

# HCMS News

February 5, 2021

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## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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### QUARTER 2 REPORT CARDS

Your child's Quarter 2 Report Card will be accessible via [HCPSS Connect](#) on Friday, February 5 at 4:00 p.m.

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

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#) using your parent email and password
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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### BTSN NIGHT SCHEDULE

We are looking forward to seeing everyone during our virtual Back to School Night on Tuesday, February 9. 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 2/9)

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

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## **DECISION ON INSTRUCTIONAL PREFERENCE FOR REMAINDER OF 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

HCPSS will begin a phased-in transition to a hybrid instructional model beginning March 1. Parents/guardians must make a decision to send their child to school for 1-2 days per week and receive virtual instruction the remainder of the week, or to have their child remain fully virtual for the remainder of the school year. Certain student groups including, but not limited to, students receiving Special Education services and others requiring additional learning support, will have the opportunity to receive in-school learning on 5 days per week. All parents/guardians have the option to have their child continue virtual learning full time for the remainder of the current school year. [Click here](#) for more information.

To prepare for this transition, HCPSS requests that parents/guardians complete a two-question survey by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10** with your decision.

See directions below for accessing this form. **Please complete by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 10.** Please contact the front office at 410-313-6929 if you require assistance completing the form.

To complete the form:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#)
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select “In-Person Commitment” from the middle of the page

4. Complete the questions in the form for each child and select “Save”

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**2021-2022 MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE REGISTRATION OPEN THROUGH FEB. 15**

Current 5-7th grade students and their parents/guardians may view their teachers' course recommendations and submit course placement requests for the 2021-2022 school year through [HCPSS Connect](#). Course requests and alternates should be submitted by Monday, February 15. [Additional information and resources](#) to assist in course selection are available online.

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**ALL SCHOOL START TIMES AND STUDENT SCHEDULES TO CHANGE MARCH 1**

Effective Monday, March 1, our hours for students will be 8:25 a.m. -3:10 p.m. A detailed bell schedule will be shared soon. [School start times](#) will be adjusted to begin 20 minutes later than pre-COVID times. Students will not change courses/subjects during the third quarter (Feb. 1-April 14); however, class times and lengths will change.

Prior to the schedule shift on March 1, your child's school will share the grade level and/or school schedule with general start and end times. Your child's teacher(s) will share the specific times that your child will need to join with Google Meet for the synchronous instruction.

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**LIGHTSPEED IMPLEMENTATION**

Beginning February 8, 2021, our school is participating in the use of Lightspeed, a platform and instructional support tool that helps teachers keep students on track and safe as they navigate online learning. [Lightspeed Systems Relay Classroom](#) (Links to an external site.) is a software application that allows a teacher, during specified timeframes, to control how a student uses their HCPSS-issued Chromebook including viewing

student screens, sharing resources, locking devices, reviewing class activity, and restricting some non-instructional sites. Please read this [letter](#) for more information.

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### **WEDNESDAY ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

We are very excited to be able to provide additional academic support for all students at Harper's Choice on Wednesdays from 8:30-11:30 a.m. with our para-educators. Our para-educator team is excited to provide this opportunity to all students! Students can come for assistance with classwork and homework assignments or just to say hi!

6th Grade: 8:30-9:30 a.m.

7th Grade: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

8th Grade: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

The google meet codes will be the same for all grades:

HCMS-Science-support

HCMS-Math-support

HCMS-English-support

HCMS-GeographyHistory-support

HCMS-RelatedArts-support

If you have any questions about the support time they can be directed to our Assistant Principal, Kristin Terry at [Kristin\\_Terry@hcpss.org](mailto:Kristin_Terry@hcpss.org).

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### **CLOTHING TO CASH RECYCLING PROGRAM**

January numbers are in...we collected 551 pounds of clothes and shoes! We earned \$55.10 for school programs. Thanks for your support!

Remember [null](#) 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 and 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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### **UPCOMING DATES**

02/05/21 Report cards issued

02/09/21 BTSN for Semester 2, 5:30 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.

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