

September 7, 2018

Greetings Tiger Sharks!

Mrs. Young, Mr. McVey, and I enjoyed meeting with all students this week in small group “Town Hall Meetings”. During these meetings, we were able to introduce ourselves and review important policies and expectations. We appreciate your home support as well in reviewing HCPSS Policies and School Procedures. This information can be found in the first 14 pages of your child’s new agenda book. **If your child has not already, please help he/she to complete and sign the copy of page 17 that came home on the first day of school and return to his/her homeroom teacher.** This lets us know that the policies have also been reviewed at home. Thank you for your partnership and support!

Students have been quick studies in learning their new schedules, new locker combinations, and new learning routines. We are especially pleased with how well the sixth graders and new students are adjusting. We love the positive, “Can Do” attitudes. **Please note that some changes may need to be made in students’ schedules during the first few weeks of school as we balance class sizes and ensure the best instructional matches for students.**

Today we held our first emergency evacuation drill of the school year. These drills are required by HCPSS policy. Our students did a great job following directions! You might take this opportunity to discuss today’s drill with your child and add your own home evacuation plans in case of an emergency.

It’s hard to believe “Back to School Night” at WLMS is next **Thursday, September 13th**. We personally invite you to attend. This will be an evening to meet your student’s teachers, see their classrooms, and learn about academic programs & expectations. Here is our schedule for the evening . . .

6:00-6:30 - Gifted & Talented (GT) Program Presentation

from Mr. Spicher – (Cafeteria) **All parents are invited to attend.**

• **Grade 6**

6:30 – 6:35 – HC Drug Free Video (Shown in Per. 1)

6:35 - 6:45 - Period 1

6:47 - 6:57 - Period 2

6:59 - 7:09 - Period 3

7:11 - 7:21 – HCPSS Connect Presentation (Synergy & Canvas) from our Media Specialist, Mrs. Russo- in the Cafeteria

7:23 - 7:33 – Periods 5

7:35 – 7:45 – Periods 6

7:47 – 8:09 - Periods 7 & 8 - All 6th grade parents report to gym

8:15 – 8:45 –Messages from Admin. & PTA – Cafeteria

• **Grade 7**

6:30 – 6:35 – HC Drug Free Video (Shown in Per. 1)

6:35 - 6:45 – Period 1 – PE, Health, FACS – Meet in gymnasium

6:47-6:57 – Period 2 – PE, Health, Digital Citizenship – Meet in gymnasium

6:59 - 7:09 - Period 3

7:11 – 7:21 – Period 4

7:23 - 7:33 – HCPSS Connect Presentation (Synergy & Canvas) from our Media Specialist, Mrs. Russo- in the Cafeteria

7:35 – 7:45 – Periods 6

7:47 - 7:57 - Period 7

7:59 - 8:09 - Period 8

8:15 – 8:45 –Messages from Admin. & PTA – Cafeteria

- **Grade 8**

6:30 – 6:35 – HC Drug Free Video (Shown in Per. 1)

6:35 - 6:45 - Period 1

6:47 - 6:57 - Period 2

6:59 - 7:09 - Period 3

7:11 – 7:21 – PE, Health, FACS – Meet in gymnasium

7:23 – 7:33 – PE, Health, FACS – Meet in gymnasium

7:35 – 7:45 – HCPSS Connect Presentation (Synergy & Canvas) from our Media Specialist, Mrs. Russo- in the Cafeteria

7:47 - 7:57 - Period 7

7:59 - 8:09 - Period 8

8:15 – 8:45 –Messages from Admin. & PTA – Cafeteria

Because we will be on a tight schedule, we encourage parents to arrive on time so that you can meet ALL of your student’s teachers. We also ask you to remember that the purpose of “Back to School Night” is for parents to learn about student’s courses and classroom procedures, and for the teachers to meet you! Unfortunately, teachers will not have time to engage in conversations about individual student’s progress. If you would like to check in about how your student is doing in a given class, please call or email the teacher to set up a conference appointment. We appreciate your cooperation!

Finally, the front office staff have been asked to follow specific procedures before admitting anyone into the building. We want to remind you of the procedures we follow when visitors come to the school:

- The front door is the only entrance point for all visitors.
- Please ring the doorbell and look into the camera.
- Be prepared to state your name, your child’s name and your purpose for visiting.
- All visitors must walk directly into the front office with a valid photo ID and sign in on LobbyGuard.
- A visitor’s sticker will be given to visitors following the above procedures and must be worn and prominently visible.
- Any visitor in the school without a visitor sticker will be escorted directly to the front office by a staff member.
- If you are signing out your child, we also check the ID.
- We also ask that visitors not hold doors open for other visitors.

Thank you for understanding and working with us to keep our school building safe.

Have a great weekend!

Anne Swartz, Denise Young, James McVey

Important Dates:

Sept. 10 – Rosh Hashanah – Schools & Offices Closed

Sept. 11 – PTSA Meeting 7:00 pm

Sept. 12-13 – Drama Auditions
Sept. 13 – Back to School Night
Sept. 19 – Yom Kippur – Schools & Offices Closed
Sept. 27 – Student Fall Pictures

PTSA

The WLMS PTSA is holding its first meeting on Tuesday, September 11 at 7:00 in Room B29. Please come and join us for the first meeting of the year. If you have not turned in your PTSA membership dues, please consider doing so as soon as you can. The PTSA supports our school in many ways.

WLMS Fundraiser –

WLMS is holding a Yankee Candle Fundraiser to support our PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) program. Forty percent of the profits go directly to our student program. The sale officially begins on September 14 and goes through September 28th. Fundraising packages will go home next week. See the attached flier for more details.

HCPSS Family File

If you have not done so, please remember to complete your Family File. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information for each child, and can do so by logging in to <http://www.hcpss.org/connect/> and selecting the Family File tab and then clicking on Family File. If you do not have access to a computer to complete the information, please stop by the school and we can assist you in completing this very important document.

Student Fall Pictures

Student pictures will be taken on Thursday, September 27th beginning at 8:30 am. For more information, please see the attached flier.

Tiger Shark Theatre Company Auditions

Next week, on September 12th and 13th the Tiger Shark Theatre Company will hold after school auditions for the fall production of *The Triangle Factory Fire Project*. Interested students should stop by rooms 246 and 248 to sign-up for an audition slot, pick up a monologue, and a permission form. Students will need to return their permission forms to Mr. Kurstin or Ms. Nibber before they are allowed to stay after school for auditions or rehearsals. Weeknight rehearsals will begin on September 20th and performances are December 13th, 14th, and 15th. If there are questions, please reach out to randy_kurstin@hcpss.org or sarah_lynn_nibber@hcpss.org.

Health Room Reminders:

- All incoming 7th grades **MUST** provide documentation that they have received a single dose of **Tdap AND** a single dose of **Meningococcal vaccine (MCV4)**. This became a Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene requirement in 2014. If you received a letter attached to your child's report card at the end of the 2017-18 school year – **THIS REMINDER IS FOR YOU!** If you are not sure, contact the Health Room.
- If your student requires daily or emergency medications for use at school please be sure to bring:
 - A completed Medication Order Form (including the physician and parent signatures)
 - Prescription medication **MUST** have **current** prescription pharmacy label and must match the order form.
 - Over the counter medication **MUST** be in an unopened container (the smaller the container, the better as they will be packed for field trips throughout the school year).

- All “first doses” of medications MUST be given by the parent at home so parents can monitor student closely for any adverse side effects.
- If your student starting the school year with a recent injury and has activity restrictions (i.e. wearing and cast, needing to use crutches, recent surgery etc) please send in all physician documentation and/or orders for accommodations that will be needed to start the school year.

AACR - African American Community Roundtable Forum will be held at WLHS on September 24th from 6:30 – 8:30pm. See the attached flier for more details.

Saturday Math Academy

The Saturday Math Academy is held Saturday’s 9-noon at Oakland Mills Middle School. The program is open to all HCPSS student’s grades 3-12. Registration is required. See the attached flier for more details.

Community Notices:

Please visit the Community News and Programs page at <https://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/> for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.