

December 15, 2023

Hello HMS Families,

I hope everyone had a great week! On behalf of our staff, I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday break, and if you are on the go over the holiday break, safe travels!

Just a reminder, all FCS schools and buildings are closed for the Holiday/End-of-Semester break from December 16th– January 1st, and students do not return until January 3rd. January 2nd is a workday and staff will be engaged in several different activities. Please do not expect to pop in and meet with a staff member without an appointment.

“Word of the Week” - Vocabulary development is a crucial component of an effective literacy program. Each week, we identify a new vocabulary word that we want our students to become more familiar with and be able to add to their repertoire. Our hope is that by exposing students to a different word every week, they can begin to “own” these words and make them a part of their working vocabulary! We encourage you to find ways to use this word in your conversations with your students whenever the opportunity presents itself!

The “Word of the Week” will return on January 8th!!!

News and Notes:

- If your student missed an exam this week, they can come to school on the 2nd from 9-noon or stay after school until 5:30 on Wednesday and/or Thursday (January 4th and 5th).
- New Electronic Pass System for Students – When we return from break, we will begin utilizing a new system for issuing student passes. SmartPass is a system that allows us to track when and how often students use passes. It also allows us to set limits so only a pre-determined number of students can get a pass to the same place at the same time. It even allows us to keep combinations of students from being in the hallways at the same time if necessary. The system is accessed through Classlink and meets all privacy requirements for use in Fulton County Schools. We hope this will help us more effectively manage and monitor students throughout the day, with the ultimate goal of keeping them in class more!

School Activities:

- **YEARBOOK** - The HMS 2023-2024 yearbook is now on sale on the Jostens website. If you have any questions about yearbook purchases, please contact Mrs. Karen Allen (allenk2@fultonschools.org). The link is: <https://bit.ly/3YpEgAi>
- **8th Grade Parents only** – Yearbook Recognition Ads are on sale **NOW**. These are the pages at the back of the book that recognize your 8th graders before they move on to high school. The ad is created by you using the Jostens online software. **There is a deadline for this optional purchase: December 15.** This year the ad costs \$50 and can be created using this link: https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/ybAdDesigner/1653131/-/20231107141511920158/CATALOG_SHOP/

- **YEARBOOK NEEDS YOUR HELP!** The yearbook staff is inviting students and parents to submit photos for the yearbook. If you've got great photos of school and community events or you and your friends just having fun outside of school, we'd like to see them. Our photographers can't be everywhere. Help us get as many photos as possible to create a terrific book everyone will want to have. Ideas can be sports photos from feeder teams, Halloween and other holidays, or pictures of students just hanging out and having a good time on the weekends. There is no limit to the number of photos you can submit. To submit, just click on the link:
https://images.jostens.com/0mRzn1-bo_AYGOy_MnaE1TA

Other Items:

- The second semester enrollment window for Fulton County's online school, Fulton Academy of Virtual Excellence (FAVE), is open! We are an accredited, full-time virtual Fulton County public school and serve Fulton County students in grades 2 – 12.

Our FAVE school community is strong! Students not only learn from home, but also attend live gatherings with their peers and FAVE staff to form bonds that span the county. They also can participate in FCS sports and clubs at their zoned schools. In addition, students who demonstrate academic excellence can opt for our Flex path, which allows them to learn independently and access course content on demand to meet their learning needs.

If your student wants flexibility, excellence in education, and an innovative, future forward educational platform, FAVE is right for you! Act fast – the window closes **January 5th**.

Please visit our website, www.fultonschools.org/fave for more information!

- From the PTA:
 - Thank YOU, Hopewell Families, for your unending generosity! Our annual holiday outreach campaign, GIVE JOY, was a success because of the incredible donations collected to fulfill wishlists for each family! Because of you, the holidays will be much brighter for families in our community who will be receiving these special gifts! We hope you all have a wonderful holiday break!
 - PTA General Membership Meeting will be held virtually on January 24 at 9:30am
 - Are you or anyone you know interested in serving in a PTA position? Please fill out the following survey. Feel free to share the link with upcoming 6th grade Hopewell parents or those who might be interested! <https://forms.gle/EPkfeo64jECP8RAPA>
 - Thanks to all of our amazing business partners!



General Reminders:

- HMS has an email specifically for sending in notes/excuses for student absences. You can email your parent, doctor, dentist, etc. note to HMSAttendance@fultonschools.org. This is not for early dismissal requests. These notes should be sent into the front office with your student in the morning on the day they need to leave early. You do not need to email individual teachers to notify them of an absence.
- If you need to check your child out of school early, **please remember we do not allow checkouts after 3:30!** If they are leaving early, send them in to the Front Office in the morning with a note from you. This makes the whole process easier and more efficient, and prevents us from having to disrupt their class when it's time for them to leave.
- The Front Office closes at 5:00, so please do not expect anyone to answer the phones or be there to buzz you in unless there is an evening activity.

Thanks so much for your support of our school!

Sincerely,

Michael LeMoyne

Principal – Hopewell Middle School

HMS Website - <http://school.fultonschools.org/ms/hopewell/Pages/default.aspx>

Follow me on Twitter - @MichaelLeMoyne

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