

September 25, 2020

Happy Friday Tiger Shark Family,

We just wanted to again thank you for all you are doing supporting your student at home.

Do You Know Your Students Avatar? During BTSN (Back to School Night) a few parents seemed to be caught off guard by the image their student chose to use as their Canvas or Google Avatar. I would suggest throwing that conversation into your weekly check-ins at home so you can be aware of your student's online image and presence.

Please read below as we have important time sensitive information to share. Have a wonderful weekend and remember schools and offices will be closed on Monday. We will see students back in class bright and early on Tuesday.

Chris Rattay, Principal
WLMS

Important Dates:

September 28 – Schools and Offices Closed – Yom Kippur
October 7 – Reading MAP Testing 9-11 or 1-3
October 14 – Math MAP Testing 9-11 or 1-3
October 16 – Schools Close 3 hours early
November 3 – Schools and Offices Closed – Election Day

Technology Reminder

Please have your student check their device for any updates. Unfortunately, we have had students actively engaged in class and the device automatically updates and kicks them out. Best practice is to **update every Wednesday**, especially since MAP testing is about to begin. If you need assistance, please email sarah_russo@hcpss.org

Face-to-Face Supports to Small Groups of Students

In the coming weeks, HCPSS will begin providing face-to-face support to small groups of students. Identified students and staff have been invited to complete an interest survey. If you did not receive a survey, it is because your child has not yet been identified for in-person support. All students who receive special education services will receive an email with directions to complete a survey. If your child receives special education services, and you have not received an email by Friday, September 25, then please reach out to Ann Scholz (ann_scholz@hcpss.org) from the Office of Special Education Compliance, Non-Public Services, and Family Support. More information about the HCPSS In-Person Support initiative can be found here: <https://www.hcpss.org/2020-2021/small-groups/>.

WLMS Spirit Ware Fundraiser

The WLMS spirit ware site is up and running. WLMS will receive \$3 for each item sold and proceeds from the sale will directly benefit students and staff in school-wide activities. Available

are t-shirts, sweatshirts, masks, etc. Payment is by Visa or Mastercard and all items will be shipped directly to your home. Sale closes October 8, 2020 so don't delay.

Copy and paste the link to order: <https://www.bsnteamssports.com/shop/WLSHARKS>

MAP Testing

On Wednesday October 7 and 14, students in grades 2-8 will take the Measured Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. The data from the MAP assessment will help schools and teachers measure where your child is starting the year academically. The HCPSS intends to also give the assessment in winter and spring to measure how your child's learning is progressing throughout the year. The MAP test does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly. To learn more about the MAP assessment, please visit: <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/>

The Reading test will be offered on October 7 at 9 am and 1 pm. The Math test will be offered on October 14 at 9am and 1pm. Students may choose to attend either the morning or afternoon session. If your child is unable to attend, makeup testing will be offered during asynchronous learning times. Google Meet information and your student's testing group has already been shared with your child through the MAP Testing Module on Canvas. For more information, please contact Ms. Young at denise_young@hcpss.org

Math Academy

The Office of Secondary Mathematics would like to let you know that Khan Academy has a new section within their site called, [*Get Ready Courses*](#). This site has the skills students will need for the next grade level. Students can fill gaps, refresh skills, and/or prepare for the next course! The site has activities for grades 3 through PreCalculus. This is a good place for you to send your student if they don't have math this semester or are in need of extra support. Students do not need to sign in or sign up.

Website: <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/get-ready-courses>

BSAP Saturday Math Academy

Registration for the Fall BSAP Math Academy will begin September 26 from 9-12 or until the course closes. Class space is limited. Parents can request through [HCPSS Connect](#). See the Howard County website for more details.

<https://www.hcpss.org/schools/bsap/saturday-math-academy/>

Free Food Distribution:

Lancaster Foods and Feed America has given a grant to allow for a Pop Up Food Distribution at Ducketts Lane Elementary School! It will be occurring every Saturday for the month of October! Here are few key highlights:

- **Each Car/Family will receive a 36 pound box of food including fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, and dairy!**
- **No documentation is required for families to receive a box of food-anyone is welcome!**

- **Only at Ducketts Lane Elementary in Elkridge, MD**

See the attached flier for more information.

Join the PTSA!

<https://tigersharks.new.memberhub.store/>

Committees: (We need volunteers for all)

Membership: Help with getting new members, filling out membership cards

Spirit Wear: Coordinate spirit wear with the vendor, coordinate new design if needed, and manage the merchandise. Deliveries are being handled by a volunteer.

Gotcha Store: Organize and purchase items for store in school, three or four times a year.

Events: This is a catch-all for any event that we come up with or have hosted in the past such as Latino Heritage Month, School Anniversary, etc. Comprised of various sub-committees.

Communications: Manage FB page, email comms with school and blasts, manage listserv lists

Stay in touch:

Like our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/WLMSPTSA/>

Join our mailing list <https://forms.gle/CLA9Suruv6eJrpvT6>

Watch our BTSN PTSA video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E1j3LA0ngnl7K8owl78-EyXn73lDP5PJ/view?usp=sharing>

Any questions:

If you have any questions please reach out to me directly, Christine Porras (917.620.0584)

christineporras@gmail.com

In case you missed it:

Student Absences

Need to report a student absence? Parents, please send an email to wlmsabsence@hcpss.org to report your child's absence from classes.

Flu Clinics for HCPSS Students

HCPSS, the Howard County Health Department and the Maryland Partnership for Prevention again this year will offer flu clinics at no cost for both students and staff beginning October 7 – 14. **Pre-registration is required**, during which parents/guardians and/or staff will schedule an appointment at the clinic of their choice. Flu clinics will take place outdoors and will utilize a drive-through or walk-through system. Anyone attending will be required to wear a mask. All clinics are from 4-6pm. Remember you must pre-register. For more information, and to register, please click the link below:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2020/09/hcpss-free-flu-clinics-october-2020/>

The last day to register is Wednesday, September 30.

Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS)

Many HCPSS families are eligible to participate in the [Free and Reduced Price Meals \(FARMS\) program](#), which provides children with a wide range of benefits including free or discounted college tuition, testing and application fees, academic and athletic program fees and many others in addition to free or discounted meals. We urge WLMS families to check your eligibility and complete the FARMS application regardless of whether you've previously participated in the program. **And, I encourage you to enroll by October 10** so your application can be reconciled by October 31, 2020, because Title I services for the 2021-2022 school year will be determined by our number of qualifying students by that date. *Many families have been financially impacted by the pandemic and may now be eligible for FARMS.*