

# HCMS News

January 22, 2021

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## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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### SEMESTER 2 SCHEDULES

Thursday, January 28 marks the end of second quarter and the halfway point of the 2020-2021 school year. There is no school for students on Friday, January 29. On Monday, February 1 students will begin Semester 2. You can view your student's new schedule on [HCPSS Connect](#).

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### QUARTER 3 SCHEDULE CHANGES REVERSED

Please disregard the HCPSS communication issued Wednesday regarding third quarter scheduling changes. At the Thursday, January 21 Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Michael J. Martirano reversed the earlier announcement regarding schedules for the third quarter of the 2020-2021 school year and announced that no changes are being made to student schedules at this time. [Sample student schedules](#) for all grade levels are provided online.

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## **JANUARY 2021 MEAL SERVICE ADJUSTMENT**

With schools being closed for students on Friday, January 29, families who pre-order or walk-up for Grab-and-Go meals on Thursday, January 28 will receive meals for Thursday through Sunday. Meals are free of charge for all students and any child under age 18. All meals include breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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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**

01/28/21 End of Quarter 2

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

02/05/21 Report cards issued

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

**02/12/21 Schools Closed for Students, Professional Work Day**

**02/15/21 Schools and Offices Closed, Presidents' Day**

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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.