



HURRICANE MIDDLE SCHOOL
RESPECT - RESPONSIBILITY - KINDNESS

July 23, 2021

Dear Hurricane Middle School Parents and Students,

As we prepare for the 21-22 school year I'm reminded of the beginning of school last year, and how crazy that was. Things feel more normal this year and I think we all hope it will stay that way. We truly look forward to welcoming our students back to school. The first day of school will be Thursday August 12, 2021. School will start at 8:13 AM. Please plan to register your student at the HMS main office sometime between Monday August 2nd and Wednesday August 11th. Detailed information will be emailed out concerning registration times and procedures.

A few years ago a friend of mine who is a principal at a middle school in Northern Utah referred to his students as "cake batter". I've always loved this analogy and in many ways it embodies my beliefs about young people (and in many ways, all people). Cake batter is a sticky, gooey, mess that needs care and attention to reach its full potential as cake. As with cake batter all the ingredients are there to make cake, but the reality is that we are all in the process of growing and trying to get better, we are all on a journey to reach our potential as humans. We try to focus on the potential in our students at HMS, and as we interact with them we try to see them as "cake batter," and we help them grow and reach their potential even when they might not do things perfectly. Our mission at Hurricane Middle School is to ensure high levels of learning for each student in a safe and caring environment that promotes our three core values - *Respect, Responsibility, and Kindness*.

There are three non-academic items that we want to make priorities at HMS this school year. 1) Try to make school feel "normal" again. Many of our students struggled with the constant distractions caused by the pandemic. It was a hard year for faculty, staff, and students alike. We hope to get back to the task at hand and make sure our students learn what they need to learn in these important formative years. 2) There is a delicate balance between embracing technology, and understanding that it can be harmful to our students. We want to monitor and teach device and internet safety at HMS. I'm concerned about the content that our young people can access through smart devices and the internet. HMS and WCSD have some of the best technology that money can buy to protect our students from harmful content here at school, but this technology cannot come close to fully protecting our students. Please help support our device and electronic policy at HMS. While we know that by nature technology is not evil, we see on a daily basis how the content these devices bring into our children's lives can cause harm. 3) School safety. We will work diligently on a daily basis to keep your children safe at HMS. Please have a conversation with your student centered on the topic of "see something-say something". We want you to know that we will do everything in our power to make our school a safe place for your children.

HMS looks great, and I would like to thank our custodians for doing such a great job this summer preparing our building for the start of school. Our office staff has been busy this summer registering new families, ordering needed supplies, reviewing financials, updating files, and in general making

HMS an efficient and well run school. I know our teachers and support staff are as good as any in the district and state and are looking forward to the start of school to do what we do best - teach. We are not perfect, but we strive to be. We are here to help, and will do what is necessary to make our students' experience at HMS a positive one.

Each school year brings change, and as really good people move on we strive to hire really good people to replace them. We have added several teachers and support staff that we are very excited to have, and we know will be great additions to the HMS team. Here is a list of our new Teachers and Staff Members for the 2021-2022 school year:

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| Kamille Brooks (Orchestra) | Alyssa Adams (Special Education) | Xiaoyu Turley (Chinese) |
| Officer Chad Holt (SRO) | Clint Gubler (Custodian) | David Hirschi (Seminary) |

We currently have three paraprofessional jobs open at HMS. 1. Library/Media Aide, 2. At-Risk Student Paraprofessional, and 3. A Special Ed Paraprofessional. All three of these positions are important for our success and would be fulfilling on a personal level. If you are interested in working at HMS please go to the WCSD home page and click on the District Jobs tab at the top of the page.

Soon after school starts we will look to fill open Community Council positions at HMS. If you have any interest in being part of our community council please email me directly. If you want more information here is a link -

<https://www.schools.utah.gov/file/6a21ec43-983a-4f99-a49a-3519f50ef731>

We look forward to creating a partnership with you to ensure your children can achieve their highest potential. We are fully aware that each student will need support from both school and home to get the most out of their HMS experience. Here are a few suggestions that we feel will help you and your student optimize your time here at Hurricane Middle School.

- Help us manage your student's phones and electronic devices. Please support our device policy.
- Make school attendance a priority, arrive on time, and come to school prepared to learn.
- Encourage and support daily reading to develop a love of reading, and improve literacy skills, which help in all classes and phases of your child's education.
- Use PowerSchool to monitor your students' grades and attendance – It is an amazing tool that can help you as a parent.
- Check the HMS website and calendar often to stay in the loop - <http://hms.washk12.org>
- Encourage your students' to get involved in extracurricular activities – Clubs, Music, Sports, etc. We want all of our students to be connected to something positive.

I enjoy and look forward to doing my job everyday, and my number one goal is to serve the students and families of the Hurricane Valley. I feel blessed to be part of a community where parents, teachers, and students care for each other and build positive relationships that support academic and social growth. I look forward to working with you this school year. If you need me I am here to help.

Sincerely,
Chris Homer
Principal