

HMS Bulletin

February 23, 2024



IMPORTANT DATES

February 26: Employee Appreciation Week

February 29: Family Engagement Night - Literacy Night (5:30pm - 7pm)

March 1: First Day of Women's History Month

March 4-5: Tentative 8th Grade MISA

March 10: Daylight Saving Time starts

March 11: HMS PTA Fundraiser @ Red Robin (all day) 8640 Snowden River Parkway Columbia, MD 21045

March 13: Professional Work & Wellness Day - Schools Close 3 Hours Early

March 14: Pi Day

March 21: Family Engagement Night

March 25-28: Spring Break, School Closed

March 29 - April 1: Spring Break, Schools & Offices Closed

April 9: End of Third Marking Period

April 10: Professional Work Day - Schools closed for students

April 17: Report Cards Issued (*electronically*)

May 14: Primary Election Day - Schools & Offices closed

May 17: Articulation Day - 3 hour early dismissal

May 27: Memorial Day - Schools & Offices closed

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS to Hammond Leaders of the Month!

Janine Chen, Daniel McCoy, Aleena Memon, William String, Nathaniel Aduwu, Jeremiah Kargbo, Aylay McCoy



Hammond Leaders of the Month of February

COMMUNICATION

Communication is purposeful conversations where we use active listening and show respect for different perspectives.

HMS Family Engagement Night #6

Come spend an evening with us exploring writing and showcasing the written and spoken word. We will kick off the night celebrating Black History through the arts with student poetry, music and refreshments! We will also share an overview of writing expectations at the middle school level while playing BINGO! Parents and their children will then move into breakout room sessions to explore writing in new and fun ways! Participate in creating your own Black Out Poetry, storytelling and learning about how discussions can foster better writing.

February 29th 5:30-7 pm. Meet in the Media Center for our Writing and Wraps night!

Please complete the RSVP so we can prepare accordingly.

<https://forms.gle/i1PqDYM7Ki6nLTrTA>

Attention 8th Grade Families

Dear families of HMS 8th graders,

Romeo and Juliet, by William Shakespeare, is an anchor text in our Love and Friendship unit, and it is our students' first experience with Shakespeare's plays. Though many students might be intimidated by Shakespeare's language at first, we have learned that when students see the words come alive in a performance, their perceptions change. We know that once students have seen the play, and performed some of it themselves, their confidence soars.

That's why we are so excited to arrange this field trip for students to see the play performed live by professional actors, in a venue that recreates elements of the Globe Theater.

For this field trip on April 19, 2024, students will travel to downtown Baltimore for the performance. We'll return in time for students to have lunch at school. Ask your student for the yellow permission slip distributed in ELA class.

The signed permission slip and \$33.25 fee must be turned in to your child's ELA teacher by Friday, March 8, 2024. **Form:** [CSC field trip form.pdf](#)

Payment can be in the form of cash (exact change, please), check, or online. View the field trip form for details. To pay online, you can use this link: <https://osp.osmsinc.com/p/DA023-90>

Questions? Contact Cecilia Haley at cecilia_haley@hcpss.org

Sincerely,

Cecilia Haley and Rachael LaVoy,
8th Grade English Language Arts

New Lightspeed Parent Portal

Parents/guardians now may select to receive Lightspeed weekly emails summarizing their student's HCPSS Chromebook internet usage. The same email contains an option to sign up for the Lightspeed Parent Portal, which provides near real-time information on a student's HCPSS Chromebook internet activity, and offers the ability to pause web browsing and block social media sites when not on the HCPSS network. Learn more about [Lightspeed for parents/guardians](#) online.

A message from the HMS PTA

Red Robin Fundraiser for Hammond Middle School PTA in Columbia. 20% of eligible dine-in and to-go sales will go to us!

Fundraiser date: March 11, 2024 (ALL day)

Restaurant location: 8640 Snowden River Parkway Columbia, MD 21045

REMINDERS

Calling all parents and children!

Join us for a day filled with eco-friendly fun and education at **Hammond High School's 10th Annual Green Fest!** Celebrate our commitment to a greener, more sustainable future on **Saturday, February 24th, from 10 am to 1 pm.**

What to Expect:

Exciting eco-friendly activities for kids and adults
Informative displays showcasing environmental initiatives
Prizes and giveaways
A vibrant community atmosphere

Special Program by Howard County Library:

The Howard County Library is thrilled to host a special program just for kids during the event! Spark your child's curiosity with entertaining and educational activities that promote environmental awareness.

Why Attend?

Foster a love for nature in your children
Learn about sustainable practices for your family
Connect with like-minded individuals in our community
Support Hammond High School's commitment to environmental education

Location:

Hammond High School
8800 Guilford Road, Columbia, MD 21046

Save the date, bring your family, and be part of the green movement! Together, let's make a positive impact on our environment.

See you at the 10th Annual Green Fest – where sustainability meets celebration!

Drop Off Reminders

Students should not be dropped off prior to 8:10am. School staff do not report for duty until then. Therefore, there is no adult supervision.

Thank you for your support and cooperation

Car Pool Drop off and Pick-up

The end of the HMS/HES upper parking lot requires merging. Please be mindful and courteous to alternate cars to form a single line when exiting to prevent an accident.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

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.

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

The Council of Elders Community Academy: Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships

The Council of Elders Community Academy on Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships on **March 9**. The virtual session will be held from 9-10:30 a.m. The session will explore the dynamics of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships and how to start conversations with children. In this interactive session, participants will:

- Learn how to help their child manage peer conflict.
- Learn how to identify abuse in teen relationships.
- Gain skills and strategies to intervene, if needed.
- Please register for this virtual session [hereLinks to an external site.](#). Additional information can be found [hereLinks to an external site.](#). Contact Sheree Tilley with questions.

LIFE ELITE ATHLETICS AAU BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

Organization

[Leaders with Integrity Focus and Education, Inc.](#)

Ages: [K-5th grade](#), [Middle school](#)

The LIFE Elite Athletics AAU Basketball tryouts are open to boys from grades 4-7 (10U-13U). The AAU season is for student-athletes that want to enhance their basketball skills to the highest potential. The schedule for the teams include local and out of state tournaments depending on the slated team.

10U & 11U - 6:00 PM -6:45 PM 12U - 7:00 -7:45PM 13U - 8: 00- 8:45 PM

- **Monday**, February 26th **LAKE ELKORN** Middle School 6680 Cradlerock Way Columbia, MD 21045
- **Tuesday**, February 27th **HANOVER HILLS** Elementary School 7030 Banbury Drive Hanover, MD 21076
- **Thursday**, February 29th **HANOVER HILLS** Elementary School 7030 Banbury Drive Hanover, MD 21076

Cost (if applicable)

Tryouts are \$0

Contact Information: Raea Wilson

Email: raealifeismeorg@gmail.com

Phone: (443) 595-7761

2024 STARTALK Chinese Language Spring Program

Exciting Opportunity for Young Learners! Join the 2024 STARTALK Chinese Language Spring Program. HCPSS will be offering a free, 8-Saturday, in-person STARTALK Chinese Language Spring Program hosted at Centennial High School. This unique opportunity is open to students currently in grades 4-7, aiming to immerse them in the rich and vibrant Chinese language and culture. Only 60 spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Enrollment requests will be accepted via <https://forms.gle/ijCzZL5A92gpNDjd7> [Links to an external site.](#) until February 26, at 8 a.m. Acceptance or waitlist status will be communicated by February 28. Please refer to this [flyer](#) [Links to an external site.](#) for detailed program information, including specific dates and times. Any questions can be directed to startalk@hcpss.org

Military Information Night: Enlistment, Academies, ROTC, and more...

Wednesday, March 6 at 7pm [Register here](#)

Representatives from each branch of the United States Military will be with us to present information about their mission and specialty. You will learn about job opportunities, educational and career pathways, strengths of each branch, the GI bill, career benefits, and ROTC opportunities. Additionally, representatives from military academies will discuss the unique process to apply as well as the benefits of attending a Military Academy. The evening will conclude with a student panel representing all of the military pathways who will share their experiences and lessons learned. We encourage students in grades 8-12 to attend this session.



Uninsured and need care but are unable to pay up front? No worries!

FirstCall for All with Pay Assist. Care Now, Pay Later.
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We offer all of our urgent care services to the public regardless of insurance status. If you are uninsured and live or work in Howard County, MD, *you will not be denied care for an immediate need if you have the inability to pay up front.*

- ✓ Get your urgent need met today
- ✓ Pay nothing up front
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The help you need today...the solutions you need for tomorrow.

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**FirstCall para Todos, Asistencia de Pago. Cuidado ahora, paga después.
Evite largos tiempos de espera y costosas visitas en la sala de
emergencias: ¡Visítenos hoy!**

Ofrecemos todos nuestros servicios de atención de urgencia al público, independientemente del estado del seguro. Si no tiene seguro y vive o trabaja en el condado de Howard, MD, no se le negará la atención para una necesidad inmediata si no puede pagar por adelantado.



Satisfaga su necesidad urgente hoy mismo



No pagues nada por adelantado



Permítanos conectarlo con recursos para la cobertura

La ayuda que necesitas hoy... Las soluciones que necesita para el mañana.

Cuidado Ahora, Paga Después

FirstCallForAll.com
(410)694-7999



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

