

HMS Bulletin

April 5, 2024



A Message from The HMS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Greeting Families of Hammond Middle School,

We are excited to host a multicultural night! This is a great opportunity for you to share your culture with the rest of the school community.

What: Multicultural Night

When: June 3rd (5pm for setting up table, event will start 5:30)

Where: Hammond Middle School

RSVP by 4/12/24

Help us bring one or more aspects of your culture to life for our students and families of our school Community. We are looking for:

- Storytellers
- Musicians
- Art
- Foods (either store-bought or with ingredient cards for food allergy safety)

Please complete the form linked below by 4/12/24 to reserve your space.

[Google Form](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

The HMS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 8:** Bus Service Registration for SY25 Opens
 - April 8, 9, 11, 15:** MCAP ELA Testing
 - 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 20 & 21:** (*more to come*): MCAP Math Testing
 - May 27:** Memorial Day - Schools & Offices closed
 - May 30:** 5th graders visit Middle Schools
 - June 4:** 8th graders visit High Schools
 - June 7:** 8th grade celebration @ the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center 5-8pm
 - June 12:** 3 hour early dismissal - Professional Work Day
 - June 13:** 3 hour early dismissal - Professional Work Day
 - June 14:** Last Day of School - 3 hour early dismissal - Professional Work Day
 - June 19:** Juneteenth - Schools/Offices closed
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NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS to Hammond Leaders of the Month!

Ava Applewhite, David Beckley, Emma Stablein, Henry Alfonso, Aiden Daniel, Josefine Fahrendorf, Aidan Alston, Laela Collins, Gretchen Nelson



Hammond Leaders of the Month of March

TRUST

Trust is cultivated through genuine and honest interactions, because there is a commitment to mutual respect and restoration.

Solar Eclipse Safety: On Monday, April 8, 2024, a partial solar eclipse will be visible in Howard County, Maryland. This partial eclipse will begin at 2:05 pm, with maximum coverage at 3:21 pm, and end around 4:35 pm.

[School dismissals](#) will occur during the solar eclipse, with Tier 2 elementary and middle schools dismissing during the height of the eclipse. Some students will already be home by that time.

Safety during a solar eclipse is important. Please review this information with your child(ren) to ensure safety at home:

- Never look directly at the Sun, especially during a solar eclipse.
- It is dangerous to look directly at the Sun and can cause permanent damage to the eyes.
- Do not look at the Sun through sunglasses, telescope, or binoculars.

We encourage you and your family to read more about [solar eclipses](#) and [safety](#) and enjoy experiencing this rare, exciting phenomenon.

2024-2025 Bus Service Registration: To help HCPSS plan for student transportation needs for the 2024-2025 school year, bus service registration for the 2024-2025 school year will open for parents/guardians of eligible students on April 8. Families will be notified on April 4 via districtwide email/website post with translations, and a reminder in the HCPSS News email to families on April 10. Families will be asked to complete registration by May 31 to better inform development of routes and busing needs. Details on [Bus Transportation RegistrationLinks to an external site.](#) are available on the HCPSS website.

MSDE Parent Survey: Help the HCPSS Department of Special Education meet our goal! At least 20% of our families with students with IEP's from Kindergarten to age 21 are needed to complete this survey. There are several ways you can help HCPSS succeed. Contact Trish Gunshore if you have any further questions.

Parents of students with IEP's,

Please take time to complete the MSDE Parent Survey that was recently mailed to you. This survey provides HCPSS the information about how well we are partnering with you and promoting parent involvement. Your feedback will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services in HCPSS. Please access the survey using this link: <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com/Links to an external site.>

Last Day of School Scheduled: HCPSS used three inclement weather days this school year, and as such, the [last day of school](#) for students in full-day Pre-K through grade 11 is now scheduled to be Friday, June 14, with June 12-14 being three-hour early dismissals. The last day for half-day Pre-K/RECC students is currently Tuesday, June 11. Separately, the [last day for all high school seniors](#) is May 22.

[From The Health Room](#)

Springtime is here and we are beginning to see a lot of children with allergy symptoms in the health room. Per HCPSS policy, the health room staff is not allowed to administer medications without doctor's orders; therefore, we suggest that parents treat their children at home before school to help manage their allergies throughout the school day.

Updated COVID-19 Guidance

The Maryland Department of Health and Maryland State Department of Education recently endorsed the CDC's [Respiratory Virus](#) Guidance, and no longer require a 5-day quarantine period for COVID-19. Students and staff are still expected to remain home if they are experiencing symptom(s) associated with any [communicable disease](#).

[REMINDERS](#)

Ramadan Information

This year, Ramadan is projected to begin on March 11th. As always, we provide an alternative location during lunch time for those students who will be fasting for Ramadan. Students will go to the Media Center and will be able to read a book or do their homework/finish unfinished work. If your child will need to spend their lunch time fasting during Ramadan, please send an email to Ms. Smith, at lisa_smith@hcpss.org and we will ensure that they spend that time in the Media Center or with staff that have volunteered to provide a safe space for students during this time. If your child will be fasting, but they would prefer to continue to go to the cafeteria during lunch that is fine too.

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.

From The HMS PTA

CONGRATULATIONS to **Rian Cross** who received the National PTA Reflections Arts Competition "Award of Merit" from Free State (Maryland) PTA for her Visual Arts entry titled "My Mother." This year's theme was "I am hopeful because..." The theme for 2024-2025 will be "Accepting imperfection." Stay tuned for more information on next year's competition.

Join Us for Hammond Middle School's 8th Grade Celebration!

- Date: June 7th, 2024
- Time: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Location: Harriet Tubman Cultural Center. 8045 Harriet Tubman Ln, Columbia, MD 21044.

Get ready to celebrate in style at the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center in Columbia! Hammond Middle School invites you to our 8th Grade Extravaganza, where the fun never stops!

Experience an evening packed with excitement, including:

- Groove to the beats of our incredible DJ, spinning the hottest tracks all night long!
- Strike a pose and capture memories at our fantastic photo booth!
- Dive into the action with thrilling video gaming activities!
- Indulge in delicious food to keep you fueled for the festivities!

- Exciting gifts and surprises await our amazing attendees!

Don't miss out on this unforgettable celebration! Purchase your tickets now [HERE](#) and secure your spot for a night of laughter, music, and endless fun. Let's make memories together at Hammond Middle School's 8th Grade Celebration!

Please email kvmueller@gmail.com if you would like to chaperone the event.

Harlem Wizards

Our first HES/HMS Harlem Wizards game was a success! Thank you to all who helped out and attended.

Our Hammond All-Stars: Principal Lisa Smith, Priscilla "Fulani" Sheffield, Alli Culp, Ryan Ritzes, Sandy Reynolds-Smith, Amanda Proska, Amy Smith, Kenya Bellamy, Principal Heather Moraff, Suzy Serpico, Velicia James, Caroline Haavik, Cathy McDerment, Erin Kuck, Ryann Plotkin, Olivia Lisle, Trevor Smith, Lang Wethington, Joe Quirk, Jeremy McKinney

Event Volunteers: Neelam Shah, Laura Hettinger, Tamo Nadiradze, Bisi Okubadejo, Lindsey Greer, Emily Griffin, Neil Hunt, Katie Thorn, Brandon Hawkes, Arthur Kunkle, Lisa Castaneda, Jodi DeStefano, Heather Devito, Carman Henry, Alexa Narron, Sarah Taylor, Mark Hamilton, James Parker, Christine Pearman, Karin Armor Popkey, Kim Currano, Julie Feldman, Sean Larsen, Lily Trofimovich, Megan Eller, Morgan Sutton, Maureen Whelan, Caili James, Leah James, Jess Breedlove, An Nguyen, Gloria Pau, Julia Tansmore, Madison Kuck, Ezekiel Zischang, Kaitelyn Clingerman, Bella Devroye, Kelly Edwards, Faith Hudson, Brynley Hawkes, Lauren Hawkes, Sylvie Schafer, Ayo Okubadejo, Orin Okubadejo, Ian Hamilton, Mickey Sullivan, Melissa Green Parker, Stephanie Ererra, Lauren Jurd, Sharon Meyer, Avery Kuck, Madison Kuck, Emory Hunt, Coach Sal, Melissa Zawadzki, HES PTA President, Korin Sharp HMS PTA President

Sponsors: Slam Dunk Sponsor \$1500 Kloby's Smokehouse, T-shirt Sponsor \$750 Mosquito Authority, Lay Up Sponsor \$250 Chick-Fil-A Johns Hopkins Road, Foul Shot Sponsors \$50-100 A Better You MedSpa & Wellness, The Corner Stable, Elkridge Chiropractic & Physical Therapy, Gigi's Ice Cream Shop, Pretty Pups, Pumped by QueenB, The Parker Family (Melissa, James & Andre)



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

College Fair

Howard County Public Schools is hosting a College Fair on **April 11th from 6pm-8pm** at Howard High School. The fair is being sponsored by [PCACAC](#), Potomac Chesapeake Association for College Admissions Counselors. The event will bring over 80 college admission counselors to Howard High School. Additionally, there will be two college admission panels (one in English, one in Spanish) for parents to attend that will provide an overview of the college admission process and help families understand how to best support their child(ren). We ask students to register [here](#) for the event. We encourage students in grades 10-11 to attend this fair. The flyer is attached and linked [here](#)

Kids On Campus

Howard Community College's popular Kids on Campus program offers enriching educational experiences for youth ages 6 to 17. Our certified teachers and area experts are passionate about instilling a love of learning through fun and inviting classes. From STEM, creative arts, culinary, computer programming, test prep, and much more, there's something for every interest at HCC's Kids on Campus! Our college campus setting is the perfect location to present engaging programming year round right here in the heart of Howard County. Register your student today: www.howardcc.edu/KoC

[KOC_HCPSSHalfPageFlier_Feb24 \(1\).pdf](#)

DISCOVERY FAIR 2024!



Explore the wonders of math while engaging in hands-on, math-themed activities, interactive games, crafts, and stories!

Saturday, April 13, 2024
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

AGES 3 TO 5 WITH AN ADULT

East Columbia 50+ Center
6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia 21045



Also FREE, on-site dental screenings by the Colgate® Dental Van, sponsored by the Continental Societies Inc., Southeastern Howard Laurel Chapter

Celebrate Howard County's Month of the Young Child and help guide your child on the path to kindergarten readiness!

Registration is recommended to anticipate attendance and in the event of inclement weather or other event concerns. Register at https://bit.ly/HoCo_DiscoveryFair or scan the QR code ▶▶▶



FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION email us at children@howardcountymd.gov and reference Discovery Fair in the subject line.





A Launch into Learning initiative sponsored by the Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council

If you need this information in an alternate format, contact the Office of Children and Families at 410-313-1940 (voice/relay).
If you need accommodations to participate, call at least one week prior to the event.

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

