

# MWES News Week of 9/28/2020

## **A Note From Our Administrators**

Happy Friday to our MWES Families!

The link below provides answers to your FAQs from our Back to School Night Presentations. This link can also be accessed on our Manor Woods website along with lots of other new information. We hope you find these resources valuable as we charter the waters of virtual learning together.

[20-21 FAQs and Answers](#)

Fondly,

Carol DeBord

Jennifer Zinn

## **New Information**

### **Do you want to know the number of lessons your child's completed in DreamBox?**

Feel free to click on the link below to access your student's information.

<https://support.dreambox.com/s/article/How-Students-View-Their-Weekly-Lessons-Completed>

### **MAP testing will occur on October 7 and October 14.**

On Wednesday October 7 and 14, students in grades 2-8 will take the Measured Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. The data from the MAP assessment will help schools and teachers measure where your child is starting the year academically. The HCPSS intends to also give the assessment in winter and spring to measure how

your child's learning is progressing throughout the year. The MAP test does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly. To learn more about the MAP assessment, please visit: <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/>

The **Reading test will be offered on Wednesday, October 7 at 9 am and 1 pm.** The **Math test will be offered on Wednesday, October 14 at 9am and 1pm.** Students may choose to attend either the morning or afternoon session. If your child is unable to attend, makeup testing will be offered during asynchronous learning times. Teachers will share Google Meet information and your student's testing group as we get closer to the Oct 7th date.

## Important Reminders

### Master Virtual Schedule

[CLICK HERE FOR SCHEDULE](#)

### Family File

**Every year HCPSS parents must complete a Family File for each child. Currently, 88% of our students have a complete Family File. (83 students to go!) We need 100% completion! HCPSS utilizes Family File for parents/guardians to complete emergency information.** Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information for each child, and can do so by logging in to [HCPSS Connect](#) and selecting the Family File tab on the left and then clicking on Family File.

Once logged in, you will be asked to update or provide the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information

- Arrival/Dismissal Procedures
- Photo Approval
- Data Confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA Directory

**A Family File must be completed for EACH student EVERY school year!**

## Calendars in Canvas

If you are having trouble with the calendar feature in Canvas, please use [this link](#) for a quick tutorial. Students need to have their calendars viewable to ensure they receive the codes for classes. Many students do not have all calendars viewable and/or selected. On the right side of the calendar, you will see your courses and your personal calendar. Each personal, course or group Calendar can be hidden by clicking on the color indicator next to the calendar name. Please note that the Canvas calendar can only display 10 calendars at a time.

## Synchronous Learning

Beginning next week until October 3rd, the synchronous support time scheduled for your child(ren) will run as follows: The first 20 minutes of synchronous support time will be small group/getting to know you sessions, organized by your child's homeroom teacher. Your child's homeroom teacher will reach out to you with your child's assigned date/time. The purpose of this time is to participate in some "getting to know you" conversations or activities. The staff is eager to connect with your child and this gives them a chance for casual conversation. The second half or 25 minutes of the synchronous support time will be "Open-office hours." This will give students an opportunity to drop in to ask the teacher questions, ask for guidance, or to follow-up with a teacher on assignments. Students DO NOT need to attend these office hours unless they need to speak directly with the teacher. This time is not set aside for one on one tutoring but for clarifications and questions. If your child does not have any questions, they do not need to log in for the synchronous support time.

## Emailing Teachers

If you need to contact your child's teacher during the school day, please email them directly. Please be mindful that teachers will not be responding to emails during live, synchronous instruction. If you have a technology question, please call the Manor Woods front office. 410-313-7165

## Food Services

**Meals will be provided at no cost to any HCPSS student, and all children 18 and under, through December 31, 2020, subject to U.S. Department of Agriculture funding availability.**

Manor Woods is a food distribution site. The [food services program](#) during the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year will consist of Grab-and-Go breakfasts and lunches served Monday through Friday from 8–9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m., beginning Tuesday, September 8.

Parents of students who qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMS) must submit a new application every school year. View [program details](#) and learn how to apply.

HCPSS participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs which provide families with significant benefits to help save money. Qualification is based on family size and income, and enrollment is confidential. All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can get free meals regardless of income, and students from households that meet federal income guidelines are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals. Those eligible for reduced-price meals pay \$0.10 for breakfast and \$0.20 for lunch. We'd like to encourage you to participate in these programs as needed. The location is close and Mrs. Parker, our cafeteria manager, will answer any questions. Feel free to call the front office with questions. 410-313-7165

## Basic Insights

The Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council has partnered with The Basics in an effort to introduce Howard County families to evidence-based strategies that capitalize on every child's first 3 years to help them reach their full potential. Please see the [parent toolkit](#) to learn more.

Families are encouraged to sign up for the [Basic Insights](#) text messaging service to receive twice weekly developmental tips in either English or Spanish. Please note that enrolling in this service is always free to Howard County families. Standard data and message rates may apply for receiving texts.

Please contact [Amy H. Kelly@hcpss.org](mailto:Amy.H.Kelly@hcpss.org) with any questions.

## Support For Families in Need

The Maryland Department of Human Services is the state's human service provider. The agency provides a wide range of services that are administered by local departments of social services in each of the 24 local jurisdictions across the state. These services assist low-income individuals and families in their communities. See below flyer and share.

[Supporting Maryland's Families in Need - English](#)  
[Supporting Maryland's Families in Need - Spanish](#)

Below are Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) flyers in English and Spanish. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps low-income households buy the food they need for good health. Please share the resource with your families.

[SNAP flyer - English](#)  
[SNAP flyer - Spanish](#)

## Support for Dealing With Mental Illness

[NAMI eNews Sept 2020](#) contains information about NAMI Howard County's upcoming programs & services:

- Free Online Support Groups
- Family to Family class starting - Wednesday, September 30th, register today!
- Scholarships for Student Athletes
- HCGH - Free Youth Mental Health First Aid

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals & families affected by mental illness. For more information visit [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)

## Tech Tidbits

- **Virtual Instruction Tip Sheet**

Parents and caregivers can [download this quick reference tool](#), which includes instructions for logging in to online learning platforms and spaces to fill in their child's class times, meeting codes and other information.

### [Tip Sheet.pdf](#)

- **How to Use a Camera on Chrome Book to Submit Assignments on Canvas**

### [Camera on Chrome Book.pdf](#)

**Video link with step by step directions (created and shared by another tech teacher):**

<https://hcpss.instructuremedia.com/embed/fdfa4a96-cb47-4de2-be32-c42243dfe7e3>

**FAQ - Will 2020-2021 virtual instruction synchronous (live) classes be recorded?:** This [updated FAQ](#) helps families understand why HCPSS does not allow recordings of live instruction.

## Fall Reopening Plan Updates

HCPSS continues to expand and update its fall reopening plans. Find updated information about the 2020-2021 school year on the [HCPSS website](#) and answers to frequently-asked questions on the [HCPSS Help site](#).

## Recovery of Learning Packets

Recovery of Learning Packets (ROL) were mailed to students who received an "Incomplete" on their 4th quarter report card last school year. Students/Families must confirm packet submission by completing this Google form <https://bit.ly/HCPSSROLreturn> (Links to an external site.) or by calling 410-313-1526 to confirm submission. Families and students needing language support to submit the Google form may call the HCPSS Call Center.

Completed packets can be submitted one of three ways:

- mailed to the central office, care of "ROL return"
- place the packet in the "ROL return" box at the Board of Education,
- scan and email completed packets to [rolreturn@hcpss.org](mailto:rolreturn@hcpss.org).

## Canvas Orientation Video

We recommend that you and your student view the Canvas Orientation videos to help prepare for upcoming virtual learning. There are elementary and a secondary versions. Videos can be found at <https://hcpss.instructure.com/courses/9495>

## After School Activities

### Is Your Student Interested in Joining Cub Scouts?

Cub Scout Pack 333 is hosting an open meeting this **Saturday, September 26**, at 3 pm on the fields of West Friendship Elementary School. All families with boys or girls in grades K-5 potentially interested in Scouting are welcome to attend and learn what Pack 333 is about! Participants should wear masks and will be asked to observe appropriate social distancing etiquette.

### Sign up for Club STEM After School or Virtually

Mondays, for 6 classes October 5th through November 9th, 4:30-5:30pm, at Kiwanis-Wallas Hall (located at 3300 Norberts Way in Ellicott City; not far from Manor Woods ES). Or receive supplies and instruction needed to attend virtually on your own schedule from your own home.

[RP3344.101 - Manor Woods ES students](#)

[RP3344.110 Virtually](#)

To register, please use the hyperlinks provided above, or call our Registration hotline at 410-313-7275 (open 8am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday).

## 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](#).

## Empowering Parents as Partners Virtual Conference

September 29-October 1

Sessions will be led by HCPSS Special Education staff and community partner organizations on topics related to supporting your child and participating in the IEP process during virtual learning. The [conference](#) is free and open to anyone interested. **Pre-registration is required by September 28.**

## Community News

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