal

# Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



## Short Stops

### On that note

Middle school courses cover a lot of ground.

Taking good notes will help your child keep up. Encourage her to write down key points instead of every word, noticing items the teacher emphasizes or repeats. Also, note taking will go faster if she uses shorthand like symbols, abbreviations, or the first letters of words (“&” for *and*, “imp” for *important*).

### Together time

Spending even a few minutes one-on-one with your middle grader each day will help you stay connected. Look for ways to make the time enjoyable. Invite him to show you how to do his latest Frisbee trick, for example, or tell him a funny story from your day.

### Meet the staff

Secretaries and other staff play huge roles in running your tween's school—and they can be a terrific resource. Say hello when you're in the office, and encourage your child to do the same. The staff will feel appreciated, and you'll both feel more comfortable asking for help if you need something.

### Worth quoting

“The expert at anything was once a beginner.” *Helen Hayes*

### Just for fun

**Q:** When you lose something, why is it always in the last place you look?

**A:** Because when you find it, you stop looking!



## In gear for a new year

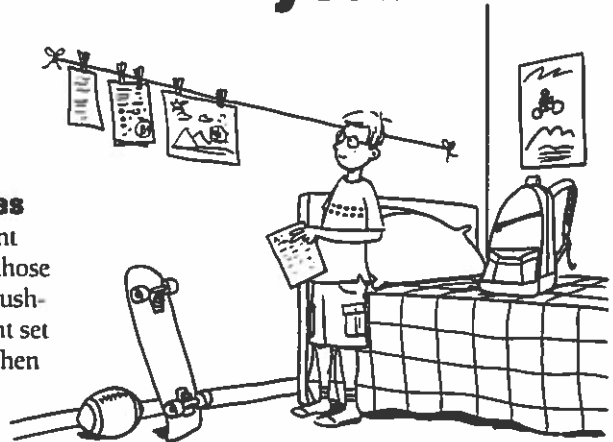
As the new school year gets under way, encourage your middle grader to set himself up for success with these strategies.

### Sticking to my routines

Let your tween experiment with routines until he finds those that work best. If he's often rushing to catch the bus, he might set his alarm 5 minutes earlier, then 10 minutes earlier, until his mornings go smoothly. For his evening routine, perhaps he'll do homework after dinner on days he has sports practices and right after school on other days. Once he has routines he likes, have him write them down so he'll remember them.

### Expecting my best

Encourage your child to decide what he expects from himself. Where does he want to improve? He might focus on paying attention to detail if he lost points last year by not filling out science lab reports thoroughly. Or maybe he'll create a plan for spreading out long-term projects so



he's not scrambling at the last minute. He'll gain satisfaction from a job well done when he follows through.

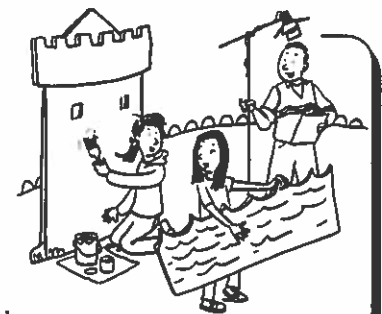
### Watching my progress

Suggest that your middle grader hang a school year “timeline” in his bedroom. He could string yarn from one corner to another and use clothespins to clip on assignments or tests he's proud of. Perhaps he'll display an essay on a favorite novel or a self-portrait he drew in art. Seeing his progress can motivate him to keep working hard. 👍

## Extra worth it

Are extracurricular activities worth the time when your tween has a lot on her plate? Share these reasons for giving them a try.

1. She'll get to know classmates and teachers. As she builds sets in drama club, for example, she'll bond with peers who have similar interests. And forming connections with club advisers can lead to networking for the future.
2. She'll learn to set priorities. If her robotics club has a competition coming up, she'll have to organize her study schedule around team meetings.
3. Gaining new skills will boost her confidence—and translate into school success. Playing doubles tennis encourages teamwork, for instance, while working on the yearbook helps with writing and editing. 👍



# Responsibility? It's all mine!

Twens take on more responsibility in middle school. Help your child understand what she's responsible for now—and how she can meet her obligations.

**Do your work.** Teachers might not remind middle graders when homework is due or to hand it in. Your tween should write due dates in her planner and put completed projects by the front door. That way, she will be more likely to complete assignments and take them to school.



Or perhaps a teacher wants finished work placed in a tray. Your child might get in the habit of not sitting down until hers is turned in.

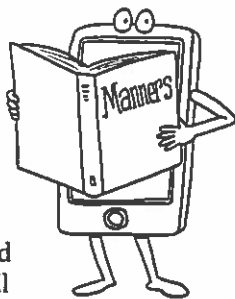
**Do your part.** When others depend on your tween, it's up to her to do her part. For group projects, she could meet with members to get work done and let them know how her section is coming along. To prepare for a band concert, she may set goals for her practice sessions. Then, at concert time, her performance will be stronger, and she'll feel good about holding up her end. 👍



## Parent to Parent Mobile manners

I was in line with my son James at the store when his cell phone rang. He proceeded to carry on a conversation while the cashier rang up his purchase.

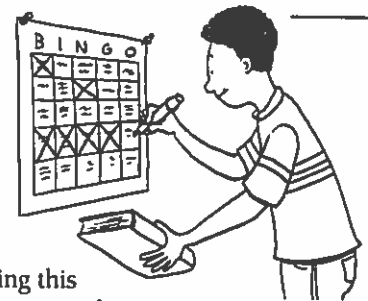
After we left, I told James it was rude to talk on his phone while he was being waited on. When he said, "Everyone does it," I knew it was a good time to discuss cell phone manners. I said people tend to talk loudly on their phones, disturbing others and turning private conversations into public ones.



James said he hadn't thought about it that way. He agreed to put his phone on vibrate when we're out and to return calls later. My son can't imagine what it was like growing up without cell phones. But I'm trying to help him understand that just because we have them, we don't need to use them all the time—and that good manners still apply. 👍

## Read to relax

Reading for pleasure can help your middle grader unwind—and has the added benefit of boosting reading skills along the way. Suggest these two ideas to encourage reading for fun.



### 1. Go on a "blind date"

Your child could swap books with friends using this interesting twist: Each person wraps a novel in paper and writes or draws clues about it. Everyone gets together and selects a book based on the clues. Then, they open it to reveal what book they have a "date" with.

### 2. Play reading bingo

Let your tween turn reading into a game by making a bingo card on a sheet of cardboard. In each box, have him write a reading category, such as mystery, science fiction, graphic novel, poetry, and autobiography. As he reads each type, he should X out a matching square. How quickly will he cross out a row? How about the whole bingo board? 👍

## Q & A On the same team

**Q** My oldest child just started middle school. Now that she has different teachers for each subject, how can I partner with all of them?

**A** To put faces with names, try attending an upcoming event to meet them, such as an open house or a curriculum night. You could also introduce yourself by writing a short message and copying and pasting it into an email for each teacher.



Either way, let them know you want to help your tween succeed, and ask what you can do to support her at home. Also, ask the teachers how they want to be approached (email, phone call, note).

Finally, find out if they want your child to come to them directly before you contact them. A middle school teacher may prefer that a student take the first step if she needs help or has a question. 👍

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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