MWES News - Week of 11-9-2020

Important Dates

Friday, November 6th - End of Qtr. 1 Marking Period: 3-Hour Early Dismissal for Students

Friday, November 13th - Reflections Entries Due

Monday, November 16th - Qtr. 1 Report Cards Issued

Absence Email Reminder

Dear Manor Woods Parents,

Please do not send your child's absent note through Canvas. All absent notes must be emailed to MWESabsence@hcpss.org and **include student name, date of the absence and the reason for the absence**. If this information is not included, the note will not be accepted. This email goes directly to our Attendance Secretary. You may cc: your child's teacher in the same email.

Thank you in advance for adhering to our absence reporting procedures.

A Grading Update From the Board

This has been a challenging 1st quarter of school for many of our families. Due to the negative impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and transition to virtual learning, the Howard County Public School System has made some changes to 1st quarter grading that you may see reflected on your child's report card.

Students in primary grades will earn an I (Independent) or W (With assistance) if they have engaged in synchronous instruction. Students in intermediate grades will receive

A, B or C grades if they have engaged in synchronous instruction. As a result, Canvas grades may not align with quarter 1 report card grades.

These changes are in place for 1st quarter report card grades only. Asynchronous assignments complement and support synchronous learning, please support your child with task completion and with attending support sessions as needed.

New Information

AN ART CONTEST – CALLING HOWARD COUNTY RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES!

2020 marks the 30th Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a civil rights law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability. The Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services and the Howard County Commission on Disabilities invite you to mark this milestone anniversary by entering the ADA30 Art Contest. The Contest is free and open to all Howard County residents. Contestants are invited to enter up to two (2) works of art (digital submissions only). Prizes will be awarded in each category: 1st Place Prize $200, 2nd Place Prize $100. Deadline for submissions is November 30, 2020. Winners will be announced on December 18, 2020. Visit the web page at www.howardcountymd.gov/CDI for full rules and instructions.

Digital Tools for Virtual Learning (Requires Parent Opt-In)

Dear Manor Woods families,

In an effort to continue expanding our authorized set of digital tools for virtual instruction, HCPSS has curated a new set of supplemental digital tools that are available only through Google's menu of additional services. These supplemental digital tools are approved by HCPSS and comply with federal, state and Howard County Board of Education student data privacy policies. Due to Google's settings,

students must access this set of tools by utilizing Google's menu of additional services, which requires consent by a parent or guardian.

To provide consent:

1. Log in to HCPSS Connect.
2. Select More Options from the left panel.
3. Select HCPSS Google Menu from the middle of the page.
4. Click the check box to provide consent. Changes are saved automatically.

A parent or guardian must provide consent for each student by selecting the student's name at the top of the page.

The digital tools currently included are: Book Room, Word Work, Scratch BluBot, Scratch JR, Sketch-Up, Collector Classic, JamBoard, Google Earth and Minecraft: Education. After a parent/guardian provides consent, students using a HCPSS Chromebook can access the tools through the Google Play Store icon on the Chromebook when logged in with an HCPSS account. There may be a delay of up to three days before the apps appear in the Google menu and some tools may automatically appear on the Chromebook once consent is provided by a parent or guardian without the need to install them. If your child has not been issued a Chromebook, please make the request following the information found online.

Please note:

- HCPSS cannot guarantee that apps are available on devices other than HCPSS Chromebooks.
- Teachers may or may not choose to use any or all of these apps during instruction. Students will be notified when a particular app will be used for instruction.
- If you do not provide consent for your student's access to these digital tools, your student's teacher will provide alternative enrichment activities.
- In addition to these Google tools, HCPSS has approved a robust set of supplemental digital tools. Your child's teacher will notify you of the particular supplemental digital tools being used in each class via email or on their Canvas course page.

For more information, please contact Ashley Williams ashley_williams@hcpss.org, Helen Dail helen_dail@hcpss.org or Valarie Graham valarie_graham@hcpss.org.

Sincerely,

Carol DeBord

Principal

Important Reminders From Past Newsletters

click here

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 coversheet sent as a PDF. Submissions may be emailed to Mrs. Moy maria_moy@hcpss.org by December 2, 2020. Contact Mrs. Moy 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.

After School Activities

Virtual Family Code Nights

[Virtual Family Code Nights for Elementary Schools](#) are a great way to connect and collaborate through computer science! Schools can select a session between **October 19, 2020 and December 9, 2020** by signing up [here](#). This is a great way to engage students and their families in computer science--each K-5 child pairs up with a family member or guardian and they code together. No experience needed! It's great fun, proven in thousands of schools nationwide, and now provided via a live stream to any school.

Schools select a date at [CSisElementary.org](#) and receive an invitation and link to distribute to families. That's it! Students, family members, and educators then join the live stream from home or school to enjoy a learning experience they'll love and value. A live prize drawing for a **Home Robotics Bundle from Wonder Workshop** will be featured at each National Family Code Night.

Maryland Arts Institute of Racial Justice

As institutions move toward Racial Equity, it is necessary to examine and reconcile the past, understand the present, and create change for the future. [The Maryland Arts Institute of Racial Justice](#) has two types of offerings to explore racial justice together as the Maryland Arts sector. Registration is FREE.

Lunchtime Book Club

Connect with members of Maryland's arts sector to build shared language and understandings about racial justice through guided discussions and sharing. This event occurs on select Tuesdays at noon.

For dates, times, and registration, visit the [book club registration page](#).

Community News

A Cookbook That Supports Local Kids

Leadership U of Howard County is selling a Taste of Howard County cookbooks. All proceeds go to the Starlight Children's Foundation, which provides comfort to hospitalized children in Howard County. Order deadline is November 9th!

[Taste of HoCo pdf](#)

Please visit the HCPSS website [Community News and Programs page](#) for upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.