

MWES News - Week of 1-10-22

January 7- Spirit Day: Wear a readable shirt

January 12 - BMMS New Student Parent Orientation 6:30-7:30 pm (**Tentative)

January 13 - Orchestra Concerts (virtual only)

January 14 - Spirit Day: Wear Maryland Colors (red/black/yellow)

January 18 - MVMS New Student Parent Orientation 6:00-7:00 pm (**Tentative)

January 21 - Spirit Day: PJ Day

January 27 - Spirit Day: Dress as favorite book character or book

A Note From Mrs. DeBord and Mrs. Zinn

Happy New Year!!! We hope you had a healthy and wonderful winter break! We were happy to return to school on Wednesday and continue to strive to ensure a safe and nurturing environment.

Please see the info below.

As always, please monitor your email, text alerts or visit the [HCPSS Status website](#) in the case of inclement weather.

New CDC Guidance: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) earlier last week [announced a recommendation](#) to shorten quarantine duration to five days. This recommendation was adopted by the Howard County Health Department (HCHD). Therefore, unvaccinated and vaccinated students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will have to isolate and may not return to school until:

- They have been out at least 5 days from the onset of symptoms or upon receiving a positive test without symptoms, and
- Remain fever-free for 24 hours, and
- Show a consistent improvement of symptoms.

Students and staff who test positive may return to school on day 6. Contact tracing will be led by the health department. Please notify people you believe may be close contacts in an effort to prevent further spread.

Health Checks: Parents/guardians should perform a [health check](#) with their child every day and refrain from sending them to school if they show any symptoms associated with COVID-19 or any other communicable disease. Staff are to follow the same guidance. Please note that student absences due to sickness are considered excused absences. Additionally, parents/guardians should send an email to their child's school notifying them of a positive test during the break when schools reopen on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022. Please email lisa_greco@hcpss.org if your child needs to be absent. Please include the reason for the absence as this information is required.

Masks: [Universal indoor masking](#) remains intact for all HCPSS facilities. Families are encouraged to send their children to school with KN95 masks, which are recommended by the CDC for their effectiveness over the typical cloth masks previously recommended. HCPSS is in the process of procuring KN95 masks for students and staff to have on hand in addition to the masks already available in schools.

Vaccines: The Howard County Health Department and HCPSS encourages vaccines and boosters for all applicable residents ages 5 and older, and there are several [vaccination clinics](#) available for first doses and boosters.

If you have any questions about the information above, please reach out to our registered nurse, laura_ruiz@hcpss.org or our health assistant, lynnette_winde@hcpss.org

Thank you!
Carol DeBord

New Information

Please Check the Lost and Found

Our lost and found tables have several coats, lunch boxes and water bottles. All will be donated next week. Please have your child check the tables if they are missing anything. Thank You!

Upcoming Spirit Days

Before winter break, intermediate students were surveyed about their **spirit day preferences** and student leaders reviewed the responses.

Based on popular vote, student leaders identified the spirit days listed below.

Feb. 18 Famous Person Day (dress up as a famous artist, scientist, author, athlete, musician, you choose!)

Mar. 18 Career Day (wear an outfit that matches a career you might like)

Apr. 22 Wacky Hair Day

May 27 Dress Up Day

June 10 Hat Day

Class Spelling Bee Winners

The following students are the class spelling bee winners who will compete in a school-wide spelling bee **(date tbd)**:

4th Grade Winners:

Luke Noblezada, Leo Wentworth, Rishir Chennamsetty, Darshit Gedela, Avaneesh Alibilli, Gopal Yegnasubramanian, Edward Yang, Heitor Lemos

5th Grade Winners:

Reid Clow, Nancy Wang, Rohan Patel, Adrian Bolisay, Alyson Lai, Shriya Srivastava, Anjali Konikkara, Jason Liang, Daniel Wang, Julian Bolisay

PTA News

Yearbook Photo Cover Contest

[Details Here](#)

Room Parents

We will be seeking at least one room parent volunteer from each class. Be on the lookout for an email from your child's teacher with the request or you can email PTA President Marva Booth at mwesPTApres@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer for that role

PTA Meeting - January 18th

Our next PTA meeting will be held Tuesday, January 18th at 6:30PM. PTA meetings are a great opportunity to hear directly from administration, ask questions and hear more about what's coming up here at Manor Woods. We hope to see you there!

Restaurant Night - Zen Garden, January 27th

Get ready for our next stop on our cultural cuisine trip around the world! Join MWES PTA at our next Restaurant Night featuring Asian cuisines, just in time for the Lunar New Year at Zen Garden on Thursday, January 27th located at 10039 Baltimore National Pike Ellicott City, Maryland 21042. **Eat in or carry out!** Carry out orders: **(410) 313-8818** or you can order online at www.zengardenellicottcity.com. There will be a special combo available for MWES families, as well as a coupon for a future visit. Stay tuned for information about our February restaurant night!

If you have suggestions or connections for our next Restaurant Night around the world, please contact Allie, Restaurant Night Committee Chair at mwesrestaurantnight@gmail.com.

[Take this flier with you!](#)

Important Reminders From Past Newsletters

Repeated Information [Click Here](#)

Weather Guidelines

[Click Here](#)

BMMS Rising 6th Grade Information Night for Parents and Guardians January 12th

Welcome Future Bobcats!

Our first middle school information night will be held via google meet on Wednesday January 12th at 6:30 PM. We will go over the HCPSS middle school program, meet some Burleigh Manor staff, as well as answer some commonly asked questions related to middle school. All parents and guardians of rising 6th graders are encouraged to attend.

To join the presentation, use your student's HCPSS login to access the meet at: **WelcometoBMMS**

Stay tuned – we have two more orientation opportunities for our future middle school students. We will have an orientation in May/June for students and in August for both parents and students. We can't wait to see you!

G/T Information Presentation

The middle school information presentation for the Gifted and Talented Education Program will be held via Google Meet on January 12, 2022, from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. This presentation will provide an overview of the Howard County Gifted and Talented Education Program for middle school students, with information on G/T content classes, G/T instructional seminars, and placement. All parents and guardians of students new to the HCPSS are encouraged to attend.

To join the presentation, use your student's HCPSS login to access the meet at: **BMMSGT**

Please contact the school's G/T Resource Teacher, Ms. Robyn Page, at Robyn_Page@hcpss.org or 410-313-2507 for more information.

MVMS Rising 6th Grade Information Night for Parents & Guardians January 18th

Time: 6 pm-7 pm

Will your child be a 6th grader at Mount View Middle School next year?

If so, please join us for our information night - we can't wait to meet you!

This event is virtual.

Out of an abundance of caution due to Covid-19, there will not be an in-person option.

Please join us virtually for an information session about the 6th-grade program of studies at Mount View Middle School.

Google Meet Code: MVMS-Rising6

Important Note: In order to attend virtually, you must be signed in to your student's HCPSS account. Visit <https://meet.google.com/> and enter the Code MVMS-Rising6 into the text box. If you are not signed in to your student's HCPSS account, you will not be able to access Google Meet. Please speak to your child ahead of time and write down their username and password.

ACCESS for ELLs

Each year, students in ESOL programs take the ACCESS for ELLs language proficiency test. This test measures academic English language proficiency for students learning English in our school and throughout our state. Students will take

language assessments in four domains-listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

Just a reminder that our ACCESS testing will be administered between January 10 and February 18.

Please help your child make sure that their chromebook is charged every night and please have them bring their headphones.

Thank you for your support!

Maintaining Mental Health Through the Winter

Check out [The National Alliance on Mental Health \(NAMI\) bi-monthly newsletter](#) for ideas about maintaining mental health during the winter, monthly support groups and classes.

Ms. Heinlein (grades 1, 2, 4 & 5) and Mrs. Salapata (grades K & 3) are here to support our students. If we can be of assistance to you or your child, please contact monica_heinlein@hcpss.org or christina_salapata@hcpss.org.

Maryland Reading Month

January is Maryland Reading Month! Our Theme is Read Across Maryland – MWES ELA Committee is eagerly planning special activities to celebrate reading. More specific details will be shared in January 2022. Please save the date for these special Fridays in January.

January 7th – It's Readable Shirt Day! Students are encouraged to wear a shirt to school with words on them for all to read.

January 14th – Wear Maryland Color's Day! Students are encouraged to wear Maryland colors to school. Maryland colors are red, yellow, white and black.

January 21st –Curl Up & Read - PJ Day! Students are encouraged to wear their PJs to school, bring a book, and a stuffed animal.

January 27th – It's Dress Up as Your Favorite book and/or Book Character. Students are encouraged to bring the book to school with them that goes with their character and/or book title.

CogAT Testing

This year, the Howard County Public School System will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to all students in grades 3 and 5. The CogAT is a

group-administered abilities test that measures students' reasoning abilities, which they develop through in-school and out-of-school experiences. It is not designed to test a student's academic achievement, but their potential.

The test is made of three batteries – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. The CogAT helps educators understand a student's cognitive strengths and weaknesses and assists with adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of each student.

All students in Grades 3 and 5 will participate in the testing. No special preparation is required. Send your child to school ready to learn as you do daily. Please make every effort to schedule appointments on a non-testing day.

Grade 5 will be testing on January 11 and 12
Grade 3 will be testing on January 18, 20, and 21

The Gifted and Talented Education Program will use the data from the CogAT as one criterion for placement into fourth grade Gifted/Talented mathematics classes and middle school Gifted/Talented content classes.

Black Student Achievement Program Saturday Math Academy Virtual Spring 2022 Session: The HCPSS Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP) Saturday Math Academy (SMA) Spring Registration is approaching! The virtual enrichment program will be offered for Howard County Public School System students in all levels of Mathematics (pending course availability) for Grades 3-12. **Online registration will take place via [HCPSS Connect](#) on Saturday, January 8, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. - until capacity is reached.** Class space is limited. For questions, please contact BSAP Specialist, Ashley Armstead.

[BSAP SMA Spring 2022 Flyer \(English\)](#)

[BSAP SMA Spring 2022 Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)

[HCPSS Connect Instructions](#)

DEI Discussion Opportunity

The MWES Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team along with our Student Equity Leaders are offering voluntary Brave Space opportunities for 4th and 5th graders this year. Mrs. Parker, our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Liaison, Mrs. Heinlein, our School Counselor, Mrs. Ebare, our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Co-Leader will be leading in-person sessions for our students.

Manor Woods' Student Equity Leaders brainstormed different topics they felt our 4th and 5th graders would like to discuss around the topic of belonging. Our first conversation will be centered on fairness and equity and how they are the same and how they are different. Our hope is that this space will be where students can feel welcomed, safe, and valued in our community and in our school. Your child may

want to come to talk and share or they may want to just come and listen. All are welcome.

Our first session will be on Friday, January 14th from 1:00-2:00 . We will have lunch together and continue our conversations into recess time. Please fill out the form below if your child is interested.

[Brave Space Sign Up](#)

Math in Action!

Manor Woods will be celebrating Math in Action in the new year and we are looking for your help. Each month from January through May we will be spotlighting a variety of mathematicians. While it's great to highlight successful mathematicians, we also want to encourage our students to see themselves as mathematicians!

We are asking each student to bring in one 4" x 6" printed photo of your family engaged in an activity involving math. Our goal is to display the photos, along with the featured mathematicians for that month, on a bulletin board outside of each team. (If you have siblings in our school, you can send in the same photo for each student since they will be displayed in different areas of the building.)

While you do not have to send in photos every month, you are welcome to send in additional photos throughout the remainder of the year. Remember, math is embedded in a lot of our daily lives (cooking, building, sewing, designing, shopping, getting gasoline, games, etc.), and we encourage you to be creative in your picture. You may begin sending pictures in now, but the boards will not go up outside of each team until January. Photos should be turned in to your child's homeroom teacher.

Outdoor Dining and Outdoor Recess

When we are able, we will offer outdoor dining during the winter months. We will also have outdoor recess whenever we can. Please have your students wear proper winter weather attire (coats, hat, gloves, etc.) so they are prepared for outdoors.

News From the Health Room

The vision and hearing screening will be occurring on January 12 and January 20. It is for all kindergarten and 1st grade students and new students coming from outside the State of Maryland. There will be a flier going out in a few weeks.

If your child has received both doses of the Covid vaccine, you can either send a copy of their card in with your child, fax to 410-531-1295, or email to the Health Room.

Any questions, please contact the Health Room at 410-313-8326 or laura_ruiz@hcpss.org or lynnette_winde@hcpss.org.

Vaccine Information For Children

[Click Here](#)

[Letter From Health Officer Dr. Maura Rossman, County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball, and HCPSS Superintendent Dr. Michael Martirano about COVID-19 vaccination for children ages 5-11](#)

Thank you parents for keeping your children home when they are experiencing various illnesses. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the health room, either calling 410-313-8326 or email school nurse at laura_ruiz@hcpss.org. If you want to test your child, please don't go to the ER unless their child is having difficulty breathing.

[mobile covid testing sites](#)

Community News

Pop-Up Food Pantry January 10th

Together with the Harriet Tubman Foundation of Howard County, the Howard County Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission will be hosting a Pop-Up Food Pantry. For questions and/or more information, call 443-386-0405 or 443-280-1935. Ridgely Run Community Center | Mon, Jan 10 | 10 - 11:30 am

Mental Health Resources

- **[Foreign-Born Support Services/Bilingual Support Services](#) - Updated Resources**
 - Bilingual Mental Health Professionals
 - [Asian American Health Initiative \(AAHI\) Mental Health Providers Youth](#)
 - [Chinese](#)
- **[Grief & Loss](#) - New Resource**

Stay up-to-date on vaccine clinics, Covid testing and more.

[Link to the Howard County Health Department](#)

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [Community News and Programs](#) website makes it easy for families to find educational and recreational resources, events and after-school programs beyond the school day by non-profit organizations.”

Community organizations requesting their announcements be shared in school newsletters should visit community-programs.hcpss.org for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss.org.