

HMS Bulletin

April 25, 2025

What a day at Hammond
Middle School!



Congratulations to Our Principal!

We are thrilled to share the exciting news that our very own principal, **Ms. Lisa Smith**, has been named Howard County Public School System's Principal of the Year! This well-deserved recognition is a testament to her outstanding leadership, unwavering dedication, and the positive impact she has made on our school community.

Please join us in congratulating Ms. Lisa Smith on this incredible honor – we are so proud to have such a visionary leader at the helm!

Spotlight on Excellence!

We are thrilled to celebrate **Natalie Pretzello**, one of HCPSS's brightest stars, as she represents our school system as a nominee for the Maryland State Teacher of the Year Award! 🌟

🎵 As an inspiring educator, Natalie brings passion, creativity, and heart to everything she does. Her dedication to her students and her craft makes her a true standout — and a role model for all. 🎵

Let's cheer her on as she takes the stage at the state level — we are so proud to have her in the HCPSS family!

 🙌 Bravo, Mrs. Pretzello! 🙌 

IMPORTANT DATES

April 28: 6th Grade Concert Band Assessment (after school)

April 30: 6th Grade Maryland Zoo Field Trip

May 2: 7th gr. Field Trip: Maryland Science Center

May 7: Prof. Work and Wellness Day School closes 3 hrs early

May 8: Orchestra Spring Concert (HMS 7:00-8:30 pm)

May 12: Spring Band Concert, 7pm @ HaHS

May 14: Spring Jazz Band Concert, 7pm @ RHS

May 16: Prof. Learning Day-Articulation School closes 3 hrs early

May 20: Family Night Extravaganza (HMS 6:00-7:30 pm)

May 21: Spring Chorus Concert, 7pm @ HaHS

May 22: 8th Grade Theatre Showcase (HMS)

May 26: MEMORIAL DAY - Schools Closed

May 30: Music in the Parks Field Trip

June 6: Professional Work Day School closes 3 hrs early

June 10: 8th Grade Dance (The Meeting House 6 -9 pm)

June 16: Professional Learning Day School closes 3 hrs early

June 17: Professional Work Day School closes 3 hrs early

June 17: 8th Grade Farewell Ceremony @ 2-3:30 pm AHS

June 18: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

HAMMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL 2025 SPRING★CONCERTS

ORCHESTRA
THURS MAY 8

HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL



BAND
MON MAY 12

HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL



JAZZ BAND
WEDS MAY 14

RESERVOIR HIGH SCHOOL



CHORUS
WEDS MAY 21

HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL

ALL PERFORMANCES BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M.

AUDITORIUM DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 P.M.

As part of a grant from the State of Maryland's Connected Devices Program, our school is partnering with the Bright Minds Foundation and the Howard County Government to continue to provide qualifying families with one free Chromebook and charger per household. This free new HP Chromebook can be used to connect with schools, access community services, for personal work purposes or for any other reason that benefits your family.

In order to qualify for a free Chromebook and charger, you must meet the following criteria:

- Your family has not already received a free device from one of these organizations: Community Action Council of Howard County, Howard County Office of Children and Families, or Making Change;
- You are the parent or legal guardian of a student currently enrolled in HCPSS;
- You meet one of the income qualifications outlined on the application form; and,
- The application form is fully completed.

If you qualify for a Chromebook and have completed the Google Form application, you will be notified by XXXX when the device is available for pick up. At that time, an adult family member will need to come to the school to receive the device. When you pick up the device, you will receive information about setting up the device and how to access technical support. These are not HCPSS devices, and will not come loaded with any HCPSS educational applications. HCPSS is not responsible or liable for the operation, loss, or repair of your Chromebook or charger. Families will be responsible for their own internet service. Families will have 5 days to exchange any non-functioning devices.

[Please read the instructions and complete the Free Chromebooks for Eligible HCPSS Parents or Guardians Google Form at this link.](#) If you have any questions, please contact us at [Lora Koehler, lora_koehler@hcpss.org, POC].

We look forward to partnering with the Bright Minds Foundations, Howard County Government, and you for this incredible opportunity!

Sincerely,

Lisa Smith and Lora Koehler

From the Health Room

Spring is here and so is allergy season. The health room is seeing students with multiple allergy symptoms. If your student suffers from allergies, consult with your pediatrician and please begin administering allergy medication. There really is nothing the health room staff can do but provide a cool cloth to wash their face and have them flush their eyes under cool running water. Thanks for your help!

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

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

PTA News:

Update Skate Night Waiver:

If you previously filled out a Skate Night waiver, please note that an updated version is now required.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQQkebVznXiRLiYDj3c8wASdGoHt27RVamFd9PCi71eIO4sg/viewform>

Hammond Middle School Staff Appreciation Week May 5-9

We'd like to make this year's staff appreciation week (Wicked themed) just as epic as last year's (Taylor Swift themed) and need some additional items and funds to do so! Please see a link to an Amazon wish list for items to be purchased or, as always, monetary donations via the Givebacks link can also be made and are greatly appreciated!

Amazon wishlist:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/25RXYAAEYGLUU...>

Givebacks store link for monetary contributions:

<https://hammondms.givebacks.com/store/items/1138733>

The PTA is sponsoring Monday/Wednesday/Friday and administration is sponsoring Tuesday/Thursday.

Any donation is helpful & we send BIG THANKS in advance for any contribution you are willing and able to make to this a success for the amazing staff.

Community News

HC DrugFree Updates

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

Atholton High School Future Raiders: Athletics meeting (Save the Date)

Hello future Raiders!

The athletic department at Atholton High School will be hosting an athletic information night on Thursday June 5th at 6pm in the cafeteria. This meeting is for all parents and players who wish to try out for a fall sport.

Tryouts begin August 13, 2025. All potential student athletes will need to be at all tryouts and practices will begin immediately after tryouts. Please plan vacations accordingly. There are no supplemental tryouts for high school sports. Fall sports include field hockey, volleyball, football, boys/girls' cross country, boys/girls' soccer, cheerleading, and boys/girls' golf.

More information will be coming out closer to this date. If you have any questions about Atholton High School athletics, please contact Mr. Senisi at Michael_Senisi@hcpss.org.

GO RAIDERS!!!

Mike Senisi, CMAA

Athletics and Activities Manager

Atholton High School 410-313-7080



Anxiety & Behavioral
Health Center

REGISTER
HERE:



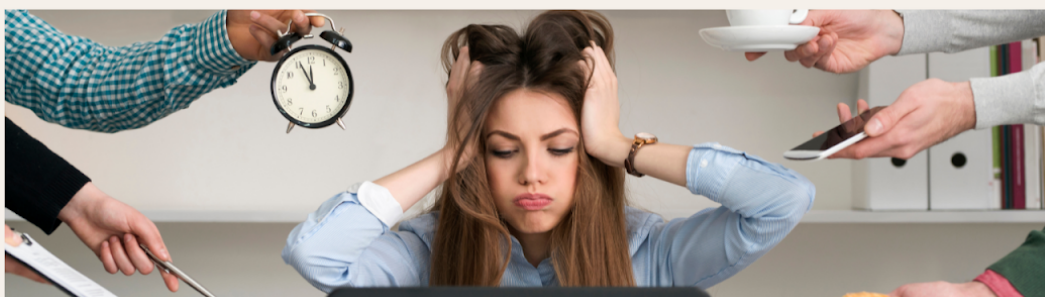
From Chaos to Control:

Supporting Children with Executive Dysfunction

Join Dr. Brooks & Dr. Engel-Green to learn about more about executive functioning and children.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- What exactly are executive functions?
- What constitutes developmentally typical executive functioning?
- Is it related to ADHD or anxiety?
- Strategies to effectively support your child's executive functioning development at home and in school.



WEDNESDAY | APRIL 23, 2025

7:00PM-8:00PM VIA ZOOM

FREE!



[LINK TO REGISTER
NOW!](#)

(240) 549-0052

www.anxietyandbehavioralhealth.com

REMINDERS:

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.

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.