



# HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

## HMS Happenings – April 1, 2019



### Principal's 200 Club



Harrison Middle School's Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program has taken on another new initiative this year! The staff and Administrative team believe in a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in the middle school to achieve social, emotional and academic success. The Principal's 200 Club along with clearly defined expectations, is a system of acknowledgement and reinforcement of expected behaviors for students who exhibit the qualities of our school motto - Honor, Compassion and Strength.

Students will participate in deliberate activities designed to teach and review how to behave across different settings, including hallways, cafeteria, restrooms, classrooms, and the school bus. A ticket system has been created as a way for all staff to acknowledge students when they demonstrate an identified behavior. In addition, each of our 3 administrators will adopt a grade level 200 Club Board to help motivate



students. There will be a daily announcement from Administration to report to the Guidance Office for students who received a ticket the previous school day. In the Guidance Office, students will return the ticket, sign the HMS Celebrity Autograph Book, and write the name of the teacher who acknowledged them. Students will receive a certificate, a piece of candy, and choose a number. This number will be the space in which they write their name in dry erase marker on the 200 Club Board. Each grade level has an autograph book and a 200 Club Board posted in the hallway near the Office.

Once a row or column on a 200 Club Board gets filled, the students with names in that row will receive a reward. One of the staff members who acknowledged those students will be randomly drawn to also earn a reward. A student survey has also been conducted to help generate more ideas for rewards that will motivate middle school- aged students. The excitement is in the air in the Hallways of Harrison!



### Upcoming Events

- April 1st— Beginning of the 4th Nine Weeks
- April 4th - STEAM Night 6:30-8:30 p.m @ HMS
- April 5th—Report Cards Issued
- April 5th - HMS Talent Show—6:30 PM
- April 9th—HMS PTSA Sarris Candy Sale Pick-Up 5:00-7:00 PM
- April 9th-11th - PSSA Testing—ELA
- April 18th - Professional Development Day
- April 18th - 22nd - Spring Break
- April 22nd - Professional Development Day
- April 23rd - 24th - PSSA Testing - Mathematics
- April 26th - GLOW Dance—7:00-9:00 PM
- April 29th - 30th - PSSA Testing - Science (8th Grade Only)
- May 3rd - Act 80 - Early Dismissal - 11:30 AM



[Click to Access the HMS Daily Announcements](#)



## Common Sense Media—Parent Corner



common  
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media

### Parents' Ultimate Guide to YouTube- Parenting, Media, and Everything In Between:

Smosh, Jenna Marbles, Markiplier -- the names may not mean much to you, but chances are your kids are on a first-name basis. These funny YouTube hosts, with their off-the-cuff commentary, silly antics, and bewildering (to adults) subject matter, are some of the most influential personalities on young teens, garnering millions (and, in the case of disgraced Swedish gamer PewDiePie, billions) of views. But information about these personalities' shows -

- the content, quality, and age-appropriateness, for example -- isn't easy for parents to find. [Click to read the complete article.](#)  
[Click for more information about Common Sense Media.](#)



## Highlights



**Art Meets Digital Technology:** Sixth grade students in Ms. Jacob's art class recently had a fantastic time exploring the world of digital art! Students created wonderful digital self-portrait paintings using only their Chromebooks, and the Adobe Illustrator Draw app. The sixth graders first learned some of the basics of creating digital art such as the use of layers, digital brushes, and color tools. Students then focused on creating a line drawing of their self-portrait using the Adobe Illustrator app. Once their line drawing was complete, the students used the color tools and the digital paint brushes to add color and value to their digital painting.



**Mardi Gras & Carnival:** On Tuesday March 5th, the Spanish I, French I, and German I classes celebrated Mardi Gras & Carnival. The students created masks to wear, ate delicious foods from the target language countries and crowned a king, queen, and jesters of Mardi Gras and Carnival.



**The Little Mermaid Jr.:** Harrison Middle School students completed another fabulous production which involved over 120 students in either the cast, crew or pit orchestra. The students performed 4 shows and had a breakfast with the characters to complete Harrison's twenty second musical theater productions. Next year, we will travel down the yellow brick road!



**Science IS Fun!** Eighth-grade students have recently completed a Wind Turbine Project within their Human Impacts Unit at J.E. Harrison Middle School. In this STEM Challenge, the goal for students was to be able to design a wind turbine that was able to produce the most amount of electricity (energy). The teams came up with a list of variables that may affect the amount of electricity produced and tested it. Each person within the group was responsible for individually testing at least two variables for the overall group design. The team members then reported their data and then combined all the information for the final design. This is just another way students are actively participating in hands-on science at HMS.





## Highlights



**Music in Our Schools Month Concert:** On March 1st at Baldwin High School, the elementary, middle and high school choirs combined for a concert to celebrate music in our schools. The concert also featured the Baldwinaires and a sneak peak at the middle school musical. The audience was treated to an interactive Name That Tune game and high school students improvised to the latest music technology.



**Third Annual Out of the Box Concert:** On Tuesday, March 5th, the HMS Bands and Orchestra, along with the BHS Bands and Orchestra, celebrated Music In Our Schools Month by performing the third annual Out of the Box Concert. This year, the performances highlighted composers of different backgrounds in an effort to celebrate representation. The ensembles are thankful for HMS parent, Jim Agnew, for kicking off our finale with the solo bagpipe performance! Congratulations to all of the performers on a job well done!



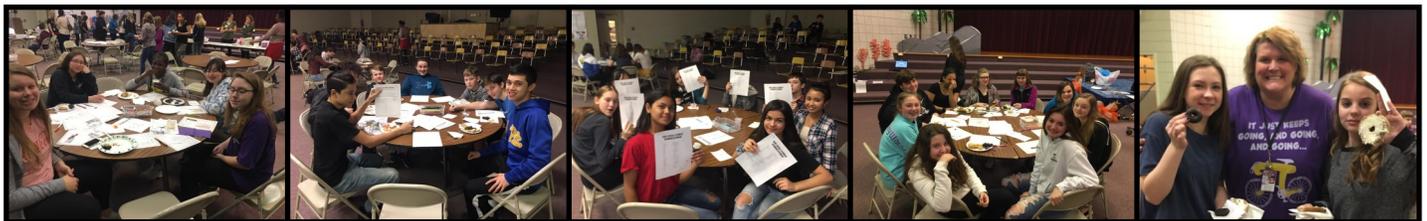
**Books Come to Life:** With the cooperation of technology teacher Mrs. Short, students in Mrs. Gvoth's sixth-grade ELA class made an interactive wax museum. Students used the Scratch program and Makey Makeys to build a 3D model that was voice automated. This was a great example of modernizing the current curriculum.



**Baldwin Historical Society Collaborates with HMS:** Students in Mr. Barbano's 6th and 7th grade classes are collaborating with the Baldwin Historical Society. Preserving Baldwin Borough's history is the main goal of the Baldwin Historical Society. They were founded in 1997, and their members have worked together to compile a mass amount of information about the area's history. Now, there is a need to implement the rich history of the area into our schools. Dr. Sandra Och, representative of the society, has collaborated with Mr. Barbano's classrooms by holding an essay contest to help students further understand the role vocations have played in Baldwin. The winner of the essay contest will receive a special certificate and recognition by the Baldwin Historical Society. Anyone interested in donating historical Baldwin items to the society can contact their President, Pat Lombardi, at [patlombardi1@verizon.net](mailto:patlombardi1@verizon.net).



**A New Perspective in Physical Education:** Sometimes you need to turn things upside down to get a new perspective on life! In the 8th grade Wellness class (Fitness Fusion), the Strength, Movement and Balance unit is in full swing as we learn all about the amazing things our bodies can do!



**HMS Celebrates Pi Day:** The students at HMS enjoyed a Pi Day celebration on March 14th. There were various activities throughout the building during math class. The students and staff enjoyed many yummy treats throughout as well. Special thanks to all our parent volunteers and those that sent in yummy treats! It was a great day!

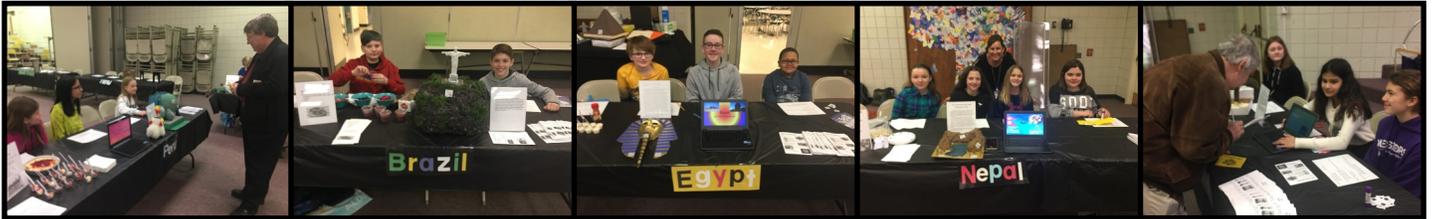


## Highlights



**STEM Hummingbird Rovers:** Students from Mrs. Short's fourth period STEM class designed, created and programmed rovers using the Hummingbird Robotics Kits and iPads. Students learned how motors, servos, LED's and sensors work and how to program them to create a working bot. We had a rover competition in class where the rovers challenged each other to get the most ping pong balls in a goal. The winners were Matthew Fry and Taslima Chapagai and their bot, Peace, Love & Happiness.

**6th Grade Multi-Cultural Fair:** The first wave of 6th grade social studies classes successfully completed their Multi-Cultural Fair/country research projects. Each student was required to research a particular area of an assigned country. The expectations were for them to become an expert on the landforms, climate, economy, government, natural resources, everyday life and fun facts in order to design a group slide presentation with their team members using Google Slides. They worked together to design a travel brochure that would encourage people to visit their country using Google Docs. This year the students used a new app called "Vocaroo" to record themselves giving a key fact about a 3D model of a landmark within their country, which produced a QR Code for parents to scan to hear the facts. The students did an amazing job presenting their final projects to their parents and classmates.

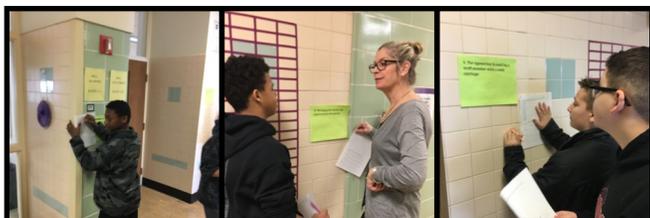


### **BWSD SeaPerch Teams Place Well at Pittsburgh Regional SeaPerch Challenge:**



For the past three months, eight teams of students from HMS and five teams from BHS have been working weekly to build and modify an underwater ROV or Remotely Operated Vehicle. The object of SeaPerch is to design the ROV to complete an obstacle course and to also complete a series of tasks. Saturday, March 30 was the Pittsburgh Regional SeaPerch Competition and Baldwin had a great showing! One of our high school teams, The Turkeys, won the high school division and will be headed to

Nationals in June! The Turkeys also got 2nd place in Obstacles, 2nd in the Challenge (after a tie-breaker course) and 3rd in the Notebook Competition. Team Sea3PO, another high school team earned 2nd Best Overall High School and finished 3rd in Obstacles and 3rd in Challenge Course. They also won People's Choice Award for ROV design. In the Middle School Division, Team Tiny, consisting of students Salma Alouane, Regan Eckert, and Richard Henry came in 3rd overall and Team Galaxies (Ava Bell, Alyssa Holby and Rachel Zgurich) came in 4th overall. Team Tiny also got 3rd in Notebook, 3rd in Challenge and won the People's Choice award for ROV design. The Galaxies finished with 4th in Obstacle, and 4th in the Challenge. Harrison had eight teams competing this year, and we are proud of all of the hard work that each of these young people put into learning about Engineering Design and building their ROVs!



**Grammar Walk:** 7th Grade students in Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. Crittenden's ELA class practiced identifying and categorizing modifier errors during a gallery activity. Students used this knowledge to then revise and rewrite sentences to ensure they are not confusing for a reader. Knowledge of this skill is important, so students can write clear, descriptive sentences.



## Student Recognition



### Highlander Pride

**Highlander Pride:** Congratulations to our 3rd nine weeks Highlander Pride Award winners! The students below have exhibited compassion and responsibility in and out of the classroom that is second to none! Congratulations to Ms. Willman for being recognized by the students, colleagues and administration for her dedication to her students.



**PMEA Elementary Singfest:** Sophia Scramer and Ayomide Solotan, both 6th grade students were chosen to participate in PMEA Elementary Singfest at Quaker Valley Middle School on March 15, 2019. These two joined approximately 120 5th and 6th grade students from over 50 districts to participate in music activities and rehearse and perform in a glorious sold out concert.

at CCAC on March 2nd. These students had been practicing at lunch and studying on their own for weeks in advance. They won 5 out of 6 of their matches! Congratulations to Jacob Gallagher, Reagan Sanderson, Sam Tobiczyk, Ava Weidensall and Jayden Wisniewski for an amazing job!



**Science Bowl 2019:** Gifted students from Harrison participated in a "Jeopardy Style" Science Bowl Competition



**PMEA Band and Orchestra Festivals:** Harrison Middle School was fortunate to have many band and orchestra students selected to participate in this year's numerous PMEA District 1 music festivals. PMEA Elementary String Fest took place on March 1 at Moon Area School District and was fortunate to have four 6th grade violin students attend: Alex Funk, Brooklyn Joyce, Emma Smerbeck, and Savannah Susan. PMEA Junior High District Band also took place on March 1-2 at Carrick High School. HMS had three 8th graders attend: Emily Fowler- clarinet,



Emma Grunwald- Flute, and Anna Schmidt- Trumpet. Lastly, PMEA Junior High District Orchestra took place on March 22-23 at Upper St. Clair High School. Four HMS students were selected to participate in the festival: 8th Graders Brody Brazill- Cello, Nolan Dowling- Percussion, Bekah Priano- Percussion, and 7th grader Julianna Lang- Bass Clarinet. All these students were given music to prepare prior to the festival and spent all day Friday and Saturday morning rehearsing with approximately 120 other band/orchestra students from other schools around Allegheny County. The events ended with concerts where they performed multiple music selections with a guest conductor. These young musicians represented the Baldwin-Whitehall music department well with their outstanding performances. Congratulations to all!



**Best Communities for Music Education!:** Congratulations to the Baldwin-Whitehall School District Music program for being selected as one of 623 school districts that are among the Best Communities in the nation for music education. The award program recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education. We are so fortunate to have Ms. Virgin, Mrs. Verno, and Mrs. Hawk providing outstanding music education to our students.



## Staff Recognition



**Debbie Reynolds Receives 2019 Carnegie Science Award:** HMS teacher Debbie Reynolds has been selected as a recipient of a 2019 Carnegie Science Award. Each year, Carnegie Science Center honors and celebrates inspiring science and technology innovators making a difference in western Pennsylvania. As the STEM specialist educator at J.E. Harrison Middle School, Debbie Reynolds works with her fellow teachers to integrate STEM into every classroom. In addition to helping author the curriculum for the eighth-grade STEM class, she has been transforming the school library into a makerspace

to provide students with a place to build on collaboration, problem-solving, and communications skills. Mrs. Reynolds is always looking for ways to inspire students with STEM beyond the classroom and encourages students' participation in numerous STEM competitions, science fairs, and other project-based learning opportunities. Recognized for her leadership in STEM education, she has led numerous presentations and workshops across the country and taught a month-long STEM camp in China last summer.



## Construction Update



**Entrance #1 (Gymnasium Lobby) is accessible for students.** During bus arrival and dismissal, students will now be able to enter and exit the building using Entrance #1 (Gymnasium Lobby) and Entrance #7 (Unified Arts). We will continue to begin the dismissal process between 2:45-2:50 p.m due to ongoing construction projects. Dismissal and arrival procedures will continue to change throughout the school year based on the scope of each project, and we will continue to keep you informed via Skyalert messages.

The traffic flow for car riders in the front of the building will not be impacted at this time; however, students, staff and visitors will enter Entrance #9 (Science Wing) because construction will begin on the Entrance #12 (Main Entrance). A security guard will be stationed at Entrance #9 for visitors to enter, so please be patient with our security and secretarial staff. Click to access the [March 25 - Construction Map for HMS.pdf](#) We appreciate your patience and understanding during these frequent changes. The safety of our students is always our #1 priority.



## Upcoming Events



### HMS Spring Book Fair—Harrison Middle School Library March 29th– April 9th: Online Shopping Open

**Book Sale Dates:**

Monday April 1st: Teachers can fill the wish bins

Tuesday April 2nd: Sixth grade

Wednesday April 3rd: Seventh grade

Thursday April 4th: Eighth grade

STEAM Night shopping hours: 6pm-9pm

Friday April 5th: Makeup day for all grades

All students will receive a ticket to enter our basket raffle just for stopping by the book fair!

[Click download the printable flier!](#)



**Camp Soles Information:** The Camp Soles experience for eighth graders has been scheduled, session 1 May 29-31 and session 2, June 3-5, 2019. This is a two night stay with many classes and activities included. The total cost of the trip will be \$120.00. The trip is for environmental and outdoor education and is an extension of the school curriculum. Below you will find important dates to remember. If you have **any questions, financially or dietary**, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone 412-885-7530 ext. 6449, or email [jkealey@bwschools.net](mailto:jkealey@bwschools.net), Tony Cherico, [acherico@bwschools.net](mailto:acherico@bwschools.net) or Bryan Gigliotti [bgigliotti@bwschools.net](mailto:bgigliotti@bwschools.net). All information about Camp Soles will be posted on Google Classroom, the code is: vmv9zd.

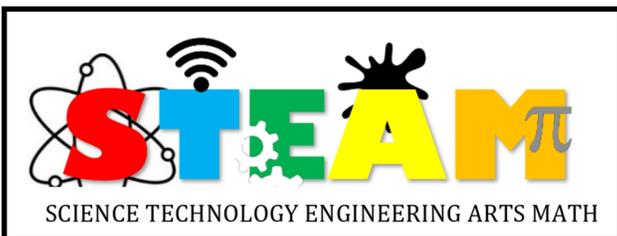
**IMPORTANT DATES:** April 6, 2019-Non-refundable Payment of \$120.00 is Due. Payment plans can be available after contacting Mr. Kealey or Mr. Cherico. The online permission slip is due. Note: Checks for \$120.00 should be made payable to Harrison Middle School. Please place your child's name on the memo line and place the check and permission slip in an envelope.

[Click to Download Camp Soles 18-19 Booklet \(pdf\)](#)

**HMS Talent Show:** Harrison Middle School will hold a Talent Show on Friday, April 5, 2019 at 6:30 PM in the Harrison auditorium. Students from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will be participating in the show.

Adult tickets for the show are a \$5.00 a piece. Student tickets are \$3.00 a piece. All monies raised by the show will be used to offset the cost of the 8th Grade US History Trip to Virginia this May.

[Click for the Practice Schedule.](#) Contact Mr. Shaner ([dshaner@bwschools.net](mailto:dshaner@bwschools.net)) for more information.



Discover the fun of STEAM through hands-on activities for the whole family at our 3rd annual family STEAM Night!

**Where:** J.E. Harrison Middle School

**When:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - Doors will open at 6:30 pm

**Who:** Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and families

**What:** This will be a fun-filled fair for the whole family! Experience new technologies incorporated in the classroom, science experimentations

and demonstrations, hands-on building and engineering activities, artwork displays, and much, much more!! Food, snacks, and beverages will be available for purchase. Additional parking will be available at McAnnulty and Whitehall Elementary Schools with shuttle service to J.E. Harrison Middle School. Limited seating is available for the IKS Highlander. Use this link to reserve a seat: [bit.ly/IKS2019](http://bit.ly/IKS2019).



## Staff Highlights



On Monday, March 25th BWSB had the pleasure of hosting a tour for Mr. Gregg Behr, Executive Director of the Grable Foundation. Mr. Behr posted after his visit: "So very, very grateful to spend the day with many AMAZING educators. I so much wish that everyone could witness what I get the opportunity to see in our schools." Mr. Behr visited the IKS Highlander, Mission Ops, library and a few classrooms to interact with students and observe the integration of technology to enhance student engagement and learning. He observed the Pandemic Mission with students in sixth grade led by Mr. Gigliotti and Mrs. Reynolds. He also observed Mrs. Johnson's students using the Padcaster in the Green Screen Room. It was an amazing opportunity for our district to showcase the talents of our students and staff. Special thanks to Mr. Behr and the Grable Foundation for supporting public education!



## Athletics



*HMS Wrestlers have a good luck send off for Andrew Sharp and Keith Mincin as the head to States to represent Area 7 and Baldwin! We are so proud of their accomplishments. Congrats to Andrew Sharp for placing at States!*



## PTSA

**THE HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA "NONFUNDRAISER!":** We are presenting this fundraiser as an option for our HMS parents, staff and friends to have another way to support the PTSA without having to buy, sell, or deliver various goods and items through traditional fundraising! You can "opt out" of fundraising and still support our children with your simple MONETARY DONATION! (Of course, this does not mean you will not see the occasional fundraiser still sent home from time to time. This is simply meant to be a great "alternative" way to support if you choose. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

[Click for more information.](#)



**HMS PTSA Collecting Box Tops:** The HMS PTSA is collecting Box Tops for Education. Please send in your box tops in an envelop or sandwich bag, and place them in the PTSA mailbox in the main office.



**Sarris Candy Holiday Sale:** The delivery date is Tuesday, April 9th and can be picked-up from 5:00 p.m to 7:00 p.m in teachers' lounge (room 129) or use outside entrance #4 (Left of the gym entrance. Please contact [bcrostek317@gmail.com](mailto:bcrostek317@gmail.com) with any questions.

There are many opportunities that await both children and parents. The HMS PTSA supports our children and school educators in many different ways. By providing funds and volunteers for various school functions and initiatives, we serve both our Children and our Community. Below are some examples of how we make a difference!

[Click for more information- HMS PTSA Promotion Flyer.](#)

- Teacher Grants for needed classroom items
- Provide funds for the school Nurse's Pantry
- Do The Right Thing support and volunteerism
- Various Fundraisers to support activities for the children
- Volunteerism for school functions and dances

### Follow HMS PTSA on Facebook?

You may do so by following this link:<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1834201053474732>

**Would you like to be added to our email distribution list so that we can keep you up to date on PTSA activities or volunteer opportunities?** Simply complete the PTSA Membership Form and send the bottom portion of the form along with the membership fee of \$6.00 (rate is the same for parents and children) to the HMS office in an envelope marked "PTSA Membership - Attn: Kelly Bischoff.