

# HMS Bulletin

December 15, 2023



## IMPORTANT DATES

**December 18:** High School Course Registration opens (see below for more details)

**December 19:** HMS Chorus Concert, 7pm @ Atholton HS

**December 20:** HMS PTA Spirit Day at Tampico Grill from 11am - 9pm

**December 25 - January 1:** Winter Break - Schools and Offices Closed

**January 11:** HMS Spelling Bee Competition - 6pm @ HMS Media Center

**January 16:** High School Registration Closes

**January 18:** (*snow date*) HMS Spelling Bee Competition

**January 23:** New Student & Rising 6th grade Parent Orientation/Information Night 6pm-7pm

**January 25:** Family Engagement - How to Support a student with a plan?

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Hammond Leaders of the Month!

**Samantha Manikin-Rhea, Dominic Ye, Kaitlyn Peplowski, Rylee Willis, Janette Pagan, Ajani Hawkins, Zaheen Pathan, Dominic Nguyen**



## Hammond Leaders of the Month of December

### COLLABORATION

Collaboration is an ongoing team process where everyone is valued and works towards a common goal.

Mrs. Haley's 7th grade ELA class participating in a Socratic Seminar. This is a literary strategy to promote student discourse.

### Mrs. Haley's 7th grade ELA Class



Sending a ***BIG*** Shout out to **Reservoir High School, Atholton High School** and **Hammond High School** for coming out and talking to our 8th graders today! Students were engaged and enjoyed learning about their upcoming high school experience!



Reservoir High School



Atholton High School



Hammond High School

Attention 8th Grade Students

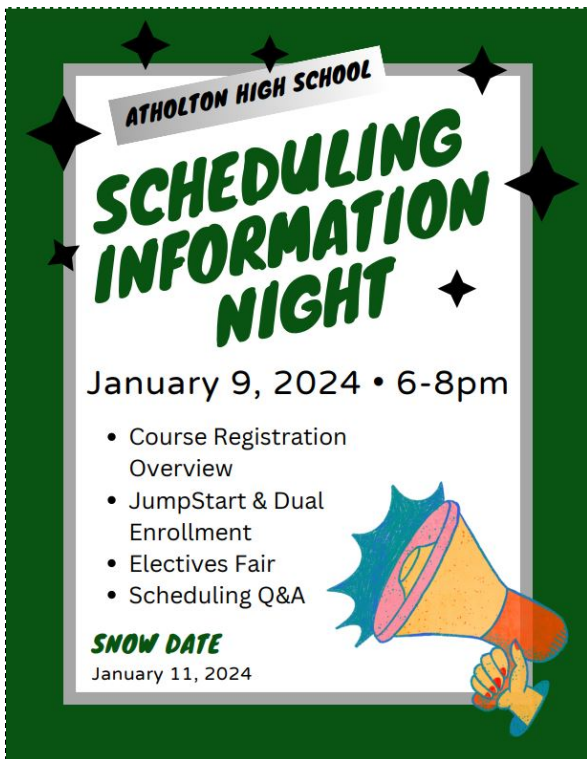
Reservoir New Student & Family Information Night

Thursday, January 11, 2024

5:30 - 7:45 pm

RHS Auditorium

For rising 9th grade RHS students and parents.  
Come learn about Reservoir sports, activities,  
academics, Jumpstart, and more.



# HAMMOND HS SCHEDULING

## SCHEDULING EXTRAVAGANZA

In-Person

Hammond High School

**THURSDAY, Jan. 4th @ 6pm**

**5:30pm - Rising 9th Grade Welcome and Presentation**

**6:00pm - General Welcome and Scheduling Overview and Opportunities**

**6:15pm - Midterm Review/Explanation**

**ITL Presentations for Electives, Course Levels**

**6:45-7:15pm - Department Open Houses and Choose your Own Adventure Begin (Cafeteria)**

**6:45-7:15pm - AP Potential Breakout (PL Room), ARL & Academies, HCC/Jumpstart**

Below, is a link to the course scheduling site. This is a great resource as students begin to enter HS course requests.

<https://sites.google.com/hcpss.org/hahsschedule/home>

## **2024-2025 High School Course Registration Opens Dec. 18**

Course registration for the 2024-2025 school year will open for **current 8-11 grade students at 8:00 a.m. Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, and run through 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024.** The high school course registration process is completed by students each year online in HCPSS Connect Synergy. Schedule modifications are made in the late winter/early spring, and final student schedules, including class periods and teachers, are available in late August.

- → Dec. 18, 2023: Registration opens
- → Jan. 16, 2024: Registration closes
- → January-February 2024: Students meet with school counselors to review course requests
- → Spring 2024: Students/families view scheduled courses for 2024-2025 school year
- → August 2024: Prior to start of school year, complete student schedules are available

General information on the high school course registration process can be found on the link below. Please contact your school counselor with any questions. <https://www.hcpss.org/academics/high-school-course-registration/>

## **A Memo from the Media Center**

If students have any unspent scholastic funds, visit <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/hammondmiddleschool1> to spend what you have left.

## **HCPSS Emergency Notification Procedures**

As we head into winter weather, [families are reminded](#) that in emergency situations (including inclement weather), information will be shared with the community only through the HCPSS website, email and text, Twitter and the HCPSS weather hotline. [Be sure your Family File is up to date](#) and that you have [opted into texts](#) to receive emergency messages.

## **Register for Spring 2024 BSAP Saturday Math Academy, Jan. 6**

*Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, 9 a.m.- until capacity is reached, online registration*

All HCPSS students in all levels of math for grades 3 through 12 are invited to participate in the HCPSS Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP) Saturday Math Academy. [Registration will take place online via HCPSS Connect](#) and remain open until capacity is reached. Class space is limited. Additional program details, including dates, cost, and payment options, are available online.

## **FROM THE HMS PTA**

### **Note from the PTA Staff Appreciation Committee:**

Hi everyone!

The holidays are rapidly approaching and we are planning a cookie buffet for the staff! If you are able to donate, we'd greatly appreciate it!

STAFF APPRECIATION - DECEMBER

**Event:** Cookie Buffet

We are planning a cookie buffet for the staff! Store bought and homemade cookies of all kinds are welcome!

All donations must be dropped off in the front office either Tuesday, 12/19 during school hours or Wednesday, 12/20 by 11:00am!

As always, we will also be accepting monetary donations via the PTA givebacks link if that is easier for you! <https://hammondms.memberhub.com/store/items/893493?fbclid=IwAR0UFVXiSi04GO1R9X0HolSmabe-dY1iTbXfEjgwMLi3dbz1G184717Y2qA>

Thank you, as always, for your support and generosity!!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0845A5AA2CA20-46835123-hmsdecember>

## **REMINDERS**



**HMS Spelling Bee Competition - January 11th @ 6pm - HMS Media Center**

For more information or to sign up for the Spelling Bee click here: [HMS 2024 Spelling Bee Flyer.pdf](#)

## **Student Meal Payments**

Families are reminded that HCPSS now uses the [LINQ Connect](#) portal for student meal payments; monitoring their child's meal account; scheduling automatic recurring payments; setting up low balance alerts; submitting a Free and Reduced Meals program application; and more. MySchoolBucks meal balances were automatically transferred to LINQ Connect this summer. [Additional information](#) about student meals is available online.

## **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](mailto: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**

RHS DANCE PROGRAM

# DANCE PLACEMENT AUDITIONS

FRIDAY, JAN 12TH

4:30-6:30

RHS DANCE STUDIO



FOR MORE INFO,  
PLEASE VISIT  
[RHS DANCE.WEEBLY.COM](https://www.rhsdance.weebly.com)

## Reservoir HS Dance Placement Auditions

Dance Placement Auditions will be held in the dance studio on Friday, Jan. 12th from 4:30-6:30. Students should wear dance attire (leotard, tank top or shirt & leggings) and secure hair away from face. Upon arrival, students will complete an audition form, receive a number sticker and enter the studio to stretch. The audition process is broken down into three rounds: across the floor, modern combination, jazz combination. Students will be placed in the most appropriate class for their level of tech after each round. Some students will not need to stay for the entire process. Those with more dance experience should expect to remain for all three rounds which usually end between 6:15-6:30. All students may registration for Dance 1 without participating in the audition process. Any students planning on attending auditions should put Dance 1 on their schedule, any corrections to incoming freshman schedules will be made through RHS Student Services.

### Free Life Skills Classes for HoCo Kids (Grades 6-9)

January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, 27, and March 5, 2024 • 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

HC DrugFree is providing another series of *FUN* and interactive skills-based classes designed to **promote positive health and personal development**. This curriculum was designed for students in **grades 6 to 9**, but for slightly younger or older students, we will consider each request. Taught by college students with assistance of high schoolers who act as mentors and role models, this innovative series uses developmentally appropriate, collaborative learning strategies so students will learn skills that have been shown to help **resist high-risk behaviors**. The curriculum is designed to strengthen student's social skills, personal self-management skills, substance resistance skills, and more! Learn more and register: <https://tinyurl.com/LifeSkillsSpring24>

### HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council

Next meeting: Monday January 8 • 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Howard County Teens! Are you ready to stand out? HC DrugFree invites all Howard County students in grades 8-12 to join the HC DrugFree Teen Advisory Council (TAC). TAC members are student leaders who earn community service hours while developing life skills to make healthy choices and prepare for life after middle and high school. TAC provides a meaningful way for students to volunteer in the community and **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** all while building a powerful resume for job and college applications! Now accepting registrations for the this school year. Learn more and register: <https://tinyurl.com/HCDrugFreeTAC> or email [admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:admin@hcdrugfree.org)

### Coat Drive



**Coat Drive**  
*Help us share the warmth!*

Help local families by donating new or gently used coats, jackets or toiletries to our office during the month of December!

Drop off will be during normal business hours.

All donations will go to Howard County Public School System Pupil Personnel Services.

**Happy Holidays!**

Terrific Smiles Pediatric Dentistry  
5850 Waterloo Road Suite 220  
Columbia, MD 21045

Collection Dates Dec 11 - Jan 12, 2024  
Monday 10:00AM to 5:00 PM  
Wednesday 9:00AM to 4:00PM  
Thursday 9:00 AM to 2:00PM

*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](https://hms.hcpss.org)





