

HMS Bulletin

September 22, 2023



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Parent Outreach Event: Cookies, Canvas and Executive Functioning

Tuesday, September 26th from 6-8pm

Join us to learn more about how your Middle Schoolers brain works and how to best support them as their brain delvelopes.

We will be exploring executive functioning, tips & tricks and how to use CANVAS to help support their success. All are welcome!

IMPORTANT DATES

September 25: Restaurant Night - Panera Fulton (see details below)

September 25: Schools/Offices Closed

September 26: Parent Outreach Event, 6-8pm (*Cookies, Canvas and Executive Functioning*)

September 28: Student pictures (*fliers to be sent home on the 27th*)

October 3: MAP Testing - Reading (schoolwide)

October 5: MAP Testing Math - (schoolwide)

October 9: Professional Learning Day - School Closed for Students

October 13: HMS PTA Fall Fest - 3:15pm to 5pm

October 20: Professional Work Day - School Closed for Students

October 27: HMS Flu Clinic

October 31: End of 1st marking period - Schools close 3 hours early

November 6: 6th grade field trip to Terrapin Adventures

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

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

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

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU!



Today, the HMS Staff was treated to “snack bar” in the lounge as a sign of appreciation! Thank you to the HMS PTA and to all that made donations. We truly enjoyed all the snacks!

2023-2024 Attendance Information and Resources

Research is clear that showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic and social success, starting from pre-kindergarten and continuing through high school.

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days of a school year or 2 a month) can drastically affect a student's academic success at each grade level.
- By the 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that can indicate if a student is at risk for dropping out of high school.
- In the 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

Please help us support a culture of showing up to school every day!

Please review Policy 9010: <https://policy.hcpss.org/9000/9010/>

If your student is absent or will be absent, please contact us at the following email address to explain the reason: hmsabsence@hcpss.org. In the email please include the following information:

- Student First and Last Name
- Grade
- Reason for absence (e.g., illness, bereavement, observance of a religious holiday, lack of transportation)

Discretionary Days

HCPSS students are granted 3 days a year to use at their discretion for scheduled interviews with prospective employers, visits to post-secondary institutions, family trips, civic engagement, and other special events.


- Such absences may not occur during exam or state-mandated testing periods unless authorized by the principal/designee.
- A written request for such absences to be lawful/excused should be submitted at least one week in advance to the principal/designee. Please download the PDF fillable [Discretionary Absence Form](#) and email it to hmsabsence@hcpss.org. The form is also available in [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), and [Spanish](#)

- If you are requesting a day for a religious holiday not identified by the Howard County Public School System school calendar, please download the PDF fillable [Religious Obligation Form](#) and email it to hmsabsence@hcpss.org.

With the collaborative effort of HCPSS parents, staff and students, we are confident that all students can have successful attendance. This will improve student success in school and in future life!

BSAP College and Career Opportunities Night


The HCPSS Black Student Achievement Program invites you to attend the upcoming [BSAP College and Career Opportunities Night](#) on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at Long Reach High School. This College and Career Opportunities Night invites scholars in grades 8 - 12 countywide to network with working professionals, colleges, and universities, explore post-secondary opportunities, and learn more about HCPSS pathways. The evening will highlight a variety of colleges and universities as well as local businesses and organizations. To register, please complete the Registration Form linked [here](#).



Black Student Achievement Program

College and Career Opportunities Night

**Empower to Dream and Picture the Possibilities
for 8th–12th Grade Scholars and Families**




Thursday, October 12, 2023 • 4–8 p.m.
Long Reach High School
6101 Old Dobbin Road • Columbia, MD 21045

4–5:30 p.m.

- College and Career One-on-One Counseling Sessions
- HCPSS College and Career Workshops

6–8 p.m.

- Network Café with College and Career Representatives
- College and Career Workshops



To register, please use the QR Code or the link below.
<https://forms.gle/tF6GwdmuCyW4qn7PA>

HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM 10910 Clarksville Pike • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 410-313-6600 • www.hcpss.org

HCPSS' Multilingual Parent Leadership Program Applications Open

HCPSS' six-week [Multilingual Parent Leadership Program](#) is designed to help multilingual parents navigate the school system and develop the confidence to serve as advocates for their children. The program also provides training for parents to assume leadership roles in schools and the community. Interested participants must complete an application by Sept. 28.

Asynchronous Instruction Update

The [Board of Education voted not to accept](#) the HCPSS 2023-2024 Inclement Weather Asynchronous Instruction Plan. As such, there will be no option for asynchronous instruction days during inclement weather events this school year.

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Please remember to send in any medications with a doctor's order. Over the counter medications need a doctor's order as well. Please find all forms on this link: <https://www.hcpss.org/about-us/forms/>

HCPSS is following the recommendations of the CDC as it pertains to students with communicable diseases, i.e., Covid. If you have any questions, please notify the Health Room. Click on the following link for details: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>

AT-HOME HEALTH CHECKS

Parents/guardians should keep their children home if they are experiencing symptom(s) associated with any communicable disease. For people with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

All students, staff and visitors should perform daily health checks and may not enter an HCPSS bus or building with ANY of the following:

- fever of 100 degrees or higher
- sore throat
- cough
- difficulty breathing
- diarrhea or vomiting
- new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or
- new loss of taste or smell

HMS PTA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Restaurant Night - September 25 at Panera Fulton

Show the flyer or use code FUND4U online from **4-8 p.m.** on Monday, 9/25 at Panera Fulton and the HMS PTA will receive a donation for 20% of net sales!

Save the date: October location TBD, Maiwand Kabob Fulton - November 13.

Panera FUNDRAISING

HELP SUPPORT

Hammond Middle School PTA

JOIN US IN THE CAFE OR ORDER ONLINE.

WHERE: 8190 Westside Blvd. Fulton, MD 20759

WHEN: Monday, September 25, 2023 **FROM:** 4:00pm - 8:00pm

FUND4U

USE OUR PROMO CODE AT ONLINE CHECKOUT from 4pm-8pm

- ✓ Online at Panerabread.com
- ✓ In the Panera App
- ✓ At the kiosk in cafe

Use this code during checkout

20% OF TOTAL NET SALES WILL BE DONATED TO YOUR ORGANIZATION.*

Bring this flier or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe or enter promo code FUND4U at online checkout to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.

Support your cause, your way.™

IN-CAFE | DRIVE-THRU | PICK-UP | DELIVERY

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*20% of total net sales from your designated fundraising event will be donated to your organization. Gift card and catering orders placed on third party delivery sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>

Adopt a Staff

HMS PTA is looking for families to participate in our Adopt-A-Staff program. We secretly match a staff member with an HMS family for the school year. The family honors the staff member at least monthly with notes of encouragement or a small gift/treat to brighten their day. It's a fun and easy way to show appreciation for our wonderful HMS staff. We have 32 staff members who are interested in being matched. A list of staff member's favorite things will be shared with you if you are matched. If you are interested in participating, please fill out the Google Form, linked in the comment section below. Thank you for helping to make this program a success!

[Adopt-A-Staff 2023-2024](#)

Spirit Wear Sale

The blue ship is sailing!!

The Fall Spirit Wear Online Store is now open.

Please check out all the new offerings! Apparel marked with full back has the new ship design on the back. Store closes on October 15, with deliveries in November.

[Hammond Middle School PTA Spirit Wear 2023](#)

REMINDERS

School Start Time Adjustments Effective September 20

To build additional time into the student transportation schedule and prioritize getting every student to school on time, school start and end times will shift effective Wednesday, September 20 to those listed below.

Hammond Middle School

Current Time: 8:40am - 3:25pm

NEW TIME (effective 9/20/2023) : 8:30am - 3:15pm

Please use the link below for additional information.

<https://www.hcpss.org/2023-2024/school-start-times/>

Please use link below for updates on bus routes (bus locator)

<https://www.hcpss.org/schools/transportation/>

Update Your Family File (70% Completed)

All families must update their emergency contact information annually. While we recognize many of you may not have any changes, you must transition through each screen and click submit at the end for this task to be completed. The completion of the Family File is essential to your student's participation in field trips, dances, and other fun activities throughout the year. We need 100% of our families complete this important task, so visit [HCPSS Connect](#) today and click submit on the final screen!

Once logged in, you will be asked to update or provide the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information

- Arrival/Dismissal Procedures and Transportation Options
- Photo Approval
- Data Confidentiality
- Student Creative Work Approval
- PTA/PTSA Directory

[FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE \(ENGLISH\)](#)

[FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE \(SPANISH\)](#)

[FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE \(KOREAN\)](#)

Schedules

Schedules were posted for our incoming students on [HCPSS Connect](#) starting August 23, 2023. Please note that while these posted schedules are as accurate as possible changes may still occur.

If you have questions regarding your child's schedule, complete the linked [survey](#) and the appropriate staff member will follow up with you to address your concern. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we work to ensure that every student at HMS has an appropriate schedule.

Please note: As we continue to enroll students, we are also continuing to balance class sizes based on new enrollments. With that, schedule change requests may not be possible. Such requests will be placed on a waitlist until all registrations are complete, and will be evaluated based on things such as course availability and class size. For the first couple of weeks our top priority is ensuring every student has a schedule by the first day of classes after enrollment. As such, any request for a schedule change could take until the end of September before we are able to determine the possibility of a change.

Again, we appreciate your patience as we continue to welcome new families to Hammond Middle.

Student Code of Conduct

Every student attended a presentation on the Student Code of Conduct and Howard County Policies. Please review the presentation with your student(s), sign the page, and have students return it to their advisory teacher as soon as possible, they were due on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

[Student Policies SY 23-24 Family Copy](#)

[Policy Signature Page](#)

Be Sure You're Receiving Emails and Texts

HCPSS uses both text messages and email to communicate important and time-sensitive information, including bus delays and emergency closings. Parents/guardians are automatically enrolled for email notification; however all users **must opt in one time to receive texts** by texting "yes" to 67587 from the mobile number listed in their Family File. If you are not receiving HCPSS or school emails/texts, please contact your school's front office.

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

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

