

HMS Bulletin

October 6, 2023



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

October is the start of National Bullying Prevention Month! We wanted to use this opportunity to share with our students, parents, guardians, and families some information and definitions to better help you understand bullying. It is important that you understand what bullying is to ensure you are able to report it when you see it or are told about it. Thank you for helping to ensure our school a safe place for all students!

How do I know if something is bullying?

Conflict between students is inevitable, but it's not always easy to identify whether the conflict is bullying or mean/rude behavior. Understanding the difference is important so we know how to respond. Here are a few key points to consider when determining if something is bullying:

- Bullying - Repeated, harmful, and involves an unfair power match
- Mean - Hurt is intentional/purposeful, but not part of a larger pattern or a mismatch
- Rude - Accidentally hurting another person's feelings

All of these behaviors require attention. Addressing mean/rude behavior early can help prevent a student from turning their behavior into a pattern of bullying.

What are some of the different types of bullying?

Bullying can appear in many different forms. Below are a few examples.

- Verbal bullying is saying or writing mean things. Verbal bullying includes:
 - Teasing
 - Name Calling
 - Inappropriate sexual comments
 - Taunting
 - Threatening to cause harm
- Social bullying, sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships. Social bullying includes:
 - Leaving someone out on purpose
 - Telling other children not to be friends with someone
 - Spreading rumors about someone
 - Embarrassing someone in public
- Physical bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions. Physical bullying includes:
 - Hitting/kicking/pinching
 - Spitting
 - Tripping/pushing
 - Taking or breaking someone's things
 - Making mean or rude hand gestures.

- Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets.
 - Most common places cyberbullying occurs are: social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Tik Tok, text messages, direct messaging, chat rooms, emails and online gaming communities.
 - Includes sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation.
 - At times can cross the line into unlawful or criminal behavior.
 - More information on Cyberbullying can be found on the [Stopbullying](#) website.

How do I report bullying?

1. When you believe bullying has taken place, you should report it through the Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment and Intimidation (BCHI) reporting form. Reporting can take place in one of three ways:
 1. Complete a [BCHI online reporting form](#)
 2. BCHI paper reporting form (available in the main office, staff workroom, school counseling office, media center, and health services office)
 3. An oral report to a staff member
2. It is important to note that policy states “in the event the reporting party does not complete a BCHI Reporting Form, school administrators/supervisors will take the appropriate steps to address and document the incident.” Therefore, if you or someone else makes an oral report, it then must be documented (i.e. through a BCHI reporting form) by the administrator.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 9: Professional Learning Day - School Closed for Students

October 13: HMS PTA Fall Fest - 3:15pm to 5pm

October 19: Family Engagement (Data & Dinner) 5pm - 7pm

October 20: Professional Work Day - School Closed for Students

October 27: HMS Flu Clinic

October 31: End of 1st marking period - Schools close 3 hours early

November 2: PTA Meeting @ 7pm

November 6: 6th grade field trip (Terrapin Adventures)

November 8: HMS Hearing/Vision Clinic for all 8th graders and 6th and 7th graders new to the state of Maryland

November 8: Report Cards Issued

November 20 & 21: Schools close 3 hours early. Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 22: Schools closed for students. Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 23 & 24: Schools & Offices closed

November 27: (Rescreen) HMS Hearing/Vision Clinic for all 8th graders and 6th and 7th graders new to the state of Maryland

November 30: Family Engagement

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Pick Up After Your Pet

Please pick up after your pet. It doesn't take much to remember that we have pets in our community. In fact, if you don't watch your step, your liable to step in one such reminder. When walking your dog on school grounds, remember that it should be leashed. Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. **Take along a baggie with you to pick up waste with and then dispose of it properly.** By taking a few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you can contribute to the beautification of our school grounds and community. Thank you for your cooperation!

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)

Students who participated in the 2023 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) for grades 6-8, Algebra I and II, and Geometry in the 2022-2023 school year will be hand carrying individual score reports home on October 3, 2023. For additional information on how to interpret the reports,

please visit <https://support.mdassessments.com/reporting/> and click on the Parent Score Interpretation Guide menu.

HCPSS & The Council of Elders Virtual Community Academies

HCPSS and The Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County have partnered to sponsor a [virtual parent workshops series](#). The first workshop is Saturday, Oct. 14 and will focus on effectively maintaining communication with your child's school. Register online.



A [special shout](#) out to **Mr. Andrew Silverstein** for donating Chess games for our after school intramural.

Thank you!

[FROM THE HEALTH ROOM](#)

Clinic at HMS

Each year, the Howard County Public School System partners with the Maryland Partnership for Prevention to bring flu immunizations into our schools for students. This year, they will also be offering the latest Covid vaccine (Moderna). The clinic at Hammond Middle School will be held on **Friday, October 27th** during school hours. If you would like your child to be vaccinated against the flu and/or Covid at this clinic, please register at this link: <https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/0267912063>

You are not required to provide your child's insurance information.

***Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is safe to [get a flu and COVID vaccine at the same time](#). If you have any concerns, please speak with your child's pediatrician.

***The last day to register is 10/19/23 to allow our health room staff time to review and prepare the consents and make sure enough vaccine is ordered. There will be no walk-in registrations accepted on clinic day. If you have any questions, please call the health room at 410-880-5836.

Over the Counter Medications

Please remember to send in any medications with a doctor's order. Over the counter medications need a doctor's order as well. Please find all forms on this link: <https://www.hcpss.org/about-us/forms/>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

HCPSS is following the recommendations of the CDC as it pertains to students with communicable diseases, i.e., Covid. If you have any questions, please notify the Health Room. Click on the following link for details: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>

AT-HOME HEALTH CHECKS

Parents/guardians should keep their children home if they are experiencing symptom(s) associated with any communicable disease. For people with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

All students, staff and visitors should perform daily health checks and may not enter an HCPSS bus or building with ANY of the following:

- fever of 100 degrees or higher
- sore throat
- cough
- difficulty breathing
- diarrhea or vomiting
- new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or
- new loss of taste or smell

FROM THE HMS PTA

FALL FEST TICKETS ON SALE: HMS Students are invited to come out for an afternoon of fall fun on **Friday, October 13th** from **3:15-5pm** (rain date Thursday, October 19th). Fall Fest will feature a DJ, Photo Booth, games, crafts, cotton candy, prizes, snacks/drinks, and more! Tickets are **\$7** and include everything! Please contact the HMS administrative team or your child's school counselor if you are not able to purchase tickets due to financial hardship.

Tickets can be purchased online here: [Givebacks \(memberhub.com\)](https://www.givebacks.com/memberhub.com). Ticket sales close at **5pm on Thursday, October 12th**. The HMS PTA will also be selling tickets during lunch on Tuesday, October 10th, please send exact change.

FALL FEST VOLUNTEER & DONATION SIGN UP: Help make the HMS Fall Fest a success by volunteering your time and/or items needed for the event.

Volunteers are needed from 2:15pm - 5:30pm but there are several shifts available if you aren't available for the entire time. For more information and to sign up, please visit: [Hammond Middle School Fall Fest: HMS Fall Fest Volunteer & Donation Sign-Up \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com).

Spirit Wear Sale

The blue ship is sailing!!

The Fall Spirit Wear Online Store is now open.

Please check out all the new offerings! Apparel marked with full back has the new ship design on the back. Store closes on October 15, with deliveries in November.

[Hammond Middle School PTA Spirit Wear 2023](#)

REMINDERS

Data & Dinner

Join us for our next Family Engagement Night, Thursday, October 19, from 5-7 p.m. in the HMS Media Center, where we will engage in data conversations.


On October 3rd and 5th, many of our students took the Reading and Math MAP (Measures for Academic Progress) assessment. However, 8th grade GT ELA, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, or Statistics students will not take the 2023-2024 school year MAP assessment.

At "Dinner and Data," the data will include your students' most recent Reading and Math MAP data from this fall's October sessions. By registering, we can be prepared for dinner plans, and each registered participant will receive a folder with your student's specific data and an area for reflection as we discuss how to interpret the scores and support further academic growth.

Please register [here](#). We look forward to seeing you!

BSAP College and Career Opportunities Night


The HCPSS Black Student Achievement Program invites you to attend the upcoming [BSAP College and Career Opportunities Night](#) on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at Long Reach High School. This College and Career Opportunities Night invites scholars in grades 8 - 12 countywide to network with working professionals, colleges, and universities, explore post-secondary opportunities, and learn more about HCPSS pathways. The evening will highlight a variety of colleges and universities as well as local businesses and organizations. To register, please complete the Registration Form linked [here](#).



Black Student Achievement Program

College and Career Opportunities Night

**Empower to Dream and Picture the Possibilities
for 8th–12th Grade Scholars and Families**




Thursday, October 12, 2023 • 4–8 p.m.
Long Reach High School
6101 Old Dobbin Road • Columbia, MD 21045

4–5:30 p.m.

- College and Career One-on-One Counseling Sessions
- HCPSS College and Career Workshops

6–8 p.m.

- Network Café with College and Career Representatives
- College and Career Workshops



To register, please use the QR Code or the link below.
<https://forms.gle/tF6GwdmuCyW4qn7PA>

HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM 10910 Clarksville Pike • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 410-313-6600 • www.hcpss.org

Be Sure You're Receiving Emails and Texts

HCPSS uses both text messages and email to communicate important and time-sensitive information, including bus delays and emergency closings. Parents/guardians are automatically enrolled for email notification; however all users **must opt in one time to receive texts** by texting “yes” to 67587 from the mobile number listed in their Family File. If you are not receiving HCPSS or school emails/texts, please contact your school’s front office.

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

Medication & Sharps Disposal - Saturday, October 28th, 10am - 2pm

Wilde Lake Village Center Parking Lot

5305 Village Center Drive, Columbia, MD 21044

For more information click here: [Medication & Sharps Disposal.pdf](#)

FREE Parenting Class

Guiding Good Choices - Taking HoCo Families to the Next Level

Class Dates: Thursdays, November 2, 9, 16, 30, & December 7.

For more information click here: [Free Parenting Class.pdf](#)

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

