What’s New for this Fall?

This year truly brings exciting changes across our curriculum. Head of School, Susan Paynter, has focused on program development, student advocacy, staffing, learning, and planning for a beautiful new Music Center.

We’ve also:

• Dedicated three afternoons a week to our upper school elective program, designed to promote independent thinking and expose students to a richness of pursuits beyond traditional academic disciplines.

• Added new instruments to our music instruction, including violin for our 1st and 2nd grades, as well as wind instruments in the upper school.

• Added an archery program and fall soccer team to our physical education offerings.

• Restructured our drama program to provide another venue for collaboration across grade levels, and launched a newly designed social studies curriculum. This has been developed under the leadership of Rachel Van Carpels, our new 7th/8th grade instructor.

Considering your child’s upcoming education or have friends who might be? HMS is a progressive, nurturing school that prepares students to become independent thinkers who safeguard and participate in a free, diverse and democratic society.

Call 845-687-4855 for an appointment today!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Alumni Dinner
Saturday, January 5

We need class reps for each graduate year. If you can donate a small amount of time to connect with parents and students in your (or your graduate’s grade), contact Pat Thompson:

pat@highmeadowsschool.org

Become an HMS Board Member

The school Board of Trustees is the governing body for the school. If you are interested in donating your time and energy to help the school, please contact Sarah Olivieri:

saroaho@highmeadowsschool.org
HMS ALUMNI UPDATES

Graduates use the sound, creative, positive education they receive at High Meadow to explore the world and continue the joy of learning fostered while there. Former students go on to exciting careers across the world and close to home. They start businesses. Build new relationships. Keep in touch with old classmates. Affect change. Enjoy reading about two HMS graduates stories!

Lani Nelson
Years at HMS:

“I graduated from High Meadow in 2005. I was not an easygoing young person or student, I struggled deeply with myself and my environment, and it often resulted in behavior that might have gotten me into a cycle of trouble were I at another type of school. The way in which staff took time and energy to see through my issues to my intrinsic value as a human being and to nurture it, not only helped me activate and realize that potential later in life... it taught me to regard others in the same way and use my struggles to empathize with and encourage them.”

After graduating from Rondout Valley High School in 2009, I attended SUNY New Paltz from 2009 to 2013. From 2011 to 2012 I studied abroad in China at Nanjing University to learn Mandarin, and in the summer of 2012, I studied Korean language and culture and interned as an English teacher at Dankook University in South Korea. Between 2011 and 2012, I was awarded a SUNY New Paltz Friends of Asian Studies Endowment Scholarship and a first prize in Nanjing University’s annual international student speech competition. In 2013, I presented my independent research project on English loanwords in Mandarin Chinese at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and my work was accepted for publication in that year’s NCUR Proceedings. I graduated summa cum laude with a BA in Asian Studies with a minor in Linguistics.

In 2013, I moved to New York City, where I worked as a dormitory Care Advisor for Embassy English among other things, and earned a University of Cambridge CELTA certification from Teaching House to teach English. From 2014 to 2016, I worked as a host, reporter and video editor for SinoVision English Channel, a Midtown-based English language television and online media platform devoted to sharing stories from NYC’s Chinese, Chinese American, and Asian American communities.

From 2016 to 2017, I traveled and did work exchanges in various countries before landing in Scotland, where I worked for six months as a freelancer, filming and editing videos for an independent internet marketing services company. During that time, I was introduced to Soka Gakkai International, a lay Buddhist organization promoting peace, education, personal transformation and social contribution. I became a member in August 2017, five months after I returned to the USA.

Once back in the US, I worked briefly for the New York Public Interest Group as a canvasser for their campaign against the construction of the Pilgrim Pipelines and other fossil fuel infrastructure, freelanced as a writer, editor, and Mandarin to English translator, and served at Hash, a busy family-owned breakfast and lunch restaurant in my hometown of Stone Ridge.

In August of this year I returned to Scotland, where in September I began a master’s degree course in Translation Studies (Mandarin to English) at the University of Stirling. I couldn’t be more excited to continue my education in this country I’ve grown to know and love while laying the groundwork for a career centered on language and culture—my two favorite subjects.”
Monty LaSalle-Hill
Years at HMS: K-8th (1997-2008)

“After graduation from HMS in 2008, my family moved to Manhattan. I attended Elisabeth Irwin High School, then went on to study at Reed College in Portland Oregon. I majored in Political Science with a focus on grassroots action and local-level policy with a keen interest in peace and change through individual as opposed to government actions.

My work during college and after graduation included a wide range of initiatives, research, and employment, which ranged from team leader in several newly developed programs, addressing climate change and human security in Bolivia and Peru, to door-to-door sales where I built interpersonal and marketing skill sets. In Mexico, I worked on a program that helps at-risk and disenfranchised children develop positive social interaction through the martial arts. I feel like my wide span of experience has given me the ability to wear many hats I use continually.

One subject I’m very interested in is saving coral reefs. To that end, I founded a company that designs 3D replicas of coral jewelry with proceeds that fund coral reef remediation. I have also learned some basic skills to address rebuilding reefs.

When I was looking for a place to live next, I knew I wanted a city that was an alternative to New York and California. I currently live in Mexico City, which I love because of its culture and diversity.

When I think about what stands out about my education at HMS and how it shaped my direction, I think about how Michelle Hughes presented the topic of conflict resolution and asked the class to choose two students (one male and one female) to act as representatives for this exercise. I was chosen, and it informed me that I could be an ambassador of conflict resolution—someone who influences positive change. From that experience, I saw myself as a peace builder and understood that the concept of stewardship for conflict resolution is not only representative of interpersonal relationships— but our relation to the earth and its people as one.” – per an interview with Claire Wasser
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!
UPCOMING HMS EVENTS

Raise the Roof Benefit Concert
Sunday, December 2, 2018: 2 pm

To benefit the construction of a brand new music building on the HMS campus, this concert will honor Jesse Kolber – musician, entrepreneur, beloved friend, High Meadow uncle, brother & son.

FEATURING:
• The Mammals: fronted by songwriters and HMS parents Ruth Ungar and Mike Merenda, The Mammals identify as “subversive acoustic traditionalists” or a “party band with a conscience”.

• Buffalo Stack: refined but rooted, sophisticated yet raw, this is an unforgettable band that invites your soul in. With Andy Stack, Lee Falco, Brandon Morrison, Will Bryant and Adrien Reju performing new music and at least one song written by Jesse Kolber.

• The Restless Age: performing as a premier rhythm section throughout the Hudson Valley for the past 5 years, Will Bryant, Lee Falco and Brandon Morrison have joined forces with lush harmonies and polished arrangements of original music.

• The HMS Advanced Band with special guests!

Giving Tuesday
Tuesday, November 27, 2018

On this global day of giving, HMS looks to break last year’s record of raising $6,500 in a single day for the Fund for High Meadow. We rely on donations to make High Meadow accessible to the greatest number of students through our needs-based financial aid program, as well as our Refugee Scholarship Program. On #GivingTuesday, a generous donor will match any donation you make! Follow HMS on Facebook or Instagram for #GivingTuesday updates.

Alumni Dinner
January 5, 2019: 4:30 pm in the HMS PAC

This is the event of the year for all HMS Alumni, parents and grandparents of graduates! Meet up with your old classmates and friends, share a delicious dinner, savor local beer and wines, and reconnect.

HMS Online Auction
March 4 - 21

The Online Auction is one of our biggest fundraisers. It makes High Meadow School accessible to the greatest number of families in support of our Financial Aid and Refugee Scholarship programs, benefiting 40% of our families. We’re seeking donations of unique, exciting items, services and experiences for the Auction now. Email auction@highmeadowschool.org if you have something to donate this year!