

HMS Bulletin

November 3, 2023



IMPORTANT DATES

November 3: Community Listening Session #2, 8:30-9:15 AM at Starbucks Maple Lawn

November 3: Reflections theme search submissions due

November 5: Daylight Savings Time Ends

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

November 6: Conferences open up for Families @ 8:00 am

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 electronically

November 8: 11:59 p.m. - School of Excellence surveys due

November 13: Spirit Night at Maiwand Kabob Maple Lawn

November 14: Parent/Teacher Conference Scheduling Window Closes at 4:00pm

November 13-17: American Education Week

- **6th grade, November 14th - bring your parent to school**
- **7th grade, November 15th - bring your parent to school**
- **8th grade, November 16th - bring your parent to school**

November 15: Student Picture Re-take @ 8:30am (see details below)

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 - Thanksgiving Holiday

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

November 29: Family Engagement Night - Topic SEL (*Social Emotional Learning and Wellness*) 5:30pm - 7:30pm

December 13: Professional Work and Wellness Day - Schools close 3 hours early

December 15: Family Engagment Night (*Math Night*)

December 25: Schools and Offices Closed

December 26-31: Winter Break - Schools Closed

January 1: Schools and Offices Closed

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Atholton High School - JROTC Department

JROTC from Atholton High School spoke to our rising 9th graders today about their program. Thank you for sharing how JROTC teaches necessary skills for life, learn to grow as leaders, within their communities and beyond. **Thank you!**

HUGE shout out to the HMS PTA & community!

Last Thursday, the HMS Staff was treated to delicious apple bar.

Thank you so much for the special treat!



CONGRATULATIONS to **Caleb Silverstein!** He won a lunch bunch during the 6th grade raffle with Ms. Williamson. The lunch bunch was based on M&Ms and Mindfulness, they talked about how we can use our strengths in and outside the classroom to be more mindful when working with others!

Family Engagement Night - Topic SEL (Social Emotional Learning)
- November 29th @ 5:30pm

We have so enjoyed getting to know our families during our Family Engagement Nights. If you missed our October event "Data and Dinner," where we engaged in data conversations around our school's most recent MAP scores, you can find more information [here](#).

For this month's focus, we would like to highlight our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) initiatives, including mindfulness. We would like to invite you and your student or students to join us together in some mindfulness activities. Mindfulness is an evidence-based therapeutic technique that has been identified as a tool to assist middle-school-aged students with relationships, academics, and self-esteem

Please [RSVP](#) so we can prepare materials and refreshments for our November SEL, Tea and Dessert Family Engagement Night!

Health Room News (Vision and Hearing Screening)

The Howard County Health Department and HCPSS School Health Services support your student's academic success by providing vision and hearing screenings at your child's school. **Howard County screens students new to**

the Maryland school system and students in 8th grade. Vision and Hearing Screening will be held on **Wednesday, November 8th** during the school day at Hammond Middle School.

The re-screening date is scheduled for November 27th.

******IF YOUR STUDENT WEARS GLASSES, PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY WEAR THEM ON SCREENING DAY (November 8th).**

If your student does not pass the vision and/or hearing screen, you will receive a letter from their school notifying you of this result. It is then recommended that you take your student to have their vision and/or hearing evaluated by an eye care specialist or an audiologist.

Your student will receive these screenings unless the parent/guardian objects for religious reasons. Please email the school nurse (christina_toler@hcpss.org) if you choose to OPT OUT of the Health Department vision and hearing screenings.

Thank you.

[Flyer \(English\)](#)

[Flyer \(Español\)](#)

From the Media Center

**BOOK
FAIR
COMING SOON!**

November is here, which means the Book Fair is coming (Nov. 27-Dec.1)! Every year, HMS hosts the Scholastic Book Fair, in which the funds are used to benefit the school in all kinds of ways! We have used the funds to purchase more print books for classrooms, support field trips and even buy equipment!

Students have the opportunity to come visit first in ELA, and then return for a buying day in ELA. You can also always shop online (the online fair opens Nov. 20th). Last year we went cashless, and it was really successful. This year we will continue to be **cashless**. Student options will be Scholastic eWallet- which we prefer- but we will also accept all major credit cards, check, and most tap-to-pay options like Apple Pay.

Please visit our Scholastic website to create your eWallets, shop online starting Nov. 20th and preview the titles coming to the

fair! <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/hammondmiddleschool1>

Any questions can be directed to our Media Specialist, Lora Koehler (lora_koehler@hcpss.org)

Quarter 1 Report Cards

Quarter 1 report cards will be available in HCPSS Connect Synergy at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 8. Instructions on how to access report cards are available online. New this year, HCPSS will use [standards-based reporting for grades prekindergarten-2](#), which includes new performance codes and report card layout. There are no changes to report cards for remaining grades for the 2023-2024 school year.

Register for Parent Teacher Conferences

HCPSS schools will hold parent teacher conferences November 20-22. Parents may [register for conferences](#) via HCPSS Connect Synergy Monday, November 6th at 8:00a.m. through Thursday, November 16th at 4:00p.m. Please keep in mind that conferences are limited to 3 subjects only and should only be scheduled if you have concerns.

A Memo from the HMS DEI Committee

Happy Friday Hammond Middle families!

The HMS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee would like to acknowledge that the month of November is **Native American Heritage Month**. The Howard County Library System is hosting an event this weekend in celebration on **Saturday, November 4th from 11am to 3pm at Color Burst Park!** If you are interested, please follow the link below to see details about the event.

[HCLS Native American Heritage Month Celebration](#)



Native American Heritage Month Celebration

Saturday, November 4 | 11 am – 3 pm
Color Burst Park
6000 Merriweather Dr., Columbia 2 pm: Author Steven Paul Judd
Performers include: Carly Harvey, Tsalagi and Tuscarora: singer Brett Walking Eag...

chapterchats.org

WE CAN DO THIS!!! FOOD WITH INTEGRITY
COMMUNITY STARTS HERE... 55% TASTE% MAD
FOIL-WRAP... EVEREST
GOODNE... HER DAY
GENEROUS... THING DAY
HELPING... ULTIMATE
HARRIS... BETTER
ANSW...
SPEED

**DO GOOD
WITH CHIPOTLE**

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
**HAMMOND MS MUSIC
DEPARTMENT**

33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH | 4-8PM
11811 W MARKET PL STE 3, FULTON, MD, 20759

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE 93VLY3X
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

CHIPOTLE

For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

[Chipotle Fundraiser for HMS Music Spanish Flyer - 11.6.23.pdf](#)

Join us at Chipotle in Maple Lawn **Monday 11/6 from 4-8 pm** and HMS Music Department will receive a donation of 30%! Order in person and mention HMS, or order online and **use code 93VLY3X**. Thanks for your support!

[A MESSAGE FROM THE HMS PTA](#)

PTA Updates: If you missed last night's PTA meeting, view the materials here: t.ly/hmypadlet

School of Excellence Survey

Please complete the survey! Deadline is 11/8. Open to all families and staff.

English: <https://forms.gle/Qe3uQcNntRUHaWvi7> or

español: <https://forms.gle/SQRqRhkKGGTDPpsM8>

Parents & Guardians Listening Session/Chat - New Online date

Join other HMS families online Wednesday, Nov. 8 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. from the comfort of your home to discuss your feelings about inclusivity, communication, support, and collaboration at HMS. It will be a roundtable discussion with six question prompts.

Meeting ID meet.google.com/gkr-vvgj-wsx Phone Numbers (US)+1 828-565-2096 PIN: 976 413 595#

Hammond Movie, Game, Craft Night - REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Students can join us for the first Hammond Movie, Game, Craft Night on Friday, November 10 from 6-8pm in the HMS cafeteria. This is a free social event for HMS students to watch a movie, play board games, and make bracelets. Kids may bring their favorite card/board game (games will also be available). Free snacks and drinks will be provided and pizza slices will be available for \$3 each if pre-ordered on Memberhub t.ly/hmsspizza or \$5 at the event. Come hang out with your friends and have some fun! Registration Deadline is Thursday, Nov. 9. Chaperones are needed for this event! Register at: <https://hmspta.ticketleap.com/hammondhangout/>

REMINDERS

Absentees & Picture Retake Day

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 @ 8:30am

You may have your portraits retaken on this day.

The entire portrait package must be returned.

Please have your child bring the portrait package to the photographer on retake day.

Parents of students who were absent should contact the main office for an order envelope if they wish to order portraits.

Please visit us at: www.schoolpix.com to order additional portraits.

Order Form: [Picture Order Form.pdf](#)

Chess Club Snacks - Signup Genius



We need volunteers to provide snacks for our intramural Chess Club. Attached is the link for the Signup Genius. We appreciate any and all donations. Any questions, please contact Sandy_Smith@hcpss.org. To sign up click here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BABA82FA2FDC07-45283668-chess#/>

Thank you!

Picking Up Your Child Early

If you are picking up your student early, please be prepared with your photo ID. This is necessary to verify that you are in our Synergy system and have permission to pick the student up from HMS. If there are any neighbors, friends, or relatives that may pick up your child in an emergency, please add them through [HCPSS Connect](#) and ensure that they have permission to pick up your child. Anyone that is not listed in Synergy will not be able to pick up the child.

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

K-12 student musicians wanted for concerts at nursing homes

Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? Do you want to help the senior community? Come and join UNMUTE student musicians! All music levels and genres are welcome. UNMUTE is a National 501(c)(3) non-profit and tax-exempt organization registered under IRS and Maryland. We hold both in-person and virtual concerts for assisted living facilities and senior centers. This is our 5th year bringing warmth and music to the senior community !! To date, UNMUTE has delivered over 54 in-person concerts and 120 virtual concerts, and all are contributed by amazing students!!

Location

3375 Ellicott Center Drive, #2623
Ellicott City, MD 21041
United States

Cost (if applicable)

None

Contact Information

Vivian Raj

Email: vivianraj2008@gmail.com

Phone [\(410\) 855-2197](tel:(410)855-2197)

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

