

# HMS Bulletin

2-7-2025



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**Monday, February 10th from 6pm - 7pm HMS will hold a virtual office for any family that has questions about course selection or course recommendations. Families can drop in and ask questions or get help. They will need to log in using their student's login and password. The google meet code is HMSscheduling.**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**February 17:** Presidents Day Schools & Offices closed.

**February 20:** Family Engagement Night @ HMS

**February 28:** Ramadan Begins (Evening of Fri, Feb 28, 2025 – Sat, Mar 29, 2025)

**March 3, 4, 6, 7:** MISA Testing

**March 9:** Daylight Saving Time starts.

**March 28:** End of 3rd Marking Period

**March 31:** Prof. Work & Development Schools closed for students.

**April 7, 8, 10, 11:** MCAP ELA Testing

**April 14 - 21:** SPRING BREAK

Dear School Community:

Beginning this month, the process for capturing students and logging late arrivals will be changing.

Currently, parents/students [are asked to sign in on the **Late Arrivals** clipboard]; any notes to excuse the tardiness or absence (e.g., note from doctor, etc.) are typically handed in to the attendance secretary at that time, although parents also have the option of sending an email to [\[HMSAbsence@hcpss.org\]](mailto:HMSAbsence@hcpss.org).

Student barcodes (based on student ID#, unique to each student) have been generated and will be stored in the front office. Beginning this month], when a student is tardy, his/her barcode will be scanned; this timestamp will be captured directly into Synergy.

## Attention 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Families!

It is that time of the year for Rising 7th (current 6th) and Rising 8th (current 7th) grade students to select their courses for next year. We encourage you to talk to your child about their interests to see which courses they want to take next year.

Course registration for the 2025-2026 school year will be available from January 30th - February 12th, starting at 4 pm. Please read the appropriate letter below to guide you through the selection process. Please review the appropriate letter below about course registration.

[Rising 7th Middle School Scheduling Letter](#) (current 6th grade)

[Rising 8th Middle School Scheduling Letter](#) (current 7th grade)

Additional supporting resources:

Families can find these materials on the <https://www.hcpss.org/connect/guides/> website. Scroll down for the Rising 6th-8th Grade Online Course Registration—User Guide heading.

- [Middle School Course Catalog 2025-2026](#)
- [Middle School Registration Google Site](#)
- [HCPSS Connect – Guides](#)
- [Rising 6th-8th Grade Online Course Registration Guide](#)
- [Spanish translation](#)
- [Korean translation](#)
- [Chinese translation](#)

For questions regarding scheduling, please contact your child's school counselor:

[Maria\\_Moravec@hcpss.org](mailto:Maria_Moravec@hcpss.org) - students with the last name A-K

[Priscilla\\_Sheffield@hcpss.org](mailto:Priscilla_Sheffield@hcpss.org) - students with the last name L-Z

## [NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

### [Resources for Families Available Online](#)

HCPSS provides countless supports for students and families, and recognizes there are times when additional help is needed. Various reputable county, state and national organizations can provide assistance every day and during times of crisis. [A listing of resources](#) is available online.

### [Student Personal Device Access Restrictions to Take Effect March 3](#)

Effective March 3, the Board of Education [approved adjustments](#) to Policy 8080 Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media, and the Student Code of Conduct that are intended to reduce the use of personal devices by students during the student day.

## [WINTER MAP TESTING](#)

The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment is designed to measure a student's academic achievement and growth over time in reading and mathematics. Together with other classroom-based information, MAP results can help teachers make instructional decisions that match the needs of each child.

[Students must bring their HCPSS assigned Chromebook for testing.](#) Additionally, they should bring their [Chromebook charger and wired headphones](#). Wireless headphones may **not** be used for this test.

You can support your students(s) in doing their best on this important test by reminding them to get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast!

If possible, please refrain from late arrivals or early dismissals on these dates. If [it is unavoidable](#), please send an email ahead of time to

[hmsabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:hmsabsence@hcpss.org) and include your student's name and the time you will be picking them up for an early dismissal so we can ensure locating them with as little disruption to testing as possible.

### [Testing Dates for 6th Grade](#)

February 10 (math) 6<sup>th</sup> grade students

February 11 (reading) 6<sup>th</sup> grade students

## Families of HMS 8th graders,

*Romeo and Juliet*, by William Shakespeare, is an anchor text in our Love and Friendship unit, and it is our students' first experience with Shakespeare's plays. Though many students might be intimidated by Shakespeare's language at first, we have learned that when students see the words come alive in a performance, their perceptions change. We know that once students have seen the play, and performed some of it themselves, their confidence soars.

That's why we are so excited to arrange this field trip for students to see the play performed live by professional actors, in a venue that recreates elements of the Globe Theater.

For this field trip on March 21, 2025, students will travel to downtown Baltimore for the performance. We'll return in time for students to have lunch at school. Ask your student for the blue permission slip distributed in ELA class.

The signed permission slip and \$28.00 fee must be turned in to your child's ELA teacher by Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

Payment can be in the form of cash (exact change, please), check, or online. To pay online, you can use this link: <https://osp.osmsinc.com/p/DA023-94>

Questions? Contact Cecilia Haley at [cecilia\\_haley@hcpss.org](mailto:cecilia_haley@hcpss.org)

## **The Family Engagement Committee Celebrates Black History Month through Literacy!**

HMS is excited to invite all of our families to join us for literacy night on Thursday, February 20th from 5 pm - 8 pm. We will start our night in the media center building community. Our focus for the evening will be how literacy is measured through our School Improvement Plan and African American literature and poetry. We will start the evening together learning about our literacy measures and then families will move into our poetry breakout rooms. Everyone will have a chance to listen to speakers then create their own poetry based on a preferred style.

To ensure all families can attend, we will offer a children's area during the session. Kids can enjoy a showing of *Princess and the Frog* and participate in supplemental activities. Please be sure to account for any additional children attending in your registration. Dinner will be provided.

Please RSVP

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1E3WLD3chSI\\_WFSY2uRI8kBzvYhnt1Kes5QIkICu3ybU/preview](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1E3WLD3chSI_WFSY2uRI8kBzvYhnt1Kes5QIkICu3ybU/preview)

## From the Music Dept

**Congratulations to the following band, orchestra, and chorus students who prepared to perform at the HCPSS Secondary Solo & Ensemble Festival on Saturday, February 25. Thank you for representing HMS with pride!**

### Solos:

Ella Diep, Flute

Elizabeth Zhao, Flute

Camden Kruzic, Bassoon

David Shao, Clarinet

Alex Currano, Clarinet

Ian Fieldsend, Trumpet

Rex Fosnacht, Trumpet

Chandler Ren, Tuba

Eliana Gregory, Violin

James Heine, Bass

### Ensembles:

Abigail Cao, Flute, Ella Diep, Flute, & Lauren Wilder, Clarinet  
Elizabeth Beer-Maxwell Trombone & Kay Peplowski, Euphonium  
Chandler Ren, Tuba, & Tian Zhang, Piano

**A HUGE thank you to the HMS PTA for putting together such a wonderful hot chocolate bar on January 31st! It was a real treat for everyone. HMS staff enjoyed the hot chocolate and cookies. What a wonderful way to close out the week.**

## **PTA NEWS**

### **SPRING FLING DANCE** – Friday, March 28th 6:30pm – 8:30pm

The winter dance was such a success, we're going to have another one in the spring! This will be a free event again with concessions. There will be links sent out closer to the date for RSVPs (so we can get a head count of what attendance to expect), concessions donations, and chaperones so stay tuned!

### **Fundraising Opportunities**

MARCH RESTAURANT NIGHT – Chick Fil A in Maple Lawn is back in action! More details are coming soon.

### **DISCOUNTED HERSHEY PARK TICKETS** – On Sale Now!

Support the HMS PTA by buying deeply discounted Hershey Park Tickets! 1-day Tickets are \$55 each and valid any day during the 2025 season (regular price is \$87.80, i.e. 37% discount!) You can order tickets online using this link: (<https://hammondms.givebacks.com/store/items/1154000>) OR you can use this google form (<https://forms.gle/LgrG55aZwUeAviLP9>) to record your order and send in payment via check to the school payable to 'HMS PTA' with subject line 'Hershey fundraiser'.

Orders close EOD March 23 and tickets will be distributed to families before Spring Break.

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## REMINDERS

### School Supplies

Restocking school supplies will ensure that students are ready to learn. Please provide or donate the necessary supplies for students, such as pencils, spiral notebooks, folders, tissues, and hand sanitizers. Out of all of the school supplies, **pencils** seem to be the high demand item. Any donations can be dropped off at the front office. Additionally, kindly remind your student to bring a Chromebook that is fully charged every day.

### 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.

### \*\*\*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)

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### **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 ANNOUNCEMENT

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



