

HCMS News

March 27, 2023

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

HCPSS RAINBOW CONFERENCE

The HCPSS Rainbow Conference will be held on Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. The conference will be hybrid with opportunities for both virtual and in-person participation. For more information scan the QR code on the [Rainbow Conference Flier](#) or access this [link](#).

STUDENT DRUG USE: A CRISIS WE CAN'T IGNORE

HCPSS is hosting a community event called *Student Drug Use: A Crisis We Can't Ignore* to engage students, parents/guardians, staff and community members regarding the substance abuse crisis that is directly impacting our schools and community.

The event will be held on Tuesday, March 28, from 7-9 p.m., at Howard High School (8700 Old Annapolis Road, Ellicott City).

Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Martirano will keynote the event, sharing local and national data about student substance use and behavioral health needs that illustrates the frightening realities our youth are facing, and how HCPSS is responding to those needs. Following Dr. Martirano's remarks, attendees will have the opportunity to choose one of several breakout sessions led by HCPSS staff and community health partners.

Visit the [HCPSS websiteLinks to an external site.](#) for more information about the event. **Please note:** If you require any language supports, please contact the [Office of Multilingual Family ServicesLinks to an external site.](#).

Sincerely,

GIRLS ON THE RUN...REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN

Don't miss your chance to register for 10 powerful weeks of Girl's on the Run! Remember through our evidence-based curriculum, participants will:

- Boost self-worth
- Learn to foster meaningful relationships
- Develop healthy habits and the understanding of physical movement
- Participate in season ending, 5K on June 3

The program begins Wednesday, March 22, 2023 and ends on June 7. The program runs every Wednesday. The registration fee is \$175.00.

[Register now!](#)

Girls on the Run of Central Maryland strives to offer our program to all girls who desire to participate, regardless of their financial status. We want all girls to have the opportunity to participate in this life-changing program. **We have a new financial assistance process! If you are requesting financial assistance, you may do so during the registration process.** Before you checkout, you are asked whether you need financial assistance. You will then be asked to provide your household income and the number of people in your household. Your price will then be adjusted according to a sliding scale and the adjusted price will appear at checkout. If you do not qualify for assistance using this process and still need help, complete this [Scholarship Interest Form](#) **FIRST, before continuing with registration.** Contact Susan Michel at 443-864-8593 or susan.michel@girlsontherun.org with any questions about financial assistance eligibility.

HCPSS GIFTED AND TALENTED SUMMER INSTITUTES

HCPSS Gifted and Talented Summer Institutes for Talent Development is available to all HCPSS Middle School students and registration is open now! New classes this year include "Environmental Justice League," a combination of policy making and entrepreneurship, "Crime Stoppers," and "Adventures in Printmaking." We have STEM classes such as "**Civil Engineering**" and humanities offerings like "**Becoming a Historian**." Check out our full course list [here](#) or on the [HCPSS Summer Programs Website](#). Directions to register through HCPSS Connect are here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1382ja7snHr76LJnWvq9xAy5oEc_xUnHU/view.

Classes run from June 26-July 7 and July 10-July 21 and are held at Burleigh Manor Middle School from 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Limited community bus stop locations will be available based on enrollment. Before and after care on site is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation. Registration is open until March 15th at 6pm. Scholarship opportunities are available. If you have any questions, please contact GTSummer@hcpss.org.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE NOTICE

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR THOSE WITH MEDICAL ASSISTANCE: Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, MA has been automatically renewed since March 2020.

AUTOMATIC RENEWALS WILL STOP AS OF APRIL 30, 2023. Please call the Health Dept Insurance Line at 410-313-5845 to check your status. They will set up an appointment for you if needed.

HC DRUGFREE

Medication & Sharps Disposal Event: Free. The next safe and convenient drive-thru medication & sharps disposal event will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wilde Lake Village Center Parking lot near the Swim Center. HC DrugFree is accepting prescription and over-the-counter medications, sharps (needles, syringes, EpiPens, etc.), vapes, inhalers, veterinary medication and more. Medication will be guarded/transported by Howard County Police. We are in need of Teen and Adult, and

medically trained adult volunteers! Groups encouraged to volunteer. Learn more or sign up to volunteer here at <https://hcdrugfree.org/drug-take-back-day-1/> Members of HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council (TAC) can earn community service hours for volunteering. If your student is interested in joining TAC, please visit <https://hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisorycouncil/> to learn more and download an application.

Free Parenting Classes (open to grandparents too): Free. Guiding Good Choices is an evidence-based, interactive prevention program that provides families with the skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will use drugs and alcohol or engage in other dangerous behaviors. Howard County parents, guardians and grandparents will learn how to encourage your child to adopt healthy attitudes and behaviors, how to communicate more effectively, how to build a relationship of trust, and much more! Classes will be held Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. via Zoom. Learn more or register: <https://hcdrugfree.org/2023/02/guiding-good-choices-free-classes-for-parents-2/>.

8th–12th Grade Teen Advisory Council: Free. HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council is open to all Howard County students in grades 8 through 12. This is a great opportunity to help prepare younger students for success in high school while allowing older students to develop their leadership and mentoring skills. The registration form is available at <https://hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council/> and community service hours are available. Email your registration form to admin@hcdrugfree.org or mail a hard copy the office. Meetings are on Zoom from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. To register for the Monday, April 17 meeting or any upcoming meeting, click on the TAC registration link next to the meeting date <https://hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council/>

Know What's Happening in Howard County: Sign up for HC DrugFree's newsletter at <https://hcdrugfree.org/enews-signup/> or follow us on social media to get updates on events as well as information to keep your family safe and informed: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#)

UPCOMING DATES

03/31/2023 Schools close 3 hours early, end of quarter 3

04/03/2023-04/10/2023 Schools closed, Spring Break

04/07/2023-04/08/2023 Schools and offices closed, Spring Break

04/18/2023 Quarter 3 report cards available in HCPSS Connect
04/21/2023 Schools closed for Professional Learning Day

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

INCLEMENT WEATHER ASYNCHRONOUS INSTRUCTION PLAN

With the ongoing potential of wintry weather, families are encouraged to review the [HCPSS Inclement Weather Asynchronous Instruction Plan](#). Families will be notified about the asynchronous instruction day the same as all other [inclement weather notifications](#). Middle school students have been provided an HCPSS-issued device and will [access assignments via Canvas](#). All students will have up to 10 days following the asynchronous day of instruction to complete this work.

RTA BUS PASSES

HCPSS has again partnered with the Howard County Government and the Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland to provide free RTA bus access to students. This supports students who use public transportation to get to jobs and other services and destinations throughout the county. The passes are not intended to take the place of school buses for transport to school. Please [email Ms. Riordan](#) or call the HCMS front office if interested.

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

Need to report an absence? Please email your absence notes/questions to: HCMSabsence@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 cannot be honored.

Please Note: Absences are unexcused until an email or note is received.

For Discretionary Absences (up to 3 per school year), please complete the linked form and email it to: HCMSabsence@hcpss.org.

For Religious Observances, please complete the linked form and email to: HCMSabsence@hcpss.org.

COMMUNICATION TO FAMILIES

Families may find it useful to bookmark the following webpages where information will be continually updated and posted:

- [HCMS website](#)
 - [HCPSS website](#)
 - [2022-2023 School Year](#)
 - [2022-2023 Communication](#)
 - [HCPSS News site](#)
 - [HCPSS Help site](#)
-

SCHOOL CALENDAR

View, download, print or subscribe to the [HCPSS 2022-2023 calendar](#) online. The calendar is subject to change; the online calendar reflects the most recent version. There will be no printed 2022-2023 calendars.

HCMS FOOD PANTRY

HCMS has partnered up with the [LindaBen Foundation](#) and Safeway to help feed our HCMS community. If your family is interested in receiving food boxes or you would like to make donations to our food pantry please call the HCMS front office.

GROCERY STORE FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS

HCMS partners with the following grocery stores as a fundraiser for our school. Please consider linking your card and help raise money for our school!

Harris Teeter Together in Education

Harris Teeter's [Together In Education](#) program gives schools a chance to earn funds when you link your VIC card and shop Harris Teeter brands. When you shop Harris Teeter brands, a percentage of your purchase is donated to the school that your VIC card is linked to. There are NO LIMITS to how much a school can earn. Register your VIC card to our SCHOOL ID# 7984.

Weis Markets Weis4School

Through the [Weis4School program](#), you can earn cash for HCMS each time you shop at Weis. To register, simply scan the [HCMS Barcode](#) at checkout. Each time you shop at Weis, be sure to scan your Weis card to earn money for our school.

CLOTHING TO CASH

HCMS participates in the Clothing to Cash fundraising program. Clothing to Cash is a textile recycling program that donates money to the school for every pound of donated items. Look for the white donation bin at the bottom of the Harper's Choice Middle School parking lot. Clothing to Cash will accept items in ALL conditions: new with tags, or torn, stained, worn-out knees, shoes with holes or only one shoe, backpacks, old sheets, towels, blankets, stuffed animals and more. What a great way to help the school and clean out your closets! All donations must be bagged and put in the collection bin.

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.