MWES News - Week of 2/1/2021

Important Dates

February 3 - MAP Testing (Math) Grades 1-5

February 5 - Hybrid Survey Due

February 10 - MAP Testing (Reading) Grades 1-5

February 10-11 - Parent Teacher Math Conferences **(3- Hour Early Dismissal for Students)**

February 12 - Professional Work Day **(Schools Closed for Students)**

February 15 - Presidents' Day **(Schools Closed for Students and Staff)**

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 Note From Our Administrators

Dear Manor Woods Families,

Beginning February 8, our school is participating in the use of Lightspeed, a

platform and instructional support tool that helps teachers keep students on track and safe as they navigate online learning.

Lightspeed enables teachers to link students' HCPSS or personal Chromebooks and HCPSS Dell laptops into a single virtual classroom for synchronous lessons, giving teachers the ability to monitor students' screens and share resources.

Lightspeed allows teachers to:

- Assist students with using the technology
- Monitor live independent work
- Lock screen to transition between live whole group activities and live independent work
- Close browser tabs and automatically navigate to websites

Teachers will only have access to Lightspeed during regularly scheduled class time.

Teachers do not have the ability to control computer screens, including clicking buttons and changing settings. However, teachers can direct and lock a student's computer to specific websites. If the website turns on the student's camera and/or microphone, the teacher would be able to observe the video and audio the web camera picks up. For example, if a student was on a site viewing their own image via the web camera the teacher would be able to see that content.

Additionally, to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act, HCPSS uses Lightspeed to filter inappropriate content and monitor general usage of the Chromebooks, during and beyond the school day.

There will be no opt-out option for Lightspeed. HCPSS-issued devices and accounts are governed primarily by HCPSS Board policies: 8080 Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools and Social Media, 3040 Technology Security, and 3060 Student Data Governance and Privacy.

We're looking forward to offering this additional platform for our teachers

to better provide support for our students. Thank you as always for being our educational partner during this unprecedented time of virtual learning.

If you have any questions, you can contact our technology teacher at ashley_williams@hcpss.org

Sincerely,

Carol B DeBord
Principal

News from Ms. Heinlein, School Counselor

Check out the January 2021 Elementary School Counseling Newsletter for information & ideas to foster well-being, kindness, community service & more.

Towson Univ. Free Tutoring Program for Students

Towson University's College of Educ. is offering free tutoring services for students in grades K-12. The program will offer: tutoring in math, reading and writing; support for students with exceptionalities; English language support. Registration begins Jan. 18th. For more info. & to register, click here.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Howard County offers free monthly support groups for families living with mental illness. For more information visit NAMI Howard County.

New Information

Please Submit Your Student(s) In-Person Commitment Form

The Howard County Public School System will begin a phased-in transition to a hybrid instructional model, beginning March 1. By Friday, February 5, parents/guardians must make a decision to send their child to school for 1-2 days per week and receive virtual instruction the remainder of the week, or to have their child remain fully virtual for the remainder of the school year. Certain student groups including, but not limited to, students receiving Special Education services and others requiring additional learning support, will have the opportunity to receive in-school learning on 5 days per week. All parents/guardians have the option to have their child continue virtual learning full time for the remainder of the current school year.

To prepare for this transition, HCPSS requests that parents/guardians complete a two-question survey by 4 p.m., Friday, February 5, with your decision:

- The type of instructional model – hybrid or fully virtual – that you choose for your child
- Whether bus service will be used, for children who are eligible for this service
- If your child is designated as a walker, transportation will not be provided. View the School Bus Locator for your child's transportation eligibility. PLEASE NOTE: Pickup times and bus stop locations are being updated and are subject to change. At this time, the School Bus Locator should only be used to determine if your child receives transportation services.

Please note the following:

- Answers to frequently asked questions on student in-person return can be found on the HCPSS Help site. This site will be continually updated as new information becomes available.
- The Board of Education on January 26, 2021 approved the following phased-in model for student in-person return:
- Week of March 1: Students identified for the 5-days-per-week program
- Week of March 15: Students in grades prekindergarten, Kindergarten, 1 and 2

- Week of March 29: Students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, and students attending programs at the HCPSS ARL
- Week of April 12: Students in grades 7, 8, 10 and 11
- HCPSS is striving to offer students two days per week of in-person learning. However, if the number of requests exceeds capacity, due to social distancing requirements, HCPSS may offer only one in-person day per week.
- Parents/guardians who opt for their student to remain fully virtual may request to switch to the hybrid in-person model at any time during the 2020-2021 school year. However, approval of that request is dependent on available space, social distancing guidelines, and other factors.
- For families that opt to send students back in-person, HCPSS will make every effort to group siblings together. However, the school system cannot guarantee that siblings will be in the same grouping. Please take this into consideration when making your decision.
- Additional information on HCPSS spring planning can be found online.

See directions below for accessing this form. Please complete by 4 p.m., Friday, February 5. Please contact your school if you require assistance completing the form.

To complete the form:

- Log in to HCPSS Connect
- Select More Options from the left panel
- Select "In-Person Commitment" from the middle of the page
- Complete the questions in the form for each child and select "Save"

Attention 5th Grade Parents and Students

This letter will help guide you and your child through the selection process for 6th grade fine arts class. We encourage you and your child to have a conversation and make selections based on strengths and interests to ensure a successful transition to 6th grade. Registration for these courses will be available online during the window of **February 3, 2021 - February 15, 2021**.

BMMS Letter

MVMS Letter

New School Opening and Closing Times Beginning March 1st

[Click Here for Details](#)

From Our Music Department

Congratulations to Our Howard County Solo Festival Students

Congratulations to the following MWES orchestra and band students who performed in last weekend's Howard County Solo Festival! We are so proud of you and your beautiful music!

Avaneesh Alibilli

Prisha Anireddy

Sam Burleigh

Byrd Charlotte

Sophia Choi

Zachary Cratin

Ashley Fileppi

Alfred Francis

Ojas Gajengi

Aarav Gupta

Aneira Hegde

Gina Hong

Shannon Ivory

Antwan Johnson

Kavana Katte

Claire Krasnoff

Karthik Kupi Reddy

Katherine Lee

Jason Liang

Madison Liu

Ailin Ni

Rohan Patel

Meghna Pillai

Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Bosques

Pragya Roy

Anisha Shirgur

Catherine Wang

Sherry Wei

Violet Yang

Gopal Yegnasubramanian

Early Learning Activities

To celebrate Early Learning Art Week, Maryland Wolf Trap Foundation for Performing Arts is offering five days of FREE, live-streamed programs for young learners, families, caregivers, and educators. There are a variety of activities designated for birth to age 6. Wolf Trap Early Learning Teaching Artists will lead the activities. Please share the attached fliers with your families and caregivers for more details on how to register.

[Early Learning Week Flyer GEN (1).pdf](#)

[Early Learning Week-February 1-5.pdf](#)

Important Reminders From Past Newsletters

[click here](#)

20-21 Yearbook Cover Contest Entries Due February 8th

All students are invited to enter their drawings in our Yearbook Cover Contest. Winners will be selected to be displayed on the front or back cover of the yearbook.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Winter Parent-Teacher Conference Registration Opens in Synergy

- **Opens on Friday, January 29th, 6:00am**
- **Closes on Friday, February 5th, 10:00pm**

Directions on how to schedule a conference with your student(s) Math teacher are [attached](#). 5th Grade GT Math conferences are available at this time as well. All conferences will be held via Google Meet on **Wednesday,**

February 10th and Thursday, February 11th. Google Meet codes will be provided 24 hours in advance of meetings.

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 of your students in the top, left corner of the screen.

- Conferences will be 15 minutes in length (30 minutes for Special Ed and ELL). 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 by selecting **More Options, Conference Scheduling, View My Conference Schedule in the navigation pane (left side).**

2020-2021 Inclement Weather Protocols

For the 2020-2021 school year, while in virtual, small groups or hybrid instructional models, HCPSS will transition to fully virtual instruction during inclement weather days.

[View the Four Possible Inclement Weather Decisions](#)

Board Approves 2021-2022 Academic Calendar

The next school year will begin on August 30, 2021, for students and on August 19, 2021, for school staff. Winter break will be December 23-31, 2021, with schools reopening on Monday, January 3, 2022. Spring Break will run from April 11-18, 2022. The last day of school is scheduled for

June 14, 2022.

[Learn more](#)

After School Activities

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

Food Bank Donations

The Howard County Food Bank has seen a significant increase in demand for services this year. The HOCO Community Action Council is asking the

community to help meet the increased need. To donate, navigate to their website [here](#), click the donate button, and complete the form. All donations are safe, secure, and most importantly go directly to those who need assistance during this critical time. Food donations can be dropped off in a collection bin at the Howard County Food Bank parking lot (located at 9385 Gerwig Lane Columbia, MD 21046). Thank you for considering this opportunity to help others in need.

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