



HASBROUCK HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Hasbrouck Heights Middle School

Home of the Junior Aviators!

365 Boulevard

Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey 07604

Phone (201) 393- 8170

JOSEPH MASTROPIETRO

Middle School Principal

FRANK D'AMICO

Middle School Vice Principal

TO: Middle School Parents & Guardians
FROM: Mr. Joseph Mastropietro and Mr. Frank D'Amico
DATE: August 26th, 2024
SUBJECT: **2024-2025 Middle School Opening Day Letter- WELCOME BACK!**

Middle School Parents & Guardians,

At Hasbrouck Heights Middle School, we are committed to creating the very best learning environment possible for our students and staff. We will continue to work as a TEAM in order to provide a learning experience in which our students feel safe and supported, as well as challenged and nurtured, so that they may continue to grow into well-rounded, responsible young adults. Our outstanding team of educators will work diligently to ensure that our students develop the critical skills that are necessary to be successful in high school and beyond. We will continue to set high expectations for our students and we will encourage them to push themselves to reach their full potential each and every day!

This year's theme for our Junior Aviator students will be **"Heroes in the Making!"** We will spend time teaching, reinforcing, and emphasizing the realization that EVERY STUDENT has the ability to do remarkable things, just like their very own heroes! We can not stress enough how important it is to develop our students' character, integrity, and interpersonal skills just as we do their academic skill set, especially during these critical adolescent years. Please help us reinforce this theme at home and in our school community!

We are committed to your child's education and we will work tirelessly to ensure that each student achieves their highest academic standard. We truly believe in our teachers, support staff members, school community, and most importantly, our JUNIOR AVIATORS! We look forward to working with our students, parents, guardians, PTSA, and the entire community of Hasbrouck Heights throughout the 2024-2025 school year. **The first day of school for students is Tuesday, September 3rd at 7:55am!**

THANK YOU!

We would like to say **THANK YOU** to our outstanding custodians, secretaries, security officers, and maintenance staff; as well as our technology department for their tireless efforts in preparing our building for the upcoming school year. They continuously go above and beyond to ensure that our school is the best possible teaching and learning environment possible!

IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

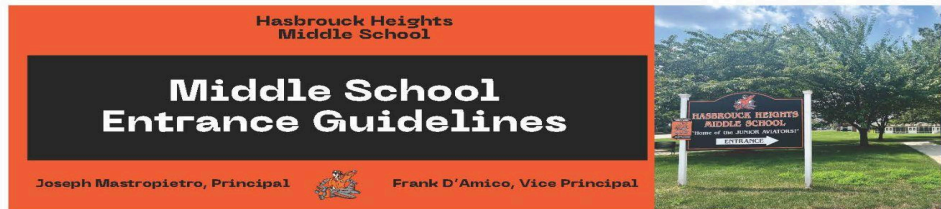
- ❑ **Chromebooks:** All students will have their own school-issued Chromebook for the entire school year. ONLY school-issued devices are permitted in school. Students are expected to bring their Chromebook to school (fully charged) on September 3rd. If you are having any issues with your Chromebook, or any of your school accounts, please do not hesitate to call our **Technology Department at (201) 639-6911** for assistance.

- ✓ **Incoming 6th grade Junior Aviators-** simply bring your Chromebook from Euclid or Lincoln with you on September 3rd (fully charged). Please do not worry at all! You are in great hands and your teachers will walk you through everything that you need to know.





- Continuation of **Link It** benchmark assessments, which will be used to assess and analyze student mastery of state learning standards.
- **SAVVAS EnVision** – **NEW!** Math program to be utilized in Math and Math Topics courses.
- **SchoolWide** – Continued Language Arts program to be utilized in ELA courses (**Fundamentals Unlimited**).
- New/Renewed educational platforms, including but not limited to:
Brain POP ESL, Ed Puzzle, Go Guardian, Google Apps for Education, HMH (Social Studies), IXL (Mathematics/Science/Social Studies), Kami, LinkIt, NewsELA, New York Times, Quaver Music, Rockalingua (Spanish), ScreenCastify, The Great Body Shop (Health/PE), Vocabulary.com.
- Clubs and Field Trips are all back for the 2024-25 School Year!
- Renovated Cafeteria, Kitchen, and Cafeteria Bathrooms that were completed last year!
- **NEW TECHNOLOGY!** → Four (4) Promethean Boards installed in MS classrooms plus technology upgrades in various other classrooms!
- **NEW CLUB OFFERINGS! Photography Club, Writing Club, and Board Game Club.** Students have an opportunity to participate in over 20 clubs at the Middle School including the Drama Club, Robotics Club, Art Club, E-Sports Club, and many more!
- **NEW FITNESS & CARDIO ROOMS!** Jr. Aviators will enjoy our new fitness and cardio rooms during PE/Health classes!
- Continuation of a positive SCHOOL CLIMATE! □ In addition to our **Character Education Day** on October 16th and our regular Junior Aviator class assemblies, all students will have an opportunity to participate in our character-education program: students can earn a **Character MVP Card** from a teacher, administrator, or support staff member anytime they are **caught in the act of doing something good!**
- **Lunch:** Junior Aviators may choose to bring in their own lunch from home **OR** they can pay for a school lunch as part of Maschio’s food program ([Food Services Click Here!](#))
- **Lockers:** MS students will be assigned a school locker for the 2024-2025 school year. However, students will **ONLY** be permitted to visit their locker during the following designated times:
 - ✓ Upon arrival to school prior to Period 1
 - ✓ Lunchtime (mid-day)
 - ✓ At dismissal following period 8
 - ★ Any 7th or 8th grade student who lost their school-issued lock will need to purchase a new one in the Main Office for \$5.00. All 6th graders/new students will receive their school-issued lock during the first week of school.
- **Attendance:** If a student is to be absent, it is vital that the parent/guardian call the **Middle School Main Office at (201) 393-8170**. Please be sure to leave a voice message if Mrs. Mason or Mrs. Behr do not answer. Please provide the student's name, grade, and reason/ dates of the absence(s).
- **Managing Back-to-School Anxiety:** Knowing that the end of summer and the adjustment to new routines can cause angst for our students, we have included the following resource for your reference: [Back-to-School Anxiety in Kids: What to Watch Out For](#)
 - ✓ Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can assist your child with any aspect of adjusting to the start of the school year.
 - ✓ Ms. O’Hagan, Mrs. Gesell, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Gallina, and Mrs. Christianson are outstanding educators and are available to support all of our MS students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTRANCE

- The Middle School Entrance is located at **Door # 15**, which is physically located at the corner of Paterson Avenue and the Boulevard. **This is a STUDENT ENTRANCE ONLY.** Please review the flier below for more information.



Overview

The Middle School Entrance is located at the corner of Paterson Ave. and the Boulevard.	All middle school students will enter the building through Door 15.	All 6th graders ONLY will exit the building through Door 12 at the end of each day.	All visitors must use Door 1, the main entrance.
			

Important Points to Remember

- MS Students will use the MS Entrance (Door 15)** to enter the school building each day beginning at 7:25 am. Students should **NOT** arrive any earlier than 7:25 am as there will be no supervision for the students.
- Parents/guardians should be aware that the student drop-off is on Paterson Avenue just before the Boulevard by the Middle School Entrance sign.
- Important: Typically, 7:45-7:55 is the busiest time for student drop-offs. To ensure that your student arrives to class on time, please make every effort to drop off prior to 7:45 am. Students who are tardy to school after Door 15 has been closed must report to Door 1 (Main Entrance).
- All visitors, guests, parents, & guardians will need to report to Door 1** (Main Entrance) located on the Boulevard for early student pick-ups, meetings with school staff, dropping off lunches/school items ANY time during the school day.
- A Visitor Monitor will be available at **Door 1** each school day to assist you upon your arrival. The hours of operation are **7:15 am-3:15 pm Monday through Friday** throughout the school year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mrs. Lisa Mason- Main Office/Attendance	(201) 393-8170
Mrs. Cathy Behr- Main Office / Clerical Assistant	(201) 393-8169
Main Office Fax #	(201) 288-2083
School Counselor- Mrs. Lindsey Gesell Grades 6-8 (A-L)	(201) 393-8167
School Counselor- Ms. Kerrie O'Hagan Grades 6-8 (M-Z)	(201) 393-8156
CST Case Manager- Ms. Angela Gallina (Grades 6 & 7)	(201) 393-8361
CST Case Manager- Ms. Dawn Johnson (Grade 8)	(201) 393-8368
Special Services Department	(201) 393-8151
School Nurse- Mrs. Mary Neumann/Mrs. Rita Perdomo	(201) 393-8160
SAC Counselor- Mrs. Barbara Christianson	(201) 288-1426
Middle School Principal- Mr. Joseph Mastropietro	(201) 288-1218
Middle School Vice Principal- Mr. Frank D'Amico	(201) 338-8815
Supervisor of Guidance- Mrs. Ashley Calligy	(201) 338- 8812
Director of Curriculum- Mrs. Dominique Vetrano	(201) 639-6902
Sprvr. of Instruction & Program- Mrs. Diana DaCosta	(201) 639- 6904
Director of Special Services- Dr. Matthew Helfant	(201) 639-6901

MIDDLE SCHOOL GOALS: 2024- 2025

Goal #1 – Throughout the 2024- 2025 SY, high quality assessments will be used to evaluate student progress based on the curriculum & standards taught to prepare students for High School. This will be measured by the collection of SGOs, marking period summative assessments, and common assessments. Throughout the 2024- 2025 school year, all assessments will include cover sheets that review the standards and the level of questioning being assessed. Common Assessments will be tracked on Google Sheets.

- 1) Marking Period assessments with cover sheets in all subject areas.
- 2) *LinkIt* Benchmark Assessment (ELA and Mathematics)
- 3) Data Sheets including Math *IXL*, Science *IXL*, Social Studies Writing, Language Arts, Writing and Basic Skills Growth.
- 4) SGO's with standards and student grouping/results
- 5) Lesson plans weekly in Google Teacher Folders

Goal #2 - The Middle School will be focused on student growth in all content areas with a strong focus on ELA and Mathematics.

- 1) Student Growth measured by *LinkIt*, *SchoolWide*, *IXL*, and *EnVision Math*
- 2) Continued Implementation of *SchoolWide* and *IXL* to all students
- 3) Restructuring of ELA and Math Courses aligned with curriculum
- 4) Continued Planning with Grade Level and Department (vertical and horizontal articulation)

Goal #3 - The Middle School will continue the high-level of communication with all of the community stakeholders..

- 1) *Friday Folders* updates weekly
- 2) “*Mondays With Mr. Mastro*” updates monthly
- 3) Guidance Newsletters quarterly
- 4) Opening of School (Summer Reading/Supply List/Orientation/Handbook/Schedules/Drop off procedures/Opening Day Letter/Opening Day Assurance Sheet/Class Syllabi/Back to School Night/Title 1 Night /Extra Help Schedule/Important Policies)
- 5) Middle School news, information, & articles in the town electronic newspaper (***TapInto***) involving academics, clubs, and activities.
- 6) School events including Middle School Play/Geography Bee/Spelling Bee/Beta Induction/Book Fairs/School Play/Music Concerts/Field Trips (including overnight)/Field Day/Dances/PI Day/Read Across America Celebration/Junior Aviator Night/MS Sports/etc.
- 7) Teacher Meetings including I&RS, Team Meetings, IEP meetings, ELL meetings, and 504 meetings, Department Meetings, ScIP meetings, School Safety Team Meetings, parent information meetings, and individual teacher meetings.
- 8) Staff maintaining reaching out to parents and students (email/phone call) including assisting struggling students, positive message of the week, or any other positive communication
- 9) Meetings (in-person/virtual) with parents and students as needed.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

August 28 th	6 th Grade Parent Orientation 7:00pm MS/HS Auditorium <i>*Parents/Guardians of new students should also attend*</i>
September 3 rd	1 st Day of School Single-Session (7:55am- 12:24pm)
September 3 rd MS Entrance on Paterson Avenue (by the MS sign)	<i>“First Day of School Photos”</i> with Franklin, the Junior Aviator! 6 th Grade 1:00 to 1:30pm 7 th Grade 1:30 to 2:00pm 8 th Grade 2:00 to 2:30pm
September 4 th	2nd Day of School/ Single- Session Day (7:55am- 12:24pm)

September 6 th	6 th Grade Ice Cream Social (Periods 7 and 8)
September 9 th	Junior Aviator "TEAM" Day
September 11 th	"Red, White, and Blue Day"
September 18 th	MS Back-to-School Night 6:45pm MS/HS
September 18 th	★ 7 th Grade Camping Parent Information Night: 6:00 pm in the Auditorium ★ 8 th Grade Washington DC Parent Information Night: 6:00pm in the Media Center <i>(*prior to BTSN*)</i>
October 3 rd	Middle School Picture Day

We hope the information included in this letter has outlined what the start to the 2024-2025 school year will look like. However, please take the time to review our **Student/Parent Handbook**, which is located on our webpage. This Handbook should serve as your guide to supporting your child(ren) in their academic journey, as well as collaborate with members of HHMS on a consistent basis. **Together Everyone Achieves More!**

Thank you in advance for your support and collaboration. We are truly looking forward to an outstanding school year!

Respectfully,

--Mr. Mastropietro and Mr. D'Amico



- Cc: MS Staff Members (All)
 Dr. Jillian Torrento, Superintendent of Schools
 Dr. Matthew Helfant, Director of Special Services
 Mrs. Dominique Vetrano, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
 Mrs. Diana DaCosta, Supervisor of Instruction and Program
 Mrs. Ashley Calligy, Supervisor of Guidance