



**HURRICANE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**RESPECT - RESPONSIBILITY - KINDNESS**

July 27, 2023

Dear Hurricane Middle School Parents and Students,

I hope all of you have found (and are still finding) fun activities to do that make Summer such a great time of the year. We are excited for the upcoming school year and look forward to welcoming students back to campus. The first day of school is Tuesday August 15<sup>th</sup> (A-Day). The first bell will ring at 8:13 AM. Please plan on paying fees and picking up schedules Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 14<sup>th</sup>, in person or on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Office hours are 7:30-2:30 August 2<sup>nd</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. We will have extended hours on two of those days. August 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. August 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30-2:30 and also 5:00 to 6:30 pm. You have likely already been emailed information regarding registration. Our back to school night is Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:30, open format. We hope to see you there.

We are excited for the opportunity to have a positive impact on each of our students. They are at an age of self-discovery where they are trying to figure out who they are and what they want to become. But this age group is also prone to being immature, not thinking of consequences for actions, are sometimes mean to each other, and more. It is just the age. You may have seen some of these behaviors at home and/or in your neighborhood. You might be wondering why we like this age group of students so much? It is because at this time of adolescence adults can have the biggest impact on students setting/reaching goals, or changing behaviors for the better. We feel we can help students alter their course in life in a more positive direction. 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.

As the principal of HMS, the top three things I think about every day are; 1- Safety of Everyone in the Building. 2- Educational Advancement and Growth. 3 – Happiness of Students, Faculty, and Staff. There are a lot of moving pieces to running a school, but all can fit somewhere into these three categories. I know that students have a different priority list, maybe with happiness as number one, and that is okay. With safety at the top of our list, we ask that you talk with your child about school being a safe place, a place that is better than out on the streets or other questionable locations. Students need to help us keep it a safe place by following the motto “See something-say something”. We will do everything in our power to keep everyone safe at HMS.

Our building and campus look outstanding. This is due to our custodians putting in a tremendous amount of work this summer. The teachers and staff members have prepared themselves for another year of helping students succeed and are excited about the adventure of a new school year. We will do our best to help your child have the best experience they can have and advance educationally. I feel we have the best faculty and staff that any parent or student could hope to have in one building. I am proud to be a part of the team that is assembled here at HMS.

We have made a few changes on our staff. Some teachers will have new assignments, others have retired or moved on. Here is a list of our changes for the 2023-2024 school year:

Teresa Harris (CTE)	Ivory Hansen (LA)
Jarom Healey (from Sped to Counseling/PE)	Craig Mills (Science)
Tabetha Noble (Science)	Julia Saxton (Sped)
Hannah Shumway (Art)	Craig Stowe (SRO)
TBD (Tech/IT Specialist)	

It seems like we always have a need for paraprofessionals to help at HMS. If you are interested in working at HMS please let us know. We also have a Community Council that meets periodically throughout the school year. If you have any interest in helping with Community Council or wish for more information, please send me an email.

We look forward to working with your children and will do our very best to ensure they are reaching their potential. The three pillars that must be in place to maximize student growth are 1- Student effort and involvement, 2- Teachers and school working with each student, and 3- Parent involvement in their child's education from home. Each pillar must be as strong as the others to reach full potential. Here are a few suggestions that we feel will help you and your student optimize time here at Hurricane Middle School:

- Help us manage your student's phones and electronic devices. These can be a huge distraction, disruption to the educational process, and/or used to harass/bully. Phones should be turned off and stored in backpacks while in class. Please help support our device policy.
- Make school attendance a priority. Arrive on time and come prepared to learn. Poor attendance is the number one reason for low grades.
- Encourage and support daily reading, which improves literacy skills. Improvement in literacy will help in all classes and phases of your child's education, as well as job skills.
- Parent use of PowerSchool weekly, or more, to monitor your students grades and attendance. It is an amazing tool that all parents can use to help their children be successful.
- Parent communication with teachers for clarity. Relying on students to relay information from school/teacher to parents sometimes is not clear or accurate. I know from going through this as both a parent and as a teacher.
- Check the HMS website and calendar often to stay in the loop – <http://hms.washk12.org>
- Please be mindful of the WCSD dress code policy 2200 as you shop for school clothes. The policy can be found on the district website <https://procedure.washk12.org/policy/2000/2200>
- Encourage your students to get involved in extracurricular activities – Clubs, Music, Sports, etc. These help students feel like they belong and they usually do better in school.

I have been a part of Hurricane Middle School for seven years now. I enjoy my job tremendously and truly enjoy being around our students. I love the Hurricane Valley and feel like we have the best community. We still have that small town feel where we care for each other and look to help others when we see a need. I look forward to working with your children and to help them grow in all aspects of their lives. If you ever need anything, I am here to help. I look forward to another great year. I appreciate all you do to support us here at HMS.

Sincerely,

Shaun Jaggi  
Principal