

HCMS News

September 18, 2020

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION TIP SHEET

A downloadable [Virtual Instruction Tip Sheet](#) was created for students and parents/guardians to use for quick access to login information, course meeting codes, and instructions for logging in to platforms. *Students - Don't forget to check your "to-do" list area in Canvas for new announcements, Google events and assignments that are due. Once a task/event is complete, be sure to click on the "x" next to the event so that your upcoming assignments/events will appear at the top of the list.*

HEALTH ROOM NEWS

Immunizations

Please note if your student is planning on returning to the school building, they will need their immunizations to be up to date. You would have received an email from the school nurse if your student is not up to date. Please call Susan Casey at 410-313-6934 or 410-926-8593 with any questions. Again, your student will be excluded from the school building until their immunizations are current.

Flu Clinics

HCPSS, the Howard County Health Department and the Maryland Partnership for Prevention again this year will offer flu clinics at no cost for students. Pre-registration is required, during which parents/guardians will schedule an appointment at the clinic of their choice.

Registration will open at the end of September, and details are forthcoming. [Click here](#) for more information.

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

The HCMS front office will be holding virtual office hours next week Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The Google Meet code is HCMSOFFICEHOURS. If you need assistance outside of these times, please email Mrs. Gordon at deborah_gordon@hcpss.org.

FARMS APPLICATIONS

Applications for the [Free and Reduced Meals program](#) for the school year 2020-2021 are available online in multiple languages and paper copies are available at all meal sites.

ATTENDANCE

Need to report a student absence? Parents, please send an email to HCMSabsence@hcpss.org to report your child's absence from classes.

UPCOMING DATES

09/28/20 Schools and Offices Closed

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE STUDENT MEALS

The [food services program during the first semester](#) of the 2020-2021 school year will consist of free Grab-and-Go meals served Monday through Friday from 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at all schools except Burleigh Manor Middle School and Hammond High School. Meals are free for all students through December.

UPDATE YOUR FAMILY FILE

HCPSS uses Family File for parents/guardians to complete 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.

GOOGLE MEET EXPECTATIONS

To ensure a positive, productive and enjoyable learning experience for all participants, it is important that all students and parents/guardians adhere to these [Google Meet Expectations](#).

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

Parents of middle school students currently in need of a device may request one. All families may indicate a need for internet access. [Full details](#) online.

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.

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