

# HCMS News

May 14, 2021

---

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

---

### **RISING 6TH GRADE VIRTUAL ORIENTATION**

HCMS will hold a Rising 6th Grade Virtual Orientation on Monday, May 17 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. The orientation will be held during the school day and students will access the meeting with their class using the Google Meet code: **HCMS-Orientation**. A copy of the orientation presentation will be available on our website after next Monday.

---

### **SPRING MAP TESTING**

Spring MAP Administration will be held on Wednesday, May 19 and Wednesday, May 26 (in-person & virtual) from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

### **MAP Q & A**

#### **What is MAP and Why are students taking it?**

MAP is the Measures of Academic Progress assessment. Most students in grades 2-8 will take the assessment in the area of reading and math. The data from the MAP assessment will help schools and teachers measure growth from the Fall MAP

administration to the Spring MAP administration.

**Should my child participate?**

Yes. However, if your child is in 8th grade ELA-GT either semester 1 or semester 2, they are exempt from participating in MAP Reading on May 19. Please note if your child is in a high school assessed math course during semester 1 or semester 2 (regular or GT Geometry, Algebra 1, Algebra 2) they are exempt from participating in MAP Math on May 26.

**What device should my child use to participate in MAP?**

The same device your child is using to attend virtual and in-person classes.

**How will MAP take place?**

Students will be logging into their Cougar Time groups with their teachers. Once there the teacher will guide your child to the MAP testing site by providing a direct link and testing session code.

**Will MAP impact my child's grades?**

The MAP assessment does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly.

**Where & When will MAP Reading take place?**

With your child's current virtual or in-person Cougar Time class from **8:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 19.**

**Where & When will MAP Math take place?**

With your child's current virtual or in-person Cougar Time class from **8:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 26.**

Please contact Kristin Terry with questions at [Kristin\\_Terry@hcpss.org](mailto:Kristin_Terry@hcpss.org).

---

## **HEALTH CHECK REMINDER**

To ensure students are healthy enough to attend in-person instruction, parents/guardians are to perform a symptom check every day before the student leaves home. A student having any of the following symptoms should not be sent to school and may continue to access their classrooms virtually if they are well enough to do so:

1 of the following: New onset cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing; New loss of taste or smell;

OR

2 of the following: Fever over 100.4 or chills within the past 24 hours; Fatigue; Muscle or body aches; Headache; Sore throat; Congestion or runny nose; Chills or shaking chills; Nausea or vomiting; Diarrhea.

Additionally, students who have been in close contact (within less than 6 feet for a cumulative time of more than 15 minutes over the past 24 hours with or without a mask) with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 (exhibiting COVID- like illness and has not tested negative after exhibiting symptoms) should not enter any HCPSS building.

Parent/guardians will assess their children for symptoms of COVID-19 illness and refrain from sending/transporting them to school until after they have been symptom-free at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms, have no fever for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication, and have continued improvement of symptoms and /or medical consult with their primary care physician.

---

## **12-15 YEAR OLD VACCINE CLINIC**

Twelve-fifteen year olds are now eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Text **438829** with your zip

code and it will list 3 sites with available appointments.

You can also use [this link](#) for a COVID vaccination clinic at HCC Athletic Center- Pfizer Dose 1 on May 18, 2021. This clinic is targeted for 12-15 years old but no one is turned away.

---

### **UPCOMING DATES**

05/31/2021 Schools and offices closed, Memorial Day

06/10/2021 - 06/14/2021 Schools close 3 hours early, Professional Work Day

06/15/2021 Last Day of School for Students-Schools close 3 hours early, Professional Work Day

---

### **CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

---

### **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. [Click here](#) for information about the Technology Support Centers.

---

## **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.

---

## **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.

---

### **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).

---

### **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.

---

## **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.

---

## **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](http://hcms.hcpss.org)

