

MWES Newsletter - Week of April 13, 2020

APRIL

Now- April 10 - Scholastic Online Book Fair

6-13 - Spring Break Schools Closed

20 - Remote Learning Begins

A note from Mrs. DeBord and Mrs. Zinn

Dear Manor Woods Families,

Below is a summary of PBIS practices that may be used at home. This was shared by MWES parent, Jennifer Jeffrey-Pearsall. We are very grateful that Mrs. Jeffrey-Pearsall shared this useful information with us as we navigate the un-chartered waters of distance learning.

Respectful, Responsible and Ready at Home:

MWES has a strong history of using PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) to support a predictable, positive and consistent environment for our children. As a result, our children are accustomed to a common way-of-work at school that includes a shared language (Respectful, Responsible and Ready) and predictable routines (a.k.a. schedules and procedures)...as well as the countless other ways the school community supports our kids!

Disruptions like our current school closure are challenging for children, as most children thrive on consistency and, unfortunately, their world has just become topsy-turvy. As parents, one way we can help create a sense of consistency is to bring into our homes some things our children are accustomed

to in school.

Here are some suggestions:

1. Provide structure through defining routines and establishing a schedule. Try to establish a week-day schedule that mirrors what our children are familiar with at school. Include learning time and time for physical activity.
2. Use the Mighty Ducks language: Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to establish (or reestablish) expectations and rules for your home. It's helpful to do this in the form of a chart, where you list what is expected (e.g., Ready) and identify the behaviors you want to see (e.g., Know what you are working on) during a specific routine/setting (e.g. during learning time).

The following resources will help support you in implementing PBIS at Home.

[PBIS Matrix PDF](#)

[Supporting Families with PBIS](#)

I am a mother of two wonderful children at MWES. As a professional, I support States and school districts implement PBIS. As a family with two children at home, with both parents working from home, we are still a work-in-progress...but this approach has helped keep us organized and helped our kids feel like there is some predictability during this very unpredictable time.

Jennifer Jeffrey- Pearsall, MWES Parent

Fondly,
Carol DeBord and Jennifer Zinn

MWES School-Wide Events Calendar

If you would link to sync your phone to our website calendar, please click on

the subscribe link on the MWES [calendar page](#) on our [MWES website](#) and follow the prompts.

TECH TIDBITS

Check Your Canvas Notifications

Parents/guardians should check your Canvas notification settings to ensure you are receiving announcements, assignments and messages from teachers. [Directions on updating your parent profile and notification settings](#) are available online. Parents/guardians unfamiliar with Canvas may find it helpful to review the features in this [Canvas Orientation](#).

Account Self-Service for Students

Students now have the ability to reset their usernames and passwords, independent of teachers and staff. [Directions on using self-service](#) can be found online.

From Our School Counselor, Monica Heinlein

Hello Manor Woods families!

Beginning April 14th, I will be available daily (M-F) between 9:30 - 11:30am & 12:00 - 1:00pm for parent/guardian & student virtual appointments through Google Meet or by phone. Please email me at monica_heinlein@hcpss.org to schedule an appointment.

I will also send announcements and post resources and lessons on each grade level team's Canvas pages in the upcoming weeks.

I look forward to talking with you in the upcoming days and weeks. Please know that I am still here to talk with you. I'm thinking about you and I wish you & your families all the best.

If you have an immediate need for help with depression, suicidal thoughts, or other serious mental health issues, please contact:

Grassroots Crisis Intervention at 410-531-6677

The Maryland Crisis Hotline: Dial 211 and then choose option 1

The Crisis Text Line: Text 741741 and a trained counselor will respond.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255

NEW SCHOOL NEWS

Google Meet Virtual Orientations

On April 20, we will begin the next phase of our distance learning model with elementary school students and I would like to share important information to help your family prepare. All students will need access to a technology device for approximately two hours each day. If your family is in need of a device and has not completed our [Student Technology Survey](#), please fill it out as soon as possible.

During the week of April 20th, teachers will host family Google Meet Virtual Orientations to connect with families and to help you understand our new learning schedule and learning activities. Our school's orientation schedule is listed below. Each grade level classroom teacher will hold two orientations to try to provide as much flexibility with families as possible. Families should only attend one session. Grade-level teams also are developing an orientation video for families who are not able to attend the live video session.

Tuesday, April 21

- PreK/Preschool Family Google Meet Orientations: 9:00-9:45 a.m. and 11:00-11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, April 22

- Grades K and 1 Family Google Meet Orientations: 9:00-9:45 a.m. and 1:00-1:45 p.m.
- Grades 2 and 3 Family Google Meet Orientations: 10:00-10:45 a.m.

- and 2:00-2:45 p.m.
- Grades 4 and 5 Family Google Meet Orientations: 11:00-11:45 a.m. and 3:00-3:45 p.m.

During the week of April 14th, we will share more information about the distance learning model and instructions for joining the Google Meet Virtual Orientations. Our staff looks forward to connecting with students and families in the upcoming days.

The distance learning model of teaching and learning is new for all of us. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we adapt to this new way of engaging staff, students, and families. Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions.

GT Placement Review Requests

GT Placement Community Message: As a result of the decision of Maryland State Superintendent, Dr. Karen Salmon, that all state schools will remain closed until April 24 in response to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, we have shifted several dates related to GT Placement:

- Families of 3rd grade students who wish to submit a request for a placement review for 4th grade GT Math should email the G/T Resource teacher with this request by April 15. Staff will conduct the review and communicate with families by May 1.
- Students who were absent for CogAT testing in December or have entered HCPSS since that time will have an opportunity to take CogAT for potential GT Placement this summer rather than the previously communicated date of May 2. New dates will be determined as soon as possible and communicated to the school community. Students who missed testing will automatically receive an invitation to testing once the dates are finalized.

Yearbook Ordering Information

Hello MWES students, parents, and staff,

Our Yearbook Committee continues to work hard on our book for this school

year. Unfortunately, the school closures impacted several components.

We are requesting the following:

- 1) We would like to ask you to submit any pictures of school activities including field trips, concerts, and other special events to manorwoodsyearbook@gmail.com.
- 2) We'd like to include pictures of some of the things students are doing to stay engaged during the school closure. Please submit those to the same email address with the subject line: "school closure"
- 3) We are continuing our cover contest, so please submit a picture or scan (jpg preferred) of your cover to manorwoodsyearbook@gmail.com. Remember to include:
 - 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of white paper
 - vertical orientation
 - Our yearbook theme: "Be true, be you, be kind"
 - "Manor Woods Elementary School 2019-2020"
 - First and last name of the student artist and their classroom teacher in the subject line, not on the drawing

YOU MAY STILL ORDER A 2019-2020 MWES YEARBOOK
from treering.com

[purchase link:](#)

<https://www.treering.com/validate?PassCode=1014749226162236TreeRingYearbooks>

[passcode: 1014749226162236](#)

If we are unable to distribute books at Manor Woods, the yearbook can be shipped to your home for a small fee.

Sincerely,
MWES PTA

INFORMATION FROM PAST NEWSLETTERS

2020-2021 Kindergarten and New Family Registration (Not Current Students)

Please make certain you are in the screen for 20-21 if registering for the next

school year. Please read this message in its entirety.

Please see the updates below regarding the updated process for registration for Pre-K and kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year. You will also find updated information regarding early admission to kindergarten and first grade.

Kindergarten Registration

Parents/guardians of new incoming students and those entering kindergarten in the 2020-2021 school year (who are not already enrolled) are able to begin the enrollment process online, followed by completion of the registration process when schools reopen.

Once school buildings reopen, parents should be contacted to complete the registration at the child's school. Parents or legal guardians must visit their child's school and provide proof of parental relationship and any other documents not provided during the online registration process.

Early Admission to Kindergarten

Due to state-mandated school closures, early admission appointments scheduled during this time are canceled and will be rescheduled at a later date. Additionally, assessment dates and notification regarding acceptance or denial of application have been postponed until schools reopen, and will be shared at a later date.

Early Admission to First Grade

Parents/guardians applying for early admission to first grade may submit all required documentation electronically to their prospective school. After schools reopen, parents or guardians will be contacted by their prospective school regarding an assessment appointment.

Pre-K Applications (Manor Woods Does Not have a Pre-K Program)

Due to state-mandated school closures, Pre-K application and enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year has been postponed. Once schools reopen, applications may be completed and returned to schools.

Please see the link below with the announcement from HCPSS outlining these details for families:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2020/04/student-enrollment-for-2020-2021-school-year-during-hcpss-school-closures/>

Please review the information and contact amy_h_kelly@hcpss.org with any questions. Thank you!

If you have a child currently attending an HCPSS PreK program, there is no need to re-register your student for Kindergarten. Also, if your child is a current HCPSS student at MWES or any other HCPSS school, please DO NOT re-register your student.

If you have a multi-family living arrangement, an appointment with our PPW, Jeanine Smith is required. A representative of the host family and guest family must be present for the appointment.

Email Jeanine_Smith@hcpss.org for more information.

INFORMATION FROM HCPSS

The [HCPSS Coronavirus website](#) provides the latest information and resources for [Continuity of Learning](#), answers to many [frequently asked questions](#), and much more. This one-stop resource is updated regularly so please check back often.

Updates

- **Supporting Language Needs:** Find [information](#) on the ways that HCPSS is supporting the language needs of families through in-person and online resources.
- **Update on Device Distribution:** Find [details](#) on the revised device delivery procedure for middle and elementary families.
- **Continuity of Learning Updates:** Find [summaries](#) of HCPSS work currently underway to resolve issues resulting from the coronavirus-related school closure, including 4th quarter grading, attendance, GT placement, and mitigation of learning gaps.
- **Special Education Continuity of Learning:** This new [webpage](#) provides an overview of special education services for continuity of learning, timeline for service delivery and links to online resources for family use at home.
- **Public Forums:** Board of Education meetings are currently being held virtually due to the coronavirus-related school closure. Beginning with

the April 16 Board meeting, Public Forum will be reinstated following a modified procedure. Community members may register by emailing written comments in advance; the first 10 submissions will be read aloud during the meeting. [Detailed instructions](#) provided online.

Reminders

- **Spring Break** for school staff begins today, Thursday, April 9. All HCPSS staff will be off for Spring Break on Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13.
- **Meal Distribution:** [Free Grab-N-Go meals](#) are served weekdays from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., through April 24 to anyone age 18 and under and/or any HCPSS student at locations countywide. Participants are encouraged to bring bags to carry meals home. Hollifield Station Elementary School will be added to the HCPSS meal distribution sites beginning Tuesday, April 14. Please note that parents/guardians may pick up meals for their children, who do not need to be present.
- **HCPSS Connect Outage:** The Information Technology Department will perform a routine update to a technology system, Friday, April 11 from 10-11 p.m. During this time, access to Synergy will be unavailable for staff and students, who still will be able to access Canvas. HCPSS Connect will be unavailable for parents/guardians, including Synergy and Canvas. If you experience any system issues after this change, please contact Technology Support at techsupport@hcpss.org.
- **Howard County Library Online Classes and Tools for Students:** Students can access many learning resources with their A+ student accounts through hcpss.me by selecting HC Library.

Elementary school students: Keep reading with a large selection of eBooks and audiobooks. Practice math with TumbleMath. Build skills in language arts, science, and social studies. Learn a new language.

Middle and high school students: Find eBooks and audiobooks, online magazines and books, historical research tools, literary research and criticism tools. Practice world languages. Take an online class. Prepare for SATs and ACTs.

Access to Learning Fund

Bright Minds Foundation has launched an emergency Access to Learning Fund to raise money for critical education access supports for HCPSS students during the extended COVID-19 school closure. Find more information on

the [Bright Minds website](#).

2020 Census

Several HCPSS programs rely on funding based on accurate census information, so all families are encouraged to participate in the 2020 census, which may be completed [online](#). [Learn more](#).

Counseling Services for Students, Families and Staff

The COVID-19 pandemic has made this an especially stressful time for many, especially those already impacted by mental health concerns. Find information about local and online resources for counseling and mental health supports for you and your family on our [website](#).

Need Internet Access?

Free Wifi through Comcast Xfinity

In addition to providing low cost internet access to eligible families through its [Comcast Internet Essentials](#) program, Comcast has opened free access to its Xfinity WiFi network, making hotspots across the country available to anyone, including non-subscribers, at no cost. Search by zip code or city to find a hotspot near you at [wifi.xfinity.com](#).

Board Approves 2020–2021 Academic Calendar: The [next school year](#) will begin on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, for students and on Monday, August 17, 2020, for school staff. Winter break will be December 24–January 1, with schools reopening on Monday, January 4, 2021. Spring Break will run from April 2–9, 2021. The last day of school is scheduled for June 10, 2021.

COMMUNITY NEWS FROM OUR FEEDER SCHOOLS

**Events subject to change*

Marriotts Ridge Softball Clinic

[Softball Flier](#)

Hammond High School Baseball Clinics

[HHS baseball flier](#)

Summer Sports Camp at Reservoir HS

[Summer Sports Flier](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS AND PROGRAMS

Find out what is going on within Howard County and surrounding areas. Notices are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System.

[READ MORE](#)

Columbia Association Summer Camps

[CLICK HERE FOR FLIER](#)

AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES WITH HOWARD COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS

For Complete information on these Before & After School classes, including how to Register, please go to www.howardcountymd.gov/afterschool