



Upcoming Events:

- 12/15 Deadline to sign up for the [Richmond Times-Dispatch Spelling Bee](#) (grades 3-8)
- 12/20-31 Winter Break
- 1/10 **NEW** Deadline to return opt out/in form for the Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions - High School students only (see below)
- 1/28 **UPDATED** Deadline for GT Referrals (see below)
- 1/28 **UPDATED** [Pay your PTO dues](#) by this date to be entered into a raffle for OWL bling! (see below)

Take a look at all the great activities our faculty have planned for our OWLs! We would love to see you there!!!!

[Terrific Tuesday Calendar \(Elementary\)](#)

[Middle School Activity Calendar](#)

[High School Activity Calendar](#)

Please don't forget to order your OWL Memory Yearbook and also to submit your pictures!!! [Here are directions.](#)

***Please note that frequently used resources are linked in the blue bar at the end of this update.*

Note from the Principal

Greetings OWLs,

I didn't want to let winter break begin without sharing some celebrations with you!



As I shared several weeks ago, Mrs. Stacy Stanford will be rejoining the HCOS team as secondary Assistant Principal after serving Bell Creek Middle School for the first part of the year. Mrs. Stanford was a member of the HCOS leadership team last year, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to serve alongside her once again. I'm also thrilled to share that she will be officially at the OWL's Nest beginning January 5th. Welcome back Mrs. Stanford!

Our OWL faculty members are OWL-ways learning and looking for ways to provide their students with the best learning opportunities possible. To that end - two of our faculty members recently won Stewart D. Roberson Professional Development Scholarships sponsored by the Hanover Education Foundation.

- Ms. Lumpkin will be using her scholarship to attend the National Association for Gifted Children Annual Convention.
- Ms. Zedaker will be using her scholarship to develop second semester science bags for our online middle schoolers.

Congratulations to both of these OWL-some OWLs!



Many thanks to those of you who have paid your PTO dues!! Raffle winners are being notified via phone and will receive OWL t-shirts! We will do one more raffle on January 28th for those who [pay their PTO dues](#) between now and then.

And speaking of the PTO, thanks so much to everyone who supported our first OWL Spirit Night last week! Because of your generosity, our wonderful PTO was able to earn funds to support our school. Thanks so much to everyone who has supported our PTO!

Have a great winter break!

Dr. Gresham

#hanoverstrong #PatienceGraceKindness

News for All OWLs

UPDATED GT Referrals:

Spring referrals for evaluation for Hanover County Public Schools Gifted Education will be accepted between January 3rd and January 28th.

In order for a student to be considered for the Gifted Program, he or she must first be referred for evaluation. A referral can be initiated by:

- a parent
- a teacher
- a peer
- a community member
- by the student

Elementary Referrals: If you would like to refer your child (grades K-5) for testing, please talk to your child's Online teacher. Classroom teachers should be part of the communication process as they will be required to submit work products. After discussing the referral with the classroom teacher, please send an email to the [GT teacher at your home school](#) to begin the referral process. Please include your student's first and last name and their classroom teacher's name in your message.

Middle School Referrals: Please send an email to your home [middle school gifted resource teacher](#) to begin the referral process. Please include your student's first and last name in your message.

High School Referrals: Please send an email to Andrea Herndon, Coordinator of Gifted Education & Advanced Studies, aherndon@hcps.us, to begin the referral process.

If you have any questions about the referral process in general, whether you should refer your child, or general testing questions, please feel free to send those inquiries as well to your home school's GT teacher.

Curbside Meals

Here's information sent out recently from the HCPS Director of Food Services, Patrick McCarty, about curbside meals during the upcoming holidays:

Dear Families,

I hope you are having a great week. I am writing today with an update regarding curbside meal distribution and upcoming holidays.

We will distribute meals on Monday, November 22 for that day and Tuesday, November 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at [our three curbside distribution locations](#). Unlike last school year, we are unable to offer curbside meals for holidays and holiday breaks, according to updated guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We are only able to distribute meals for regularly scheduled school days. Accordingly, there will be no curbside distribution for Winter Break, which is scheduled for Monday, December 20 through Friday, December 31.

Please note that, while none are run by nor affiliated with HCPS, Hanover County has a variety of food pantries available for residents. For more information, please contact the Hanover County Department of Community Resources at (804) 365-4300 or visit [the department's website](#).

In the meantime, we will continue offering free grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches on Mondays. Children do not need to be present to receive the meals.

We appreciate your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Patrick McCarty

Director of Food Services

Winter Holidays are a GREAT Time to Read!

Don't forget to plan for some fun winter reading. We have many online resources available for both [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) students, but there's nothing like having a real book in your hands! Remember that OWLs can check out library books using [this process](#). There are also lots of great books and activities at our local [libraries](#). No matter your child's grade level, please encourage them to check out some books over the holidays and have fun reading!

Second Semester and Next Year

If you have questions or concerns about your student's continued placement in HCOS for second semester, please reach out to your school counselor (elementary - [Mrs. Gray](#); secondary - [Mrs. Carr](#)). [Mrs. Townes](#) (elementary) and [Dr. Gresham](#) (secondary) are also available to help.

Students interested in attending HCOS next year will have an opportunity to apply after winter break. More information will be forthcoming.

HCOS PTO News

Many thanks to the parents who have stepped up to form our HCOS PTO! Please take a few minutes to watch [this message from our President, Andrea Casey](#), and meet several of the other parents who are giving so generously of their time and talents to our PTO!

How can you get involved in the HCOS PTO?

- There will be several opportunities coming up throughout the year. If you have time, talents, or resources you can contribute, please reach out to the PTO at HanoverOwlPTO@gmail.com. We will especially need support and donations around Teacher Appreciation Week in the spring. Ideas for recognizing our teachers are welcome!
- **UPDATED** Online payment of PTO dues is now available! Because the HCOS PTO doesn't do traditional fund raisers, we are even more dependent upon dues. Dues are \$10 per family. **Congratulations to the raffle winners thus far! We will be doing one more raffle on January 28th for anybody who pays between now and then.** You can pay your dues using the [online payment system](#). You will be asked to choose elementary, middle, or high. If you have students in more than one level, please just pay once - it doesn't matter which level.

Thank you for your support of our HCOS PTO!!

News for Elementary OWLs

Spelling Bee:

Attention students in grades 3-5 - if you are interested in participating in the Richmond Times-Dispatch Spelling Bee, [here is the information](#).

Counselor Corner:

5th grade registration for Middle School

The Program of Studies (POS) lists all the courses available in HCPS through high school. Here is a link to access the POS: [Program of Studies](#). Parents will have the opportunity to Pre-Register their child in the Powerschool Parent Portal from December 13-January 3. [Directions for the Parent Portal](#).

Mrs. Gray will be meeting with each 5th grade student to register them for middle school. Even if you pre-register, Mrs. Gray will need to meet with each student. If you would like to be a part of that 20 minute meeting, please sign up to join. Information is in this link:

[Sign-Ups to register for Middle School](#)

Course Selection Sheets for 6th grade classes: [Bell Creek Registration Letter](#) [Bell Creek Middle School Courses](#)
[Chickahominy Middle School](#)
[Liberty Middle School](#)
[Oak Knoll Middle School](#)

As I receive information from the middle schools, I will send the information out to families. Here is what I have at this time:

- ***Bell Creek Middle School:*** To learn about the different courses being offered for the 2022-23 school year, please check out our virtual Rising Curriculum Night linked below. Our Rising Curriculum Night information is for rising 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students. Elective programs, math pathways, our literacy program, and 6th-grade-specific details are highlighted.
[***https://bit.ly/bcmscourses2021***](https://bit.ly/bcmscourses2021)
- ***Liberty Middle School:*** [Curriculum Night Video](#)
Parent Zoom Informational Meeting. Families will have a chance to ask questions about middle school curriculum and scheduling with Mrs. Lycett (Principal) and Ms. Sharp (School Counselor). December 13 at 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. [Zoom Link](#)
- ***Chickahominy Middle School:*** Virtual 6th Grade Curriculum Night - December 16 (link will come closer to time)

Science Materials:

Thanks for picking up the science materials for your child! If you have not yet picked up your child's science materials, please call the OWL office at (804)365-8069 to arrange a pick up time. It is critical that all of our elementary students have these materials.

News for Middle School OWLs

Spelling Bee:

Attention students in grades 6-8- if you are interested in participating in the Richmond Times-Dispatch Spelling Bee, [here is the information](#).

Counselor Corner:

The Program of Studies (POS) lists all the courses available in HCPS. Here is a link to access the POS: [Program of Studies](#). Powerschool Parent Portal opens today, December 13th and closes Monday, January 3rd. All OWL students are pre-set for their home schools in Powerschool for the 22-23 school year. Here's our [Course Registration Information Presentation](#) which includes specific information for each school (curriculum night, course lists, live Zooms, etc.). This presentation will continue to be updated as we receive more information from each school.

- Liberty Middle School: Parent Zoom Informational Meeting for rising 7th and 8th graders is today, December 13th at 7:30pm. Students and families will have a chance to ask questions about middle school curriculum and scheduling with Mrs. Lycett (Principal) and school counselors. [Zoom Link](#)

Students interested in attending HCOS next year will have an opportunity to apply after winter break. More information will be forthcoming.

News for High School OWLs



Seniors: Please make extra certain you are monitoring your "Class of 22" Schoology page from your home high school. Critical information leading up to graduation can be found there, and it is important that you stay up to date.

NEW Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions

This spring, HCOS high school students, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Department of Education, is conducting the Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions of students, classroom instructors, and staff. This survey will be administered online between January 10 and February 4, 2022. [Please find attached more information](#) about this survey as well as a form to opt your student in/out of the survey. Please return a signed copy of this form either by email (vbryant@hcps.us) or by USPS (HCOS, 10465 Dow-Gill Road, Suite A, Ashland, Va. 23005). If you have questions after reviewing the attached information, please contact our HCOS secondary Assistant Principal, [Stacy Stanford](#).

Counselor Corner:

Attention 10th grade students: Hanover Center for Trades and Technology applications are open now through February 1, 2022. Please see your OWL-Sophomores Schoology page for more information including a link to the application.

The Program of Studies (POS) lists all the courses available in HCPS. Here is a link to access the POS: [Program of Studies](#). Powerschool Parent Portal opens today, December 13th and closes Monday, January 3rd. All OWL students are pre-set for their home schools in Powerschool for the 22-23 school year. Here's our [Course Registration Information Presentation](#) which includes specific information for each school (curriculum night, course lists, live Zooms, etc.). This presentation will continue to be updated as we receive more information from each school.

Students interested in attending HCOS next year will have an opportunity to apply after winter break. More information will be forthcoming.

Community Information

[Humanitarian Foundation Flyer](#)

[University of Richmond Summer Reading programs](#)

4-H Opportunity

Here's an opportunity for students interested in being a Teen Counselor at 4-H camp in July 2022.

- [Informational Flyer](#)
- [Application](#)

Zoned School Picture Information

Parents desiring school pictures should plan on having those pictures taken at children's home schools and should watch for news from their home schools about picture days and yearbooks. (Make sure you are subscribed for messages from your home school on BB Connect. [Here is the BB Connect Portal](#). [Here are step-by-step directions](#).)

High schoolers, particularly seniors, should look for information on their home school "Class Of" Schoology pages. Home school senior sponsors share information regarding graduation, cap & gown orders, diplomas, etc. on "Class Of" Schoology pages.

Additionally, zoned elementary and middle schools will insert information about their picture days into the following documents.

- Information about zoned [elementary school picture days](#).
- Information about zoned [middle school picture days](#).

Hanover County Online School
10465 Dow-Gil Road, Suite A
Ashland, Va. 23005
(804)365-8069
Office Hours 7:45-4:00 M-F



[Leadership Team Contact Information](#)
[HCOS Family/Student Handbook](#)
[School Website](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Secondary Bell Schedules](#)
[Library Book Checkout Process](#)
[Elementary Digital Resources](#)
[Secondary Digital Resources](#)
[Submitting Pictures for and Ordering Yearbooks](#)