

HALL SCHOOL DIGITAL BACKPACK

April 5, 2024

Friday, April 5	Student Council Dance, 7-9pm
Monday, April 8	Nature's Classroom, grades 5 and 6
Monday, April 8	Jazz Band
Tuesday, April 9	Nature's Classroom, grades 6 and 7
Tuesday, April 9	Willington Pizza Jazz Band Fundraiser
Wednesday, April 10	HMS Baseball and Softball Scrimmage at Mansfield Middle, 3:45pm
Thursday, April 11	Last day of WEALTH
April 15-19	No School, April Vacation

Hello, Hall Families!

Here are some events and reminders for Hall Memorial School:

Solar Eclipse

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the sun. The sky will darken as if it were dawn or dusk. The following information includes helpful resources from astronomers, the American Astronomical Society (AAS), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) websites.

The moon will begin to pass in front of the sun at approximately 2:15 p.m. on April 8th. The path of the eclipse here in Connecticut will result in approximately 90% of the sun being blocked by the moon at the height of the event – approximately 3:25 p.m. The maximum darkness that Connecticut will experience will occur at that time for 2-3 minutes before gradually brightening back to normal daylight levels. Therefore, 50% occlusion will occur at approximately 2:50 p.m. and again at 3:50 p.m. The moon will completely pass by the sun by approximately 4:30 p.m. Even at its darkest point (3:25 p.m.), experts indicate that light levels will be similar to dusk or pre-sunset light levels and individuals will be able to see their surroundings. By contrast, light levels during a total eclipse would be similar to visibility during a full moon phase. Except during a brief total phase of a total solar eclipse, when the moon completely blocks the sun's bright face, it is not safe to look directly at the sun without specialized eye protection for solar viewing. Since there will not be a total solar eclipse occurring in Connecticut, there is no safe time to view the event without specialized glasses or filters. Viewing any part of the bright sun, even through a camera lens, binoculars, or a telescope without a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front of the optics, will instantly cause severe eye injury. Viewing must only occur through safe solar viewing glasses ("eclipse glasses") or a safe handheld solar viewer at all times. Eclipse glasses are not regular sunglasses. Regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not safe for viewing the sun. [Safe solar viewers](#) are thousands of times darker and must comply with the [ISO 12312-2](#) international standard. An alternative to eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer, is an [indirect viewing method](#), which does not involve looking directly at the sun. Commonly referred to as a [pinhole projector](#), this method projects an image of the sun onto a nearby surface. Viewing

occurs with the sun at the viewer's back, onto the projected image rather than the sun. Below are websites that may be helpful:

[National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#): This is the official website of NASA and also provides additional safety information regarding the eclipse [Safety \(NASA.GOV\)](#)

[American Astronomical Society](#)

[Eclipse2024.org: https://eclipse2024.org/eclipse_cities/](https://eclipse2024.org/eclipse_cities/)

Mr. Stevens has sent home a communication to families regarding our purchase of glasses for each student and staff member. Students will be given their glasses prior to dismissal. It is always a good idea to have a conversation with your child about safely viewing this natural phenomenon.

Nature's Classroom: We are excited to announce that the Nature's Classroom Program, Nature on Wheels (NOW!), will be coming to Hall Memorial School on Monday, April 8th (5th/6th) and Tuesday, April 9th (7th/8th). Students will be participating in a variety of innovative hands-on learning experiences that engage, educate, encourage, and excite. The cost per student has been completely covered by ARPA Enrichment Funding. A HUGE thank you to the ARPA Commission for this opportunity!

Students should bring the following:

- Appropriate clothing to spend all day outside (rain or shine!)
- Close-toed shoes
- Backpack with extra clothing layer and water bottle
- A bagged lunch and snack (if not getting school lunch)
- A notebook and pencil

Hidden in Plain Sight

In a partnership with Willington Human Services and Ashford Public Schools, Willington Public Schools is pleased to announce that we will be presenting "Hidden in Plain Sight" on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Hall Memorial School gym. This program is intended to educate parents and families about the importance of vigilance and information surrounding the use of illegal substances, where children may hide them, and how to find resources and support if someone you know is using illegal substances. Please join us for this very important program! All are welcome!

Dress Code

With the warmer weather approaching, I wanted to remind families about our [Dress Code Policy](#). It is linked in this document for your review. Students who do not meet our Dress Code will receive a warning regarding their clothing. If they do not follow the guidelines set forth again, consequences will be applied. This includes asking parents to bring clothing items to school that meet the dress code, or finding a suitable replacement in the nurse's office. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Soccer News

A coach for the Girls' Soccer team has been identified! We are pleased that Mr. Gary Anderson has stepped up to help us with our season! We are still looking for a coach for the Boys' team! Potential players are encouraged to play some soccer during the spring and/or summer. WAM United and other clubs host spring teams and a list of camps is available here: [Camps & Clinics \(wamunited.com\)](#). More information will be coming later this spring.

Police Presence

Due to the high incidence of speeding on Route 32 in front of the school, we have been lucky to have the police stationed along the road. Please be mindful of this as you are passing through or dropping your student(s) off to school.

HMS Spring Fling

The Student Council is sponsoring a spring dance for our 7th and 8th grade students scheduled to take place on Friday, April 5, 2024 from 7-9 pm. The cost of attending is \$8. Permission slips have been handed out in homerooms.

HMS Jazz Night at Wellington Pizza

Our talented Jazz Band will be performing at Wellington Pizza on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 beginning at 6:30. Musicians should arrive no later than 6:15 so that they can get tuned up and ready to go! Wellington Pizza donates a percentage of all dine in and take out orders to the HMS Activity Fund, and will help to support our Great East trip and other endeavors of our music students.

Also a reminder to band and chorus families that the second Great East Trip payment is due next Friday, April 12th. Please reach out to Mr. Kennon or Mr. Sonnenberg with any questions.

Spirit Wear

Below you will find links to each school's personalized website! Please let us know if you have any questions!

[CES](#)

[CES Staff](#)

[HMS](#)

[HMS Staff](#)

Thank you and have a great weekend!

Mary Kay Tshonas, Principal

Flyers:

Dance Committee Flocking Time

WPRD Spring Camp

4-H Camp

WHS Comedy Show

Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue

WPS Hidden in Plain Sight

Mansfield Community Center April Camp

Mansfield Community Center Parking Lot Picasso's

Science Night

Youth Tennis Lessons

Vale Soccer Clinic

Cub Scout Pack 82