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## The Castle Caller

A Student Newspaper

End of Year Edition 2014

### *Eighth Graders Bid Farewell to the Castle*

By Lisa McDonough  
Senior Reporter

Time to get the tissue boxes out, because it is the time of the year when we eighth graders all move on to high school. Most kids at HEMS will just move up a grade, get a new class, and make some new friends. However, 8th graders are in a special place. They will be moving on to either the high school, the Academy of Sciences building, the 9th Grade Center, or even to another district. I asked some of my classmates what their favorite memory of being in the Castle was and whether or not they will be looking forward to leaving this school?

**Nya Ruta** said that since she has only been here about half of the year she does not have many memories, however her favorite one was walking into reading class and meeting one of her new best friends. She did not really like 8th grade, and is looking forward to going to high school soon.

**Autumn Gunn** liked 8th grade and said her favorite memory was meeting her best friend Nancy in 4th grade. She is looking for-

ward to going to high school also.

**Cassidy Kishbaugh** liked 8th grade and said her favorite memory was talking to her friends (and hopefully soon-to-be more than friends). She is also

looking forward to high school, but is reluctant to be leaving HEMS.

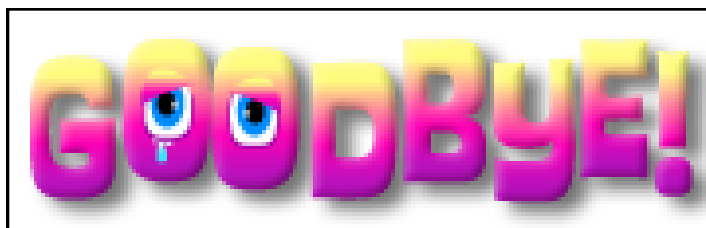
**Aneli Ramos** and **Cassidy Lugo** both liked 8th grade and all of the dances. They are both sad and happy to be leaving the Castle. They are looking forward to what high school has to offer them.

**Eden Vitacco** said her favorite memory was 6th grade, in general, and she is looking forward to the future.

Going along with the 6th grade theme, **Eric Martinez** said his favorite memory was accidentally denting a wall in his 6th grade reading class. That

sounds eventful! The 6th grade teachers should feel proud they had such eventful classes!

**Anselmo Jimenez** and **Emily Stank** said their favorite memory was hanging out with friends. Anselmo is



looking forward to high school, while Emily is not. However, they are both glad to be leaving the Castle.

**Nelson Perez** said his favorite and most embarrassing memory was the drama club play this year. He is in-between glad and mournful to be leaving the Castle to go to high school.

**Marlo Tufino** said he liked 8th grade and will always consider Mr. Hudock's class his favorite memory. He is looking forward to high school, but is sad to be leaving.

**Jessica Bric** loved the championship games during basketball seasons. She can't wait for high school, but is

definitely upset about leaving.

**Marialis Ortiz** and **Jaquelyn Chapa** both said their favorite memory was the Valentine's Day Dance. Marialis is not looking forward to leaving, however Jaquelyn is.

**Norbelia Gonzalez** said her favorite memory was her time spent in drama club and she is going to miss the teachers.

As for me, I loved all of my time here. It has been an honor to write for all of you. I wish you all good luck in whatever grade you are going to. Make as many memories as you can while you have the time. I know that is one message all eighth grade can agree on. Good luck, everyone!

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# The Year in Review

## Highlights from the 2013-2014 School Year



**2013-2014 HEMS Mountaineers!**





# Elementary News

## Sixth Grade Fears About Middle School

By Stephanie Ruiz and Abigail Santos  
Junior Reporters

Are sixth graders worried about going to middle school?

We asked some sixth graders if they are worried about starting middle school next year and a lot of them said, "Yes!" Some do not feel ready. Some students say they are afraid of mean teachers. (We think they are talking about you Mr. Hearne!!)

**Nathaniel Abreu**, sixth grade, said he is scared because he knows

the teachers are going to be stricter and harder.

**Aliyah Baldwin** is worried because she might not be with her friends in classes. She is also confused about switching classes.

**Amberly Ventura** is also worried about switching classes and is worried about the drama of meeting new people.

Sixth grader **Joseph Dejesus** doesn't want to come to middle school because he is scared there

is going to be bullying!

**Joshua Ramirez** is afraid of getting detention.

**Adrian Nivar** said he isn't ready to be waking up earlier, doing harder work, doing projects, and opening locker combinations.

**Evelyn Lopez** hopes to have nice teachers and hopes to have good grades.

**Sarah Mordan's** biggest fear is that she might have trouble with the

work.

**Edgar Pena** is afraid the teachers are meaner.

**Diana Santana's** fear is the teachers are going to be strict.

**Nicolle Garcia** is nervous about the teachers and switching classes.

**Daveiel Tejada** is scared of switching classes and detention.

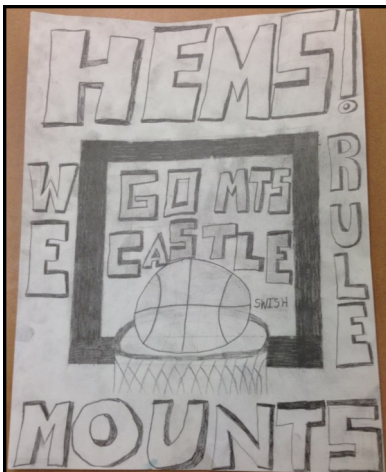
All in all, most sixth graders are afraid of middle school teachers. Good luck to all sixth graders next year!

## 4th Grade Winner of Logo Contest

By Marialis Ortiz\*  
Junior Reporter

Recently HEMS held a logo design contest for all students. The idea was for students to design a school logo that would be screen printed on sweat-shirts that can be worn to school. Each grade level selected a student winner and all winners competed

against each other for the grand prize of being the designer behind the school sweatshirt. Mrs. Rafalli was in



charge of the contest. She thought it was a good idea to support the kids.

Fourth grader **Adrian Figueroa** was the winner. He said he felt happy to win and he was just being creative. He thought the project was lots of fun!

Hoodies will be sold soon. Please buy one to support HEMS.

## Seventh Graders Worry Too!

By Kylie Gerhart  
Junior Reporter

Summer is coming soon., but we all know it has to end. The sixth graders are not the only ones with fears about the new school year. Our seventh graders entering eighth grade have a few worries about their last year at HEMS in middle school.

**Dilauri Hernandez** is happy to go to eighth, but is worried it will be harder. Plus it's one step closer to the rest of her life!

**Samantha Caba** is scared the teachers will be mean. She feels it will be more difficult.

**Kimberly Holguin** is excited to move on, but nervous too. She knows it is going to be different and harder.

**Christian Vache** is scared, but he said he knows all of the teachers because of his older sister.

**Gabrielle Catrone** and **Kelvin Gonzalez** said they are nervous because of the changes.

**Tiffany Guerrero** thinks eighth grade will be easy. She is use to eighth grade work from helping her sister.

**Darlene Antonio** has mixed emotions, but she wants to go to eighth so she can cheer again.

**Angelina Dicola** feels excited because it's another step closer to going to high school and it's an honor to be the highest grade in the school.

# FEATURES

## Student vs. Teacher Basketball Rivalry Set

By Jacky Dominguez and Yelisa Lora  
Junior Reporters\*

Are you ready for this year's Students vs. Teachers Basketball Game Fundraiser? This exciting event is enjoyed by all. This year it will be held on May 8th. Get ready because there will be fun events, including a 3-point shot contest, tricky trays, 50/50s, and a bike raffle! There will also be lots of food!

Last year the teachers won. Will the students win back the title this year? We spoke to some teachers and students

who played last year to see how they feel about this year's game.

Middle school teacher Mrs. Robbins, who will be playing this year, feels very confident about this year's competition. She said, "The students will definitely lose because I don't lose. They are going down....HARD!"

Mr. Hearne, seventh grade English teacher, said, "The students

should win, but teachers always win."

Mr. Silva, the school interpreter, said, "We are trying to keep our title and it should be a good show." No question about it the teachers are not going to make it easy for the students to get the title back this year.

The students, however, feel differently about this year's match up.



Mounts basketball player **Eli Echavarria** said the students WILL win and he is going to block Mr. Hearne.

Mounts girls' basketball team players **Mariah Coles** and **Jessica Cusatis** both feel very positive the students will win this year.

No matter what it will be a good show. Doors will open at 5:30 and the game starts at 6:00. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. Come out and support HEMS!

## What Will You Do in Summer 2014?

By Nancy Bucci & Yandra Del Rosario  
Junior Reporters\*

Surfs up! Finally the sun came out and the snow has melted away! So what are the students and teachers of HEMS planning to do with their summer?

Some people are going to spend their summer with like families. For example, **Anselmo Jimenez**, eighth grade, said, "I'm going to the Dominican Republic and a resort. I'm going to spend time with my family."

**Mrs. Gogola**, elementary music, said, "I plan to spend a lot of time with my parents, help them clean the house, and hopefully do something fun."

A lot of people are leaving the state, and some are even leaving the country! **Julio**

**Rumaldo**, seventh grade, said, "I'm going to a music camp, DR, and NYC."

**Mr. Schifano**, eighth grade teacher, said, "I'm going to the Outer Banks in North Carolina. And I'm going golfing and fishing."

Eighth grader **Onely Espino** said, "I'm going to Brooklyn to visit my family." She also said she has plans to go to Alaska, waterparks, and Disneyworld!

Other HMS students plan to work on their hobbies. **Emi-**



**ly Stank**, eighth grade, said, "I'm going to Delaware to do artwork."

**Mr. Whitley**, seventh and eighth grade teacher, said, "I'm going to coach softball and soccer. I'm also going to take a grad class and fix my house."

Mrs. Piccotti said, "I'm going to the beach to teach my son to fish."

Seventh grader **Chelsea LaRochelle** said, "I'm going to South Carolina to see my

cousins and read books."

**Bryan Gonzalez**, seventh grade, said, "I'm going to Washington, D.C. to go to Great Waves and visit my uncle."

**Jose Eyevas**, HMS student, said, "I am going to New York. Then going fishing and to Splish Splash (water park)."

The majority of people plan to have fun and relax. It was a long, cold winter and everyone wants to take advantage of the warm, summer sun and enjoy it the best way they can.

Whatever fun summer activities you plan to do, just remember to be safe while you are having fun. We will see everyone in September!

# OPINION

## **Eighth Grade CHAT**

By: Yulimar Abreu, Jenifer Arias, and Nisel Florentino  
Senior Reporters\*

**Will you miss the Castle next year or  
are you ready to start high school?**

**82% Ready for High School :)**

**18% Miss the Castle :(**

*\*Based on a poll taken of over 100 HMS eighth grade students.*

Hazleton Area High School, the Career Center, the Stem School...so many different choices for this year's eighth grade class to choose from. It's stressful enough starting out a new school year, but it's even worse going to a new building with new teachers and more responsibilities. For some people, it's a relief to be leaving middle school and making a fresh start somewhere new.

This edition of Mounts Corner Chat focuses on the eighth graders feelings about moving on to high school.

Eighth grade students like **Shaimelys Maldonado** said, "I think I'm ready to leave the Castle because it's time to experience a new grade and

make new memories."

**Kaesy Hernandez** said, "Yea, I'm ready to move on to high school, explore and experience new things, and meet new people."

We all have to move on sometime, right? What's the fun in staying in one place for a long period of time and enjoying nothing new?

**Xavier Cuadrado** said he wanted to leave. He's ready.

**Kaitlyn Verbitsky** said she is ready to leave because she is prepared for high school.

**Eric Martinez** is ready. He commented, "I am counting down the days."

**Zuleyka Rivera** feels conflicted. She said, "I'm so excited to move on, but it's going to be ex-

tremely scary."

**Omar Diaz** is ready for the freedom and choices that come along with entering high school. He said, "I want to pick my own classes."

**Anna Colon** said, "I am super ready to move on because I know this school like the back of my hand."

**Michelle Almonte** is ready. She said she really doesn't like it here at the Castle. That's too bad.

Though the majority of eighth graders are ready to leave the Castle and start their high school career, some students have other feelings towards leaving middle school. **Seidy Bobadilla** said, "I don't want leave because I'm going to miss my friends and old teachers. Plus the hot

boys!"

This year's end of the year poll found that the majority of eighth graders at the Castle were ready to move on to high school with a huge 82% of the votes. There were, however, those few students, with 18% of the votes, who say they will miss the Castle for reasons varying from missing friends and teachers to just those who don't like change. Whatever the reason may be, we all have to move on in life. Change is good. It keeps you learning.

Hopefully all the eighth grade students make a good decision on which school they plan to attend next year. We wish everyone good luck and we'll see you next year!

# IMPORTANT INFO

## Middle School Cheerleading Tryouts

Cheerleading tryouts will be held the week of June 9th. Tryouts will be held at the Ninth Grade Building. Any student trying out for cheerleading will need a physical exam before June 9th. No one will be permitted in to tryouts unless they have their physical completed and paperwork handed in.

### OPTIONS:

A FREE SPORTS CLINIC will be held at HAHS on **Saturday, May 31st**. Forms for the clinic are available in the nurse's office.

Physicals at PRIVATE DOCTORS must be done AFTER June 1st to count towards the 2014-15 school year. It is recommended students attend the sports clinic, or schedule an appointment with their doctor for the first week of June. Those who do not have their medical forms filled out will not be able to participate in cheerleading tryouts. See the nurse for additional information.

We at *The Castle Caller* hope you enjoyed the news our student reporters brought to you this year. *The Castle Caller* is looking for new reporters next year! Sign-ups are in September! Have a great summer!

## Standard-Speaker Student Reporters Sign-up

Any sixth or seventh grader who is interested in working as a student reporter for *The Standard Speaker* must see Mrs. O'Donnell before the end of the year.

Student reporters work for the newspaper club by gathering information on current school events and announcements every week. Two student reporters will be selected.

Reporters take turns gathering the news each week. News is then typed up on your home computer and emailed to Mrs.

O'Donnell each week. *The Standard-Speaker* also pays student reporters a small stipend each month for their work and

contributions to the local newspaper.

If you have a nose for news and enjoy talking to people and

writing small informational stories, see Mrs. O'Donnell ASAP to be considered for next year's reporter. Any teacher who would like to make a recommendation may also do so ASAP. Student reporters will be announced in June.



## The Castle Caller Staff

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\*Denotes Mrs. O'Donnell assisted with the article.

