HCMS News

March 3, 2023

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

SUMMER PROGRAMS REGISTRATION
Online enrollment requests for HCPSS' 2023 Summer Programs for currently enrolled HCPSS students is open. Enrollment requests can be made via HCPSS Connect Synergy by a parent, guardian, school counselor or school achievement liaison. Enrollment requests do not guarantee placement in courses.

2023 Summer Programs In-Person Registration Support
HCPSS staff will provide in-person assistance for current HCPSS families who need help submitting their Synergy online enrollment requests for the registration-based summer programs. Support will be provided on Thursday, March 9 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the following elementary schools: Bollman Bridge ES, Swansfield ES, Talbott Springs ES, Waterloo ES and Waverly ES.

UPCOMING DATES

03/09/2023 PTA Meeting, Media Center at 7:00 p.m.
03/15/2023 Schools close 3 hours early, Professional Work and Wellness Day
03/31/2023 Schools close 3 hours early, end of quarter 3
04/03/2023 - 04/06/2023 Schools closed for Spring Break
04/07/2023 - 04/10/2023 Schools and offices closed for Spring Break

04/13/2023 PTA Meeting, Media Center at 7:00 p.m.

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, simple 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.