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# Hoover Happenings

MAY 2018



Dear Hoover families,

We are in the homestretch...It's so hard to believe the school year is almost over!

Third quarter proved to be a busy one with several activities, among which were our Hoover's Got Talent Show, Hoover Game Night, and Student Recognition Days. We recently met with all sixth graders for an informational meeting regarding our WEB program. We will be making selections for next year's WEB leaders in the upcoming weeks. Please encourage your child to consider this wonderful opportunity for leadership in their school and apply to be a WEB leader.

On April 26th, we inducted approximately 160 sixth and seventh grade students into the National Junior Honor Society. We couldn't be more proud of our students and their dedication to their academic study, leadership, and service to others. It was such a special evening and so wonderful to see all of our families.

For our seventh grade parents...this is just a reminder that our final parent academy of the school year will take place on Thursday, May 10th immediately following the PTA meeting in the cafeteria at 5:30 pm. "*What to Know Before They Go*," will provide you with important information regarding your child's transition to the eighth grade at the high school. Be sure not to miss it!

Lastly, as we begin to wind down the 2017-18 academic school year, there are several important events for you to make a note of for your planning purposes. Please save the dates and mark your calendars!

Wishing you a successful end to the school year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Persico



**IMPORTANT EVENT/ACTIVITY**

**DATE—MAY**

NYS Math Assessments	May 2nd and 3rd
5th Grade Science Lab Performance (in class)	May 4th-9th
NYSESLAT Testing (for English Language Learners only)	May 7th-18th
PTA Meeting, 6:30, Student Cafeteria	
“What to Know Before They Go” Parent Academy, 7:00 Student Cafeteria  (For parents/guardians of current 7th grade Students)	May 10th
Superintendent’s Conference Day—No school for students	May 11th
District Budget Vote	May 15th
Evening Music Concerts	May 16th, 21st, and 22nd
6th Grade Science Lab Performance (in class)	May 16th-22nd
Chiavetta’s Fundraiser, 3-6 pm	May 17th
6th and 7th Grade Band and Orchestra to Darien Lake (students return at 6:30 pm)	May 18th
PTA Flower Sale	May 23rd
Spring Play Day - NEW WEB Leaders (afternoon)	May 24th
Memorial Day Recess-No school for students and staff	May 25th & 28th

**DATE—JUNE**

Awards Assembly, 9-10:30 am	June 1st
7th Grade Science Lab Performance (in class)	June 6th-12th
7th Grade Moving Up Day, Auditorium, 6 pm	June 7th
7th Grade Trip to Darien Lake (students return at 4:30 pm)	June 8th
Last student day	June 20th

# FINAL EXAMS

## IN-CLASS

JUNE 4-14

Physical Education  
Music (General & Ensembles)  
FACS  
Art  
Digital Literacy  
Technology  
World Language (Grade 7 only)

## EXAM ONLY HALF DAYS

*ELA, Grades 5, 6, 7	June 15th
*Social Studies, Grades 5, 6, 7	June 18th
*Math, Grades 5, 6, 7	June 19th
*Science Written, Grades 5, 6, 7	June 20th
*Early Dismissal Days - 10:45 & 11:45 am	



## Health Office



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**All required health forms for the 2018-19 school year will be mailed home in May.** This includes the physical forms for 7<sup>th</sup> graders, immunization requirements, and medication forms and/or emergency care plans for your child for the next school year. Please make sure that this paperwork is **completed, signed, and turned into the Health Office by September 2018.** **When you take your child to the doctor's office for a physical, please make sure you ask for any paperwork to be filled out at the time of your visit. Many pediatricians' offices will charge you a fee to complete/process paperwork if you ask after the time of your visit!**

**\*\*\*New for 2018-19 school year--** Per New York State law, all 5th and 7th grade students will be required to submit a physical form. Please contact your child's health care provider to make sure that there is a current physical on file so that it can be submitted to the Health Office in September 2018.

If your child is interested in playing sports for Hoover Middle School, or playing up to a high school sport at either Kenmore West or Kenmore East, please have him/her see the nurse about his/her physical. You can also check the Kenmore Town of Tonawanda district website, under Athletic Department, for further information about sports and any forms that your child may need completed in order to play.

Please note that **all medications**, whether for emergency purposes (i.e. Epi-pen, Glucagon, Benadryl, inhaler), as well as any over-the-counter medications for pain, cough, and cold/allergy symptoms **require a note from your child's health care provider.** Students **should not be carrying** these medications on them without medical documentation, and are in direct violation of school district policy.

In the beginning of June, letters will be sent out to families, asking that a parent/guardian come to the school by **June 20th, 2018 (last day of school)** to pick up their child's medication. Any medication not picked up by that day will be disposed of in accordance with both the New York State Department of Education and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation guidelines. Medications **are not allowed** to be kept for the following school year. Please make arrangements with the health office to pick up any unused medication for your child.

## Summer Reading Tips from the Reading Department!

### Local Libraries & Programs



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**Kenmore Library**  
160 Delaware Rd.  
Kenmore, NY 14217  
Phone: 716-873-2842

Available:

- ◆ 42 public access computers
- ◆ Free WiFi
- ◆ Community Room
- ◆ Study Room

**Fun Summer Program:  
Books and Barks!**  
June 9th and July 14th  
10:30 AM—12 PM

“Do you want your child to improve their literacy skills and reading confidence? Reading to a dog can help! Sign up for a 15-minute session to read to Gus, a licensed therapy dog! Meets the second Saturday of every month. For children age 5-12. Registration required.

**City of Tonawanda  
Library**  
333 Main St.  
Tonawanda, NY 14150  
Phone: 716-693-5043

Available:

- ◆ Wheelchair access
- ◆ 11 all-ages computers
- ◆ Free WiFi
- ◆ Ongoing “Friends of the Library” Book Sale

**Fun Spring Programs:  
Lego Club!**  
April 17th & 24th  
6PM—7PM

Kids ages 5 to 13 can build their own Lego creations!

“PAWS” to Read!  
April 28th, 11 am  
May 5th, 11 am  
May 15th, 6 pm

“Kids ages 5-10 can practice their reading skills by reading out loud to a certified therapy dog. Fifteen minute sessions are available. Call to reserve a time slot!”

**Kenilworth Branch  
Library**  
318 Montrose Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14223  
Phone: 716-834-7657

Available:

- ◆ Wheelchair access
- ◆ 20 public use computers
- ◆ Free WiFi
- ◆ Community Room

**Fun Ongoing Program:  
Button Making!**  
Wednesdays from 5—7  
pm

“Come to the library to make your own buttons Find a favorite picture, photo, or make an original design and have it pressed into a 1.25 inch button. Fashionable, Fun and Fabulous! Open to all ages and no registration is required. There is a limit of 3 buttons per person. Contact the library for more information!



**Technology News**

7<sup>th</sup> grade technology students opened the 3rd quarter by assuming the role of a structural engineer. Students competed in a tower building contest. They learned about structural design, forces, and loads. They built their designs using wooden coffee stirs and came up with some incredibly strong designs! Towers were evaluated using an efficiency calculation which is a comparison between how much the tower weighed vs. how much weight the tower held. Some of the top towers were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Weight Held</u>	<u>Efficiency</u>
Edan Rutherford	627 lbs.	20,333
Samantha Christiano	734 lbs.	18,513
Italya Verdejo-Zarbo	507 lbs.	18,125
Jordan Close	720 lbs.	17,960
William Ferraro	463 lbs.	17,230

**German Department News**

Guten Tag! Fruhling ist hier! Endlich! (Spring is here! Finally!) We had a very interesting start to 2018. After the midterm in January, we started February with a German craft project called Scherenschnitte, or scissor cutting. We made intricate designs on specialty paper to take home to parents for Valentine’s Day. We then learned how to tell time in English and German, learned about the school system in Germany, made our own report cards as if we attended a German school, and literally talked about the weather (das Wetter). We started to practice for the speaking exams as we work to finish our last units on family life and the house. We had about 30% of the German students inducted into the National Junior Honor Society this spring so we say, “Gratuliere!” to them. The big push now will be to prepare for the final exam and our trip to Frankenmuth, Michigan. Viel Glück to all on their exams and the move up to the next grade. Hope to see many of you next year.



## Music “Notes”



### “Notes” from the Music Department

Happy Spring! Hoover Middle School musicians are preparing for their final concerts of the year! Please mark your calendars and join us for some beautiful music on:

**Wednesday, May 16th:** 5th grade chorus, 6/7 orchestra, and 6th grade band

**Monday, May 21st:** 6/7 chorus, 5th grade band, and 5th grade orchestra

**Tuesday, May 22nd:** Glee, Jazz Band, String Ensemble, and 7th grade band

All concerts begin at 6:30 PM and will last approximately 90 minutes.

Congratulations to members of our string orchestra who played beautifully during the National Junior Honor Society ceremony in April. Thank you for sharing your music at this special event!

On Friday, May 18th, our 6th and 7th Grade orchestra and band members are taking a trip to Darien Lake Theme Park to compete with other area musicians! Mrs. Kwitowski and Miss Cartwright are looking forward to showcasing our instrumental groups that day! Break a leg everybody! We know you'll make Hoover shine!

On Thursday, June 7th, Glee Choir and members of our 7th grade chorus will perform the song “I Was Here” in honor of our seventh grade Hoover students that are moving up to high school next year! The song tells a beautiful story of moving on, while also celebrating positive memories created in middle school. The moving up ceremony begins at 6 PM in the Hoover auditorium and will include the entire 7th grade class! Also performing for the event is Hoover’s Jazz Band!

Registration for next year’s performing groups is now complete. We are happy to see how many of our musicians decided to continue in performing ensembles for the 2018/2019 school year! If you have questions about registration, or your child forgot to bring a form home, please call the guidance department as soon as possible. This will insure that your child is signed up for his or her choices!



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# Digital Literacy Grades 5 and 6



We are in the last quarter learning computer skills on both a Microsoft Office and Google Classroom platform. Students are learning how to use Google Drive and Gmail in addition to all of the applications necessary in helping students be prepared to do their middle and high school work in the areas of word processing presentation software, and desktop publishing.



Mrs. Stillman's 5th graders just began researching a national park that will culminate in a Google Slides presentation. Ask your child which park was chosen. Mrs. Houck's students are choosing a state to research and will also create a presentation using Google slides.

Sixth graders are creating their own simulated food truck business using Microsoft Publisher to create documents for their projects. They are just beginning to create their own logos.

Digital citizenship and cyber safety are part of the ten week course as so many students are using social media these days. We feel it is important to focus on using such applications in a positive manner.

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# Using technology

# to research





## Art Department Update

Hoover Middle brings the New York State Learning Standards for the Arts to Life

### Together We Create, Present, Respond and Connect

Students have been busy drawing painting, sculpting and making computer art hoping to have their work displayed in the hallways of Hoover for the evening of the Spring Concert, Wednesday, May 23rd.

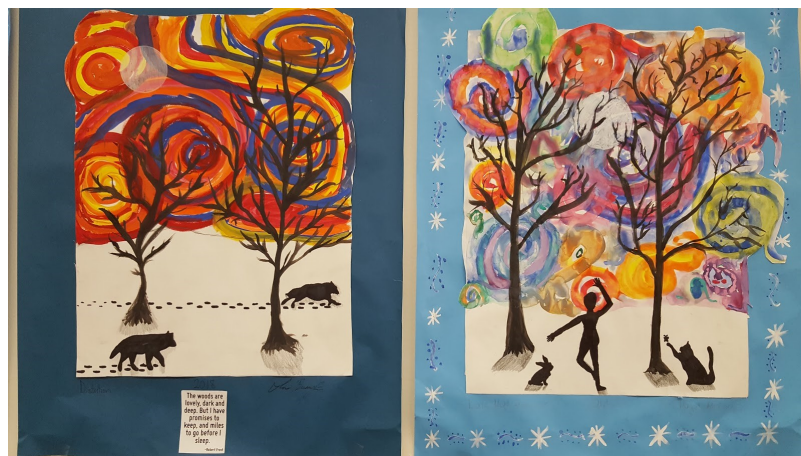
Projects include 7th grade pastel drawings of Japanese Koi fish, 6th grade imaginary landscapes drawn in extreme detail and 5th grade watercolor paintings of hot air balloons. Check out the hallways of Hoover and find watercolors of lily pads inspired by Monet, hearts and flowers by Mrs. Coley's students, colorful coiled clay vessels and symmetrical paintings of imaginary insects.

Besides producing beautiful works of art, students also learn about the lives of famous artists and see reproductions of their masterpieces, to help in understanding that how the art of the past can inspire to create art of the present. Students also critique the art of the masters and of their peers, debating and discussing what makes an artwork good. When students perceive, they can achieve! Art making at HMS also involves higher level thinking skills such as compare and contrast, analysis, decision making, composing, and creating.

Accelerated Art is a new program in the Kenmore-Tonawanda schools, which allows students to take 8th grade art as well as a Studio in Art class, doubling their first high school year art experience. Thank you to the HMS Guidance Department for helping to sign up our most talented and enthusiastic students to this exciting, new program!

# ART

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## Physical Education

Hopefully spring has sprung and we will be able to get outside soon. Once outside we will begin our kickball/softball unit. We are currently finishing up a floor hockey unit and our spring Fitnessgram testing.



We were honored to have the First Tee of WNY staff come in and present an introduction to their golf program to all of our students here at HMS. This program offers opportunities to pursue an interest in golf on a year round basis. Students should have brought home a flyer with detailed information about the program. If you would like more information please contact Jeff Warda at [jwarda@thefirstteewny.org](mailto:jwarda@thefirstteewny.org)

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We have several spring sports that are getting started. *Intramural soccer* for 5th and 6th grade boys will begin May 3rd or 7th depending on their grade level. *Flag football* for boys and girls in grade 5-7 will also be starting May 3rd. Permission slips and information are available from any of the PE teachers. It is possible that *field hockey* and *girls soccer* will be offered but we are still looking for someone to coach these two teams. If interested please contact Mr. DeCarolis at [JDeCarolis@ktufsd.org](mailto:JDeCarolis@ktufsd.org)

Does your son or daughter like bowling? There is a Free Learn to Bowl program that begins May 7th at Tonawanda Bowling Center. If interested please pick up a flyer from one of the PE teachers.

High School sports physicals are being offered free of charge at both Ken-East and Ken-West. If your 7th grader would like to try out for a fall modified, JV or Varsity sport it is highly recommended they see the school nurse to set up an appointment. Have a happy, healthy and active spring.

## Grade 5 News

Continuing with the theme of important figures in America, the students will begin with a brief study of the importance of sports in American culture over time. The heart of this module is a whole class study of the short biography, *Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America*. Students will analyze Jackie Robinson as a specific example of an athlete who served as a leader who broke barriers in society. They will build their writing skills by crafting clear opinions and providing sufficient reasons and evidence.

In Social Studies, we are comparing and contrasting Mexico, Canada, and the United States governments.

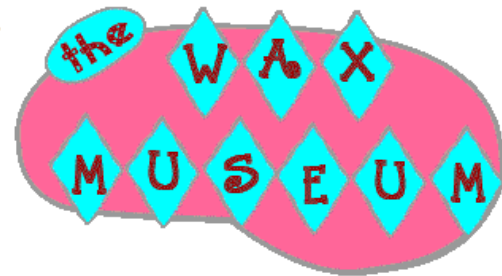
In Math, we will begin Module 6 which focuses on data distribution using plots and histograms on graph paper.

In Science, we will end the year focusing on systems on space and earth's systems. Mrs. Cummins, Mrs. Stoerr, and Miss Todaro would like to congratulate all the students that participated in the Living Wax Museum. Mrs. Hall, Mr. Marcinelli, and Mrs. Anzalone had fun using the new Chromebooks. The students will be working on a computer project in May using the new Chromebooks. The students will be demonstrating how to solve math problems with a partner.

From all of us in 5th grade, we would like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy summer!



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## 6th Grade ROCKS

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## Grade 6 Team BPR



Team BPR (Butler, Pilato, Roberts) has been eager to see more signs of spring. Instead, we have all seen too much of the white stuff during the month of April. To distract ourselves (as we *patiently* wait for the milder, sunnier weather) we have been working diligently so that our last quarter of 6th grade is a positive, sunny one.

In ELA classes we have been developing our argumentative writing skills by selecting the best evidence (details/quotes) to support a claim (answer or opinion statement). We have also collaboratively researched a topic of our choosing from The Great Depression Era and created a Google slideshow to share those facts with our peers. We are reading Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis and are enjoying the main character, Bud, as he faces many challenges with eyes wide open and a heart full of hope. We are also collecting items, or money, to assist other students who are in foster care through a program called Care Cases.

In Math classes we have been studying concepts of geometry. We are building on 4th and 5th grade concepts of area and volume. Students are using fractional side lengths to determine volumes of rectangular prisms and learning how to “work backwards” when volumes are known, but side lengths are missing.

With the NYS Math Assessments coming up in early May, we have also been conducting comprehensive reviews of concepts learned starting last September. Looking ahead, we will be taking a look at the surface areas of three-dimensional objects and concluding the year with a study of data analysis and statistics.

In Social Studies classes, we just finished a unit on the Israelites. We discussed the importance of the Torah in the Jewish religion. We talked about monotheism (belief in one god) and polytheism (belief in many gods) and how each religion is unique and special to those who practice it. In our next unit, we will be learning about the Ancient Greeks. Among other things, we’ll compare and contrast Athenian Democracy with American Democracy. We will compare the city-states of Athens and Sparta. We will delve into some of the cool myths and traditional stories about Greek gods and heroes. We’ll finish up the unit talking about Greek philosophers and Alexander the Great. We’ll finish up the year talking about Ancient Rome.

In Science classes, we are in the middle of a unit on Sound Waves and Hearing. Soon we will be comparing sound and light and figuring out how light is different from sound. Our next unit will be Force and Motion. We will discuss potential and kinetic energy. We will also analyze how distance, time and speed are related. We will wrap up the year talking about Electricity and Magnetism.

We are looking forward to a fabulous 4th quarter and a very successful and fun end of the school year! (-:



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## Team 7-1 Update

It has been a busy spring for Team 7-1!

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** In Mrs. Halt's class, the students are currently finishing a unit on Jacksonian Democracy. We are excited to start our next unit on Social Reform. We will look at problems facing the United States today and focus on the reform movements of the early 1800s. Topics will include: women's rights, temperance, and the abolition of slavery. Recently, students completed writing their second Enduring Issue essay. They worked very hard to analyze documents and connect a variety of historical events that focused on the issue of conflict.

**MATH:** Mrs. Yemma's Math 7 students are finishing up the unit on percent's. Accelerated Math students are in the middle of studying angle relationships. The students have been doing a great job of completing their weekly reviews, getting them checked throughout the week, and earning high scores as a result!

**ELA:** Mr. Kleismit's classes have started their third and final novel, *Fever 1793*. Students are still reading their own independent novels and occasionally listening to a read-aloud of *A Monster Calls in class*. Permission slips for the *A Monster Calls* movie will be coming home soon. The seventh grade also received some exciting news from Water for South Sudan. After completing the Iron Giraffe Challenge in November and raising almost \$1,900 for the charity, Hoover won a drawing for a Skype call with Salva Dut! Salva is one of the main characters in *A Long Walk to Water*, the first book we read this year. Two students from each seventh-grade team will get a chance to ask Salva questions during the Skype call, and the whole grade will be in the audience for the conversation! It's wonderful to have the students' hard work recognized in this way!

**SCIENCE:** In Mr. Spengler's class, the students just finished the unit on Rocks and Minerals. They performed well on a four day Rock and Mineral Identification Lab as a culmination of this section. We are starting Plate Tectonics and Geologic History. This is our last unit of the year. The students will be doing their last Vernier Probeware to investigate convection and conduction currents of the Mantle and Atmosphere. We will be starting our review for the Performance Exam at the end of May and the Written Exam after that. Our students Lab Performance is scheduled for June, 6th, 2018 in class. There will be in-class, on-line, and after school reviews. I will be sending home a letter explaining the reviews with your child. Team 7-1 is working hard, racing toward summer!

## Team 7-1 Continued



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*Above: Mr. Kleismit's homeroom shows off their prize-winning door!*



# Summer Reading BINGO

Read in a hammock.	Listen to an audio recording of a book you are reading.	Make a pillow fort and read in it for 15 minutes.	Read out loud to your friend for 15 minutes.	Read a book of poems.
Try a book you think you won't like (you don't have to finish)	Read to your pet or stuffed animal for 20 minutes.	Read a book recommended by a friend.	Read a biography or an autobiography of a person you admire.	Read under a big leafy tree.
Perform a Readers Theater of your favorite book.	Read out loud to a family member for 20 minutes.	Free Space	Recommend two books to a friend or family member.	Write your own story!
Tell an adult all about your favorite book.	Read while barefoot in the grass.	Read a graphic novel or comic book version of a book you like.	Read a book about summer activities, or where the plot takes place in the summer.	Read while at the beach, pool, lake, or water.
Visit your local library and check out three new books.	Read or write a reimagined fairy tale.	Read two magazine or newspaper articles about current events.	Read a book that was turned into a movie, watch the movie, and compare Versions.	Start a new book series.

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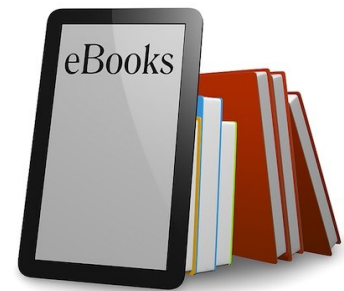
## Amazing Summer Reads

- *Wonder*, by RJ Palacio
- *Harry Potter series*, by JK Rowling
- *Because of Mr. Terupt*, by Rob Buyea
- *Hoot*, by Carl Hiaasen
- *Maximum Ride series*, by James Patterson
- *Out of My Mind*, by Sharon M. Draper
- *Maniac Magee*, by Jerry Spinelli
- *Walk Two Moons*, by Sharon Creech
- *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, by Brian Selznick
- *Smile*, by Raina Telgemeier
- *Drama*, by Raina Telgemeier
- *Schooled*, by Gordon Korman
- *American Born Chinese*, by Gene Luen Yang
- *Ella Enchanted*, by Gail Carson Levine
- *Holes*, by Louis Sachar
- *El Deafo*, by Cece Bell
- *Artemis Fowl series*, by Eoin Colfer
- *The Bad Beginning (A Series of Unfortunate Events)*, by Lemony Snicket
- *The City of Ember*, by Jeanne DuPrau
- *Inkheart*, by Cornelia Funke
- *Dog Years*, by Sally Warner
- *Fish in a Tree*, by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *Mirror, Mirror*, by Marilyn Singer
- *Crash*, by Jerry Spinelli
- *Our Plane is Down!*, by Doug Paton
- *The Time Warp Trio series*, by Jon Scieszka



## Check Out the HMS E-Book Collection!

# ROARS



Need something to read but can't get to the library? Why not check out the library's digital collection! The Hoover Middle School Library offers free eBooks and audiobooks through our OverDrive program. These eBooks and audiobooks can be read on your computer or can be downloaded to your Nook, Kindle, iPad, or other mobile device.

To browse the titles using OverDrive's website, please visit the Hoover Middle School Library website at:

[www.ktufsd.org](http://www.ktufsd.org) and click on "Library" and then on the OverDrive icon. Students can log in using their district username and password and borrow titles for up to two weeks. At the end of the loan period, titles are returned automatically.

To use OverDrive on your mobile device, simply download the free OverDrive app from your app store. If you need help, please contact Ms. Dempsey at [jdempsey@ktufsd.org](mailto:jdempsey@ktufsd.org).

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## News from the Counseling Center

### Career Cruising

Seventh grade students recently used the Career Cruising Program to complete an interactive online career interest inventory during their FACS classes. Using the Career Matchmaker & My Skills assessments, students identified two career areas related to their personal interests & skill sets and then further researched these areas to learn about job responsibilities, work conditions, required education, and salary. Career Matchmaker includes real-life interviews so students can learn firsthand what a typical day is like for professionals in these career areas. Mrs. Vittum explained to the students that it is helpful to identify areas of interest before transitioning to high school so students can align their high school courses with their career or vocational interests to help them better prepare for their futures.

### 8th Grade Scheduling

If your child is interested in taking a music ensemble or one of the four elective offerings (Studio in Art, Design & Drawing for Production, Computers & the Internet, Foods 1 & 2) next year and has not returned their permission form please contact Mrs. Vittum, 874-8405, Ext. 23523 or [kvittum@ktufsd.org](mailto:kvittum@ktufsd.org). Please note that students can select only one elective and that those students who choose to take an additional elective will not have a study hall period in their schedule every day. In addition to the music ensembles and elective offerings, your child may be recommended for placement in honors classes in ELA, Math, and/or Science for 8th grade. If your child is recommended you will be receiving a letter in the near future containing more information.

In addition to the Parent Academy meeting on May 10th, *What to Know before you Go*, 8th grade counselors from Kenmore West, Mrs. Betty Sullivan & Mr. Joseph Lorentz, will be visiting Hoover Middle on May 29th to meet with our 7th grade students during their academic support period to introduce themselves and talk about the transition to 8th grade.

Congratulations to the 2018 National Junior Honor Society Inductees. We had a great turn out for our Induction Ceremony on April 26th! What wonderful students we have here at HMS! Keep up the great work!