

August 18, 2023

Hello HMS Families,

I hope you and your kids had a great week 2 of the school year! Students have done a great job settling into our routines and procedures at HMS, and staff are excited to be doing what they love, supporting students so that they can learn at high levels!

Processes and Procedures Reminder(s)/Update(s):

- I am starting to accept the fact that COVID is never completely going away! That being said, our practices and procedures have changed when it comes to responding to positive cases. In general, we are no longer reporting/informing close contacts. However, if your child tests positive, you should still report that. To report, go to the Student Health Services page under the "Students and Families" tab on the district website (click [here](#) for the direct link to that page) and look for the blue banner titled "**Parent (Student) COVID-19 Reporting Portal.**" Once you report, please keep your student at home until you are contacted with more information.
- We have added an extremely helpful tool on our website for parents and students. On the main website page, scroll down and click on the "Assessment Calendars" icon. This will allow you to see the dates of upcoming assessments for each grade-level. We will review this calendar weekly with your kids in Advisement, but you can stay on top of it as well!

News and Notes:

- Curriculum Nights will take place next Monday, August 21st (6th Grade) and Thursday, August 24th (7th/8th Grade). Both evenings start at 6:00. If you are unable to attend, please note that we will post our materials from the General Session on the website, and teachers post their syllabi on Teams and are available via email for any questions you might have. **It is best if you have a paper or electronic copy of your child's schedule with you when you arrive.**
- We will be running our "Testing/Special Activity" bell schedule Monday-Thursday next week. Students will report to Homeroom first to work on the iReady diagnostic assessments. We will return to a normal schedule on Friday. You can find this schedule (along with our regular bell schedule) on the HMS website under the "Our School" tab.
- Picture Day is September 1st! Click on the links below for more information:
 - o [Email Flyer-2023-09-01.pdf](#)
 - o [Full Color Flyer-2023-09-01.pdf](#)
- We have closed the window for any schedule change requests. This includes online classes and requests for shortened days. Our schedule (and staffing decisions) are locked at this point, and schedule changes can cause significant disruption to the schedule.
- Most of our students have received their devices at this point, although some students who have recently enrolled may not have yet. For your information, students can get help with their device during the day by visiting our School Technology Specialist, Mr. Cowart, during his office hours (2nd, 4th, and 8th period). Also, please note the fine structure below (fines can be paid

through OSP or cash/money orders brought to the front office) related to FCS devices and the HMS device bags (if your child is using one):

- Lost/Stolen Device - \$260 via OSP (\$250 cash or money order)
- Damaged Device - \$104 via OSP (\$100 cash or money order)
- Lost or damaged Charger - \$32 via OSP (\$30 cash or money order)
- Lost or damaged Device Bag - \$15 via OSP, cash, or money order

- From the PTA:

- The 6th Grade Fall Festival is scheduled for Friday, September 29th immediately after school. Look for a permission form in the next couple weeks. Also, we will be asking for a small donation to cover some of the costs. Stay tuned for more information...
- Business Partner Highlights
 - **Summit Counseling:** A message from Summit Counseling:
 - As a parent, you want what is best for your child, but it's not always easy to know what type of support they need. Counseling services can be a positive support to all students with a wide range of needs, and over time, these services can help them better manage their emotions, improve focus inside and outside the classroom, improve or maintain relationships with family, friends, and school staff, and benefit their overall health.
 - Hopewell Middle School has partnered with the Summit Counseling Center to offer confidential school-based mental health therapy. With Summit therapists on site, students have the option to receive services during their school day. This flexibility allows the therapist to quickly intervene, so students get the help they need to achieve their best at school. Visit www.summitcounseling.org to view services and schedule an appointment today!
 - **Beau Vinci**
 - Welcome to our new HMS PTA Business Partner Beau Vinci Violins! Located in downtown Alpharetta. Please check out ways to rent your instrument for orchestra! <https://beauvinciolins.com/>
 - **Sam-Savant Flooring**
 - Welcome to another new HMS PTA Business Partner: Sam-Savant Flooring!



- 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:

- **Virtual Author Visit** - Hopewell has been offered a virtual author visit from Jason Reynolds, a #1 New York Times bestselling author of many award-winning books. The recipient of a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, an NAACP Image Award, and multiple Coretta Scott King honors, Reynolds is also the 2020-2022 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. He is on faculty at Lesley University for the Writing for Young People MFA Program and lives in Washington, DC.

This event will take place on Tuesday, August 29th around 10:30. Students who want to attend must sign up before August 23rd (through the Media Center Team Site) so we can make the appropriate arrangements for viewing the author's talk). Students also need to specify if they want to purchase a school lunch that day since this event will run into some of the grade levels lunch times.

If you have any questions, please email Whitney (Beem) Beck at beemw@fultonschools.org.

- **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>

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

- **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 7th and 8th-grade students. All students wishing to join the club should submit their membership forms by Wednesday, August 30th to Mrs. Allen in C117. Our first club meeting will be Friday, September 1st in the media center at 8:15am. This year, we will be attending the state convention and competition in Savannah. The convention takes place at the end of November, after the Thanksgiving break. If your child is NEW to HMS this year and would like to join, or if you have any questions regarding Junior Beta or have a service project idea, please contact Mrs. Allen (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 7th and 8th 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

Other Items:





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 LeMoynes
Principal – Hopewell Middle School

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

Follow me on Twitter - @MichaelLeMoynes

Follow HMS on Twitter - @HMSMustangPride