

# HCMS News

January 15, 2021

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## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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### 8TH GRADE FAMILIES: HIGH SCHOOL COURSE REGISTRATION

Please remember to complete your high school course registration. The deadline has been extended to Monday, January 18, 2021. If you need any help please email Mr. Evans at [troy\\_evans@hcpss.org](mailto:troy_evans@hcpss.org).

Below is a step-by-step video on how to select your courses:

<https://hcpss.instructuremedia.com/embed/ecb54d16-6473-46c4-b465-c432dd08c2fb>

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### CLOTHING TO CASH RECYCLING PROGRAM

December numbers are in...we collected 752 pounds of clothes and shoes! We earned \$75.20 for school programs. Thanks for your support!

Remember [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! Please be sure donated items are clean and dry. All donations must be bagged and put in the white collection bin at the bottom of the parking lot.

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## **HC DRUGFREE**

### FREE! Student Life Skills Classes Returning in January

Free and back by popular demand! HC DrugFree is offering another series of 15 Life Skills classes to begin on Wednesday, January 27. The evidence-based curriculum is for grades 6-9. We encourage siblings and friends to enroll together, so even if your student is younger or older, register them and participation will be confirmed. Classes taught on Zoom by adults and talented college and high school students. Students listen to trusted older students! For more information or to enroll, go to <https://hcdrugfree.org/2021/01/free-life-skills-classes-for-howard-county-students/> or contact [Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:Admin@hcdrugfree.org)

### Adults, are you IN THE KNOW?

HC DrugFree is dedicated to keeping Howard County youth and adults up to date on community health, medication disposal, drug and alcohol safety, substance misuse information and prevention, educational opportunities, and more. To sign up for the free newsletter, go to <https://hcdrugfree.org/enews-signup/>

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## **UPCOMING DATES**

**01/18/21 Schools and Offices Closed, MLK, Jr. Day**

01/19/21 Incoming 6th Grade Orientation, 6:30 p.m.

01/28/21 End of Quarter 2

**01/29/21 Schools Closed for Students, Professional Work Day**

02/09/21 BTSN for Semester 2, 6:30 p.m.

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## **CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **UPDATE YOUR FAMILY FILE**

We still need many families to complete their Family File for the 2020-2021 school year. We have begun calling families who have not yet completed Family File to offer assistance. If you have questions on how to complete the Family File, please call the school at 410-313-6929.

HCPSS uses Family File for parents/guardians to provide 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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### **2020-2021 INCLEMENT WEATHER PROTOCOLS**

For the 2020-2021 school year, while in virtual, small groups or hybrid instructional models, HCPSS will transition to fully virtual instruction during inclement weather days. [View the four possible inclement weather decisions.](#)

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## **HCMS ATTENDANCE POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR DISTANCE LEARNING**

Need to report an absence? Please email your absence notes/questions to: [HCMSabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:HCMSabsence@hcpss.org). **The email should include the student's name, the parent's name, the date(s) or period(s) (if absence is a partial day) of the absence, and the reason for the absence.** The email must be received within 5 days of the absence.

For Discretionary Absences (up to 3 per school year), please complete the [linked form](#) and email it to: [HCMSabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:HCMSabsence@hcpss.org).

For Religious Observances, please complete the [linked form](#) and email to: [HCMSabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:HCMSabsence@hcpss.org).

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## **PTA BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED**

The HCMS PTA needs you! We are seeking volunteers to fill several vacant board member positions and to assist our PTA President Mrs. Headlam. Be involved with your child's school and let your voice be heard as we plan for an engaging school year. The PTA is a rewarding way to meet other parents/guardians in our school community and a way for you to make a difference in your child's middle school experience!

**A FULL BOARD IS NEEDED** to continue the amazing work of our PTA, which supports our students while building community and pride in our school. Unfortunately, without a full board, the PTA will not be able to continue all the programs we currently provide. Please consider joining the HCMS PTA Board!

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact our HCMS PTA President at [ingrid.headlam@gmail.com](mailto:ingrid.headlam@gmail.com) or call the front office at 410-313-6929.

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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.

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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.