

MWES News - Week of 11/4/19

NOVEMBER

11 - Quarter 1 report cards sent home

12 - PTA Meeting 6:30 pm

14 - 1st Grade to Robinson Nature Center

15 - PTA Movie Night

18 - PTA Restaurant Night @ Chipotle (Route 40 Location)

18-22 - American Education Week

19 - 3rd Grade to Ellicott City

19 - Chorus Concert @ MRHS 7 pm

25 - Turkey Trot and 3 Hour Early Dismissal for students (dismiss at 12:15 pm Fall Conferences)

26 - 3 Hour Early Dismissal for students (dismiss at 12:15 pm Fall Conferences)

27-29 - Schools Closed for Thanksgiving

A Note From Mrs. DeBord and Mrs. Zinn

Updated HCPSS Attendance Procedures

Research is clear that showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic and social success starting from kindergarten and continuing through high school. Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school or even facing social challenges.

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days of a school year) can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- By the 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that can indicate if a student is at risk for dropping out of high school.
- In the 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

Student attendance is a major point of focus for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Starting in school year 2018-2019, MSDE lowered the chronic absenteeism rate from 20% to 10% which means that at 10% a student should be receiving support and interventions to improve their absenteeism.

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) believes that attendance is key for student success. Per Policy 9010, HCPSS defines exemplary attendance as a final attendance rate of 96% or more of the student year.

In support of achieving Exemplary Attendance for all students, we are sharing with you a comprehensive approach for attendance supports and interventions.

- If a student has missed 5% of their monthly attendance days (as few as 1-2 days a month), parents may receive a call or email of concern from your child's teacher and a notification letter from their school. This step will allow staff members to coordinate with families to determine how the student can be supported for better attendance.
- If a student has missed 10% of their monthly attendance days (this is defined as chronic absenteeism by MSDE), parents will receive a 10% Chronic Absenteeism Attendance Letter. Parents and students may be scheduled for an attendance conference. Other interventions and supports may also be used in an effort to assist the student.

- If a student has missed 15% of their monthly attendance days, in addition to the interventions and supports at 5% and 10%, these students may require an attendance support plan. Students may also be referred to the Central Attendance Team.
- If a student has missed 20% of their monthly attendance days, parents will receive a 20% Emergency Chronic Absenteeism Letter or Habitual Truancy Letter. Students may be referred to Project Attend and may be referred to the State's Attorney's Office for habitual truancy.

With the collaborative effort of HCPSS parents, staff and students, we are confident that all students can have successful attendance. This will improve student success in school and in future life.

Sincerely,

Carol DeBord, Principal

Jennifer Zinn, Assistant Principal

Impact Aid Forms

Parents/guardians who work on a federal property in Maryland and/or are a member of a uniformed service can qualify HCPSS to receive additional federal funding. Parents who completed Family File and who identified themselves as working on federal property in Maryland or as active duty military should have received pre-filled Impact Aid forms in your child's Thursday folder, to confirm the information and provide a signature. **Signed forms returned to your child's school will help ensure that the school system receives applicable funding.** If you did not indicate that you work on a federal property or are

active duty military, please let the front office know, and we will send a form home with your student.

<https://www.hcpss.org/enroll/impact-aid/>

New and Improved Website Calendar

The calendar on our MWES website is now updated with all of our school-wide events including PTA events, early dismissal days, holidays, field trips, etc. There will soon be a link on our calendar page to subscribe and sync your phone to stay up-to-date! For now, feel free to take a look at the calendar to keep track of school-wide events.

<http://mwes.hcpss.org/calendar>

FOR YOUR REFERENCE

Please keep the MWES Important Brochure handy for your reference throughout the school year.

[FAQbrochure.pdf](#)

REPORTING ABSENCES

Please use the following link to report your child's absence. Your child needs a note to return to school each time they are absent. Please be sure to state the reasons for their absence.

MWESabsences@hcpss.org

SCHOOL NEWS

Food Drive to Benefit the Howard County Food Bank:

During the month of November, Manor Woods will hold our annual food drive. A food collection container will be located in our front lobby, near the front office. Types of nonperishable food we'll collect include: beans, canned meat or fish, canned vegetables & fruit, cereal, crackers, granola bars, jelly, juice, pasta, peanut butter, rice & soup. Thank you for your support & for helping others in need.

YOUNG AUTHORS' CONTEST

[YA Student Coversheet, 2019-20 MWES.docx](#)

Students in Grades 1-5 are invited to write a poem and/or story.

- Entries must be original work.
- Students may enter a previously unsubmitted short story and/or poem written within the previous or current school year.
- All entries must use no smaller than 12 point font in Times New Roman.
- Short story entry must range between 100-400 words (gr. 1-2) and 300-800 words (gr. 3-5).
- Poem entry will consist of a single poem, any style, and must range between 25-150 words (all grade levels).
- Entries must not include graphics.
- Save an electronic copy of the story or poem. Winners at the school level will be asked to submit the electronic copy for the county and state levels of the contest
- Each entry must include a completed cover sheet signed by the student author's parent.
- Entries due to your classroom teacher by Tuesday, November 26, 2019.

Sponsored by the State of Maryland Literacy Association.

For additional details and guidelines, contact: Mrs. Miskimins by email:

Natalie_Miskimins@hcpss.org

COMMUNITY NEWS FROM OUR FEEDER SCHOOLS

(nothing new this week)

COMMUNITY NEWS AND PROGRAMS

HC DrugFree Updates for Parents/Guardians

[READ MORE](#)

www.hcdrugfree.org

Thrive by Five Workshop for Parents

Howard Co. Office of Children & Families is offering a free workshop Sat., November 16 from 8am - 1pm at the North Laurel Community Center. This workshop is for parents of young children who are interested in learning the latest science, health and behavioral information to help their children Thrive By Five. Please click the link below to view more information.

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Aacds%3AUS%3Ac4796618-7989-4974-befa-2f80127f8>

Find out what is going on within Howard County and surrounding areas. Notices are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.

[READ MORE](#)

AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES WITH HOWARD COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS

For Complete information on these Before & After School classes, including how to Register, please go to www.howardcountymd.gov/afterschool