

# HCMS News

September 11, 2020

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## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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Greetings HCMS Community,

Despite a few opening day challenges, we had a wonderful first week of school! Students have been busy reviewing virtual learning expectations and creating a classroom community. We are looking forward to seeing all of our families at Back to School Night on September 15. Below are a few reminders for families:

- Save the date for Back to School Night on September 15 at 5:30 p.m.
- Have questions? Stop by our Virtual Front Office Hours Tuesday-Thursday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Grab & Go Meals are available at HCMS Monday-Friday 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

At Harper's Choice, we aim to communicate in a variety of ways. Please keep an eye out for our newsletter. We are going to publish HCMS News every week throughout the year. It is very important for parents to read this newsletter, as it contains a great deal of important school, school system and community news. You can also access information through our [school website](#). You are welcome to contact the school or members of our staff with questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to a wonderful 2020-2021 school year!

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing weekend.

Sincerely,

Mr. Eldridge  
Principal  
Harper's Choice Middle School

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### **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**

HCMS is hosting a virtual Back to School Night on Tuesday, September 15! In order for you to access each teacher's Google Meets, we are asking all parents/family members to **login with their student's HCPSS login**. You can access each class with the Google Meet code your student uses to log in for class (i.e. HCMS-teacher first initial/last name-PD1,2,3,or 4 (hcms-aeldridge-pd1)).

### **Back to School Night Schedule**

5:30-6:00 p.m. Welcome Video and Presentation (this can be viewed anytime but will be available on our [website](#) beginning at 5:30 p.m. on 9/15)

6:05-6:15 p.m. Period 1

6:20-6:30 p.m. Period 2

6:35-6:45 p.m. Period 3

6:50-7:00 p.m. Period 4

7:05-7:35 p.m. G/T Presentation for all (Google Meet code – HCMS-csix)

[Click here to view a master list of all Google Meet links and teacher codes for Back to School Night.](#)

**Directions for Accessing Google Meets**

**Be sure you are using your student's login** to access each teacher's Google Meet link!

- Use Google Chrome as your browser.
- Go to [hcpss.me](https://hcpss.me) to log in.
- Remember to log in with your student's HCPSS account. (Ensure you are signed out of any personal gmail accounts.)
- Copy and paste the Google Meet code provided for the teacher.
- Select continue and then join meeting.
- Need a little more help? View a [video overview](#) of how to log in.

We are so excited to see you!

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### **VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS**

The HCMS front office will be holding virtual office hours each week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The Google Meet code is HCMSOFFICEHOURS. If you need assistance outside of these times, please email Mrs. Gordon at [deborah\\_gordon@hcpss.org](mailto:deborah_gordon@hcpss.org).

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### **GOOGLE MEET EXPECTATIONS**

To ensure a positive, productive and enjoyable learning experience for all participants, it is important that all students and parents/guardians adhere to these [Google Meet Expectations](#).

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## **ATTENDANCE**

Need to report a student absence? Parents, please send an email to [HCMSabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:HCMSabsence@hcpss.org) to report your child's absence from classes.

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## **UPDATE YOUR FAMILY FILE**

HCPSS uses Family File for parents/guardians to complete emergency information. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information annually for each child, and can do so by logging in to [HCPSS Connect](#) and selecting the Family File tab and then clicking on Family File.

Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to provide or update the following information:

- Student information
- Parent/guardian contact
- Emergency contacts
- Medical information
- Arrival/dismissal procedures
- Media release (photo approval)
- Data confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA directory

Changes of address may not be made through Family File. If you have recently moved, please contact your child's school as soon as possible.

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## **FREE STUDENT MEALS**

The [food services program during the first semester](#) of the 2020-2021 school year will consist of free Grab-and-Go meals served Monday through Friday from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

and 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at all schools except Burleigh Manor Middle School and Hammond High School. Meals are free for all students through December.

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**UPCOMING DATES**

09/15/2020 Virtual Back to School Night

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**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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**CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**STUDENT TECHNOLOGY DEVICES**

Parents of middle school students currently in need of a device may request one. All families may indicate a need for internet access. [Full details](#) online.

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## **FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS**

### Harris Teeter Together in Education

Harris Teeter's Together In Education program gives schools a chance to earn funds when you link your VIC card and shop Harris Teeter brands. When you shop Harris Teeter brands, a percentage of your purchase is donated to the school that your VIC card is linked to. There are NO LIMITS to how much a school can earn. Register your VIC card to our SCHOOL ID# 7984.

### Clothing to Cash

Please donate to our Clothing to Cash fundraising program! Clothing to Cash is a textile recycling program that donates money to the school for every pound of donated items. Look for the white donation bin at the bottom of the Harper's Choice Middle School parking lot.

Clothing to Cash will accept items in ALL conditions: new with tags, or torn, stained, worn-out knees, shoes with holes or only one shoe, backpacks, old sheets, stuffed animals, and more. What a great way to help our school and clean out your closets! All donations must be bagged and put in the collection bin.

**Harper's Choice Middle School** | 5450 Beaverkill Road Columbia, MD 21044 | 410-313-6929 | [hcms.hcpss.org](http://hcms.hcpss.org)