

MWES News - Week of 9/14/2020

A Note From Our Administrators

Happy Friday, Manor Woods!!!!

I'd like to give a HUUUUUGE shout-out to the amazing staff that has worked so hard to get ready for the 20-21 school year. Many of you do not work in the field of education, and I realize we have all struggled to adjust our family life and work life, but this staff has embraced the learning curve and are giving your students their all!! Thank you to the best teaching staff in Howard County!!

Over the past few weeks, we have welcomed 702 students to our virtual world, blended our community with 85 students from St. John's Lane Elementary School, opened arms to 98 Kindergarten students and 47 students that have transferred into MWES from other schools and other parts of the world. We have distributed 702 Chromebooks, and passed out bags of school supplies to our students, all while maintaining social distancing, of course.

While we have experienced first-hand the frustrations with social distancing and the impact of COVID-19, our students and staff continue to move with the trend of virtual learning and are impacting the way we may teach in the very near future. Our staff has learned applications such as Clever, Dreambox, Lexia Core, and Pear Deck, just to name a few. Some of our staff members have put their best foot forward to learn technology they never knew existed. I am always impressed by how young children easily embrace technology.

As I close, I would like to acknowledge all the parents and caregivers in our community that have embraced our children and this new way of learning. We know it is a learning curve for many of you, and we have bombarded you with emails in hopes to give you the right tools needed to be a partner in this learning adventure. Thank you for your kind words and support as we learned to make this experience better and better each day. You are a wonderful community; one that I speak about with great pride.

Fondly,
Carol DeBord

New Information

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](#)

From Our Music Department

Instrumental Music Information

Be part of the Mighty Duck Band or Orchestra! **Students in grades 3, 4 and 5** can go to <https://manorwoodsmusic.weebly.com/> for more information and to enroll today!

Chorus Sign-Up Link

Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus Sign Up

Link: <https://forms.gle/LSDzaMYN6fcXet9n9>

From the Desk of Ms. Heinlein, School Counselor

Welcome back! I look forward to working with you this year as we navigate this new learning model together. I invite you to visit my Canvas page located in the **Manor Woods Student Resources Course** on your child's Canvas dashboard. The page will contain information about scheduling an appointment, strategies & activities for student success & family resources. If you have trouble accessing the page, email monica_heinlein@hcpss.org.

Important Reminders

Master Virtual Schedule

[CLICK HERE FOR SCHEDULE](#)

Family File

Every year HCPSS parents must complete a Family File for each child. 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

Please note if a parent completed the Family File prior to August 10th, the information entered will be attached to the 2019-2020 school year and the Family File will be considered incomplete. Also, parents new to HCPSS in 2020-2021 will not have access to their children in HCPSS Connect until August 10th.

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 questions, please call the Manor Woods front office. 410-313-7165

Food Services

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

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Principal, Mrs. Carol DeBord carol_debord@hcpss.org

Assistant Principal, Mrs. Jennifer Zinn jennifer_zinn@hcpss.org

Principal's Secretary, Mrs. Jennifer Young jennifer_young@hcpss.org

Teachers' Secretary (Registration) Mrs. Christie Shumaker
christina_shumaker@hcpss.org

Teachers' Secretary Mrs. Cindie Natoli cindie_natoli@hcpss.org

Counselor, Ms. Monica Heinlein monica_heinlein@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

Sign up for Club STEM After School or Virtually

Mondays, for 6 classes September 21st to November 2nd, 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).

Community News

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