

MWES News Week of 4-26-2021

Important Dates

April 23 - International & Culture Night (virtual) 7:00 pm

May 3 - 7 - Teacher Appreciation Week

May 5 - MAP Reading test Grades 1-5

May 13 - Schools Closed for Students (Articulation Day)

May 19 - MAP Math test Grades 1-5

June 10, 11, 14, 15 - 3-Hour Early Dismissal for Students

June 15 - Last Day of School

MAP Testing Information

Wednesday, May 5th 9:15-11:15 - MAP Reading for grades 1-5.

Wednesday, May 19th 9:15-11:15 - MAP Math for grades 1-5.

E group students will complete the testing in person. A and B group students will log in virtually to complete the test.

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,

As you may have heard (or are about to literally hear), this spring is the year of the emergence of the Brood X Cicada.

[Click Here for Many Resources About Cicadas](#)

[Another Cicada Video](#)

We hope you enjoy learning about the Cicadas,

Carol DeBord and Jennifer Zinn

News from Ms. Heinlein

Check out April's [School Counseling Connection April 2021](#) newsletter for information and resources about student well-being as we head into 4th quarter. If I can be of assistance to you or your child(ren), I can be reached through email monica_heinlein@hcpss.org, Canvas Inbox or by phone 410-313-7165.

New Information

Commit to the 2021-2022 HCPSS Digital Education Center (DEC) by May 5

[Español](#) | [中文](#) | [한국어](#)

The Howard County Public School System is planning for a full-time online option for students entering grades K-12 who wish to learn virtually for the 2021-2022 school year. Once finalized, the Digital Education Center (DEC) program will give students the opportunity to take classes and earn credits virtually, while receiving support services from both the DEC and their assigned home school. DEC students will continue to be enrolled in their assigned home school and will be able to participate in athletics and activities at that school if/as schedules and transportation allows.

Parents/guardians who wish to commit to the DEC should log in to HCPSS Connect Synergy by **Wednesday, May 5 at 4 p.m.** (see directions below). Families **must commit to the DEC for the full 2021-2022 school year**. Students who wish to return to in-person learning during the 2021-2022 school year, if that option is available, should not sign up for the DEC. The Superintendent and Board of Education members have stressed that they consider the return to normalized, five-day, in-person learning this fall to be essential for the majority of HCPSS students, however, an official decision on the 2021-2022 academic year has not yet been made.

In committing to the DEC, parents/guardians acknowledge that:

- This is a commitment that your child will attend the DEC for the 2021-2022 school year, and that students will need to go through the reassignment process if they choose to return to their home school for instruction.
- Not all course requests may be able to be honored in the DEC environment.
- There are attendance requirements that will apply in the DEC environment.
- The implementation of the DEC is pending funding from the HCPSS Board of Education. Should funding not be provided, students automatically will be returned to their assigned home school.

Prior to making any decision, we strongly encourage families to review [details about the DEC](#) that are available online, as well as answers to frequently asked questions for the [DEC in general](#) and [student-specific information](#).

Families who commit to the DEC will be contacted by DEC staff in the coming weeks to review student courses prior to final enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. **This decision has no impact for students on the current school year.**

To access the commitment form:

1. [Log in to HCPSS Connect Synergy](#) using parent/guardian credentials
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select Digital Education Center Commitment from the middle of the page
4. Complete the questions in the form for each child and select “save”

Please note, families of incoming kindergarten students will not have access to the commitment form. Those families who are interested in committing to the DEC should call the school your child is enrolled in for the 2021-2022 school year.

Email DEC@hcpss.org with any questions about the Digital Education Center. If you need assistance completing the online commitment form, please contact your child’s school.

Return All Media Books

Please return all HCPSS library books as soon as possible to the school, even if the books are from a different HCPSS school. There is a bin for book returns located in our vestibule.

Drive-thru Medication, EpiPens, Needles, and Syringes Collection in the Wilde Lake Village Center Parking Lot

Bring your expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medication and “sharps” to HC DrugFree's convenient drive-thru collection on **Saturday, April 24 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.** in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot near the Swim Center and The UPS Store. Medication will be guarded and transported by the Howard County Police and the DEA. Safe distancing. Masks worn. No need to remove labels or get out of vehicle. Sharps must be in appropriate sharps containers. Separate sharps from meds. Looking for adult volunteers to assist at the event and medically-trained adults to assist with the medication collection. Go to <https://hcdrugfree.org/drug-take-back-day-1/>

Important Reminders From Past Newsletters

[click here](#)

Audition for Children's Chorus of Maryland Choir & Musicianship Classes!

Children's Chorus of Maryland has started auditions for the 2021-2022 Conservatory Season for children ages 5 ½ to 12. Young choristers attend **online, small-group, playful musicianship classes** Wednesdays & Saturdays, led by one of our Kodaly-trained instructors, all of whom hold masters degrees in music education. Students also participate in a **live choir rehearsal each week on zoom with our Artistic Director**, in addition to **one on one meetings several times during the semester for individual help and feedback** on singing development and learning choir music. CCM will begin taking on a "hybrid" in-person/ online when it is safe to do so. We will also continue our **VERY popular socially-distanced, technology assisted "car choir" rehearsals**, following Maryland State guidelines.

Auditions will be conducted on zoom throughout the spring, with dates currently scheduled for **April 16th and 19th, as well as May 8th**. We will be adding more dates in the coming months as well. Auditions are friendly, playful sessions with our Artistic Director that each last about 20 minutes. Parents are encouraged to sit in and observe. **Register at www.ccmsings.org**. Included with the \$25 audition fee is our special welcome "**Sneak Peek E-Package**," which includes a **sample audition, lesson examples, and fun songs to learn at home!**

[Virtual Conservatory Auditions Flier](#)

2021 Summer Programs Registration is Open

Online enrollment requests for currently enrolled HCPSS students will open at 6 p.m., Monday, March 15 for BSAP Summer Institute, Gifted and Talented Summer Institutes for Talent Development, Innovative Pathways High School (Math and Science only), and STARTALK Chinese Language Summer Camp.

[Learn more](#)

We Need More Kindness Rocks!

Kindness Rocks! We want to continue to spread JOY and KINDNESS! WE LOVE the rocks that have been dropped off so far! Please bring us some more to decorate our flagpole bed! Students and staff are invited to paint a rock to share a little joy with Manor Woods Elementary School!

Directions:

- 1. Find a palm-sized rock (light colors work best)**
- 2. Wash it off and let it dry overnight**
- 3. Decorate your rock with Sharpie markers or acrylic paint (watercolors will wash off in the rain unless coated with a clear acrylic)**
- 4. Bring it to MWES and place it in the flagpole bed in front of our school**

Capture Your Memories in This Year's MWES Yearbook

If you have any photos of learning, events or Back to School photos from this year that you would like to share for the yearbook, please send them to manorwoodsyearbook@gmail.com.

Any **Virtual students** who missed having their school photos taken at school, please send a headshot to manorwoodsyearbook@gmail.com so your child can be included in this year's book.

See Yearbook Flier for more information on how you can order a yearbook. Did you know you can personalize your child's Yearbook for FREE? You can create 2 customized pages with your child's photos and memories that will only be included in your book! **Yearbook orders and customized pages are due April 26th!**

[Yearbook Flier](#)

Community News

Free Parenting Classes: HC DrugFree and the Howard County State's Attorney's Office, partnering with HCPSS and the Health Department, will once again provide evidence-based classes for families to gain skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will engage in risky behaviors including using drugs. This 4-class series for parents of 9-14 year olds will be held on Zoom from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 4, 11 and June 1, 8. Parents/guardians must register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCDrugFreeSpring2021> If you have questions, email Joan Webb Scornaienchi, HC DrugFree's Executive Director at Admin@hcdrugfree.org

Receive HC DrugFree's Free Newsletter

To receive HC DrugFree's free electronic newsletter packed with information for parents and opportunities for students, go to <https://hcdrugfree.org/enews-signup/>

Bee City Dandelion Photo Contest

Howard County earned our BEE CITY status last year. Now that spring has finally returned, we are once again celebrating our local bees and pollinators. *Did you know that dandelions are actually a member of the sunflower and daisy family? and they are one of the most important early nectar sources for bees? Dandelions should be celebrated!* Check out the attached flyer for information about a fun Dandelion Photo

Contest, open to all Howard County residents. Photo submissions due by May 7, 2021. To enter the contest, visit: <http://bit.ly/BeeDandelion>

Calling all 5th grade teachers, students, and families!

On Saturday, May 1st, the Howard County Conservancy will be joining in the "City Nature Challenge."

They are joining forces with the National Aquarium and other nature centers in the area to represent Baltimore in the world wide bioblitz challenge that weekend! Amazing!

See [more details](#) on the information flyer attached.

Direction questions to Ann Strozyk, HCPSS Environmental Educator @ the Howard County Conservancy, through email (ann_strozyk@hcpss.org) or 410.465.8877

Attention PK Parents

- The Conservancy is excited to be Howard County's first Nature Preschool for ages 3-5, in mixed age group settings! Nature abounds with opportunities for our earliest learners. Location: Belmont Manor and Historic Park, Elkridge, MD
- **Fall Enrollment Opening: March 25, 2021**
- The nature preschool scholarship application for the 21-22 school year is posted. Please help get the word out to families needing assistance!
- Application: <https://www.howardnature.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Nature-Preschool-Scholarship-Application-2021-22-final.pdf>
- Nature Preschool Information: <https://www.howardnature.org/preschool/>

Howard County Arts Council's Camps

Dear Families,

Spring has sprung, flowers are blooming, and it's time to start planning for summer which means - camp! Register today for Howard County Arts Council's Visual & Performing Arts camps. From June 28-August 27, camps will be offered in one-week, full-day sessions for students entering Grades K-7.

We've developed rigorous COVID-19 health and safety protocols for this year's program, enabling us to offer fun and engaging arts camps while minimizing risk for our campers and staff. Individual camps will be structured as learning pods consisting of one instructor, one counselor, and up to 8 campers. The use of face masks, physical distancing, and health screenings are among the other safety precautions that will also be in place.

With limited enrollment, our summer arts camps are filling up fast with several camps already at full enrollment. So don't miss out – register now and get ready for a summer filled with art adventures!

Visit hocoarts.org/camp for more information and to register.

Howard County Arts Council

8510 High Ridge Rd

Ellicott City, MD 21043

info@hocoarts.org

410-313-ARTS (2787)

hocoarts.org

HoCo Rainbow Conference

Please join us virtually to learn more about how to be better advocates for the LGBTQ+ Community at our second HoCo Rainbow Conference. With over 24 concurrent sessions and local as well as national speakers, we have a full day of fun and learning lined up for **Saturday, May 15, 2021**. Session speakers include Jane Clementi and Joshua Patel of the Tyler Clementi Foundation, Rae Sweet of the It Gets Better Project, Maryland House Majority Leader, Eric Luedtke, Kevin Naff of The Washington Blade, Ying Matties and Robyn Page of Community Allies of Rainbow Youth (CARY), and many more! Registration for this FREE conference will go live on **Friday, April 2nd**. Until then, you can browse our conference website to learn more about the sessions and view the [conference schedule](#) here. We hope many of you will join us!

Food Give-Aways

The Catholic Community of Ascension and St. Augustine will continue their Saturday food give-away at Ducketts Lane ES on each of the Saturdays in April 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM or earlier if the food is gone.

- [Food/Household Products/Personal Products/Children & Baby Products](#)
 - Free Food Distribution- [English-Spanish](#) Ducketts Lane ES - every Saturday in April 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM or earlier if the food is gone

Mobile Covid Testing Sites

[See Attached Flier](#)

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.