

February 23, 2018

Dear WLMS Families,

With recent news events involving violence, we want to take a moment to remind each of you how very appreciative we are of the loving care and guidance you give your children each day to help them feel heard, valued, nurtured and safe.

As you discuss these difficult topics with your children, we wanted to provide you with some resources from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) that you may find helpful. Attached to this message, please find the following documents which have age-specific guidance for parents attached to this newsletter.

In addition, here are some quick reminders from NASP:

1. Reassure children that they are safe.
2. Make time to talk.
3. Keep your explanations developmentally appropriate.
4. Review safety procedures.
5. Observe children's emotional state.
6. Limit television (and social media) viewing of these events.
7. Maintain a normal routine.

As always, if you have any specific concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher, guidance counselor or any member of the administrative team.

Unrelated, this week we held Town Hall meetings with each grade in small groups. During the meetings, we talked about expectations for the second half of the school year. We discussed and analyzed some grade level data regarding report card grades, absences, tardiness, and discipline. We shared that we expect all students to have a strong focus on their academics in every class, do their homework, try their best, and require less reminders now that the year is more than half way over. We emphasized the connection between success and hard work and that talent or intelligence only works so much. Those students who work hard and persist every day will have the greatest success down the road. Please ask your child about these presentations. The reflection form students were asked to complete during tutorial on Thursday is attached to this newsletter. The PowerPoint presentations will soon be linked to our website for your reference and follow up at home.

Thank you for your partnership!

Anne Swartz, Lexi Couch, Denise Young, James McVey

Important Dates:

March 6 & 7 – Orchestra Assessments

March 7 – Interim Progress Reports Issued

March 8 & 9 – 8th Grade MISA Testing

March 13 – Parent Information Night for redistricted HCMS Parents

March 13 – PTSA Meeting 7:00

March 16 – GOTCHA Store

Attention 8th grade families:

Permission slips for the 8th grade field trip on March 21st to see the Broadway musical School of Rock and have dinner at Hard Rock Cafe went home with 2nd quarter report cards. The cost of the trip is \$85 for students and \$85 for chaperones. The last day to turn in money is March 14th, however please do not wait until the last minute because these tickets will go fast! There are only 140 tickets available, so get yours now! Online payments are available, and the permission slips are also on the 8th grade Canvas page. Please email Ms. Drakes with any questions:

damisha_drakes@hcpss.org

Don't delay, get your money in today!

AHS – Fall tryouts

Atholton HS Fall Athletics:

Any incoming 9th grade student who would like to tryout for a fall sport next year (2018-2019 school year), please note that tryouts begin on Wednesday, August 8th. Students must attend all tryouts and practices will begin immediately after teams are selected. Please plan vacation time accordingly. For more information, contact Michael Senisi, Athletics and Activities Manager, at Michael_Senisi@hcpss.org