

August 28, 2020

Good afternoon Tiger Shark Community,

I wanted to reach out and uplift the message sent by Dr. Martirano yesterday, following the press conference by the Governor and State Superintendent. Per Dr. Martirano's message I want to assure you that, as previously announced, Howard County public schools will hold a virtual first semester. Careful plans are in place to ensure that every student will have a robust learning experience that is centered on live, teacher-led virtual instruction.

Our amazing staff have been taking part in intensive professional learning to prepare to welcome students back on Tuesday, September 8. Plans are being finalized to bring some students into school buildings in small groups to receive in-person supports, and details of those plans will be shared with you as soon as possible.

On October 22, the Superintendent and Board of Education will begin to evaluate plans for the second semester, and that discussion will be informed by our experiences during the initial weeks of school, the status of the pandemic at that time, and further guidance from the state and Howard County Health Department.

As you know, the conditions related to the pandemic are rapidly evolving, and I realize this can be a confusing time. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we all work together to ensure students have a safe and productive learning experience. Please be assured that school system leaders continue to hold the well-being of our children and staff members as the highest priority, and we are all looking forward eagerly to the day when we can welcome our students back to school in person.

I know I speak for the entire WLMS staff when I say we can not wait to reengage with our students on September 8. Have a amazing weekend and thank you for supporting us in MAKING GREAT THINGS HAPPEN for our students, staff, and community.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Rattay

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

We received some of the promised Chrome Books today and are preparing them for distribution next week. We also received art supplies for those students who will be taking art during the first semester.

If you requested a Chrome Book and one was delivered to the school for your child, please be on the lookout for an email early next week informing you when to come pick it up. \*Please note, we did not receive all the Chrome Books that were requested and HCPSS is awaiting the next shipment to arrive. When they come, we will reach out and let you know when you may pick it up. *If you requested a Chrome Book and now realize that you have a device that you can use temporarily until the next shipment comes in, please email [Sarah\\_Russo@hcpss.org](mailto:Sarah_Russo@hcpss.org)*

Students who are scheduled to take Art the first semester - we have art supplies for you to pick up during our distribution. We will be sending out a Canvas notice to those scheduled for you to pick up materials.

All incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders and new to the school 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders can stop by during distribution time for a small welcome gift.

**\*\* Remember to check your email next week with exact details of the distribution\*\***

### SAVE THE DATE:

Wednesday – Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Distribution of Materials (times to be announced)

Thursday – Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> – New Student Orientation (virtual) 1:00 pm

Thursday – Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Virtual Block Party 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Tuesday – Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> – First Day of Classes for students

Please remember to go to the Howard County Public School Website for detailed information on Chrome Books, Family File, Free and Reduced Lunch, School System Calendar, HCPSS Connect and more!

[www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org)

## Information from the Health Room

Immunization requirements have NOT been lifted or waived at this time. All 7th grade students in the state of Maryland must have a single dose of Tdap AND a single dose of Meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) BEFORE the first day of virtual learning (September 8, 2020).

Earlier this summer all parents of students who were missing one or both of the above mentioned vaccines should have received an email or mailed letter identifying which vaccines are missing from your child's immunization record. Your child may have already received them however we have not received the documentation confirming. Please check with your student's physician to obtain an updated vaccine record and either scan it or take a photo of it and email it to me at [Annette\\_Grzybinski@hcpss.org](mailto:Annette_Grzybinski@hcpss.org).

If your student has not received the 2 vaccines for 7th grade, please make an appointment with their physician to do so and for those who do not have private insurance MPP in collaboration with HCPSS will be offering several Back-to-School Vaccine Clinics in late September (see attached)! Please note on the flier that all registration is done on-line you must make an appointment.

Thank you in advance and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me (WLMS School Nurse) at [Annette\\_Grzybinski@hcpss.org](mailto:Annette_Grzybinski@hcpss.org)