

MWES News - Week of 11-15-2021

November 17 - Picture Re-take Day

November 22 - 24th - Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences/**3-Hour Early Dismissal for students on 11/22 and 11/23 (12:15 pm) (scheduling directions below)**

November 24 - Schools closed for students

November 25-28th - Schools and Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

A Note From Mrs. DeBord and Mrs. Zinn

Hello Manor Woods Families,

Conference Registration has started!!! Sign-up for your virtual conference now!

If you have not done so already, please join your child's Language Arts Teacher for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Online conference registration **began on Monday, and will go through Thursday, November 18th. No conferences will be scheduled on November 19th as the window closes on the 18th.** Directions on how to schedule a conference with your student(s) Language Arts teacher are [attached](#). School-wide math conferences will be held in February; however, **4th Grade GT Math** conferences are available at this time as well. All conferences will be held via Google Meet on November 22nd - November 24th. If you find it necessary to meet face to face with your child's teacher, please email them directly. (HCPSS vaccination protocols must be followed. Any vaccine/testing verifications process in place at that time will apply to in-person conferences.)

Below is a summary of the attached directions:

- Login into [HCPSS Connect \(Parent Account\)](#) Go to the **navigation pane (left side)**, **Select Conference**, then **Select Parent Scheduled Conferences (upper right-hand corner)**.
- You should be able to see all your students in the top, left corner of the screen.
- Conferences will be 15 minutes in length (30 minutes for ELL only). Please keep this in mind when selecting a slot for additional children. It is best not to select back-to-back time slots due to the virtual setting.

Once you have completed your conference registration(s), you can see the schedule in your **parent connect access account** by selecting **More Options, Conference Scheduling, View My Conference Schedule** in the navigation pane (left side).

Sincerely,

Carol DeBord and Jennifer Zinn

ABSENT NOTE EMAIL REMINDER When your child is absent, please send an email on the day your student returns to the following address: MWESabsence@hcpss.org

Please do not send changes in transportation to this email, as we will not see the changes. Any time there is a change in transportation, and any time your child has an after school activity, you must send a note into your child's homeroom teacher.

New Information

American Education Week

The National Education Association was one of the creators and original sponsors of American Education Week.

Distressed that 25 percent of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit, representatives of the NEA and the American Legion met in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education.

The conventions of both organizations subsequently adopted resolutions of support for a national effort to raise public awareness of the importance of education. In 1921, the NEA Representative Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa, called for designation of one week each year to spotlight education. In its resolution, the NEA called for: "An educational week ... observed in all communities annually for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs."

The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and American Legion as the cosponsors. A year later, the then U.S. Office of Education joined the effort as a cosponsor, and the PTA followed in 1938.

Other co-sponsors are the U.S. Department of Education and national organizations including the [National PTA](#), the [American Legion](#), the [American Legion Auxiliary](#), the [American Association of School Administrators](#), the [National School Boards Association](#), the [American Federation of Teachers](#), the [American School Counselor Association](#), the [Council of Chief State School Officers](#), the [National School Public Relations Association](#), the [National Association of State Boards of Education](#), the [National Association of Elementary School Principals](#), and the [National Association of Secondary School Principals](#).

American Education Week is always celebrated the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving. ***Due to Covid restrictions, we are not hosting American Education Week visits. We hope to resume in-person American Education Week activities next school year.***

Calendar Updates

In order to provide school-based staff with additional time to address their increased workload and to support employee well-being, the Board of Education approved [updates](#)

[to the current academic year calendar](#). Three-hour early dismissals now will take place on the following:

- December 15, 2021
- January 19, 2022 (previously a 3-hour early dismissal for high school students only)
- February 16, 2022
- March 16, 2022
- April 27, 2022
- May 18, 2022

Weather Guidelines

Exercise outdoors is healthy and is strongly encouraged. It provides a break from the regular school routine, a chance to get some outside air, and an opportunity to burn off excess energy. If conditions preclude the full recess time, even a five minute break can revitalize children and prepare them for more sitting and academic learning. Children are expected to wear clothing appropriate for forecasted conditions when participating in recess or outside activities.

The decision to go out or stay in for recess is the decision of the Administrator at individual schools. On rare occasions due to extreme weather, a decision may be made at the school system level. The following factors are considered in determining if recess is to be held outside:

- Temperature and humidity
- Wind chill
- Heat index and air quality
- Age of students
- Length of time outdoors
- Adequacy of the children's clothing
- Condition of the playground
- Falling precipitation (more than a sprinkle or mist)
- Thunder and lightning

Generally, it is assumed that students will be outside for recess when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit or the heat index reading is less than 95. Children with certain health conditions may need special accommodations during extremely hot or cold weather. Parents of those children should

provide medical documentation and may be consulted to determine if other arrangements are necessary. During hot weather, teachers should provide students a water break before and after recess. Additionally, any student who shows signs of heat exhaustion or overheating should be allowed a water break during recess.

November PTA Meeting - Tuesday, November 16th at 6:30PM

Our November PTA meeting will be held next Tuesday, November 16th at 6:30PM. The meeting will be held in person in the media center at the school and there will be a virtual option as well. We hope to see you there!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86872775296?pwd=aE1d1g4TytZcnpBUFV6aXM1cnU3QT09>

Meeting ID: 868 7277 5296

Passcode: 768702

Restaurant Nights

Cheers to families who were able to join us at the first stop of our Restaurant Night around the World Tour. It was warming to have American comfort food in old Ellicott City. Stay tuned for our next stop. Any restaurant recommendations/connections, please contact Allie, Restaurant Night Committee Chair at mwesrestaurantnight@gmail.com.

Important Reminders From Past Newsletters

Repeated Information [Click Here](#)

Parent-Teacher Conference Registration Begins **MONDAY November 8th!** Conferences will be held virtually!

Parent-Teacher Conference online registration will begin at **6 am on Monday, November 8th and go through 11:59 pm on Thursday, November 18th**. No conferences will be scheduled on November 19th as the window closes on the 18th. Directions on how to schedule a conference with your student(s) Language Arts teacher are [attached](#). School-wide math conferences will be held in February; however, **4th Grade GT Math** conferences are available at this time as well. All conferences will be held via Google Meet on November 22nd - November 24th. If you find it necessary to meet face to face with your child's teacher, please email them directly. (HCPSS vaccination protocols must be followed. Any vaccine/testing verifications process in place at that time will apply to in-person conferences.)

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Once you have completed your conference registration(s), you can see the schedule in your **parent connect access account** by selecting **More Options, Conference Scheduling, View My Conference Schedule in the navigation pane (left side)**.

Picture Retake Day

Picture retake day will be on November 17th for students who were absent, or who didn't care for the first set of photos . Picture proofs are delayed due to shipping delays;

however, parents will receive proofs prior to 11/17. Please see the attached links for the retake flier and picture envelope.

[Retake Flier](#)

[Envelope](#)

Dress For Colder Weather

Please make certain your child has a light-weight jacket or coat for recess on colder days.

Speaking of Jackets...

There are ALOT of jackets, water bottles and lunch boxes in our lost and found. Please encourage your student(s) to check the lost and found! If they need help doing so, they can come ask in the front office.

Accessing Quarter 1 Report Cards

Report cards were issued Wednesday, Nov. 10 and accessible via HCPSS Connect Synergy. Parents/guardians may access them following the [instructions for accessing report cards online](#). Answers to [frequently asked questions on grades and testing](#) can be found online.

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Parent Team would like for you to join them for a meeting on Wednesday, November 17th at 7pm. Location: MWES Media Center.

Free Food and Drinks!!!

"DEI is a space where people can come share, learn, and listen."

Looking for more information on cultural events and celebrations. Take a look at the DEI webpage: <https://mwespta.com/dei/>

If you don't see your cultural celebration/holiday, or would like something added, please contact DEI Chair DD at demikajohnson@gmail.com.

[Meeting Flyer](#)

Here are a few important highlights from our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion School Committee.

Native American Heritage Month

"November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people.

Howard County Library Native American Heritage Month Celebration

<https://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/events/native-american-heritage-month-celebration-0>



**HOWARD COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM**
Public Education for All

[Native American Heritage Month Celebration |
Howard County Library System](#)

Celebrate Native American Culture and Resilience. Featuring dancing, singing, drumming, storytelling, children's crafts, vendors, Navajo Tacos and more, including:

howardcounty.librarycalendar.com

Flyer - PDF

https://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/sites/default/files/2021-10/Native%20American%20Heritage%20Mo%202021%20Flyer_0.pdf

Young Authors' Contest

The Howard County Literacy Association invites students in grades 1-5 to submit their original poems and/or short stories to the annual writing contest called The Young Authors' Contest . Please see the attached [YAC Flyer](#) Announcing Contest for information about the rules and guidelines. All entries must have a completed [YAC Cover Sheet](#) sent as a PDF. Submissions may be emailed to Mrs. Moy by January 24, 2022. Contact Mrs. Moy maria_moy@hcpss.org with any questions.

Young Authors' Contest information can be found on the [HCLA website](#) Howard County Literacy Association welcomes parents as members. Visit the [HCLA Welcome Page](#) for information about joining.

How To Get Parent Notifications in Canvas

Stay on top of happenings in your student(s) individual classes by signing up for Canvas notifications. For information about **Parent Notification Preferences in CANVAS**, [click here](#).

Parent Information Resources [Fridge Fact Sheet](#)

- *To opt-in to HCPSS Text messages, text "YES" to 67587 from the device on which you would like to receive messages.*
- *Be sure to click on the "Calendar" link at the top of our website for important dates throughout the school year.*
- *View the breakfast and lunch menus [here](#). Please keep in mind that items on the menus are subject to availability.*

FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS

[NAMI Howard County](#) is a local affiliate of The National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. All NAMI services and programs are free. Visit [Support and Education](#) for more information.

[The November 2021 School Counseling newsletter](#) contains a variety of information for parents and students including ways to show gratitude during National Gratitude Month, Native American Heritage Month, meditation and more!

Food Bank Update: Thank you to all our families and staff who donated food to support the Howard County Food Bank. Your generosity and kindness are greatly appreciated. You are difference makers! Visit [Howard County Food Bank](#) for more information about how to support those in need.

Please reach out to Ms. Heinlein (grades 1, 2, 4 & 5) or Mrs. Salapata (grades K & 3) if we can be of assistance to you or your child. monica_heinlein@hcpss.org or christina_salapata@hcpss.org.

FROM OUR HEALTH ROOM

Vaccine for Children Ages 5-11

The CDC authorized the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11. Parents should check first if their child's pediatrician is providing the COVID vaccine. If not, an appointment can be made with another vaccine provider ([listed on the website](#)) or with the Health Department. Registration for HCHD COVID pediatric vaccination appointments will begin today (November 4, 2021) after 5:00pm with links released on the HCHD website [HERE](#).

Here is some additional information about the COVID pediatric vaccine:

Safety and Efficacy

- Since the start of the pandemic, about 1.9 million children ages 5-11 years have been infected (with COVID-19), about 9% of all U.S. cases. More than 8,300 have been hospitalized and 94 have died, according to federal data. The death toll in the past year puts COVID in the top 10 causes of death for this age group.
- Clinical trials in children ages 5-11 years found the vaccine to be 90.7% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19.

Dosage and Side Effects

- The pediatric vaccine is given in two doses administered 21 days (3 weeks) apart. The dosage is one-third of the adolescent and adult dose.

- Safety data from the trials found the most common reactions were pain at the injection site, fatigue and headache. Reactions were mostly mild or moderate. (There were no serious adverse events related to the vaccine, including myocarditis or anaphylaxis.) Most side effects went away within one to two days.

Availability

- HCHD and 14 providers received the initial shipment of 9,300 doses of vaccine for Howard County. This supply will fully immunize only 4,650 children.
- Parents should check first if their child's pediatrician is providing the COVID vaccine. If not, an appointment can be made with another vaccine provider ([listed on the website](#)) or with the Health Department.
- Vaccine demand outweighs current supply, but it is anticipated supply will become more readily available in upcoming weeks.
- HCHD clinics will operate five days a week from 3-7 pm at HCC's Duncan Hall. Registration is required. Visit vaccine.howardcountymd.gov for more information.

HCHD will hold children ONLY clinics beginning on Friday, November 5th by appointment only at Howard Community College's Duncan Hall. Health Officer Dr. Maura Rossman wrote an open letter to the community outlining HCHD's plan for vaccinating our younger children. Her letter can be read [HERE](#)

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

An Opportunity to Help Make the Holidays Brighter

Hi community! We wanted to share this message from Homewood School. Perhaps you and your coworkers or friends and neighbors can team up to brighten a child's holiday.

"More than 90% of Homewood students qualify for Free and Reduced Meals and we do not have a PTA. We need new items to stock our Treasure Sale so our kids can choose holiday gifts for our loved ones. Thank you for supporting our [#HomewoodFamily](#)! This year, we need our friends, families, and community more than ever. We have a goal to collect over 1,000 new items using the Homewood Treasure Sale Wish List. Amazon will ship your donation directly to Homewood Center. Thank you for your consideration and making this a special December to remember for a young person."

Shop here: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QKXEC3NXA3PN...>

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**
 - [Stella Maris \(Links to an external site.\)](#) - Individual and family grief counseling services are available to anyone in the community (including Howard County) and they are offering both in-person or telehealth sessions. To request counseling, please contact us at 410-252-4500 ext. 7291. Free "Grieving During the Holidays" (virtual presentation) for older teens and adults on Monday, November 15, 2021. 7-8:30 p.m. To register or for more information, please call Stella Maris directly or

email hbenassi@stellamaris.org. New [Fall Calendar \(Links to an external site.\)](#) of Grief support programs also available online.

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.

HOWARD COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

[Flier Attached](#)