

HMS Bulletin

March 11, 2025



IMPORTANT DATES

March 9: Daylight Saving Time

March 14 - Prof. Work and Wellness Day School closes 3 hrs early

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March 20: School Pictures

March 28: PTA Spring Fling Dance @ HMS 6:30 – 8:30pm

March 31: Full Day for Students (Make up Inclement weather day)

April 4: End of 3rd Marking Period

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

April 14 - 21: SPRING BREAK

April 25: Reports cards issued 4pm electronically

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Innovative Pathways High School Course List

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mdZfdaEGjpfwJrHux2hd0YUY4yhkQ3RfL4oMnm46rnl/edit?usp=sharing>

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Effective school year 2025/2026, Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene requires all incoming 7th grade students in the state of Maryland to have one Tdap and one MCV4 (Meningococcal ACWY) vaccine BEFORE the start of the 2025/2026 school year.

Some students may have already received these immunizations, but the Health Room may not have the updated immunization record. Please contact your child's health care provider and send or fax an updated copy of your child's immunizations to the Health Room. The fax number for the health room is 240-456-0391. If your student does not have these immunizations, parents should contact their health care provider as soon as possible to make an appointment for the student to obtain the required vaccines. Please provide the school with an updated copy of your child's immunization record (complete with the provider's signature) once vaccinations have been completed. *Failure to provide proof of updated immunizations by the first day of school in August, or to provide evidence of an appointment to receive those immunizations within 20 calendar days from the first day of school, will result in your student being excluded from school.* If you have any questions, please contact the health room at 410-880-5836

Thank you for your cooperation.
Sincerely,
Christina Toler BSN, RN, NCSN

Women's History Month Speaker Series – Call for Speakers

In honor of Women's History Month, our school is excited to host a Speaker Series featuring women from diverse fields who will visit classrooms to share their experiences and expertise. This initiative provides students with a unique opportunity to learn from professionals whose work connects with their studies and future aspirations.

We are currently seeking speakers who are interested in engaging with students about their career, field of work, or personal journey. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please use the attached link to sign up. [Sign up link](#)

Thank you for helping us celebrate and inspire our students during Women's History Month!

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee



Howard County MD

Education
Forum

Teens & Screens: Navigating Media Literacy and Healthy Boundaries

Via Zoom

Tuesday, March 18 from 7-8:30 p.m.



Cara Westover
Speaker

Cara Westover is a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and Clinical Director at Backpack Healthcare, where she leads with a commitment to clinical excellence, evidence-based care, and high-quality client outcomes. With over 15 years of experience in behavioral health, she specializes in disordered eating, body image, family dynamics, and self-worth, bringing a deep clinical perspective to both direct care and program development.

Learn how to:

- Start conversations on accuracy of media information.
 - Monitor interactions your child has on media.
 - Identify trustworthy accounts and pages that focus on positive and informative content.
 - Encourage unfollowing negative content to help reduce stress.
 - Promote offline activities.
-

Congratulations Hammond Leaders of the Month!



HMS LEADERS OF THE MONTH

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Clara Daly Francesca Marton Kevin Zhang	Elizabeth Franco Salvador Garcia- Pacheco Samanta Rojas-Pacheco	Adrienne Blades Noelle Chapman Carter Jackson Alex Medina-Hutchinson

HC DrugFree Updates (3-6-2025)

Free Parenting/Grandparenting Classes - Open to parents, guardians and grandparents residing in Howard County or with school-age children/grandchildren residing in the County. Evidence-based, interactive prevention program that provides families with the skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will use drugs and alcohol or engage in other dangerous behaviors. The curriculum was written for families with children 9-14 years old, but we believe it is appropriate for K-12 families. Class dates: March 18, 21, 25, 28 and April 1 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. on Zoom. Visit HC DrugFree's website for more information and register at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Spring2025GGC>

Drive-Thru Medication and Sharps Disposal – Saturday, April 26 in the Wilde Lake Village Center Parking Lot near the Swim Center from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Safely dispose of prescription and over-the-counter medication, EpiPens and other sharps, vitamins, pet meds, vape devices, inhalers, and more! Need student, adult, and medically trained adult volunteers. Giving away 100 medication lockboxes.

For more information: <https://hcdrugfree.org/drug-take-back-day-1/>

To sign up to volunteer: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/4-26-25TakeBack>

Teen Advisory Council - Open to Howard County students in grades 8-12. Earn Community Service Hours and make meaningful contributions to the community. Next meeting: Monday May 19, 2025, from 5:30-7:00 pm on Zoom. For more information, visit: <https://hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council/>

Abbie

Outreach Assistant

HC DrugFree

Abbie@hcdrugfree.org

REMINDERS

Due to safety concerns, parents are not permitted to use food delivery services like DoorDash to send food to students during school hours.

Student Personal Device Access Restrictions Now in Effect

The Board of Education's [approved adjustments](#) to Policy 8080 Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media took effect on March 3. Parents/guardians are encouraged to [discuss these changes](#) with their children so students are prepared to follow the policy changes and avoid facing consequences.

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, **tissues, pencils & hand sanitizer seem to be the high demand items**. 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.

New Late Arrival check in process

Dear School Community:

Beginning this month, the process for capturing students and logging late arrivals has changed. Previously, 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]. Please note, per [Policy 9010-IP](#): *The school must receive notification from the parent or physician explaining the absence/tardiness of a student within five (5) school days of the student's return or the absence/tardiness will be unlawful/unexcused.*

Student login electronically (unique to each student) When a student is tardy, this will be captured directly into Synergy.

- Parents no longer need to come into the school office to sign their child in.
- Parents can view time of arrival via [HCPSS Connect](#) by navigating to the Attendance tab>clicking on the day of concern in the calendar display>reviewing the timestamp under Attendance Detail.
- Late Arrivals/Tardies are recorded as *unlawful/unexcused* until the school receives notification from the parent.
 - Please send all such notifications to HMSAbsence@hcpss.org and include your student's full name, grade and date of absence/tardiness.
 - Students can still hand a parent's or doctor's note to the attendance secretary upon arrival.

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

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

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.