

# HAMMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER BULLETIN

## AUGUST 2, 2024



Dear HMS Families,

I hope this message finds you well and that you and your family are having a wonderful summer break. As we prepare to welcome our students back to school, we wanted to share some important updates and information to ensure a smooth transition into the new school year.

### [Welcome New Staff to HMS!](#)

Help us welcome the newest HMS Staff!

Ms. Lauretee Bernard - Science

Ms. Donielle Chase-Mercer - PPW

Mr. Kyle Curasi - PE

Ms. Mary Lasher - French/Spanish

Ms. Morgan Mayers - Orchestra

Ms. Melana Parker - Teacher Secretary

Ms. Melinda Raglin - Health

Mr. Josiah Simpson - English

Ms. Catherine Tignetti - Social Studies

Mr. Eric Wall - Social Studies

Ms. Mialissa Tompkins - Social Studies

### **Change of address**

This is a reminder to all families that they are required by [Policy 9000](#) to notify HCPSS if they move to a new home address. Current residency documentation must be updated each time residency changes.

### **[Important News from the Nurse](#)**

HCPSS requires a new medication order form each school year dated on or after July 1<sup>st</sup> for all medications, including both prescription and over-the-counter medications (over-the-counter medications must be received by the health room in new, unopened containers and be clearly labeled with the student's name). The links to the order forms are below.

- <http://www.hcpss.org/f/aboutus/physician-medication-form.pdf>
- <https://www.hcpss.org/f/schools/health/epipenorder-careplan.pdf>

### **Important Immunization Requirements for 7th-Grade Students:**

Effective the first day of school for the 2024-2025 school year, all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade are required by the state of Maryland to have one dose of the

Tdap vaccine AND one dose of the Meningococcal vaccine (MCV4). Many students may have already received these immunizations, but the Health Room may not have the updated immunization record. Please contact your student's healthcare provider and email or fax (240-456-0391) an updated copy of your student's immunizations to the Health Room. You can also schedule an appointment to have your student receive these immunizations at the Health Department. They provide immunization opportunities for kids who are not up to date on school-required vaccinations. Call the Health Department at 410-313-7500 for more information and to schedule a vaccination appointment for your child.

If you have any questions, please contact the HMS health room (410-880-5836) or email the school health team ([christina\\_toler@hcpss.org](mailto:christina_toler@hcpss.org); [karisma\\_rencher@hcpss.org](mailto:karisma_rencher@hcpss.org)).

## **Free Back to School Vaccination Clinics** **Open to anyone 18 years or younger**

**Scan the QR code or  
visit [bit.ly/HoCoVax](https://bit.ly/HoCoVax)  
for a complete list of  
vaccination dates and  
locations.**



**Vaccines offered:**

- Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis)
- Meningococcal ACWY (Meningitis)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Meningococcal B (Meningitis)
- HPV (Human Papillomavirus)
- COVID-19



**Before attending our clinics, please note:**

- A parent or legal guardian must be present and give consent for anyone younger than 18.
- Bring a copy of your child's immunization record and any notice received from your child's school regarding overdue immunizations.

## [Update Your Family File](#)

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 want DMS to be the first middle school to have 100% of its 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 \(KOREAN\)](#)

## [School Supplies](#)

This is the suggested list for grades 6-8. The list can be found here [School Supply List](#). On the first day of school, teachers will identify which supplies are needed for their class on the first day of school. It is recommended that families wait to purchase items until students receive specific information from their student's teacher.

## [6th Grade and New Student Orientation](#)

HMS will hold a new student orientation on August 22nd from 1 pm to 2:30 pm.

During this time, 6th-grade students will meet with their advisory teacher to receive their schedule, and their locker assignment, as well as learn a little about the expectations of the first day of school. Our new students entering 7th and 8th grade will meet with their school counselor to be welcomed to the school. Families will also meet the Administrative team to hear about the transition to middle school.

Any student who can not attend the orientation can access their schedule and locker assignment online. They will also have an opportunity to practice their locker and walk their schedule on the first day of school.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

## **Returning 7th/8th Open House (August 22nd from 3 pm - 4 pm)**

Students returning to HMS in grades 7 or 8 will have an opportunity to stop by the school to walk their schedule and access their locker. This is a self-guided opportunity as there is no formal presentation. This is not a drop-off event. Students should be in the building with a responsible adult. The event will end promptly at 4 p.m.

If a student isn't able to make the orientation or the open house, please do not worry. All information and opportunities will be reviewed with students during the first week of school.

## **Transportation**

For families that receive bus transportation, bus stop information for the 2024-2025 school year will be available by mid-August and can be accessed online via the Bus Stop Locator or HCPSS Connect Synergy under *More Options* and then *Homeroom / Transportation / POS*. Families will be notified by email and the HCPSS website when the information is available.

For families that do not receive bus transportation, if your child will be walking or riding their bike to school, I encourage you to take time now to familiarize your child with their route to and from school. Map out and walk the route between your home and school to ensure all roads, sidewalks, and pathways are familiar to your child. In addition, review crosswalks and intersections that are safe for crossing the road if required and review [safe pedestrian tips links to an external site](#). with your student. If

you encounter any issues regarding safety as you walk these routes with your student, please contact the [HCPSS Office of Student Transportation](#)[Links to an external site.](#) to make HCPSS staff aware.

## **FREE AND REDUCED MEALS**

Please visit <https://www.hcpss.org/food-services/farms/> to apply for Free and Reduced Meals. Families must submit a new application every school year. During the first 30 school days, students with free and reduced-price meal eligibility from the prior school year will be carried over.

Any student who has not filled out an application up to the 30th school day will have their prior year status changed to full pay status until a new application is received.

If you have additional questions regarding the FARMs program, please review the FAQ Section or email [foodsvc@hcpss.org](mailto:foodsvc@hcpss.org).





### Happy Summer!

I hope Summer has been relaxing and recharging! In preparation for our first day of the 2024-2025 school year, please review some helpful tips on successful school attendance. We want to ensure the 2024-2025 school year is great. Please reach out to Mrs. Ganoe if you have any questions or concerns about school attendance.

-Mrs. Ganoe  
HMS School Social Worker

### TIPS & TRICKS

#### The Night before:

- Put out clothes the night before (check the weather)
- Prepare lunch the night before (if bringing lunch)
- Have all school items ready to go, in backpack, by the front door
- Set an alarm (or two)
- Shut down electronics 30 minutes before bedtime

#### The morning of:

- Don't snooze alarm
- Have a morning routine (get dressed, eat breakfast, brush teeth, and out the door)
- Know your daily schedule
- Partner with someone for success (someone in your home, another student in your neighborhood)
- Know your supports at school. Not sure who? Connect with someone in student services!



### ATTENDANCE POLICY



### 24-25 CALENDAR



### REMINDERS

If your student will be absent, let us know by emailing:

[hmsabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:hmsabsence@hcpss.org)

### SAVE THE DATES

**1st day of school:** Monday, 8/26

from 8:30AM-3:15PM

**Back to school open house:** 8/22

6th grade: 1:00-2:30PM

7th & 8th grade 3:00-4:00pm

**Back to School night:** 9/5 at

6:00PM



### CONTACT

[amanda\\_ganoe@hcpss.org](mailto:amanda_ganoe@hcpss.org)  
443-774-8760

# SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH (SBMH) DOES YOUR STUDENT NEED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT?



School-Based Mental Health Services (SBMH) are therapy services provided at school buildings during the instructional day. Eligibility for SBMHS is determined by Student Support Teams (SST), which exist at each school and may consist of a school administrator, Pupil Personnel Worker (PPW), school counselor, school psychologist, school nurse, achievement liaisons, teachers, school social worker and other student services personnel. For more information about mental health warning signs visit:  
<https://www.hcpss.org/supports/mental-health-wellness/warning-signs/>

Some of the reasons students are referred to SBMH include, if the student is currently experiencing or has experienced:

- Barriers to accessing care outside of school
- Trauma
- Behavioral challenges
- Emotional challenges, including anxiety or more worries than other students
- Decline in school performance or grades

If SBMH is something you are interested in for your student, please complete the link to the interest form. If your student does not meet eligibility requirements, Mrs. Ganoë can help connect to other supports.



**For in School services, the minimum requirement is having state insurance, however, please still reach out to Mrs. Ganoë/complete the interest form below if you do not meet this requirement for alternative supports.**

## QUESTIONS?



443-774-87603



[amanda\\_ganoë@hcpss.org](mailto:amanda_ganoë@hcpss.org)

For more information, SCAN QR code or complete google form in the link below  
<https://forms.gle/DVQLJrC5C5XpGoi88>



## CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phone use is a popular topic among middle school students. Policy 8080 states:

Middle Schools – Students:

1. Students will not use personal technology devices during non-instructional time, to include but not limited to transition between classes, lunch, recess, or in bathrooms.

All cell phones must be silenced and put away upon entering the building. Students may carry their phone, but it must be silent and it may not be used during the day. We recommend that students place cell phones in their lockers in order to minimize the temptation to have them out during the school day. We also have a student phone in the front office that students may use when needed to contact their family.



August 15 - Staff Returns

August 22 - New Student Orientation 1 to 2:30

Open House  $\frac{7}{8}$  grade 3 to 4

August 26 - First Day of School

September 2 - Labor Day (School's Closed)

September 5 - Back to School Night

September 18 - 3hr Early Dismissal for Students

September 25 - Picture Day



Hammond Gear

Back to School Supplies

Selfie Station

# COMMUNITY KICK-OFF FAIR

Students, families, and community members, please join us for a fun event where you can meet fellow Golden Bears and kick off the new school year. All ages welcome!

Live performances

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 22**  
**11:30-12:30**  
**RAIN OR SHINE**

**Hammond Football Stadium**  
**8800 Guilford Rd.**  
**Columbia, MD**

HoCo Health Department will be available for Back-to-School Vaccines