

# HCMS News

March 12, 2021

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## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Below are some important upcoming dates for students in Group A & B Hybrid Model:

**March 29**-Grade 6 students in **Group A** return (Monday & Tuesday)

**April 1**-Grades 6 students in **Group B** return (Thursday & Friday)

**April 12**-Grades 7 & 8 students in **Group A** return (Monday & Tuesday)

**April 15**-Grades 7 & 8 student in **Group B** return (Thursday & Friday)

You can check [HCPSS Connect](#) to see your child's A or B day assignment.

Please save the date of Wednesday, March 24 for a Virtual Hybrid Orientation for Grade 6 students returning the week of March 29. More details will follow.

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### CHROMEBOOK CARE WEBPAGE

There is a webpage for students, [Chromebook Care](#), which includes tips on caring for

and transporting Chromebooks, as well as student mobile technology support and additional resources.

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### **ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Featuring answers to hundreds of FAQs, HCPSS' [Help Site](#) provides a wealth of information about the Bridge to Normalized Instruction Hybrid Instructional Model, health and safety, transportation, technology, and more. The site is organized by category and can be searched by keyword, making it easy to navigate to the information you need. New FAQs are continually being added and we encourage you to visit the site regularly.

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### **HYBRID LEARNING RESOURCE**

A new [resource document](#) summarizes all major aspects of the school system's planned transition to hybrid in-person and concurrent virtual instruction that begins on March 1. The document is intended to serve as a reference for both families and staff.

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### **SUICIDE PREVENTION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PARENT WORKSHOP**

Parents of elementary, middle, and high school students are invited to attend a powerful session entitled, "Suicide Prevention and Substance Abuse" on Saturday, March 13 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in discussion and receive valuable information as it relates to suicide prevention, substance abuse, and mental health awareness. Please [click here](#) for additional details.

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## **UPCOMING TCOE/BSAP WORKSHOPS**

### TCOE Workshops:

March 13 9-10:30 a.m. - TCOE Community Academy– Suicide Prevention & Substance Abuse

March 20 9-10:30 a.m. -Family Financial Education Series

### BSAP Workshops:

March 20 6:30-8:00 p.m. - BCAP CCON Webinar – Virtually Expanding Your Horizons – Jumpstart

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## **GIRLS ON THE RUN**

Registration is now open! The 2021 Spring Season will begin the week of March 21 and will end the week of May 23. Now more than ever, girls need the social and emotional skill-building lessons of Girls on the Run. We had a successful fall season so we have decided to continue to have two options this coming spring depending on what you are comfortable with. We will be offering an in-person program with the ability to seamlessly transition to online if needed. The other option is an all virtual program. Please [click here](#) for more details on our spring programming.

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## **UPCOMING DATES**

04/02/2021 - 04/06/2021 SCHOOLS CLOSED, Spring Break

04/14/2021 Schools close 3 hours early, End of Quarter 3

04/22/2021 Report cards issued

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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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### **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 NEW [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)