



Coordinator's Corner

October is here and the after school SPARKS program is in full swing. In order for your child to get the most out of program, attendance is very important. Most of our activities last at least a few days so your child will miss out if they aren't here for the entire week. If your child is going to miss program for any reason I must have a note or phone call in order for it to be excused. More than 3 unexcused absences and your child may not be able to attend special events or field trips. After 6 unexcused absences they may be removed from the program.

I am very excited to have such a great group of students this year and I know we are going to learn a lot and have a great time!

**HMS SPARKS is on the web! Check us out at
hmssparks.weebly.com**

FYI

Attendance is a very important part of our program. Students are expected to stay for the entire length of program and attend all 4 days. If your child is picked up please try to wait until 5:15 to sign them out. If you have any questions about this policy please feel free to contact me.

We now serve dinner as well as an afternoon snack during PM SPARKS. Students really seem to be enjoying the majority of the items served and are also introduced to some new foods that they may not normally have the chance to experience.

We welcome comments, questions and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Office Phone: 630-5039
SPARKS Cell: 387-1941
Email: awinters@cgresd.net

Don't forget to check out the S.P.A.R.K.S. Advisory Board and leave us a comment, question or suggestion.

We would love to hear from you!

<http://sparksadvisory.edublogs.org/>

Schedule of Events

- October 8th - No School
- October 18th—Lights on After School Cookout at City Park (parents invited!)
- October 25th—HMS Science Night 4:00—6:00 and Halloween Dance 6:00—8:00
- October 31st– Happy Halloween! **NO TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION**
- November 9th—Student Advisory group meeting 7:30AM
- November 14th— Market Day Field Trip to the RESD
- November 15th and 16th— NO SCHOOL
- November 21st—1/2 day of school and SPARKS field trip. (More information to follow)
- November 22nd and 23rd— NO SCHOOL



OCTOBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Homecoming	6
7	8 <i>No School PTC</i>	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 LOAS	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <i>HMS Science Night/Dance</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31 <i>Happy Halloween</i>			

NOVEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Student Advisory Group</i>	10
11	12	13	14 <i>Field Trip</i>	15 <i>No School</i>	16 <i>No School</i>	17
18	19	20	21 <i>1/2 Day of School SPARKS FT</i>	22 <i>No School</i>	23 <i>No School</i>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Parents Corner: PARENT TEST-SUPPORT STRATEGIES

MEAP testing will begin soon. Below are some tips to help your child do their best!

Testing Day

- See that your child is rested and eats breakfast.
- See that your child arrives at school on time and is relaxed.
- Encourage your child to do the best work possible.
- Do not remove your child from school on test days for appointments.

TEST ANXIETY

Students may experience anxiety about tests and may experience heightened anxiety before a testing situation. A certain degree of test anxiety is normal and may help students prepare more effectively, work more efficiently, and remain focused during testing. Too much anxiety, however, can negatively affect performance. The following strategies may assist students, parents, and teachers in reducing test anxiety.

Parent Strategies for Reducing Test Anxiety

- Discuss the test openly and in a positive way.
- Have realistic expectations of your child's performance while encouraging his/her best efforts.
- Emphasize that the test is only one measure of academic performance.
- Emphasize that test scores do not determine a person's worth.

Lights On After School

October 18th, 2012 is our annual Lights on After School Celebration. This year's event will be held at the City Park from 4:00—5:15. **Come join us for dinner and fun!** We will be serving Hotdogs, chips and fruit. Families are invited! In order to have accurate numbers for dinner, please fill out and return the attached permission slip as soon as possible.

Halloween

This year Halloween falls on a Wednesday and Trick or Treating in Harrison runs from 5:30—7:30pm. The SPARKS programs will be open, however, **transit transportation will not be available.** In order to help us plan our activities, please fill out the attached permission slip letting me know whether or not your child will be attending program that night.