

August 11, 2023

Hello HMS Families,

We have had a great first week and have truly enjoyed having your kids back at school! We ended today with a great “Mustang PRIDE Hype Day” to celebrate being back to school. Special thanks to our PRIDE Committee, PE staff, teachers, and our parent volunteers who helped with some of the logistics and planning for the day!

Every Friday, you will receive an email from me with important updates or news items, information about school or community activities, and reminders of important routines and procedures at HMS. **At a minimum, we ask that you skim it for any new or important information.** Along with this email, it is important to note that answers to many of your questions can be found on the HMS website and/or in the Student/Parent Handbook, which is under the Academics tab on the website!

### **Some things of note regarding processes and procedures:**

- Dismissal the first several days is always a challenge, but we’re getting there! Buses are getting better, but it does take some time for the routines to get established and the times to get more predictable. I appreciate your patience as things settle out!
- Afternoon carpool has gone surprisingly well, thanks to everyone who visited the website ([Carpool Procedures / Carpool Procedures \(fultonschools.org\)](https://fultonschools.org/Carpool-Procedures)) and read the directions before coming, and for the others, thanks for politely following the directions of the staff members outside.
- Just a heads up, we ask that you limit drop-offs of items to emergencies only. Make sure students have money on their lunch account that they can use if they forget their lunch, and if they forget a notebook or something like that, they can live without it for a day. We will not call students up to the front to pick up items, unless it is medication or some other emergency situation warrants it.
- 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](mailto: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.
- When you have a need to communicate with staff, please follow the guidelines below:
  - o For specific classroom issues, email the teacher first
  - o For general questions about how the day works, email the Advisement teacher
  - o For general issues related to your student, email the counselor
  - o For issues related to student safety and student behavior, email the grade-level Assistant Principal
  - o If you need to speak with/meet with someone, we recommend you either call the front office or email the person you want to meet with. Dropping in during the school day unannounced can be challenging, especially at the beginning and end of the school day. We would always recommend calling/emailing first, and if you do need to come in, we can make sure the person you need to speak with is available.

## News and Notes:

- Device Deployment – we will be deploying FCS devices to students on Monday morning. We will follow the Testing/Special Activity Bell Schedule ([Testing/Special Activity Bell Schedule](#)) on Monday and deploy during the extended Homeroom period.

As we shared prior to the open of school, we are asking families to provide a small device bag if they are able to, and your student should bring that with them on Monday morning. The bag should be no larger than 16"x12" and can have a strap. Large student bags/backpacks make movement in the classrooms and hallways more difficult, are more likely to cause damage to the devices, and create other safety risks as well. These should be left in students' lockers during the school day. If you are unable to provide this bag for your child, we will have something for them to use after we distribute devices.

If you do not want your child to receive an FCS device, please fill out this form - <https://forms.office.com/r/U4zT9P4Pj1>

- HMS is committed to providing a learning environment where students feel safe and supported. The following are a few "points of emphasis" related to that:
  - We conducted severe weather, fire, and lockdown drills this week. We shared a few very important points regarding safety as well, including:
    - During a drill or actual emergency, it is imperative that you listen to the staff member you are with. Phones and other electronic devices can be distracting and should not be used.
    - If you see (or hear) something, say something! We can't prevent or respond to issues we don't know about, so students should report concerns to a staff member ASAP.
    - All of our exterior doors are closed and locked during the school day. It is imperative that students never open a door for someone else without the permission of a staff member.
- From the PTA:
  - "We are excited for our new Spirit Wear Store! Please check out our online store: <https://fyrethornspiritwear.com/hopewell-middle-school/>
  - Welcome to our new HMS PTA Business Partner Beau Vinci Violins (<https://beauvincivilins.com/>)! They are located in downtown Alpharetta. Please check out ways to rent your instrument for orchestra!
- The new Fulton County Schools Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook (2023-24) is ready to start receiving parent/guardian signatures. Students age 10 years and older and all parents/guardians who have a student attending Fulton County Schools should sign. Use the link [How to sign the Code of Conduct](#) to see step-by-step instructions on how to sign.

## School Activities:

- **YEARBOOK:** The HMS 2023-2024 yearbook is now on sale on the Jostens website. If you purchase your book early in the school year, you are guaranteed the LOWEST price (which is \$50) and there are some additional personalization benefits available to you. If you have any questions about yearbook purchases, please contact Mrs. Karen Allen (allenk2@fultonschools.org).

The link is: <https://bit.ly/3YpEgAi>



SCAN ME

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents only** – Yearbook Recognition Ads are on sale NOW. These are the pages in the back of the book that recognize your 8<sup>th</sup> 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 \$45 and can be created using this link: <https://bit.ly/3s1cxtV>

- **DEBATE TEAM:** The HMS Debate Team is looking for new members for this year's team. The team is open to all students in all grade levels. There will be an informational meeting on **Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am in Mrs. Allen's room – C117.** This meeting is for students only. Students will be given all information to take home and review with their parent(s) before signing up. This year's topic is very interesting....

**The United States federal government should substantially increase fiscal redistribution in the United States by adopting a federal jobs guarantee, expanding Social Security, and/or providing a basic income.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Allen ([allenk2@fultonschools.org](mailto:allenk2@fultonschools.org)).

- **JUNIOR BETA:** The Junior Beta membership drive is going on through the month of August. Junior Beta is an honor society that focuses on service, leadership, and academic achievement. Students who meet the eligibility requirements will receive a membership invitation through their homeroom teachers. The club is only open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students. All students wishing to join the club should submit their membership forms by Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> to Mrs. Allen in C117. Our first club meeting will be Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> in the media center at 8:15am. If you have any questions regarding Junior Beta or have a service project idea, please contact Mrs. Allen ([allenk2@fultonschool.org](mailto:allenk2@fultonschool.org))

- **Soccer:** Do you have a child that plays soccer or is interested in playing soccer? Hopewell offers a Co-Ed soccer team to our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, allowing them to compete against other middle schools in the area. Students must have an up to date physical completed by a physician before trying out. All paperwork and game schedule can be found at <https://hopewellsports.weebly.com> . Tryouts will be 8/22/23-8/24/23 and the first game is on 9/13/23. If you have any more questions, please reach out to Coach Hill at [hillmd@fultonschools.org](mailto:hillmd@fultonschools.org)

## Other Items:



## General Reminders:

- If your child needs to leave school 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.
- If you need to check your child out of school early, **please remember we do not allow checkouts after 3:30!** In addition, 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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