

# HMS Bulletin

November 22, 2024



## Lost & Found

On Monday, November 25th, during the in-person Parent/Teacher conferences, all lost and found items will be displayed by the front office. Please reclaim any lost belongings your student may have misplaced throughout the school year. Any items that are left behind will be donated.



## Family Engagement Well-being Night

Positive health and wellness is extremely crucial for middle schoolers.

It impacts their academic performance, social development, and overall quality of life. At Hammond Middle School, we help promote the well-being of our students through education, prevention, and early intervention efforts.

By focusing on well-being, children can better manage stress, focus on classroom learning, build confidence, and make healthy choices as they navigate a pivotal developmental stage. School and family communities must prioritize healthy wellness (both mentally and physically). This in turn increases overall happiness.

Join us at Family Engagement Night to learn how our middle school supports student wellness and how families can improve students' health and well-being. We have invited our student services team, social worker, and community-based organizations that help support healthy wellness to share strategies and resources. Following the presentations, families can participate in a mindful activity.

**When:** Thursday, December 12, 2024, 5:30-7pm

**Where:** Our Media Center, with tea and desserts provided

**Who:** Families (children welcome!)

Please [RSVP](#) so we can account for enough materials

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**November 25:** Parent Teacher Conferences (*in-person*)

**November 26-27:** Parent Teacher Conferences (*virtual*)

**November 27:** School closed for Students

**November 28-29:** Schools & Offices closed

**December 4:** The Council of Elders Celebrations of Academic Achievement  
(*via Zoom*)

**December 12:** Family Engagement Well-being Night, 5:30-7pm

**December 17:** HMS Spelling Bee 5pm - HMS Media Center

**December 20:** Federal Impact Aid Forms Due

**December 23 - January 1:** Winter Break

**January 7:** Atholton High School's parent night, 6-8pm

**January 20:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Schools & Offices closed

**January 23:** Professional Work & Wellness Day Schools close 3 hours early.  
End of 2nd marking period

**January 29:** Professional Work Day - Schools closed for students

**February 1:** First Day of Black History Month

**February 7:** Professional Learning Day Schools closed for students

**February 17:** Presidents Day Schools and offices closed

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## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **HCPSS Emergency Notifications**

As we head into the winter months, [families are reminded](#) that in emergency situations (including inclement weather), information will be shared with the community only through the HCPSS website, email and text, Twitter/X and the HCPSS weather hotline. [Be sure your Family File is up to date](#) and that you have [opted into texts](#) to receive emergency messages.

## Attention 8th grade families

Reservoir will be hosting a Scheduling Night (*formerly known as New Information Parent Night*) on **Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>** from **5:30-7:15pm**. During this time, parents will have the opportunity to learn about the wide range of programs, courses, and athletic opportunities offered here at Reservoir.

RESERVOIR HIGH SCHOOL  
SCHEDULING NIGHT

**JANUARY 7TH,  
2025**

5:30 - 7:15 pm

Join us for an informative Scheduling Night where new and returning families can learn about the wide range of programs, courses, and athletic opportunities at RHS. Get answers to your questions and gain insight into how to make the most of your student's high school experience!

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

## REMINDERS

### Impact Aid Forms Due Dec. 20

Parents/guardians who work on a federal property in Maryland and/or are a member of a uniformed service can qualify HCPSS to receive federal funding by [completing the Impact Aid form](#) online by Dec. 20. Impact Aid supplements the HCPSS operating budget to enhance the teaching and learning that takes place in Howard County classrooms.

### Update Your Family File

Family files that have not been updated for the 24/25 school year will receive a paper copy brought home by their student. Please complete and return to the front office. **The completion of the Family File is essential to your student's participation in field trips, dances, and other fun activities throughout the year.** We want HMS to be the first middle school to have 100% of its families complete this important task!

**\*\*\*Health Room News\*\*\***

**Please perform daily health checks and keep sick children at home:**

- Temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore Throat
- Body Aches
- Abdominal Cramps
- Diarrhea
- Nausea/Vomiting

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If your child requires medication (prescription or over the counter) during the 2024-2025 school year, your child's health care provider must complete a [medication form](#) and/or an [Epi-Pen Care](#) form. All prescribed medications must be in properly labeled containers that include the following information:

- Student name
- Medication name
- Dose to be given
- Time & Frequency of medication
- Prescriber's name & signature
- Date of medication order

Pharmacy labels will usually contain this information. Over-the-counter medications should be in new, unopened containers labeled with the student's name.

Feel free to contact our health team with any questions: [christina\\_toler@hcpss.org](mailto:christina_toler@hcpss.org) [karisma\\_rencher@hcpss.org](mailto:karisma_rencher@hcpss.org)

**Reporting your child's absence**

Need to report an absence? Please email your absence notes/questions to: [HMSabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:HMSabsence@hcpss.org) or send in a signed parent/guardian note. The email should include the student's name, the parent's name, the date(s) or period(s) (if absence is a partial day) of the absence, and the reason for the absence. The email must be received within 5 days of the absence. Requests for

changes to attendance submitted after the 5 day deadline may not be honored.  
Please Note: Absences are unexcused until an email or note is received.

## **STAY CONNECTED**

Families may find it useful to bookmark the following web-pages where information will be continually updated and posted:

- [HMS Website](#)
- [HMS Twitter](#)
- [HMS Instagram](#)
- [HCPSS Website](#)
- [HCPSS News site](#)
- [HCPSS Help site](#)

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Youth Leadership Institute (YLI)**

#### **The Youth Leadership Institute - YLI:**

- Promote personal and leadership development for Middle School boys and girls aged **11 years to 13 years**
- Program is youth-led, interactive and hands-on, fun and experiential learning
- Develops youth-led community service and environmental projects
- Concludes with youth presentations of their YLI experience

#### **YLI:**

- Meets Monthly on Saturdays (November - June)
- 90 Minute Sessions are at the **Savage Branch, of Howard County Library**
- Sessions are free to all participants and light refreshments are always available to all youth

**Next YLI Session - Saturday November 23 at 1:30 pm,  
Savage Branch Library**

**Register at Eventbrite - Select Nov 23 -**

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-leadership-institute-yli-tickets-1048824080057?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>**

#### **Contacts:**

**Monica Stevens - [mnstevens.aka21@gmail.com](mailto:mnstevens.aka21@gmail.com)**

**Phyllis Sharps - [pdwsharps@gmail.com](mailto:pdwsharps@gmail.com)**

**[Youth Leadership Institute.pdf](#)**

*Please visit the [Community News and Programs](#) page on the HCPSS website for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.*

**Hammond Middle School** | 8100 Aladdin Drive, Laurel, MD 20723 | (410) 880-5830 | [hms.hcpss.org](https://hms.hcpss.org)







