

The Castle Caller



FREE

A Student Newspaper

Winter Edition 2021

HEMS' Feelings on a Return to Normalcy

By Maximillyano Almanzar-Castillo

Junior Reporter

How many times have you sat down in your chair to get ready for virtual school but wished you were going back to in-person school because you want to see your friends again? Almost everyone wants to go back to school. Here are what teachers and students at the Castle think about returning to in-person instruction.

Joseph Caba, fifth grade, said, "I like online school since it helps us to go to school. But if the pandemic didn't happen I would want to go to school."

Colin Deutsch, fifth grade, said, "If computer problems didn't kick in once in a while, online school would be much better." He said he would like to go to school with proper precautions.

Fifth grade reading teacher **Miss Smith** said, "I like online school since it still helps us learn during the pandemic, but I would like to go back to real school."



Fifth grader **Brandon Torres** said, "Real school is better than online school, but online school is okay."

Fifth grade math teacher **Mrs. Platek** said, "Online school is safer than real school." But she would like to go back to school with proper precautions.

Wilson Ruiz, fifth grade, said, "Online school is easier than real school." He would like to go back to real school.

Keren Gonzalez, a fifth grade student, said, "I think online school is okay, but I would like to go back to school."

This reporter thinks that his fifth grade science and social studies

teacher summed it up best. **Mr. Havrilla** said, "I want to go back to school because I miss the people."

In the end, this is what it all comes down to. People miss people.

Almost everyone interviewed wants to go back to school and would like this pandemic to end. What do you think about online school?

"I want to go back to school because I miss the people."

-Mr. Havrilla, 5th grade Science and Social Studies

2020-2021 Mounts Boys' Basketball Team



Michael Smith
Angel Saladin
Jayson Urena
Aaron Laureano
Derek Perez
Dominic Salvador
Daniel Bates
Jhendrick Perez
Justin Cruz

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Sports Page



Coach Silva on Boys' Ball During Pandemic Times

A Castle Caller Exclusive

We, at *The Castle Caller*, recently had the opportunity to sit down with boys' basketball coach, Mr. Silva, to find out about the challenges he faces coaching during the pandemic, as well as the basics about playing basketball for students who are interested in joining the team. Here is what he had to say.

Caller: How is this season more difficult than others due to the pandemic?

Coach: For starters, the environment has been totally different because fans are not allowed to attend the games. This has been tough for everyone, *ESPECIALLY* the parents, relatives and friends of my basketball players, who are looking forward to seeing their respective players in action this season. Also, there have been some safety restrictions that are obviously in place to protect everyone, but take a little bit off the essence of what the game of basketball is all about.

Caller: What precautions do you take to keep everyone safe?

Coach: Thanks to the Hazleton Area School

District's Athletic Department and the Hazleton Elementary Middle School's administration and maintenance departments, the gym is constantly being monitored, in order to keep it sanitized and clean before and after every practice and the same procedure applies to all games at home, as well.

Before practices and games, players and I must complete a COVID-19 screening to ensure that there are no health concerns that could put the health of other players, or anyone else that participates in practices and/or games at risk.

Players and I also wear masks *ALL* the time during practices and when we are on the bench during games.

Also, all health regulations currently in place are being followed. These regulations include, but are not limited to, social distancing, as much as possible, using hand sanitizers, and not sharing drinks, etc.

I have implemented an extra layer of protection to keep everyone safe. All my players must complete a COVID-19

health assessment when they are away from the team for long periods of time like during Thanksgiving, Christmas, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, etc.

Caller: How is the team doing?

Coach: The team is doing well. All players are starting to become a unit and continue to work hard academically and behaviorally. They are also learning more and more skills needed for the game of basketball.

I encourage fans to watch us on our basketball page. The district and HEMS have posted the information needed for the fans to live stream games. We appreciate the support, even if it is outside our gym.

B-Ball 101

By Reilyn Taveras
Junior Reporter

Q: How many players are on a team this year?

Coach: Usually 15, but 10 because of the pandemic.

Q: What are the positions on a basketball team?

Coach: I have a point guard, a guard, a forward, a power forward, and a shooting guard.

Q: Why are basketball

players usually tall?

Coach: They are tall because they could get closer to the basket, and they have better positions.

Q: How long is a basketball game?

Coach: A basketball game is usually 24 minutes and each quarter is divided into 6 minutes. Overtime is 3 minutes.

Q: When the ball gets stuck between the ring and the backboard what happens?

Coach: If it gets stuck there it will be an out of bounds play, but the team who shot the ball will still have the ball. They just have to get the ball out and they restart the play.

Q: What is the difference between a basketball team and a basketball league?

Coach: The difference between a team and a league is a team is just one group, and a league is a combination of multiple groups.

Q: When a team scores a goal where is the ball placed for a restart?

Coach: The ball will be placed on the right of the baseline or on the left depending on where the referee places it.

Q: Do basketball players have to wear a mask?

Coach: They have an option to wear a mask. The rules have not changed. But if they are on the bench, they must wear a mask.

What's Happening?



Top: Angel Saladin drives to the basket for 2. **Right:** Aaron Laureano lays up a shot during a recent Mountaineer home game.



Club News

NJHS Officers

Announced

Christian Craig—President
Emily Colon—Vice President
Darianny Hernandez—Secretary
Jeremiah Clay—Treasurer

Update: Despite the pandemic, the HEMS NJHS has been completing service projects that benefit those living in the area and others who reside outside of the local community. In December, club members met virtually to write letters of gratitude to military members serving overseas. All letters were forwarded to the Can Do Corporation in conjunction with their holiday drive.

NJHS members are currently working on an inspirational quote project that involves designing a card with an inspirational quote. The goal is to brighten the day of individuals who reside in a local assisted living community. The cards will be distributed in February.

Service hour charts were distributed through Teams. Students interested in being inducted into NJHS should contact Mrs. Dudeck at dudeckl@hasdk12.org for a form.

Yearbook News

The Yearbook Club is working hard to put together this year's yearbook. Everyone will be receiving information shortly about how you can be part of the yearbook. Please watch for this information and if you have any questions, contact Miss Astorino or a member of the Yearbook Club.

Book Club News

The Book Club will be finishing the first novel by the end of February. Anyone interested in joining us to read a second novel should contact Mrs. Dudeck at dudeckl@hasdk12.org.

Valentine's Day Wishes

By Lyla Hernandez
Junior Reporter

What does Valentine's Day mean to you?

Valentine's Day is known for being a day of love. For many people, it is a day to receive chocolate, lollipops, and Valentines, of course. Kids at Hazleton Elementary Middle School usually have a Valentine's Day party where students get to pass out goodie bags and Valentine cards.

This reporter reached out to 6th grade teachers and students to see what Valentine's Day means to them and how things may be different this year

not being in school, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sixth grade computer teacher, **Ms. Shuliga**, said, "I'll tell you what I think about Valentine's day - Lots of chocolate!"

Mrs. Ciampi, 6th grade language arts teacher, said, "I like to do low key activities, but I am disappointed that we cannot party!"

Mrs. Molosky, 6th grade science and social studies teacher, said that it is sad that students will not be able to celebrate Valentine's Day together

this year because it takes their minds off their work and they usually have a good time exchanging things. Now let's hear from the students.

Camila Flores, 6th grade, said she thinks Valentine's Day is great because you get to spend time with friends, but she also thinks it is good to stay home with family.

Gisselle Pena, 6th grade, said, "It is one of my favorite holidays because you can get candy..." Amazing answers!

How do you feel? Do you agree with the rest of the school?

Classroom Showcase - Celebrating MLK

After learning about the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during reading class, students from Mrs. Dudeck's 7th grade class wrote a paragraph about the meaning of one of his famous quotes and how it applies to their lives or the world today. Below are the students' written reflections.

One quote of Martin Luther King, Jr. that really touched me is "Faith is taking the first step even if you don't see the whole staircase." I think this means that if a person has a goal but isn't sure where to begin or if he/she will be successful, the place to begin is having faith. A person needs to believe in himself/herself. A person needs to believe anything is possible. This is important to me because I've had a few situations come up in life where my goal feels impossible to achieve. Especially this year, which was the roughest for me because of the pandemic and more world problems. But here I am, January 15th, , trying my hardest to achieve my goal. ~ **Gladielys Ortiz**

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that. This quote is saying that paying evil back with evil does not work. This quote also reminds me of "Treat others the way you want to be treated." Nobody wants to be disrespected or hated. If someone is mean to you, you must still be nice because "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that". Right now, the world needs to hear this because of all the violence happening. The world was once a peaceful place but now it's filled with chaos. The world is darkness, but we need to be the light. Kindness is what we need. ~**Emely Figueroa**

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." This means that we should learn to be peaceful and treat each other equally instead of fighting and attacking others for a differing opinion. I think this really applies today because of all the hate. Our country is at a huge divide currently and I really believe if we lived by this quote, respected each other's opinion, and decided to only focus on things that are factually correct when it comes to serious issues then the world would be a way better place. ~ **Mason Tobias**

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." I believe that the meaning of his words is to not let anything, or anyone bring you down. Don't let anyone get "inside your head." Don't get discouraged. This quote applies to the world by telling people not to listen to the other people saying, "You can't do it." Instead, ignore those discouraging comments and keep going. Pursue your dreams. ~ **Guyel Hiraldo**

Martin Luther King once said, "Our lives will begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter" and even though he said such quote long ago, till this day we relate. I believe that this quote is so strong and powerful because it means that we were put on this earth, no matter how long it takes, so that one day we will not have to stay silent about what we believe are our rights. It's sad that even though these words were said so long ago, they still relate to current times in the sense that we are still fighting for something that is so normal and common as such as racial equality. It disgusts me that we, as humans, still have to speak up for fair treatment. ~ **Kimberly Tejada**

Martin Luther King, Jr. states, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." I think that this means that even if you feel sad or lost motivation, keep going and never give up. I picked this quote because I feel that it is really inspiring. I also feel as if this quote persuades or inclines you to feel better because it tells you that it's going to get better. You're not going to be sad for all of your life- only a couple moments compared to the infinite hope or happiness that life brings us, but for every sad moment you have a hundred happy moments and you're not going to be sad forever. ~**Carla Tousent**

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." For me that quote means "Don't give up" I know it may be a short meaning, but it leaves a lot to talk about. When you are doing something and you feel like you are not doing it well or you feel that it is a waste of time, remember that things are not always what they seem, I understand that you may feel bad about what you do or you feel insufficient, but you must understand that life sometimes gives you options which are difficult to do or assimilate. For example, in 2020 a pandemic began that changed our lives. It forced us to stay at home, wear masks and keep our distance, and I know that many people have not handled it very well. At first it was very difficult to cope because the pandemic caused many people to die or lose their jobs, but you must give life another chance and not give up. This is why, that quote is important to me, because it may seem that it has a common meaning that we all already know, but it leaves a lot to talk about. ~**Marbelys Pagan Ramirez**

One quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. that caught my eye was "Hate is too great a burden to bear. I have decided to love." When you have hate in your heart it weighs you down, but when you have love in your heart it frees you. This quote applies to my life by saying it's not good to hate on something or someone in my life. It means I should try not to hate something or someone but attempt to love it. ~ **Brooklyn Dela Cruz**

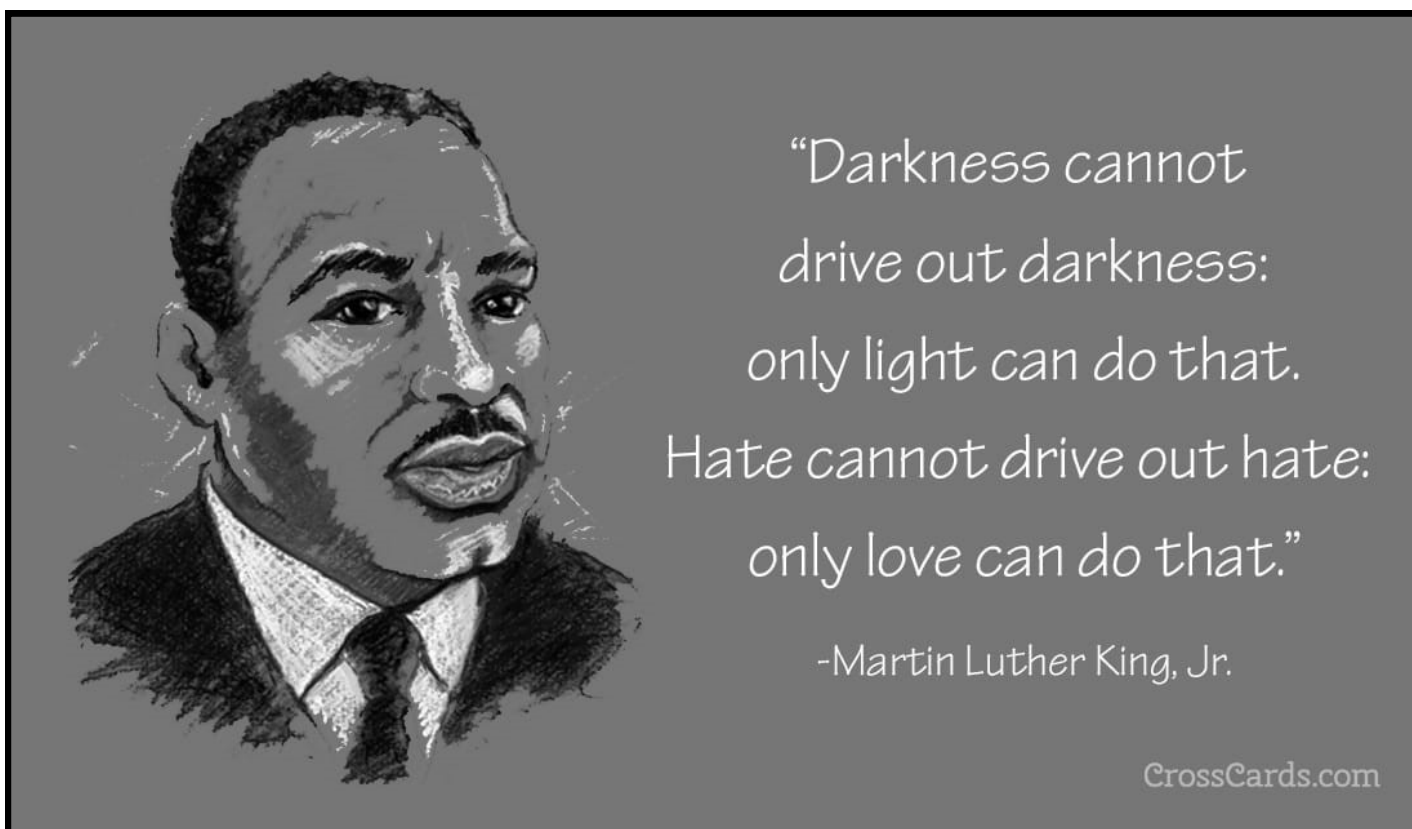
Classroom Showcase - Celebrating MLK

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." This means violence is not always the answer; there is always another way. We don't have to fight over something stupid - that's childish. In my opinion the quote tells me that violence is not the answer to solving problems, maybe instead we should look out for each other. Be kind to friends and family. Be kind to one another even if you have different beliefs. Different opinions shouldn't make people become enemies. Do things that are right and that would make a better day for someone else. ~ **Anthony Delacruz**

One quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. that stands out to me is "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." This quote means that you might not know how things are going to turn out but the only way to know is if you try. This quote also contributes to my life because I was never sure on what I want to be when I grow up and till this day, I do not know, but right now I'm taking those baby steps to go to college and till then I will have to hope for the best. ~ **Edwin Delarosa**

Martin Luther King, Jr, a Civil Rights activist, shared many inspiring messages to the public. One of his quotes is "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." What does King mean by this saying? It means we can't just be selfish and think about ourselves when we're apart. It's what we do that affects others, and especially what they do that affects us. This is important to me, because it means caring for each other. ~ **Adrian Andujar**

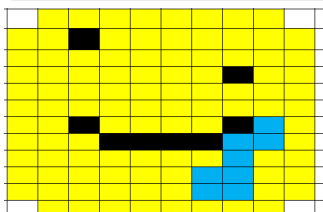
A man named Martin Luther King, Jr. said the inspirational words, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." I believe the meaning behind this quote is no matter what happens keep moving forward. These words are powerful especially what's happening now- just keep moving forward. This is inspirational towards every horrible thing the world has went through the past year. We kept moving forward no matter if the last thing was worse than the next. This quote makes me feel like if something horrible happened I'd would express my emotions about the subject, help myself, then move on to the next chapter of my life. Martin Luther King Jr. had many powerful quotes and statements, but this one stuck out me almost as if it spoke to me. ~ **Jatna Abreu**



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968

Classroom Kudos

Students in Dr. Yourechko's Computer Science class were asked to create a pixel image based on unplugged coding activities that they worked on during class. After creating images, 7th and 8th grade students and HASD teachers, administrators, and staff voted on their favorite images. Congratulations to all of the winners!



Dominic Salvador

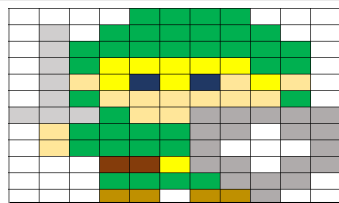


Student Voting Results

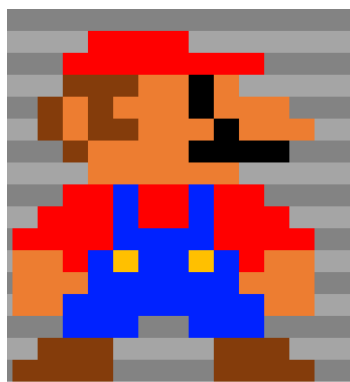
- 1st - Dominic Salvador
- 2nd - Jhendrick Perez
- 3rd - Crismer Mateo Soto
- 4th - Leo Hernandez

Staff Voting Results

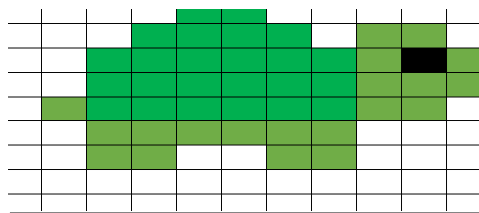
- 1st - Crismer Mateo Soto
- 2nd - Jhendrick Perez
- 3rd (tie) - Ashner Vargas Mejia
- 3rd (tie) - Kelvin Ramos



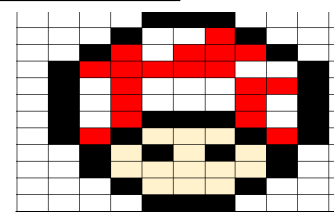
Crismer Mateo Soto



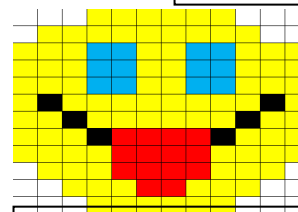
Jhendrick Perez



Ashner Vargas Mejia



Leo Hernandez



Kevin Ramos

Congratulations to the following students who had perfect attendance for **45** consecutive school days during 2nd Quarter Computer Science class. An extra special congratulations to those students who have had perfect attendance for **90** consecutive school days during 1st Quarter Career Applications and 2nd Quarter Computer Science.

- Cameron Clay, Jeremy Munoz Fernandez, Luizaila Sanchez Rodriguez, Crismer Mateo Soto, Rhianna Heinzl, and Christian Craig (1st Quarter and 2nd Quarter - 90 Days)
- Cassandra Boskovic-Martinez, Frandeli Taveras Perez, Georgina Gad, Jona Mosque Paulino, Kiarely Corcino Reyes, Derek Perez, and Michael Smith (2nd Quarter - 45 Days)

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