

# HCMS News

March 5, 2021

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## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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### MESSAGE FROM MR. ELDRIDGE

Dear HCMS Families,

We have had an outstanding first week back with our returning students. It has truly warmed my heart to see and hear the students in our hallways and in the classrooms. Our staff has worked extremely hard to prepare a welcome return for our students while also following all of the new health and safety procedures. We look forward to welcoming more of our students back in the coming weeks.

On Monday, families who selected the hybrid model should have received an email indicating their student's assigned group (A or B). You can also check [HCPSS Connect](#) to see your child's A or B day assignment.

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

**March 29**-Grade 6 students in **Group A** return (2 days per week)

**April 1**-Grades 6 students in **Group B** return (2 days per week)

**April 12**-Grades 7 & 8 students in **Group A** return (2 days per week)

**April 15**-Grades 7 & 8 student in **Group B** return (2 days per week)

As we get closer to the designated return dates, we will continue to email each in-person group with cohort-specific emails and resources, including a virtual orientation time and date. Additionally, we will keep our [HCMS website](#) current with hybrid resources. Please be sure to follow our communications and the [HCPSS website](#) for the latest information.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mr. Adam Eldridge  
Principal

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#### **MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE**

If your child is returning to school in March and will need medication left in the Health Room, please contact HCMS School Nurse, Mrs. Casey, as soon as possible. No medications can be sent to school with children. You can email Mrs. Casey at [susan\\_casey@hcpss.org](mailto:susan_casey@hcpss.org) to set up a time to drop off the medication and doctor's orders at school.

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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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## **CLOTHING TO CASH RECYCLING PROGRAM**

February numbers are in...we collected 475 pounds of clothes and shoes! We earned \$47.50 for school programs. Thanks for your support!

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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## **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 6 6:30-8:00 p.m. – Re-Entry to School

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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## NEW CHROMEBOOK CARE WEBPAGE

There is a new 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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## MARCH 1 SCHEDULE CHANGES

- **New School Hours**

HCMS has new school hours for **all students both in-person and at home in the virtual setting**. Our new hours for the student day are 8:25 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

- **HCMS Master Schedule**

Click to view a copy of the new [HCMS Master Schedule](#). Please remember that this schedule will be followed by **all students** both in-person and virtual beginning March 1.

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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 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)