



Good evening PSPA Middle Grades Students and Parents,

We are so proud of our 8th graders who completed their PBL Unit on 9/11 and displayed their remembrance projects outside during the day that day. Students were tasked with learning about a specific topic about that day and to produce a creative way to present it. We had students create sculptures, paintings, and all kinds of displays. If you were unable to view them that day, you can find some pictures on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

A huge thank you to Detective Jamie Clarke of the HSPD for coming out to talk about his experience that day in New York, and to John Scott who came to tell the story of his childhood friend, Welles Crowther, the Red Bandana Man. Both were passionate about continuing to educate our students about that day, and we appreciate them coming out.

Here are some updates for this week:

Midterm-Quarter 1

I cannot believe that I just typed those letters above. As of this upcoming Thursday, we will be halfway through the first quarter of the school year. It has flown by.

Students now have access to Infinite Campus and should be able to show you their grades. Please be sure to check them and reach out to your child's teachers if you have any questions or concerns.

We are diligently working to get parents access through the Parent Portal. We appreciate your patience with that.

Dress Down Day

This upcoming Friday is our first Dress Down Day of the year. Please work with us to make sure students are wearing appropriate attire for that day. We do not want to have to call you to bring your child a change of clothes.

 [PSPA Dress Code 2024/2025](#)

iREADY UPDATE

We were so happy that we were able to begin work on iReady this past week. Students took the Reading and Math diagnostic tests during ELA and Math, and we will be analyzing scores and discussing them with the students. Students will begin working on their Individualized Learning Path this week.

MESSAGE FROM THE PSPA PTO:

We are getting ready for our Middle School Lock-Ins! Click the links for more information:

8th Grade Lock-In on Friday, September 20th: Click here -> <https://bit.ly/4e9tmWf>

PTO Membership Information:

PSPA PTO seeks to involve ALL families and staff through membership and a variety of optional activities, events, and initiatives as we SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS! Join the PTO to be a part of the numerous ways we support our teachers, staff, students, administrators, and families! Last year, over 54% of Pioneers joined the PTO. Please help us reach this goal again!

Our PTO membership is ANNUAL, so we encourage all families/staff to join each year! Any level of involvement is welcomed. Membership does not obligate you to attend PTO meetings, volunteer, or fundraise; it is simply a tax-deductible donation to the PSPA PTO that supports our many contributions to our one-of-a-kind school!

Click here to join -> <https://bit.ly/JoinPSPAPTO>

Student Vendors at the Holiday Shop

Are you a young entrepreneur and want to showcase your business and sell your handcrafted items? Back again this year at the Holiday Shop, the PTO will accept applications from middle school students who are interested in selling their handmade items. If you have any questions, email the PTO at info@psppto.org. Applications are due by Monday, September 30th!

[Apply Here](#)

[Student Vendor Terms and Conditions](#)

HALLOWEEN DANCE

Join us for our first annual [Middle School Halloween Dance](#) on September 27th in our middle school gym. Enter, IF YOU DARE, through the gym doors for a ghoulish good time from 6-8 p.m. Tickets will be on sale soon and there will be plenty of haunting sweets and treats for sale at our concession stand - CASH ONLY!

All proceeds will benefit our Pioneers traveling to Europe!

You can find more information and the permission slip [here](#).

ATHLETICS

Our Fall Athletics Teams continue to impress on the fields, courts, and courses! Here is the schedule for next week:

FROM OUR PBL COACH

Please click on the [linked document](#) to view the current Project-Based Learning units our students are working on.

From the Parks & Recreation department in the Town of Holly Springs

The Teen Recreation Advisory Council (TRAC) is a group of local middle- and high-school students who are committed to enhancing our community through leadership and service. Members enjoy early access to volunteer opportunities and receive a TRAC t-shirt. Non-members are always welcome to join our monthly meetings, and members are encouraged to bring guests. If you think your child (ages 13 and up) might be interested, they can register using [this link](#).

We have several fall events coming up that rely heavily on volunteer support. Please note that we ask all volunteers to be **at least 13 years old**, so this will be especially relevant for **8th-grade students** who may have volunteer goals that need to be met.

- [The Haunted Trail](#) Saturday, October 12th, 4:00-11:30PM, Sugg Farm Park. Volunteer Meetings: 9/11/24 (today!) at 6:30pm, Bass Lake Park or 9/25/24 at 6:30pm, Bass Lake Park. Questions? Reach out to Steve at steve.mcelhaney@hollyspringsnc.gov
 - What is “The Haunted Trail”? The annual haunted trail at Sugg Farm in October is recommended for ages 14 and older, but younger children are allowed when accompanied by a parent. Along the trail, you'll find all types of monsters ranging from zombies to scary clowns and everything in between. This haunted trail is not for the faint of heart!
 - Volunteers will be part of the show – dressed in costume and doing all the scaring!
- [Family Spooktacular](#) Saturday, October 12th, 1:00-4:00PM
 - What is “The Family Spooktacular”? Geared for ages 3-11, this free event includes candy stations, games, and slime-making. Children are invited to participate in costume contests. Gather around the fire to roast marshmallows to perfection for smore’s.

- [Holly Fest](#) Saturday, October 26th, 11:00AM-2:00PM or 3:30-5:30PM
 - What is “Holly Fest”? This annual, family-friendly event celebrates Holly Springs and all the people, places, and services that our community has to offer. Featuring local artists, businesses, food vendors, children’s activities, and local entertainment; this free event is a Holly Springs tradition.

Holly Springs Winter Guard



Do you like music, dancing and making new friends!

Come check out the Indoor Winter Guard information meeting & enjoy 2 trial classes to see if it's for you!

Students perform with a competitive team on the local circuit.

If you are interested in joining Hawks, please fill out the following form by scanning the QR code.

Holly Springs WINTER GUARD

Interest Meeting
Monday September 23, 2024
6:30 pm
Holly Springs High School

Junior Hawks is grades 6-8!
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!
ALL are welcome!

POSITIVITY PROJECT

This week, our school community will focus on the Other People Mindset of ***Being present and giving others my attention***. This means when we are with other people, we are present and give them our full attention.

In today's world, it's easy to get distracted by phone calls, messages, and social media. These distractions can pull us away from what's most important — our relationships with other people.

Just as plants need sunlight to grow, our relationships need attention. If we don't give our full attention when we are with our family, friends, and even colleagues, we can't build strong relationships. It's crucial to put down our phones and tablets and really listen when others are talking. Positive relationships are the foundation of a positive culture, and we can't build positive relationships without attention.

To practice and encourage the Other People Mindset of being present and giving others our attention, please visit the Positivity Project's [P2 for Families](#). There, you will watch a video clip together and discuss a quote and three questions.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

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[**8th Grade Plan Book**](#)

[**7th Grade Plan Book**](#)

[**6th Grade Plan Book**](#)