

# HMS Bulletin

September 13, 2024



## IMPORTANT DATES

**September 18:** Professional Work & Wellness Day - 3 hour early dismissal

**September 25:** Student Picture Day

**September 26 & 27:** Fall MAP Testing

**September 26:** Family Engagement Night - Related Arts Fair (*see info below*)

**October 2:** 6th Grade Mash Up

**October 3:** Rosh Hashanah -Schools & Offices Closed

**October 18:** Professional Work Day - Schools Closed for Students

**October 29:** HMS Flu Clinic

**October 30:** End of 1st Marking Period

**October 31:** Professional Work and Development Day - Schools Closed for Students

**November 5:** Election Day - Schools & Offices Closed

**November 8:** Report Cards Issued

**November 13: HMS Hearing/Vision Clinic**

**NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Student Picture Day**

School Pictures Inc. is here to keep your family smiling! Picture Day is coming soon.

Access your Pre-Order options by clicking the image below. Having trouble viewing? Follow the directions provided on the image.

**PICTURE DAY: September 25,2025**

**SCHOOL NAME: Hammond Middle School**

**PRE-ORDER CODE: HMSF24**

You Can Pre-Order Portraits Online: Go to [www.schoolpix.com](http://www.schoolpix.com)

Order form: [SchoolPic\\_Flyer.pdf](#)

We look forward to seeing your smiles soon on Picture Day!

The Team at School Pictures, Inc.

**Family Engagement Night is Back!**

Arts Family Engagement Night - Thursday, September 26, 2024 - 5:30-7:00pm at HMS

Join us for Arts Family Engagement Night, a celebration of creativity, connection, and community! This special evening fosters a culture of belonging, to help every family feel valued and supported. Experience the visual and performing arts through your child's eyes and explore the diverse course offerings that are a vital part of our school community.

Let's celebrate the importance of creativity, healthy relationships, and expression. Dinner will be served in the media center beginning at 5:30pm. Please [RSVP](#) by Friday September 20. This event is for adults only.





**\*\*\*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](mailto:christina_toler@hcpss.org) [karisma\\_rencher@hcpss.org](mailto:karisma_rencher@hcpss.org)

### **Hammond Middle School After School Intramurals**

**HMS After-School Chess Club!** It's not necessary for you to be a skilled player or have prior experience, open to all ability levels... Our goal is to have fun, learn, and play lots of chess! We will provide a space for students to gather as we introduce basic chess playing skills and help each other enhance and develop our game.

**Location:** HMS Media Center

**Dates:** September 24th – December 3rd, Weekly on Tuesdays

**Time:** 3:30pm to 4:30pm

**The dates will be as follows:** Sept. 24th, Oct. 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th, Nov. 12th, and 19th, Dec 3rd (last day)

*\*\*Snacks will be provided\*\**

[Chess Club Permission Slip.pdf](#)

**Drama club** has returned to Hammond Middle School. The Fall session will start October 1 and end November 20, from 3:20-4:30. All students are welcome, but priority will be given to students who are not currently taking theater or will not be taking it until 3rd or 4th quarter.

There will NOT be a play in the Fall session. This session will focus on games, improvisation and short scenes.

A second session will start in the Spring.

If you have any questions content, Mrs. Manack at [erinn\\_manack@hcpss.org](mailto:erinn_manack@hcpss.org).

[After-School Drama Permission Slip.pdf](#)

**Dungeons and Dragons Club** will be held on Wednesday's starting September 25th to December 18, 2024 from 3:30 - 4:30pm.

[Dungeons and Dragons Club Permission Slip.pdf](#)

**From The Music Department**

The Music dept's fundraiser with Taharka Bros ice cream is coming up next week! Please see the flyer below for the link/QR code, which can be used to order ice cream online next week on Wed, Thurs, or Fri.

**TAHARKA**  
MADE IN BALTIMORE

[FUNDRAISER FOR:]

**Hammond MS Music Department**

Place your order using the information below and \$10 from every order will go back to your group!

<https://deliver.taharkabrothers.com>

**Order By:**  
Friday, September 20 @ 11 PM

**Group Coupon Code:**  
HAMMONDMUSIC

**Delivery Date:**  
Monday, September 23  
Pick up 4-6 PM at HMS

Scan to Order! →

taharkabrothers.com

@taharkabros

## **Information for Students Taking HS Level Courses**

Information regarding High School level courses can be found using the link below.

[High School Credit Bearing Course in MS.pdf](#)

## **Update Your Family File (67% Completed)**

All families must update their emergency contact information annually. While we recognize many of you may not have any changes, you must transition through each screen and click submit at the end for this task to be completed.

**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, so visit [HCPSS Connect](#) today and click submit on the final screen!

Once logged in, you will be asked to update or provide the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information
- Arrival/Dismissal Procedures and Transportation Options
- Photo Approval
- Data Confidentiality
- Student Creative Work Approval
- PTA/PTSA Directory

**If you are having trouble completing the Family File online please submit a hard copy found here:** [Family File Worksheet.pdf](#)

[FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE \(ENGLISH\)](#)

[FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE \(SPANISH\)](#)

[FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE \(KOREAN\)](#)

## **Complete and/or Renew Your FARMs Application by October 31**

HCPSS participates in the Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMs) program. [Qualification](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) is based on family size and income, and enrollment is confidential.

Participation in FARMs qualifies students for a wide range of opportunities and resources beyond breakfast and lunch, including free college applications, free

or reduced JumpStart tuition, discounted internet through the Comcast Internet Essentials program, and more.

**Families must submit a new application every school year by Oct.**

**31.** During the first 30 school days, students with FARMs eligibility from the prior school year will continue to receive benefits. Any student whose family has not filled out an application by the 30th school day will have their status changed to full pay until a new application is received.

Parents/guardians are highly encouraged to fill out the applications as soon as possible. It is very important that applications are filled out accurately and completely. Families can:

- [Apply online](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- Apply by mail: Paper applications can be picked up in the Food and Nutrition Service Office (5451 Beaverkill Rd, Columbia, MD 21044). Applications can be returned to your child's school or mailed to: HCPSS Food & Nutrition Service Office, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

If you have questions regarding the program, please visit [www.hcpss.org/FARMs](http://www.hcpss.org/FARMs)[Links to an external site.](#) or call Food and Nutrition Services at 410-313-6743.

**Breakfast & Lunch Meal Price Information & Payment**

To access your child's meal account, view menus for breakfast and lunch, and more please click [here](#) for more information on HCPSS Food Services. Breakfast for students is \$2.00, and lunch is \$3.30.

**REMINDERS**

Dear HMS Families,

Thank you for your patience as we work through our dismissal/carpool procedures. We are working with Hammond Elementary to devise the best possible plan for our shared parking lot.

Any drivers in the car loop are expected to abide by the procedures communicated by the school. Our staff work incredibly hard each day to stand on duty. [Please remember to smile at them, wave a friendly hello, or thank them for their hard work.](#) Whether rain or shine (or 100+ degree temperatures), they ensure students are safe.

**Please review important updates to carloop information below:**

- We have kindly requested HES families to arrive after 3:30 pm, once our dismissal process is concluded. The early arrival of parked

cars is disrupting the efficiency of our dismissal and the ability of our middle school buses to access their pick-up locations.

- Car riders and walkers will exit Hammond Middle School between 3:15 pm and 3:20 pm daily.
- Vehicles entering the school campus should queue [along the RIGHT side](#) of the school entrance driveway. [Vehicles cannot be driven or stopped on the LEFT of the roadway where they are impeding oncoming traffic. When the line reaches Graeloch Road, vehicles should queue again along the right side of the roadway towards Helmart Drive. It's imperative to keep the intersection of Aladdin Drive and Graeloch Road clear of vehicles](#) so that school buses and emergency vehicles can access our school. Proceed accordingly once you enter the school property and the bus loop and car loop split.
- Please be aware of school buses entering the school campus on the left and then needing to turn right into the bus loop.

#### **A few reminders:**

- Be aware of your surroundings when waiting in the car loop, and be ready to follow the directions of staff on duty.
- Act with civility at all times.

Thank you for your partnership ensuring all of our community is safe!

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Ms. Lisa Smith, Principal

Ms. Mel Thompson, Assistant Principal

#### **Change of Address**

Families are required by [Policy 9000](#) to notify HCPSS if they move to a new home address. Current residency documentation must be updated each time residency changes.

#### **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**

*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)





