

# WILDCAT PRESS

January 29, 2021



## January

- 29th - School closed for students - Professional Work Day
- 29th - Parent Teacher Conference scheduling window opens

## February

- 3rd - Reading MAP, 9:00 AM ~ Grades 1-5
- 5th - Parent Teacher Conference scheduling window closes
- 9th - PTA Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 10th - Math MAP, 9:00 AM ~ Grades 1-5
- 11th - Early Dismissal - Orange Day
- 12th - School closed for student - Professional Work Day
- 15th - Schools and Office Closed for President's Day



## January

25th	Asay Fernandez	29th	Madelyn Berger
	Mir Naqvi	30th	Rachel Scherr
	Naveen Sharma	31st	Urvi Bethu
	Benjamin Van Opens		Julianna Tranchini
26th	Ayse Zaman		

# MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATORS

**Dear Worthington Community,**

Yesterday marked the end of our second quarter! We are excited for the start of our 3rd quarter/2nd semester of our 2020-2021 school year!

On January 21, Governor Hogan shared his expectations for all Maryland schools to change to a hybrid format by March 1. On January 26, the Howard County Board of Education voted to direct the Superintendent and staff to implement a phase-in approach to opening schools. Information was sent to you by email on Thursday, January 28, and it is included below. The change in instructional delivery may cause us to have a variety of feelings, from excitement at the prospect of having our students engaged in instruction in our building to fear and anxiety around safety. As HCPSS continues to communicate with the overall Howard County community, we will continue to provide updates regarding what plans look like for our Worthington community. We want to make sure we provide the most accurate information to you in a timely manner.

## **Decision on Instructional Preference for Remainder of 2020-2021 School Year**

***The following information was sent to all parents from HCPSS email into your inbox on Thursday, January 28.***

The Howard County Public School System will begin a phased-in transition to a hybrid instructional model, beginning March 1. By Friday, February 5, parents/guardians must make a decision to send their child to school for 1-2 days per week and receive virtual instruction the remainder of the week, or to have their child remain fully virtual for the remainder of the school year. Certain student groups including, but not limited to, students receiving Special Education services and others requiring additional learning support will have the opportunity to receive in-school learning 5 days per week.

**All parents/guardians have the option to have their child continue virtual learning full time** for the remainder of the current school year.

To prepare for this transition, HCPSS requests that parents/guardians complete a two-question survey by 4 p.m., Friday, February 5 with your decision:

1. The type of instructional model – hybrid or fully virtual – that you choose for your child.
2. Whether bus service will be used, for children who are eligible for this service.

- If your child is designated as a walker, transportation will not be provided. View the [School Bus Locator](#) for your child’s transportation eligibility. **PLEASE NOTE:** Pickup times and bus stop locations are being updated and are subject to change. At this time, the School Bus Locator should only be used to determine if your child receives transportation services.

**Please note the following:**

Answers to [frequently asked questions on student in-person return](#) can be found on the HCPSS Help site. This site will be continually updated as new information becomes available.

The Board of Education on January 26, 2021 [approved the following phased-in model](#) for student in-person return: [Board of Education Approves Schedule for 2020-2021 Hybrid In-Person Model](#)

- **Week of March 1:** Students identified for the 5-days-per-week program
- **Week of March 15:** Students in grades PreKindergarten, **Kindergarten, 1 and 2**
- **Week of March 29:** Students in grades **3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, and** students attending programs at the HCPSS **ARL**
- **Week of April 12:** Students in grades **7, 8, 10 and 11**

HCPSS is striving to offer students two days per week of in-person learning. However, if the number of requests exceeds capacity, due to social distancing requirements, HCPSS may offer only one in-person day per week.

Parents/guardians who opt for their student to remain fully virtual may request to switch to the hybrid in-person model at any time during the 2020-2021 school year. However, approval of that request is dependent on available space, social distancing guidelines, and other factors.

For families that opt to send students back in-person, HCPSS will make every effort to group siblings together. However, the school system cannot guarantee that siblings will be in the same grouping. Please take this into consideration when making your decision.

Additional information on [HCPSS spring planning](#) can be found online. See directions below for accessing this form. Please complete by 4 p.m., Friday, February 5. Please contact your school if you require assistance completing the form.

**To complete the form:**

[Log in to HCPSS Connect](#)

Select More Options from the left panel

Select “In-Person Commitment” from the middle of the page

Complete the questions in the form for each child and select “Save”

# SCHOOL NEWS/UPDATES

## CONGRATULATIONS ~ HCPSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SOLO FESTIVAL

We wanted to extend a huge congratulations to the nearly 40 WoES band and orchestra students that participated in the first ever fully VIRTUAL Howard County Elementary School Solo Festival on Saturday, January 23.

These students worked hard to prepare and perform a solo on their instrument for an adjudicator via Zoom. Students then received verbal and written feedback on their performance. Our students demonstrated great professionalism and skill. WAY TO GO! We are so proud of each student!

<b>Student Last Name</b>	<b>Student First Name</b>	<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
Abutboul	Aila	Viola	5
Arumugam	Neel	Alto Saxophone	5
Asay	Lucas	Cello	3
Bethu	Om	Viola	3
Bommana	SreeVaibhav	Viola	4
Boreddy	Nikhila	Violin	3
Chang	Coral	Violin	3
Cheney	Damon	Violin	4
Duan	Huiyu	Violin	4
Durai	Adhvik	Viola	3
Durai	Anish	Cello	4
Edgerton	Peyton	Alto Saxophone	5
Fiedler	Anna	French Horn	5
Forman	Zachary	Viola	3
Gorugantula	Saahas	Alto Saxophone	4
Gunturu	Harini	Viola	3

Higgs	Jayla	Alto Saxophone	5
Im	Sophia	Viola	3
Jang	Suhbin	Flute	4
Kim	Maximus	Trumpet	4
Kiran	Sathvik	Viola	3
Koduri	Chaitanya	Violin	5
Leovy	Bennett	Violin	5
Manda	Avanthika	Violin	4
Mayerman	Madelyn	Violin	5
Mayerman	Mason	Trumpet	4
McCarthy	William	Violin	4
McMillion	Emily	Cello	5
Medapally	Koyal	Violin	4
Naresh	Hiranmayi	Violin	4
Pal	Sarina	Viola	4
Parepalli	Arjun	Violin	3
Rajesh	Kavya	Flute	4
Rhoad	Robert	Cello	3
Segala	Mary	Viola	4
Sellers	Leah	Cello	5
Sharma	Arnav	Violin	3
Talagala	Navindu	Viola	3
			3
Wolf	Sasha	Violin	

### **Scheduling Parent/Teacher Math Conferences**

**HCPSS will continue to use your HCPSS Connect/Family File account to schedule Parent/Teacher Conferences with your child's math teacher. Each math teacher will be scheduling conferences on Wednesday, February 10th, and/or Thursday, February 11th.**

**Beginning today, you can log on to [HCPSS Connect](#) to access Synergy Conference Management. You can then choose your desired conference time from the teacher's availability. The registration window will be open through next Friday, February 5th.**

Please click on the link below for directions on scheduling your conference SYN073 Parent Conference Parent .

### [Parent Conference Registration](#)

Parents needing assistance should contact your child's math teacher and/or Ms. Feinberg ~ Iris\_Feinberg@hcpss.org

Please note: If you are unable to attend a conference during the scheduled times please contact your child's math teacher directly.

### **Special Tips for Scheduling Conferences:**

- Parent Teacher Conferences will be scheduled in 15-minute increments. To allow time to end one conference and log on to the next, we recommend that you do not schedule back-to-back conferences with different teachers. All conferences will need to begin and end on time.
- Related Arts teachers have a limited number of conference times available in comparison to the number of students they teach. You are not required to schedule a related arts conference, however we encourage you to schedule a conference if you have a concern or information you would like to discuss with the teacher. If you would like to schedule a conference with a related arts teacher, please sign up using the same process as signing up with your child's math teacher.

### **Tips For Accessing HCPSS Connect**

- It is recommended that you use a personal computer or child's Chromebook (not a mobile phone or tablet) and either the Google Chrome or Firefox web browser.
- If using a shared, family computer, confirm that you are NOT logged in as your student.

## **National School Counseling Week - February 1-7**



National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), is this coming week. The purpose of the week is to focus public

attention on the unique contributions of professional school counselors within U.S. school systems, Howard County, and here at Worthington ES. National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors have in helping students achieve school success. The special week honoring school counselors provides recognition for school counselors who implement comprehensive school counseling programs.

We are fortunate to have school counselors in each of our schools throughout Howard County. At Worthington, our school counselor, **Mrs. Southern**, is a vital part of our school and Student Services team. She actively engages in helping students examine their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents. She helps to partner with parents as they encounter the challenges of raising children in today's world. She also provides support for teachers to help them meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students.

Please join us in thanking Mrs. Southern for her dedication to our students and community.

## NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

### Student and Family Wellness

***Julia Southern, School Counselor & Dr. Michal Boyars, School Psychologist***

### Articulation for Rising 6th Graders

Rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade families received a [letter from Ellicott Mills](#) this week providing information and guidance about the course selection timeline, elective course options, and the course registration process. Families can view academic course recommendations and begin entering elective course requests on February 3. Please note the links within the letter:

- [directions for requesting courses online](#)

- [video directions for many functions in HCPSS Connect](#) (parents can scroll down to see registration and course placement review videos).

### **Fully Paid Scholarships Available for HCC Kids on Campus Classes! (ages 8-17)**

Fully paid scholarships are available for families who qualify financially (i.e., income of \$50,000 or below for a family of four). Upcoming available courses, with start times ranging from late-Jan to early-April, can be found [here](#). Classes include art, cooking, virtual reality, language, ROBLOX and more! Families who believe they may be eligible for financial aid, should complete [this application](#) and submit it via email to NoncreditFinAid@howardcc.edu.

### **Are the Kids Alright? Talking About Mental Health with our Children**

The Parenting Encouragement Program (PEP) has released [a new episode of their podcast](#) featuring Rachel Larkin, Director of Crisis Prevention and Intervention Services, a social worker who has been running the 24/7 Montgomery County Hotline for more than a decade. They discuss mental health in children and teens and how to best help with some of the heaviest issues.

They also have made some more of their online parenting classes FREE, including [Living with Grief – Understanding and Supporting Grieving Children](#) by Dr. Ajita Robinson.

### **Quick Tips from the Worthington Counselor and Psychologist**

#### **TIP OF THE WEEK: Increasing Compliance, Part 1**

At home, child compliance is how much a child does what a parent asks them to do -- and how much they refrain from doing what a parent tells them *not* to do. As human beings, virtually every child could benefit from improved compliance in one way or another! That said, the way parents make a request can make a big difference. Here are some handy tips to keep in mind when you ask your child to do something. More tips will come in future weeks!

#### **1. Get their attention.**

- a. Proximity -- be close to your child when making the request
- b. Get eye contact -- so they will hear/pay attention when you speak



- c. One short command at a time -- this helps the child process what you are asking them to do. Sometimes, it looks like kids are not listening, when in reality, they are having difficulty understanding what is being asked.

## INFORMATION WORTH REPEATING

### Road to Kindergarten

Kindergarten Registration kicks off the week of March 8, 2021. The [HCPSS Getting Ready for Kindergarten page](#), which includes resources to support kindergarten readiness and online registration, has been updated with additional information and resources for families. This includes information that is typically covered in the Road to Kindergarten live event, such as kindergarten readiness, the kindergarten program, and registering children for school. The live Road To Kindergarten events will not take place this year due to the pandemic. We also encourage families to visit the HCPSS [Grade K Family and Community Resources](#) page for more information about the kindergarten instructional program and ways families can support their children at home. The [Prekindergarten Family and Community Resources](#) page also contains resources for families and providers for children currently in their prekindergarten year. The Transition to Kindergarten Workgroup is working on additional readiness resources that can be implemented at home or in early learning centers - these resources will also be posted on the Getting Ready for Kindergarten page this winter.

### Complete Your Family File TODAY!

It is important that we have up-to-date ***emergency contact information for each student***, in the event that our staff need to communicate directly with our families.

You can access the Family File by logging in to the [HCPSS Connect](https://www.hcpss.org/connect/) at [www.hcpss.org/connect/](https://www.hcpss.org/connect/). Parents who are new to the Howard County Public School System will receive a welcome email with instructions on how to activate an account. Once you have logged into the [HCPSS Connect](https://www.hcpss.org/connect/), select the Family File tab on the left-hand side, and then select the blue underlined "Family File" towards the center of your screen. Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to provide, update, or confirm the following information.

## COMMUNITY NEWS/RESOURCES

### **Free Food Distribution**

Indian Cultural Association will be offering a Free Food Distribution to anyone in need. No ID required. Please click on the link below for more information.

[Free Food Distribution](#)

### **St. Johns Baptist Church Food Pantry**

St. John's Baptist Church will be offering a Drive Up and Pick Up Food Pantry Saturday, January 30, 2021 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Please click on the link below for more information.

[St. Johns Baptist Church Food Pantry](#)