



Back to School Night

Information for Families



Comprehensive information for the 2023–2024 school year may be found at www.hcpss.org/2023-2024/

Howard County Student Code of Conduct

The Howard County Public School System is committed to providing a safe, engaging and supportive learning environment where all policies are enforced fairly and consistently. HCPSS policies and regulations emphasize instruction and rehabilitation rather than punishment and are designed to foster and reward appropriate behavior and keep students connected to school. We view the code of conduct as a team effort. There are responsibilities for staff, students, families, and our community. Let's all do our part to make this year safe and successful for all!

www.hcpss.org/about-us/student-code-of-conduct/

School and System News and Information

Email: School news, HCPSS News, emergency notices

Text: Priority/emergency notices

HCPSS Website: Systemwide news and information resource (www.hcpss.org)

Our School Website: School news, calendar, sports and clubs, staff directory; more

Community News and Information:
www.community-programs.hcpss.org

Information on school closings and delays will be posted on the HCPSS website, @HCPSS on Twitter, and by email and text.

www.status.hcpss.org

Mental Health Supports

Every HCPSS school has staff available for students who require support throughout the school year to tend to their mental health needs. Students and parents/guardians should not hesitate to reach out to a counselor, liaison, social worker, psychologist, or any trusted adult at school to be connected with these available resources.

www.hcpss.org/supports/mental-health-wellness

HCPSS Connect

Family File: Parent contact information, medical data and contacts, after-school transportation, data privacy preferences



Synergy: Athletic participation forms

Canvas: Course homepages, calendar dates/events, assignments and Gradebook, announcements, direct messaging

www.hcpss.org/connect

Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMS) Program

Qualifying families can receive free or reduced-cost:

- School meals
- Health insurance
- HCC tuition
- SAT, ACT and AP exam fees
- Camps, sports, child care
- Many other benefits



Visit www.hcpss.org/farms/ and click "Apply Online" to begin the online application process.

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Application will become available on October 1, 2023.
- Apply fall of senior year for best consideration
- All students should apply as it is required by many colleges and scholarship organizations



Apply online: fafsa.ed.gov

More information for families on other side



Online School Lunch Menus

- Breakfast and lunch menus
- Food descriptions
- Ingredients, nutrition information and allergens
- Pre-payment links
- FARMs program application link



www.hcpss.org/food-services

JumpStart Dual Enrollment

JumpStart is a partnership between HCPSS and Howard Community College that provides expanded options for students to gain college credits, explore possible careers, or earn

JumpStart

an associate degree within a nurturing and inclusive environment. Schedule a meeting with your school counselor to review options for your JumpStart Dual Enrollment courses or email JumpStart@hcpss.org for a schedule of upcoming drop-in support sessions to learn more about the program and get help signing up.

www.hcpss.org/jumpstart

CTE Career Academies

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Career Academies provide College and Career Ready experiences for students with many benefits, including:

- Small learning communities
- Authentic project-based activities
- Mentoring by experts in the field
- Participation in worksite experiences or employment while still in high school
- Opportunity to earn industry certifications, credentials and college credit



CTE Career Academy opportunities are available at high schools and the Applications and Research Laboratory (ARL). Discuss with your school counselor or visit www.hcpss.org/cte.

Report Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment or Intimidation

Bullying, cyberbullying, harassment and intimidation compromise the school environment and well-being of students. Bullying, cyberbullying, harassment or intimidation of any person on school property, at school-sponsored activities, or that has a connection or nexus back to the school setting is prohibited. Report incidents online at www.stopbullying.hcpss.org/report/bullying or submit a paper copy of the form which is available in the school counselor's office, media center and health room.

Health Services

Health services are provided in each school by registered nurses and health assistants. Services include, but are not limited to, medication administration, first aid, chronic and acute care disease case management, and assessment and intervention for illness and injury.



www.hcpss.org/health

Attendance

It is extremely important that students attend school as often as possible. The data is clear – student attendance has a direct correlation to academic achievement and future success. Additionally, students who are absent lack interactions with peers and adults in their school, often leading to becoming isolated from the school environment and feeling less connected. That is why it is critically important that we reverse the troubling trend in absenteeism today. Please work with school staff to ensure your child is able to attend school as often as they are able.

HERE!



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