



Herkon Middle School

Home of the Hawks

Herkon Middle School
29 Billings Road
Herkon, ME 04401

Zackary Freeman
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Angie Davis
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August 19th, 2025

Herkon Middle School Community,

I hope you are enjoying a great summer. With only a couple of short weeks left until school begins, I wanted to provide you with some important information. School starts for all grades on August 28th, 2025. **We are ready for a great school year ahead!**

Open House: August 27th

On August 27th, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, we will be opening our doors to the families of Herkon Middle School. During this time, parents and students will meet their new teachers, have a chance to tour the building, and be given a paper copy of the student's schedules. All are encouraged to come by for a few minutes and get acquainted with the building and some new and returning faces among the staff.

Schedules for fifth-grade students were emailed out in July; all other schedules are in PowerSchool.

Supply Lists

All students should arrive on August 28th with the following supplies. If you are unable to afford supplies, please email me directly, and I will work with local organizations to ensure you have what you need. Anyone who reaches out will stay anonymous.

Grade 5

- Reading
 - Composition Notebook
 - 2 Plastic two-pocket folders
- Writing
 - Composition Notebook
 - Two-pocket folder
- Science/Social Studies
 - Composition Notebook
 - Two-pocket folder
- Math
 - Composition Notebook
 - Double-sided tape (optional)
- General
 - Pencil box/case with:
 - Pencils
 - Eraser(s)
 - Hand-held pencil sharpener
 - Glue stick
 - Colored Pencils
 - Water bottle

Grade 6

- Required:
 - 4- 1 inch binders
 - 2 packages of lined paper
 - 3 composition notebooks (NOT spiral bound)
 - Pencils
 - Tab dividers (1 package of 8 dividers)
 - Pens (blue or black)
 - Black Sharpie
 - Optional:
 - Color pencils
 - Markers
-



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Grade 7

- Science:
 - 2-Pocket Folder
 - Single Subject Notebook
- ELA:
 - 2x 2-Pocket Folders
 - 2 composition Notebooks
- Math:
 - 1 Composition Notebook
 - Loose Lined Paper(1 package)
 - 1 inch Binder
- Social Studies
 - Single Subject Notebook
 - 2-Pocket Folder
- All Classes:
 - Pencil Bag with- Pencils
 - Cap Erasers, Pens
 - Highlighter
 - Glue Sticks
 - Block Eraser
- Optional Donations for the Classroom:
 - Markers
 - Colored Pencils

Grade 8

- 2 composition journals (100-page bound book, Black and white)
- 3 one-subject notebooks
- 3 Pocket Folders
- Colored pencils
- Pens (black or blue only)
- Pencils
- Scotch tape
- Scissors

Changes for the 2025-26 School Year

We are enacting the following changes for the 2025-26 school year.

- We will continue with our new grading scale; however, we have reviewed the outcomes from the 2024-25 school year and are concerned with grade inflation (grades showing higher than the ability shown by the student). We will be making a concerted effort to ensure grades provided accurately show the level of understanding for a student.
- We will continue having recess for each grade.
- We will continue our absolutely no cell phone policy from the time students enter the building until the time they leave the building.
- We have extended our lunch period from 21 minutes to 25 minutes to better align with the research around how long lunch should be in middle school.
- We implement a program called Hawk Time on the second Friday of each month to build stronger student-teacher relationships. Research shows that the stronger the student-teacher relationship, the more likely meaningful learning can take place.
- We will implement a new model during our academic support periods called the 20/20/20 model. This model ensures that each student has 20 minutes of silent sustained reading each day, 20 minutes of math intervention, and 20 minutes of independent work. This will increase the amount of homework students have any given evening.
- We will implement a homework club during lunch. A student who does not complete their homework will be assigned to this club. They will eat their lunch in the library while finishing unfinished assignments.



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2025-26 Bell Schedule

Grades 5-8		
Period	Times	Length
Gym	7:30 - 7:45	15 Minutes
Homeroom	7:45 - 7:54	9 Minutes
Period 1	7:57 - 8:53	56 Minutes
Period 2	8:56 - 9:52	56 Minutes
Period 3	9:55 - 10:51	56 Minutes
Period 4	10:54 - 12:19 5th/6th Grades 10:54 - 11:19 Lunch 11:22 - 12:19 Class 7th/8th Grades 10:54 - 11:51 Class 11:54 - 12:19 Lunch	25 Minutes (Lunch) 3 Minute Passing 57 Minutes
Period 5	12:22 - 1:18	56 Minutes
Period 6	1:21 - 2:17	56 Minutes

School Hours: School doors open at 7:25 am. Students must proceed to the HMS gymnasium. Students must remain in the HMS gymnasium until they are dismissed for homeroom at 7:40 am. Students are not to be in the building before 7:25 am. *Exceptions can only be made through conversations with administration.* On occasion, teachers may make arrangements to meet with students at an earlier time for the purpose of academic assistance or an activity. Breakfast will be served from 7:25 am to 7:45 am.

Students not participating in after-school activities/academic assistance must leave the building and school grounds by 2:30 pm. All students staying after school must be under the direct supervision of a staff member.

* On early releases, assembly schedules, and late starts, lunch will be 21 minutes versus 25 minutes.

School Sprinkler System

Over the summer, the school's sprinkler system water pump malfunctioned and needs replacement. We are currently working on replacing it, and it may be offline until October. The fire alarm system remains operational and automatically notifies the fire department. According to the fire department, it is considered safe; however, like you, we believe that having a functioning sprinkler system is safer, so we will restore it as quickly as possible.



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Importance of Attendance

During the 2024-25 school year, we saw another nearly 1% increase in average daily attendance! This is a fantastic increase, and I would love to see it again. Students whose attendance is below 95% will be placed on an attendance incentive plan. Additionally, students with perfect or exemplary attendance will be given a certificate and a reward for attending nearly all the time.

We need to receive a phone call or email to Patricia Dearborn (patricia.dearborn@schools.hermon.net) before 9:00 a.m. on the day of an absence. Failure to do so will result in the absence being recorded as an unexcused absence.

ALICE

Hermon School District implemented a research-based method of addressing critical situations last year. The program being implemented is called ALICE, which stands for “Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Confront, Evacuate.” This aims to ensure students and educators have the necessary tools to address any potential situation. Deputy Boyd, our school resource officer, will explain the meaning of ALICE to students on the first day of school. This will be tailored to middle school-age students. The takeaway we want our students to have is to listen to their teacher and understand that the old way of lockdowns is not what we will do if there is a threat.

2025-26 School Goals

Hermon Middle School is in the process of developing our 2025-26 school year goals. These goals will surround the following three areas.

- Foster a collaborative learning environment for all students by integrating community involvement in curriculum and activities, building relationships with families, and providing targeted support for at-risk students.
- Utilize data-driven differentiation, targeted teacher support, and continuous progress monitoring to foster student success.
- Develop and adopt instructional practices that optimize brain function and encourage critical thinking skills for all learners in every classroom.

We will work with all stakeholders to ensure we can accomplish these goals. I firmly believe that Hermon Middle School is capable of greatness!

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached by phone at 207-848-4071 or, if you prefer, by email at zack.freeman@schools.hermon.net.

Sincerely,

Zackary Freeman
Principal
Hermon Middle School