



Peer Leaders: Commitment and Service to Self, School, and Community

What is Peer Leadership?

Peer Leadership is a peer-to-peer educational program designed to steer middle school students toward healthy life choices. 7th and 8th graders have the opportunity to participate in the Peer Leader Program.

In the fall, eighth grade student leaders receive training in group facilitation, public speaking, teamwork, and leadership techniques. Seventh grade students will have the opportunity to join Peer Leadership in October and work with their advisors to strengthen their leadership, interpersonal and communication skills as well as focus on positive and healthy decision making in and out of the school setting.

In September, 8th Grade Peer Leaders begin to support our 6th graders with locker assistance and they participate in orientation programs for both students and families. Our Peer Leaders then begin meeting with sixth grade students on a monthly basis, presenting programs on a variety of topics, such as tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, and diversity/respecting differences. Our 8th grade Peer Leaders implement Mix It Up lunches, a signature event for our students.

7th Grade Peer Leaders will also assist with sixth grade transition activities at the end of the year.

Peer Leaders are expected to attend weekly meetings, participate in school and community based service projects and assist with school themed nights.

What do Peer Leaders Accomplish?

The **Peer Leader** responsibilities include community service, addressing the interests and concerns of worldwide issues that affect the well-being of people internationally, domestically, and within the HMS community, and raising funds for various charities.

They will also work with their advisors to strengthen their leadership, interpersonal and communication skills as well as focus on positive and healthy decision making in and out of the school setting.

Students should possess strong organizational and public speaking skills as well as a willingness to fundraise!

Who should participate as a Peer Leader?

Students must be an individual in good academic and behavioral standing. All applicants will undergo a review of HMS disciplinary record as well as an attendance audit. Students must be academically eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity.

Peer Leaders are to assist their peers and serve as role models. Any Peer Leader who violates the HMS Code of Conduct or who is found to have committed an act of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying will meet with an administrator and may be removed from the program.

Students must attend all meetings that concern the Peer Leader program throughout the 2019-2020 school year. Understandably, family emergencies and illness impact the ability to attend school and may therefore impact participation in extracurricular groups. Students who miss (3) meetings for reasons other than family emergencies or illness will be removed from the Peer Leader program. Commitment and active participation are crucial to the development of our leaders.

There will be meetings throughout the school year in which feedback regarding concerns, questions, and continuous improvement to the program will be addressed.

Peer Leadership Mission Statement

Peer Leadership is committed to providing leadership for the Haddonfield Middle School community via student directed activities and programs which foster a healthy learning and social environment.

Goals of Peer Leadership

- To establish a comfortable, positive atmosphere in which students feel involved and accepted.
- To provide guidance and assistance to incoming sixth grade and transfer students.
- To provide positive role models who disseminate information, which encourages healthy lifestyles and positive decision making to all students.
- To provide a link between students and staff.
- To provide assistance to programs which support the Peer Leadership mission.

Peer Leadership Commitment

To meet these goals, Peer Leaders will commit to the following:

- Adhere to all HMS standards of behavior, academically, socially and emotionally. I will conduct myself at all times with integrity.
- Demonstrate proactive leadership and role modeling to promote healthy physical and emotional lifestyles for all students, at all times. This requires adherence to all school regulations and state laws, including those regarding the illegal use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.
- Attend all Peer Leadership trainings, meetings, and activities; inform my advisors in advance if I cannot attend a meeting or program.
- Ask for help or assistance when needed.
- Support of the above stated goals and mission.

I have read and understood this entire application form, and I also pledge that as a leader I will exhibit responsible decision making in support of being a good influence for other students. I understand that as a leader, my conduct, both in and out of school, may be subject to evaluation.

I support the Peer Leadership mission and agree to work toward its established goals. I accept the stated commitments and will follow them to the best of my ability. I

understand that non-compliance with the Peer Leadership mission, goals, and commitments may result in suspension or expulsion from the Peer Leadership Program.

I understand that a disciplinary review will occur and that the review may impact my participation.

I understand that if I am found to be in violation of the HIB law, I may be dismissed from the program.

I must remain in good academic standing and have consistent daily attendance. My attendance to school will be reviewed as necessary.

NO application will be accepted after 8:00AM on Friday, October 11th 2019. Applications can be submitted to Mrs. Cannaday in room 163 or placed in her mailbox. There will be an envelope in her classroom and in the mailbox specifically for the applications.

Student Signature

Date

I understand the mission of Peer Leadership and will support my child in his/her commitment to the program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

I endorse this student's interest and desire to participate in the HMS Peer Leadership Program. He/she has demonstrated commitment to self, to others, and to our community.

Signature of HMS Staff Member

Date

All applicants must include a personal statement that addresses how the Peer Leadership program will help impact students:

All applicants should list the extracurricular activities expected to participate in for the 19-20 school-year:

All applicants should list the strengths or qualities brought to the program:

