

# HMS Bulletin

December 20, 2024



Dear HMS Parents and Guardians,

Please accept our warmest wishes for a winter break full of memorable experiences and warm moments as it draws near. We hope you have time to unwind, rejuvenate, and spend time with the people you care about.

As a reminder, winter break begins on Monday, December 23, 2024, through Wednesday, January 1, 2025. Our school buildings will be closed, and there is no school. On Thursday, January 2, 2025 classes will resume.

Sincerely,

Ms. Smith & Ms. Thompson

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

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

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

**January 2:** School re:opens

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

**January 7:** Reservoir Scheduling Night (*formerly known as New Information Parent Night*), 5:30-7:15pm

**January 8:** Hammond High School's parent night, 5:30pm

**January 10:** PTA dance @ HMS, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

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

**January 21:** New Parent Information Night @ 6-7pm

**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**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Hammond Leaders of the Month!

Lilliana Harrison, Colby McDerment, Song Pham, Kwame Ross, David Beckley, Arin Kim, Liam O'Brien, Sunny Qiu, Atiyyah Busari, Zayne Davis, Elanna Shin, Connor Stupi

# Hammond Leaders of the Month of November

COLLABROATION



Collaboration is an ongoing team process where everyone is valued and works towards a common goal.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Olive Yu!** Olive remains the undefeated Hammond Middle School Spelling Bee champion. We had two of our incredible 6th graders take 1st runner up, **Jamie Hill**, and 2nd runner up, **Pippa Alberts!!** It was an incredibly special night that demonstrated the inclusiveness and diversity of Hammond Middle School.



# THANK YOU

A HUGE thank you to the HMS PTA and Administration! On Wednesday, December 18th, the administration gave the HMS staff a hot chocolate bar and the PTA provided a dessert buffet. The sweet treats and hot cocoa filled the staff's bellies!



**Congratulations** on all of the great music performances by our **Band, Orchestra and Chorus** students this week! Students did an awesome job, and we appreciate them sharing their talents with the Hammond Middle School Community. A special shout out to Ms. Pretzello, Ms. Mayers, and Mr. Ritzes for preparing our musicians for memorable concerts!



## Attention Rising 9th Graders

### High School 2025-2026 Course Registration, Dec. 16, 2024 - Jan. 14, 2025

High school course selection for the 2025-2026 academic year will open Monday, Dec. 16, 2024 8:00 AM, and run through Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025 4:00 PM, for current 8-11 grade students.

Beginning Dec. 16, students and their parents/guardians may view teachers' course recommendations and submit course requests and alternate requests by [logging into HCPSS Connect Synergy](#), selecting Course Request from the left panel, and [following the directions online](#).

#### Please note:

- [Guides on how to complete Course Requests](#) are available online.
- Students and their parents/guardians should use the [Catalog of Approved High School Courses](#) to review course selections, taking careful note of descriptions and prerequisites.



- Students and their parents/guardians can adjust a teacher course recommendation by using the dropdown to select the preferred course level.
- Students and their parents/guardians will add electives to ensure they have seven credits of primary requests and three alternates. Alternate selections should be added in priority order.
- If you want to change a course and there is not an option available in the drop down menu, parents/guardians should download and complete the High School Course Change Request Form and submit a paper copy to their child's school counselor. Forms received during the course registration period will receive priority during scheduling. Requests received after this time will be accommodated if space is available.

### **Important Dates:**

- Dec. 16, 2024: Course registration opens at 8:00 AM.
- Jan. 14, 2025: Course registration closes at 4:00 PM.
- Jan. 15 - Feb. 19, 2025:
  - Current 8th graders will meet with their middle school counselors to review student course requests through scheduled counselor/student appointments.
  - Current 9th-11th graders will review individual requests and progress toward graduation requirements through scheduled counselor/student appointments.
- Spring 2025: Students and parents/guardians will have access to their list of registered courses by the end of the current school year.
- August 2025: Final 2025-2026 student schedules will be available prior to the start of the school year.

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**Atholton High School's** upcoming Scheduling Information Night on January 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. There is a snow date of January 9th. The [flier](#) does include a link to the [agenda](#) for the evening. Families will hear about the scheduling process, graduation requirements, and from each academic area including JROTC, JumpStart, and GT.

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### **REMINDERS**

## **Applying to a High School / outside of HCPSS**

If your student is applying to a high school that requires teacher recommendations or transcripts, please send all requests to Ms. Adkins in Student Services including recommendation forms for teachers, transcript requests and the Waiver of Rights & Release of Records form. Ms. Adkins' email address is [Kristen\\_adkins@hcpss.org](mailto:Kristen_adkins@hcpss.org)

Waiver of Rights Form: [Waiver of Rights & Release of Records \(Private Schools\).pdf](#)

## **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.

## **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.

## **\*\*\*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](#)

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## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Community Academy: Student Well-Being, Jan. 11**

*Saturday, Jan. 11, 9-10:30 a.m., virtual session*

Attendees at [this virtual session](#) will hear from HCPSS staff about student well-being support, strategies to manage student anxiety, and learn more about community agencies that support families with managing mental health challenges. Register online.

*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)







