

HMS Bulletin

December 6, 2024



This week, the Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County, in partnership with the Howard County Public School System's Black Student Achievement Program, celebrated students' academic success during the 2-23-2024 school year. Hammond Middle School celebrated 102 students. Congratulations to all our students; we are proud of your accomplishments.

IMPORTANT DATES

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

December 13: HMS PTA Fundraiser @ Honeygrow (6131 Columbia Crossing Cir)

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 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 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

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Smith and Ms. Koehler's 7th grade ELA class conducting their "See Think Wonder Gallery Walk" on the theme of injustice.



Family Engagement Well-being Night

Positive health and wellness is extremely crucial for middle schoolers. By focusing on well-being, children can better manage stress, focus on classroom learning, build confidence, and make healthy choices. 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, and community-based organizations (like Grassroots, the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Howard County Health Department who will present briefly on vaping and tobacco use) 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 5:30-7 pm

Where: Our Media Center, with tea and desserts provided

Who: Families (children welcome!)

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

From Student Services

Hello 8th grade families,

Believe it or not your 8th graders will be headed to high school in just a few short months. Teachers are putting in schedule recommendations for your students over the next few weeks.

Between **12/16/24 and 1/14/25**, students and parents will be able to access Course requests through Synergy to add electives, alternate classes, and make changes to class requests. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your student's counselor.

Maria Moravec | School Counselor- students with last names A-K

Email: maria_moravec@hcpss.org

Priscilla Sheffield | School Counselor- students with last names L-Z

Email: priscilla_sheffield@hcpss.org

Please use this link for instructions to [Online Course Requests Rising 9 to 12 Students](#) or watch [Screencast](#)

Thank you,

HMS Student Services



Our 8th graders heard from our feeder high schools, Altholton High, Hammond High, and Reservoir High School. They learned about a typical 9th-grade schedule, sports, and club activities. This opportunity allowed our students to get excited about their next academic journey! Thank you to the AHS, HaHS, and RHS staff who spent their time with our students. We appreciate your partnership.

Hammond HS Scheduling Night



[A MESSAGE FROM THE HMS PTA](#)

Dine Out to support HMS PTA

****Save the Date - HMS PTA Fundraiser Update****

On Friday, December 13th the delicious and generous Honeygrow (6131 Columbia Crossing Cir) is donating back 20% of Dine-In, Takeout, Delivery & Pick up orders to support a great cause -- HMS PTA!

On behalf of HMS PTA you're invited to join us and eat out, not only in support of the organization, but to show one of your Columbia restaurants some love too!

We ask that you RSVP here: <https://grouprai.se/e291724> (even if you're not completely sure) so honeygrow knows roughly how many orders to expect & so you have access to all the event details.

We hope you can make it, and please feel free to forward this invitation to your friends and family. Thanks in advance for your support!

REMINDERS

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

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 karisma_rencher@hcpss.org

Reporting your child's absence

Need to report an absence? Please email your absence notes/questions to: 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

BSAP Saturday Math Academy Spring 2025 Program

The HCPSS Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP) Saturday Math Academy will offer an [in-person enrichment program this spring for any students in grades 3-12](#) in all levels of math, based on course availability. Registration will take place online Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until capacity is reached. Class space is limited.

Community Academy: HCPSS Career Pathways, Dec. 14

Saturday, Dec. 14, 9-10:30 a.m., virtual session

During [this virtual session](#), attendees will learn about the variety of career-focused educational opportunities within HCPSS designed to prepare students for success in post-secondary education, the workforce, and beyond. This is the second of four parent workshops being offered during the 2024-2025 school year by HCPSS and The Council of Elders. 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

