
September 15, 2014

EXCELLENCE STARTS HERE

From Mrs. Ketterer:

It has been an active and engaging first few weeks of school and we appreciate all of the support given to our staff and students! We hope to see you at our **Back-to-School Nights: Pre-K-2nd Grade will be this Wednesday, September 17th, and 3rd-5th Grade will be Thursday, September 18th**. Our staff will share more about what's ahead for your child this school year. Please see the details below:

Important Information for Back-to-School Nights

Pre-K-2nd Grade: Wednesday, September 17th

3rd-5th Grade: Thursday, September 18th

Each session will begin in the Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m., where Mrs. Ketterer, Mrs. Moraff, Mrs. Richter, and the PTA will share important information with our families. Then our teaching teams have prepared presentations in their grade pods. Childcare will be available each night.

If you are planning on using our childcare service, please know that it is meant for children ages 4 through 11. If you need to bring a younger child or an older child, we ask that they remain with you for the evening.

Back-to-School Night SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 17th

Back-to-School Night for Pre-K, K, 1st, and 2nd Grade Families

- 6:15 p.m. Check your child (ages 4-11) into Childcare (Check-In Front Foyer, then walk your child to the 3rd Grade Pod)
- 6:30 p.m. Cafeteria Presentation by Administration
- 7:00 p.m. Pod and Classroom Presentations
- 8:00 p.m. Pick your child up from Childcare in 3rd Grade Pod

Thursday, September 18th

Back-to-School Night for 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Families

- 5:30 p.m. G/T Math Orientation in the Cafeteria
- 6:00 p.m. G/T Enrichment Orientation in the Cafeteria
- 6:15 p.m. Check your child (ages 4-11) into Childcare (Check-In Front Foyer, then walk your child to the 1st Grade Pod)
- 6:30 p.m. Cafeteria Presentation by Administration
- 7:00 p.m. Pod and Classroom Presentations
- 8:00 p.m. Pick your child up from Childcare in 1st Grade Pod

Families Can Add Funds to Children(s) Lunch Account(s) at Back-to-School Nights

If you would like to add money to your child's lunch account during either of our Back to School Nights, Ms. Zee Alhassan, our Cafeteria Manager, will be available in the cafeteria to assist you with this. She can accept Cash, Checks or Money Orders ONLY. There will be no service charge at that time as there would be if doing this online.

Guidelines for School Visitation

The Howard County Public School System welcomes visitors to our schools. To limit interruptions and distractions to teaching and learning, and to maximize safety for everyone, persons who wish to visit a school building or classroom are asked to comply with the following procedures:

- *Anyone wishing to visit a school is asked to contact the Principal to discuss the purpose of the visit and to establish a convenient time for both the visitor and the school.*
- *A teacher will be notified, either orally or in writing, in advance by a school administrator that a visit to their classroom has been requested. The teacher may request that the visit be rescheduled.*
- *Upon entering a school, all visitors must sign in at the main office and receive a visitor badge.*
- *To avoid interrupting instruction, no students are allowed to shadow HCPSS students.*
- *Understandably, interactions between visitors and school staff and students will be limited.*
- *If a follow-up meeting with school staff is desired, the visitor will schedule it for a mutually convenient time.*

Important Information Regarding Emergency Procedures

(If you have already completed your Emergency Procedure Card online please disregard this notice.)

It is extremely important for schools to have available Emergency Procedure Cards for every student. This card needs to be completed every year as contacts, phone numbers and arrival/departure information for your child(ren) often change year to year. You will find in your child's Monday Folder today a packet of information to guide you in completing this.

We urge every family to complete this process ONLINE. The first attachment in the packet of information outlines the procedures for doing this. Please note the following: If you did NOT previously have a Family Portal account, you must first go to <http://www.hcpss.org/> and click on the Family Portal link to establish your account with a user name and password. Then proceed with the attached directions.

If you do not have Internet access, you will find a paper copy of the Emergency Procedure Card in the information packet so that you can complete and return to school in your child's Monday Folder. Please complete the Emergency Procedure Card and return to school by Monday, September 22nd. If you have any questions or encounter any problems, please call our front office staff for assistance at 410-313-6907. Thank you for your attention to this.

Fitness Friday STRIDERS Program Starts this Friday, September 19th

This is a fun volunteer opportunity and it gets our kids moving and smiling.

The schedule for Recesses is:

1st Grade	10:10-10:40 am
Kindergarten	10:40-11:10 am
3rd Grade	11:10-11:40 am
2nd Grade	11:40-12:10 pm
* No Recess	12:10-12:40 pm
4th Grade	12:40- 1:10 pm
5th Grade	1:10- 1:40 pm

To sign up or for more information and other dates, go to: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0B45ACA928A64-fitness

Please Note:

***Fitness Friday is contingent on the weather and VOLUNTEERS.** A minimum of 3 volunteers is needed for each grade, but K – 2nd grades really require more hands. We will hold Striders only for those grades with enough volunteers. This is a fun and exciting activity for both the students and the volunteers. Volunteer training is mandatory...please see information below. Please forward this to other adults who might wish to volunteer at our school.*

Our Parent Volunteer Orientation will be offered Tuesday, September 23rd at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The PTA and our Administration are co-hosting a Parent Volunteer Orientation on Tuesday, September 23rd. This has become a very useful way to share opportunities to work with our students! All volunteers must complete this training prior to helping in our school. The time together also allows for discussion where questions are answered and ideas shared to improve how we already work to serve our children and their teachers! Come and join us! Please RSVP to Mrs. Ketterer at molly_ketterer@hcpss.org.

Please Come to our First PTA Meeting on Thursday, October 2nd

Our PTA continues to provide vital support to our students, staff and families! Come join us for the first PTA Meeting of the year two weeks after our Back-to-School Nights on Thursday, October 2nd. We traditionally hold this first meeting in our foyer for its welcoming feel and also to provide optimal space for, what we hope, are many attendees! This meeting also will feature a question and answer session to address any follow-up questions from Back-to-School Night.

How to Receive Emergency/School Closing and Delay Information

The HCPSS uses the methods listed below to announce school closings and delays.

www.hcpss.org

The school system's website is the first and most complete source of information on school closings and delays.

HCPSS News email and text message alerts

Register at www.hcpssnews.com. Parents who subscribe to this free service can also opt to get news from their child's school, and will receive the school system's Weekly News, which provides valuable information on school activities and HCPSS-related information. .

HCPSS TV - Cable TV Comcast 95/Verizon 42

NotifyMeHoward

Register at <https://notifyme.howardcountymd.gov> and choose to receive news from the HCPSS.

HCPSS Information Hotline 410-313-6666

Twitter – @hcpss

Please note: The HCPSS does NOT use schools-out.com (which charges for text messages) or e-schoolnews.com.

Spotlight Team Winners for September 5th:

Pre-K am	Nicole Cryan	(Miss Day's Class)	2 nd Grade	Tavroop Kaur	(Mrs. Myers' Class)
Pre-K pm	Lucas Nanton	(Miss Day's Class)	3 rd Grade	Hafsah Khan	(Miss Bonette's Class)
Kindergarten	Connor McGrady	(Miss Holden's Class)	4 th Grade	Naomie Ofwono	(Mrs. Ports' Class)
1 st - Grade	Kaitlin Meares	(Miss Wyant's Class)	5 th Grade	Angeles Pina Medellin	(Mrs. Salazar's Class)

Spotlight Classroom Winners for September 5th:

Kindergarten	Damya Pitman	(Mrs. Niezgoda's Class)	1 st Grade	Dagem Belachew	(Miss Birmingham's Class)
	Zoe Perkins	(Miss Shipley's Class)		Marion Garnett	(Mrs. Huter's Class)
	Kaleb Ruch	(Mr. Werdesheim's Class)		Arden Wheeler	(Mrs. Olthoff's Class)
				Gregory DeBruyn	(Miss Warner's Class)
2 nd Grade	Ciss Norgren	(Mrs. Erb's Class)	3 rd Grade	Elias Willard	(Ms. Bell's Class)
	Kristerson Mitchell	(Mrs. Hovis' Class)		Angel Cordon	(Miss Lewis' Class)
	Emily Kiv	(Mrs. Rooths' Class)		Rylan Jenkins	(Miss Miller's Class)
4 th Grade	Bijoux Kamga	(Mrs. Barron's Class)	5 th Grade	Kamil Elzey	(Ms. Ashton's Class)
	Vincent Murray	(Mr. Hayes' Class)		Rolando Thompson	(Miss Kanter's Class)
	Noah Davidson	(Miss Narron's Class)			

Spotlight Team Winners for September 11th:

Pre-K am	Jamiyah Reaves	(Miss Day's Class)	2 nd Grade	Ella Moss	(Mrs. Erb's Class)
Pre-K pm	Ariana Thomas	(Miss Day's Class)	3 rd Grade	Elise Varoli	(Miss Bonette's Class)
Kindergarten	Folu Ojifinni	(Mrs. Niezgoda's Class)	4 th Grade	Zoe Ingleton	(Mr. Hayes' Class)
1 st - Grade	Hailey Mitchell	(Miss Birmingham's Class)	5 th Grade	Nathan Corea	(Mrs. Salazar's Class)

Spotlight Classroom Winners for September 11th:

Kindergarten	Thomas Bobier	(Miss Holden's Class)	1 st Grade	Candace Khumbah	(Mrs. Huter's Class)
	Sarah Moss	(Miss Shipley's Class)		Aniah Commedo	(Mrs. Olthoff's Class)
	Tavon Bonner	(Mr. Werdesheim's Class)		Tichey Smith	(Miss Warner's Class)
				Jamica Crowder	(Miss Wyant's Class)
2 nd Grade	Sophie Crossland	(Mrs. Hovis' Class)	3 rd Grade	Niyale Hill	(Ms. Bell's Class)
	Ruby Rodriguez	(Mrs. Myers' Class)		Destini Jackson	(Miss Lewis' Class)
	Maya Vazquez	(Mrs. Rooths' Class)		Judith Frolov	(Miss Miller's Class)
4 th Grade	Sama Ali	(Mrs. Barron's Class)	5 th Grade	Christopher Smith	(Ms. Ashton's Class)
	Jelani Simmons	(Miss Narron's Class)		Lyrice Ferguson	(Miss Kanter's Class)
	McKenzie Lawings	(Mrs. Ports' Class)			

Photographs of SPOTLIGHT Winners are updated weekly on our website, <http://ses.hcpss.org>.

Let's Go HoCo

The Howard County Public School System is excited to host Let's Go HoCo, its inaugural 5K race and 1 mile fun run on Sunday, October 12 in Columbia. The race is a great way to bring together families, staff and Howard County community members to promote health and wellness. The race will include beginners, intermediate and professional level athletes. View event information and register today at www.hcps5k.com.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, September 17

Thursday, September 18

Thursday, September 25

Tuesday, September 30

Thursday, October 2

Monday, October 6

Tuesday, October 7

Wednesday, October 8

Thursday, October 9

Friday, October 10

Sunday, October 12

Thursday, October 16

Thursday, October 23

Friday, October 24

Friday, October 31

Back-to-School Night: Pre-K through Grade 2 @ 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

GT/Enrichment Program Parent Orientation @ 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (Cafeteria)

GT Math Orientation at 5:30 / Enrichment Program Orientation at 6:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Night: Grade 3 through Grade 5 @ 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SCHOOLS CLOSED: Rosh Hashanah

Bridges Parent Night @ 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the 4th Grade Pod

2nd Grade Field Trip to Heritage Farm @ 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

PTA Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

1st Q Midterm Progress Report Goes Home

Bridges Session I Begins @ 7:45 a.m.

Walk-to-School Day: Outside Ceremony @ 8:45 a.m. at Flagpole

Students for Safe Schools @ 7:45 a.m. in the Media Center

Picture Day: Individual Pictures

Let's Go HoCo 5k race and 1 mile fun run @ 8:00 a.m.

4th Grade Field Trip to MD Science Center @ 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Family Tech Night: Respect and Protect @ 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Pre-K a.m. Field Trip to Clark's Elioak Farm @ 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Pre-K p.m. Field Trip to Clark's Elioak Farm @ 1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

1st Quarter Ends / Halloween & Alternate Celebrations in the afternoon

Community News

The events shared below are for your information and are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.

GUMC Food Pantry

The Glenelg United Methodist Church (GUMC) Food Pantry is open every third Saturday of the month (this month it's September 20) 9-11 a.m. to serve those in need of grocery assistance. GUMC is located at 13900 Burntwoods Road, Glenelg. Call 410-489-7260 for more information or if you're interested in making a donation.

Healthy Howard

Door to Healthcare, a project of Healthy Howard, provides FREE help in choosing affordable, quality health coverage. The Door provides practical answers about new changes in health care, personal support for making the right choice and assistance with signing up for health insurance. Our certified Navigators and Assisters are available for in-person assistance and to guide you and your family through the process of becoming insured. To learn more, visit www.doortohealthcare.org or call us at 855-288-3667

Howard County Conservancy: Fall Equinox Twilight Hikes and Campfire, Tuesday, September 23rd, 5-7 p.m.

Family Program

Come out to the Conservancy with the whole family. In case of rain, check website. Pre-register on-line through our website, <http://www.hcconservancy.org/upcoming-events.html> or cash only at door. 410-465-8877