

HMS Bulletin

May 3, 2024



IMPORTANT DATES

May 3: PTA Spring Fling @ HMS blacktop - 3:15 - 5pm

May 5: PTA Taharka Brothers Ice Cream Fundraiser

May 13: Family Engagement Night #7 - we invite our incoming 5th grade families to HMS

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 3: Multicultural Night @ HMS, 5:30pm

June 4: 8th graders visit High Schools

June 7: 8th grade celebration @ the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center 5-8pm

June 10: PTA Restaurant Night - Chipotle (Brokenland Parkway)

June 12: 3 hour early dismissal - Professional Work Day

June 12: 8th grade farewell @ Reservoir HS auditorium 1-4pm

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

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Hammond Leaders of the Month!

Alexander Currano, Tori Harrington, Shriya Shivakumar, Peter Monti, Simon Shearer, Iris Witt, Joaquin Castillo Osaki, Elias Manela, Valeria Velasquez



**Hammond Leaders of
the Month of April**

COLLABORATION

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

Maryland Chamber Foundation to Host 15 Statewide Finalists in the 2024 National Civics Bee

Dominic Ye recently participated in a local competition for the National Civics Bee, finishing as a top three finalist in the local Bee! Each of the 15 students

has been invited to compete in the Maryland state finals. It will be held on June 8th at Bowie State University in Bowie, MD. ***Best of luck, Dominic!***

The press release can be viewed here:

<https://www.mdchamber.org/2024/05/02/2024-national-civics-bee-finalists/>

National Interpreter Appreciation Day

HMS would like to recognize **Robin Page & Jennifer Sommerville** for their dedication, passion, and hard work they do for our students!

We truly value and appreciate all you do every day in the various fields of interpreting.

Thank you!

Family Engagement Night #7

Planting our roots!

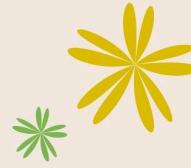
We are excited to invite our incoming 5th grade families to join us for an informal meet and greet and Q&A. 5th grade students are welcome to come and plant their roots with us (put together plants to take home) while parents meet some HMS staff and have an opportunity to get to know us better.

- Date: May 13
- Time: 5-7
- Where: Meet in HMS Media
- Refreshments: Salads and fruit

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/SLW8kC3z4SXjsaF4A>

You're Invited

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NIGHT FOR INCOMING 5TH GRADERS



WE ARE EXCITED TO INVITE OUR INCOMING 5TH GRADE FAMILIES TO JOIN US FOR AN INFORMAL MEET AND GREET AND Q&A. 5TH GRADE STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO COME AND PLANT THEIR ROOTS WITH US (PUT TOGETHER PLANTS TO TAKE HOME) WHILE PARENTS MEET SOME HMS STAFF AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW US BETTER.

RSVP: [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/SLW8KC3Z4SXJSAF4A](https://forms.gle/SLW8KC3Z4SXJSAF4A)

DATE: MAY 13TH

TIME: 5 - 7PM

WHERE: HMS - MEDIA CENTER

REFRESHMENTS: SALADS & FRUIT



Student Dress Code (Policy 9210)

With warmer weather approaching we would like to remind students and parents of the Howard County Dress Code Policy. HCPSS believes that maintaining a respectful and responsible dress code contributes to a positive school culture. We kindly ask for your support in ensuring that your child adheres to the dress code policy each day.

The following items are prohibited:

- Attire that depicts profanity, hate speech, obscenity, the use of weapons, or violence
- Attire that promotes the use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal or harmful products
- Attire that promotes, implies or contains sexually suggestive messages
- Attire that exposes or reveals the chest, midriff, pelvic/groin area, and buttocks
- Visible underwear or bathing suits (Visible waistbands or straps on undergarments worn under other clothing are not a violation.)
- Helmets or headgear that obscure the face, except as a religious obligation, observation of a religious holiday, or for a school-related activity

- Attire that depicts gang affiliation
- Attire that contains language or symbols that demean an identifiable person or group or otherwise infringes on the rights of others
- Attire that causes or is likely to cause a material disruption, a substantial disorder to school activities or the orderly operation of the school, or an invasion of the rights of others
- May damage school property
- Wearable technology and other attire when it interferes with instruction or student safety

Thank you for your partnership as we close out this school year.

For more information on the Handbook – Student Responsibilities and Behavior/Policies click here: <https://www.hcpss.org/about-us/handbook/responsibilities/>

Aersol Sprays

We are experiencing an increase in students bringing and spraying aerosol sprays during the school day (Axe, Bath and Body Works, Victoria Secrets, etc). These items are prohibited as the scents and sprays can cause asthma flare up as well as migranes in other student. Students may not use them or bring them to school.



When Children Show Signs of Illness

Should I send my child to school or keep him at home? What is a Parent/Guardian to do? Deciding when your child is too sick to go to school can be a difficult decision for parents to make. When trying to decide, please use the guidelines below to help you.

- Diarrhea - watery stools in a 24-hour period, especially if your child acts or looks ill.
- Vomiting - within the past 24 hours
- Fever - temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Remember that your child must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications prior to returning to school.
- Sore throat - especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck. (With strep throat, the child may return to school after 24 hours on antibiotics)
- Cough – your child may bring in non-medicated cough drops. Cough drops may only be used for three days.
- Appearance and Behavior - unusually tired, pale, lacking appetite, difficult to wake, confused, or irritable.

- Eyes - thick mucus or pus draining from the eye or pink eye. With pink eye (conjunctivitis) you may see a white or yellow discharge, matted eyelids after sleep, eye pain, and/or redness.
- Greenish nose discharge and/or chronic cough - should be seen by a healthcare provider. These conditions may be contagious and require treatment.
- Rash - body rash, especially with fever or itching.
- Ear infections without fever – your child needs to get medical treatment and follow-up. Untreated ear infections can cause permanent hearing loss.

***If your child shows any of the above symptoms while at school, the health room will contact those listed on your child's emergency contact list. Please be sure to have all contact numbers current.

Message from the Health Room to Current 6th Grade Parents/Guardians

The Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene requires all incoming 7th grade students to have two additional vaccines at the start of the 2024-2025 school year:

1. Meningococcal Vaccine (MCV4)
2. Tdap Vaccine

Please contact your child's health care provider to obtain documentation of these vaccines or to schedule an appointment to receive the required above vaccines if still needed. If your child has not received the above vaccinations, please make an appointment with your child's doctor to do so and email or fax an updated immunization record once vaccines have been received. Having your child's updated immunization record prior to the end of this school year will help eliminate the possibility of exclusion from the start of school next year.

Immunization records can be faxed, emailed or brought to school by your child.

The Health Room fax number is 240-456-0391. The school nurse's email address is: christina_toler@hcpss.org. The Health Room phone number is 410-880-5836.

Maryland State Medicaid must be renewed (*not automatic renewals this year*)

Changes are coming to Maryland Medicaid - this year, renewals won't be automatic. Individuals on Medicaid may no longer be able to continue receiving benefits if they have not completed their renewal. Here's what you can do now to prepare:

1. Update your contact information to make sure your current address, phone number, and email are on file so you'll get notices about

- changes to your coverage.
2. Open your mail and read any letters you get from Maryland Health Connection to find out how changes will affect you.
 3. Take action to ensure you don't miss key deadlines. The letters will tell you what you need to do to get continued benefits.

Call us today at 410-313-5845 or email medicaid@howardcountymd.gov to learn more!

State Resources

- [Medicaid Check-In 2023 - Consumer Information](#)
- [Maryland Health Connection Medicaid Check-In](#)
- [Maryland Health Connection Flier](#)
- [Maryland Health Connection Flier](#) (Spanish)

HCPSS 2024 Free Summer Meal Program

HCPSS' [free summer meal program](#) will run weekdays June 24-Aug. 2, on days schools are open, with no meal service Thursday, July 4. Meals will be provided to any HCPSS students, any children aged 18 and under, and to students participating in HCPSS summer programs. Site locations will be available across the county.

Attention 8th Grade Families

Buy 8th grade dance tickets at Spring Fling!

Attention 8th Grade Parents,

Exciting news! This Friday at Spring Fling, both you and your children will have the chance to purchase tickets for the highly anticipated 8th-grade celebration dance. Cash only!

This dance promises to be a memorable event filled with music from a talented DJ, a delightful photo booth, delicious food, fantastic prizes, and much more! The admission fee for this unforgettable experience is just \$20 per student.

Tickets can be conveniently purchased with cash at Spring Fling on Friday, May 3rd, or online via MemberHub at the following link: <https://hammondms.memberhub.com/store/items/100611>

We're in need of chaperones to ensure the success of this event. If you're interested in volunteering, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4DAFA62EA1FB6-49462647-8thgrade>

Thank you for your support, and let's make this 8th-grade celebration dance one to remember!

Warm regards,
Your PTA

8th Grade Farewell: [Wednesday, June 12th, 1- 4 pm in the Reservoir High School Auditorium.](#)

The Farewell Celebration is our way to honor and say goodbye to our current 8th-grade students. The event will include a video, student/staff speeches, and a few student performances. Individual names will not be called.

This is a ticketed event for families. Current 8th-grade students will not need a ticket. Due to fire code restrictions, we will limit the number of guests to two tickets per 8th-grade student. Tickets will be distributed to students on the morning of the celebration. We will only be able to admit people with a ticket.

Color Guard Interest Meeting for Future Gators at Reservoir Highschool

Are you interested in entertaining, inspiring, and uniting people through music and performances?

The RHS Color Guard team will host a virtual interest meeting on **Friday, May 17th, at 5 PM. [Google meet code RHSCG]**

Color Guard is a non-musical section of the Marching Band that uses flags, sabers, rifles, and other equipment to interpret music into a stunning visual element during football games, pep rallies, and other band activities. You do not need to have any prior experience to join.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Bethany_Fischetti@hcpss.org. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

REMINDERS

Reminder for Families Who Pick Up and/or Drop Off Children at HES/HMS

Please be respectful of our residential neighbors. We ask that you do not park in reserved parking spaces in the neighboring parking lots of the school. These spaces are only for residents living in the neighborhood. If you are dropping off or picking up your students, we ask that you access the car loop or find parking spaces in our school parking lot.

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

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 @ 5:30pm

- Where: Hammond Middle School

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.

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

Navigating Your Child's Mental Health Journey

Whether it is knowing the best ways to support your child's social emotional health, having concerns about your child's behaviors, or feeling like something is seriously wrong, knowing where to go for answers is a top issue for parents. Those first steps of navigating mental health supports are a challenging and daunting task. Learn about the stages of mental health and the local resources and supports that will guide your understanding, provide you with choices, and help you learn the steps to start helping your child. Leave with tangible tools for education and intervention as well as where to go for assistance if you hit roadblocks to services. **Monday, May 13, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free Virtual Workshop.** [Register here](#)

Eat, Learn, Grow - Social Emotional

This workshop will focus on Early Learning Literacy and Social Emotional Development. Join us as we explore social emotional development, developmental milestones as well as the skills children need to manage emotions and build relationships with others. Join us as we explore children's literature and simple extension activities that promote problem solving, conflict resolution, managing stress, and overall social emotional development at home. **Monday, May 20, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free Virtual Workshop. [Register here](#)**

Sibling Rivalry

This workshop is for parents experiencing challenges between their children such as arguing, name calling and fighting. Understand why sibling rivalry occurs and learn practical ways you can navigate and reduce conflict, manage rivalry in-the-moment and foster good long-term relationships.

Thursday, May 23, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free Virtual Workshop. [Register here](#)

Public Hearing on Student Transportation

Thursday, May 9, 7 p.m., hybrid hearing

The Board of Education will hold a hybrid public hearing on Policy 5200 Student Transportation on May 9. Community members must pre-register by 4:30 p.m. on May 8 to testify. [Details on pre-registration and testimony](#) are available online

ARL Plant Sale

*Monday, April 29-Thursday, May 9, 3-4:30 p.m. (weekdays only)
Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.*

The Applications and Research Laboratory will host a [plant sale](#) at the ARL greenhouse April 29-May 9, featuring plants grown by ARL Agriscience Academy students. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the ARL Agriscience Academy and the Howard County Future Farmers of America.

Blood Drive Burleigh Manor Middle School

Gym 4200 Centennial Lane Ellicott City, MD 21042 Wednesday, June 5, 2024
1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

[In Honor Memory of Flyer.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

