

# HCMS News

November 13, 2020

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## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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### PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

#### **Reminder: The Parent/Teacher Conference Scheduling Window is now OPEN!**

Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 23 through Wednesday, November 25. You will schedule your Parent/Teacher Conferences in HCPSS Connect. You can access the conference schedule beginning Friday, November 13 through [www.hcpss.org/connect](http://www.hcpss.org/connect). The scheduling window will remain open until Thursday, November 19. The window will then be closed so that teachers will have an appropriate amount of time to prepare for their conferences.

Click on the Conference tab in the left navigation panel and click Parent Conferences. For specific instructions on how to register for a Conference go to: <http://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/synergy-parent-teacher-conference-registration.pdf>.

As a reminder, all students will be dismissed three hours early on November 23 and November 24. Schools will be closed for students on Wednesday, November 25.

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### **AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK-NOVEMBER 16-20**

American Education Week is next week Monday, November 16 through Friday, November 20! The HCMS Staff cordially invites you to sit in with your child during their

virtual learning. American Education Week is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. You are welcome and encouraged to join us any day or time during next week.

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### **QUARTER 1 REPORT CARDS**

Your child's Quarter 1 Report Card will be accessible via HCPSS Connect Synergy on Monday, November 16 at 4:00 p.m.

Parents/guardians may view/download report cards by taking the following steps:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect Synergy](#)
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select Report Cards from the middle
4. Select the report card you wish to access

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### **MEASURES OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS (MAP) REPORTS**

Home reports for students who participated in the MAP assessment have been posted in Synergy. Parents/guardians may view/download MAP reports by taking the following steps:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect Synergy](#)
2. Select Academic Information from the left panel
3. Select Student's Report Cards from the middle
4. Near the top of the page, select MAP\_2020\_WINTER

Note: Students in Algebra I/II or Geometry, and English 8 G/T do not participate in MAP testing and will not have a report displayed. If your child did not participate in the October administration, a report may still appear based on the previous administration.

An overview of MAP testing and how to interpret the report can be found [online](#).

Additional information, such as how to access previous test scores, may be found at this [link](#).

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### **ATHOLTON HS JRTOC PROGRAM INFORMATION**

Interested in learning about the JROTC program at Atholton High School and how to join? Come to a virtual visit on Wednesday, December 2 from 11:00-11:45 a.m. Google Meet Code: AHS-JRTOC

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### **UPCOMING DATES**

11/16/20 Reports cards available in HCPSS Connect Synergy  
11/23/20 - 11/24/20 Schools close 3 hours early, Parent/teacher conferences  
11/25/20 Schools closed for students, Parent/teacher conferences  
11/26/20 - 11/27/20 Schools and offices closed, Thanksgiving

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### **CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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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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### **UPDATE ON SCHOOL MEALS**

Free school meals previously due to expire at the end of December, have been extended through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Thus, HCPSS will be able to provide meals at no cost to any HCPSS student, and all children 18 and under, through the entire school year, assuming continued availability of USDA funding.

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## UPDATE YOUR FAMILY FILE

Thank you to everyone who has already updated their Family File. We currently have 51% completion! 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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## 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.

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