

A graphic with the word "January" in a cursive font on a light blue background with snowflake patterns.

# HERITAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

20 Foxcroft Drive—Livingston—NJ 07039

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are nearly halfway completed with the school year! January and February are busy months for us here at Heritage. The month started with our Science Olympiad Team finishing in 9th place overall and qualifying to advance to compete at the upcoming state competition in March and also featured a winning performance from our varsity forensics at the Essex County Forensics and Interpretive Reading Competition. Both of these amazing accomplishments are also highlighted in the district's "Discover" Newsletter.

February 3rd promises to be a busy day for our 8th grade students as the day will begin with a special presentation made by Mr. Mark Schonwetter and Mrs. Isabelle Fisk. Both Mr. Schonwetter and Mrs. Fiske have shared their families amazing story of survival during the Holocaust with our 8th grade students for many years and we look forward to hosting them again so that our students can make a firsthand connection that extends their learning and understanding from previously reading Elie Wiesel's, "Night".

We are also beginning to discuss the transition for our 8th grade students to LHS. This past week, students have viewed video presentations made by LHS staff members to identify and discuss the differences between the levels of college prep and honors as they pertain to their academic scheduling choices. We hope that these will be helpful in assisting with their decisions about course levels when they participate in their scheduling meetings during the months of February and March. Please remember that if you have not done so already to complete the permission slip form that has been uploaded to the Genesis Parent Portal for all 8th grade students to be eligible to attend the trip to LHS on February 3rd. Scheduling appointments for 8th grade students will be posted the afternoon of Friday, February 7th. We ask that you honor the appointment that you have been given as there is no flexibility given our timeline and the volume of students that we have to meet with.

Lastly, I would like to close this message and leave you with a quote from the esteemed Dr. Martin Luther King, who we celebrated earlier this week. Dr. King said about education, "Intelligence plus character - that is the true goal of education". This quote embodies our philosophy and approach that we take towards working with our students each and every day.

Best,

Shawn Kelly, Principal



When reviewing the school calendar for the rest of this school year, we identified that there is an imbalance that exists between the number of school days allocated to the 3rd and 4th marking periods. This can have an impact on not only their academics but also the experience(s) that our students have to explore learning opportunities in our elective programs and courses. Therefore, both MPM and HMS will be adhering to the adjusted grading timelines as follows:

**MP3:**  
Starts January 30, 2020  
Interim Report/Comments:  
March 6, 2020  
Ends: April 3, 2020

**MP 4:**  
Starts: April 13, 2020  
Interim Report/Comments:  
May 13, 2020  
Ends: June 19, 2020

These adjusted timelines will be made in Genesis as well as being posted online.





The Heritage Middle School FemGineers participated in the Future City Design Challenge at Rutgers University. Shining Wang, Carolyn Zhou, and Ashley Peng were awarded "Best Use of Engineering Principles for their city: Elysium." Avery Wiener, Poorva Gopal and Nandini Aggarwal won 2nd place overall and received an all-expenses-paid trip to present their designs in Las Vegas this March. Congratulations!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. DOWNEY, HMS TEACHER OF THE YEAR!



## HMS BAND

The bands at Heritage performed at their combined concert to rave reviews on January 7. The performance featured music from the seventh and eighth grade concert bands and the two Heritage jazz bands.



After an introduction by Vice Principal, Chrystie Young, Mr. Hughes' Blue Jazz Band began the evening with selections including *Green Onions*. Following the *Blue Jazz Band*, the *eighth grade concert band*, conducted by Mr. Donough, performed their program featuring *Beatles Gold* and the Mr. Donough's *The Percussion Is Lava*, a piece of music only using body percussion.

The stage was quickly transformed and the seventh grade concert band performed *Fanfare For a New Era* and *Imperium*. As the performers once more moved to the front of the stage, the Eagle Jazz Band performed its program of rock and jazz music including *Sway* and *Topsy*.



The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by the students, teachers, and parents in attendance. The band students are already hard at work on the music for their spring concert on May 12th.



# STUDENT COUNCIL



The results are in and the winner of the Student Council T-shirt Design Contest is our very own Giana Crann! The sale of the t-shirt she designed to promote HMS school spirit starts today! Please purchase this exclusive t-shirt online using a link posted on the Heritage homepage. We will not be accepting orders here in school or accepting any cash or checks. Both parents, students, and teachers can purchase the t-shirt, as it comes in both child and adult sizes! We don't want any of you to feel left out when you see this cool shirt roaming the hallways, so order today! The sale will be running until January 31st, so there is plenty of time to order one!

The link is as follows:

[https://classactembroidery.com/index.php?route=product/product&manufacturer\\_id=114&product\\_id=938](https://classactembroidery.com/index.php?route=product/product&manufacturer_id=114&product_id=938)

All proceeds will go to student events here at HMS, so please purchase to support your child as well as the Student Council.

## SCHOOL COUNSELING

### IMPORTANT 8 TH GRADE TRANSITION INFORMATION

It is an exciting and busy time here at HMS! In the coming weeks, 8th grade students will be learning more about Livingston High School, as they begin the high school transition process. Counselors are here to help students & their parents through this process. Later this month, counselors will be visiting 8th grade classrooms to discuss the high school scheduling process. In addition, students will view videos in class made by LHS Supervisors and teachers that share more information on the core classes they are able to choose from at LHS. Students will be taking a tour of LHS on February 3rd and will hear about the range of electives LHS has to offer!

HMS Counselors are preparing for upcoming scheduling meetings for high school; LHS & HMS Counselors are partnering together to meet with current 8th graders starting in February. More information about this is included in Mr. Kelly's letter regarding the scheduling process. While supporting our children/



students, it is important to keep in mind that students should select classes that will challenge them but will also allow them to maintain a healthy balance between academics, extra-curricular activities and time spent with family and friends. This will help create an overall positive and meaningful high school experience! A healthy balance is key for success!

**7th Grade Naviance School Counseling Lesson**  
Coming up in February, the 7th grade School Counselors will be visiting the classroom to introduce Naviance to the students! Naviance is a computer-based program used at Heritage and Livingston High School to help students understand one's learning style, identify their own interests, and discover career options. It's a tool that our students will use throughout their four years at Livingston High School as they continue to search and explore their interests and strengths. The students will be introduced to this program and complete a personal online survey to determine their learning style and strategies to support them in the classroom and at home doing homework and/or studying. Students will also be introduced to strategies that would be beneficial to their identified learning style and discover how having an awareness of their strengths will help them achieve academic success.

