

HCMS News

May 19, 2023

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It is hard to believe we only have 17 days left of this school year! This week we had a wonderful student-organized "Night of Excellence" celebration. Our students were able to showcase many amazing talents and share part of their culture with the community. We are getting ready to celebrate our 8th graders as they are moving up to WLHS. Please be on the lookout for information coming home with your 8th graders about activities, events, and permission slips.

We are more than halfway through the 4th quarter. This is the perfect time to check Canvas for grades and missing assignments. Please encourage your child to reach out to their teachers, either in person or via Canvas, if they have any questions about assignments or their grades.

As the weather gets warmer, please make sure to review the [HCPSS Dress Code Policy](#). We are also still holding our students to the same behavioral standards we have used all year. The HCPSS Student Code of Conduct can be reviewed [here](#). We look forward to working in partnership with you to finish off the year strong!

We are also looking for parents to join our PTA executive board. We MUST have at least three officers to continue having our PTA be an organization. Please reach out to our PTA at hcmsptamd@gmail.com to let them know that you are interested in running for an office. Elections will be held at our next meeting, which is on WEDNESDAY, June 7 at 7 p.m. in the Media Center. We hope to see many of you there.

Harper's Choice Middle School is asking families to provide input about their equity priorities at our school. Please use the link below to complete the HCPSS Indicators of

Educational Equity Survey by June 2, 2023. We will use your input, along with other school data, to refine our school improvement plan for next year.

This survey is anonymous and available in multiple languages. If you have children at more than one school, please complete one survey per school.

- [English survey](#)
- [Spanish survey](#)
- [Chinese survey](#)
- [Chin survey](#)
- [Korean survey](#)

Have a great weekend.

Dr. Alexia K.S. Couch

8th GRADE YEAR END ACTIVITIES

We are looking forward to celebrating our 8th graders as they get ready to move into high school.

Please see this [8th grade eoy 2023.docx](#) for more information. This memo will be shared with the 8th grade students on Monday.

Time is Running out to Receive Bus Transportation Next School Year

Families whose children are eligible for bus transportation must register through HCPSS Connect Synergy to receive bus service for the 2023-2024 school year.

Visit <https://www.hcpss.org/schools/transportation/registration/> for instructions on how to register and more information.

We don't want any students who qualify for transportation to be without a bus if they rely on that to get to and from school. Please contact the school if you need help registering your child. Please contact the HCPSS Office of Transportation

at transportation@hcpss.org or 410-313-6732 if you have questions related to your eligibility to receive bus service. You may also find several [frequently asked questions](#) online.

Families who reside in non-transportation areas are not eligible for bus transportation and do not need to take any action. Find the new [non-transportation areas for your school online](#). Students who receive transportation as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan do not need to register.

HC DRUGFREE UPDATES

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, May 22 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](#)

A SHOUT OUT TO OUR LOCAL VENDORS

We want to shout out a great big "thank you" to our local vendors who contributed to our Staff Appreciation Week.

Thank you to Canton Car Wash, Magianno's, Pub Dog, Chicken and Whiskey, and Cheesecake Factory. We appreciate your support in celebrating our staff.

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Attention **rising 7th graders** for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year; the Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene requires all 7th graders in the state of Maryland have one Tdap and one Meningitis (MCV4) vaccine BEFORE entering school.

Current 6th grade students who haven't received these vaccinations should have received a letter and consent form about the HCMS Vaccine Clinic being held on May 16th by the Howard County Health Department, where your child can receive those vaccines here at school- FREE.

If you want your child to receive the necessary vaccines at school, please return the signed consent form to the health room ASAP.

Your child may not be able to attend school this Fall until these vaccines are complete and the health room has a copy on file.

**SEND PROOF OF VACCINES TO: HCMS Health Room 5450 Beaverkill Road
Columbia, MD 21044 or fax to 410-730-5248**

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.

UPCOMING DATES

05/19/2023 Schools closed for students, Professional Learning Day
05/26/2023 Music Department - Hershey Park trip
05/29/2023 Schools closed, Memorial Day
05/30/2023 Chorus Concert, WLHS, 7 p.m.
05/31/2023 Band Concert, WLHS, 7 p.m.
06/05/2023 8th grade Baltimore Harbor Cruise
06/06/2023 8th grade visit to WLHS
06/06/2023 8th grade photo
06/07/2023 PTA Meeting, 7 p.m. in media center
06/08/2023 8th grade dance, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
06/12/2023 School closes 3 hours early
06/13/2023 School closes 3 hours early
06/13/2023 8th grade Farewell Open House 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
06/14/2023 Last school day for students, 3 hour early dismissal

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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](#)
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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.