

September 22, 2023

Hello HMS Families,

I hope everyone had a great week!

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

Have a concern, here's how to address it!

- Parents with concerns are encouraged to seek assistance from school personnel. Teachers cannot be called from class to receive phone calls, but are expected to return calls and emails within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. **It is requested that the following protocol be utilized in asking for assistance. Please follow the order below.**
  1. **Classroom Teacher** – the vast majority of classroom-based concerns can be solved by having a conversation/meeting with the classroom teacher. We ask parents to make this connection first before they reach out to others.
  2. **Counselor** – if a conversation/meeting with the classroom teacher did not produce the desired results, or if the concern spans multiple classrooms or is more about social/emotional issues, reach out to your student's counselor.
  3. **Assistant Principal** – Assistant Principals can assist with ongoing classroom-based issues that have not been solved, and they can also assist with "major" discipline issues. Please note, "major" discipline issues include one-time serious incidents or repeated "minor" issues that have been escalated to the Assistant Principal. For "minor" classroom concerns, start with the teacher!
  4. **Principal** – For schoolwide issues involving procedures and policies, specifically safety or curricular concerns, reach out to the school Principal. The Principal will also become involved if a parent has worked through the other layers of the organization and has still not gotten a satisfactory resolution of their concern(s).

Some other tips to help us effectively communicate and problem-solve:

- Assume goodwill! By the time your child comes home and tells you about what happened at school, the details may be blurry, there may be some exaggeration, or there might have just been a misunderstanding or miscommunication that can be easily resolved. Assume goodwill and know that we are all interested in solving issues and helping students move forward and be successful. Approaching conflict with an open mind and willingness to understand and possibly forgive small missteps is a great way to build trust and rapport with school staff.
- When your kids come home and tell you something positive, reach out to the staff member involved and give them a shout-out! Teachers and school staff work hard and are inherently tough on ourselves, the positive feedback from students and parents means the world to us!

**"Word of the Week"** - Vocabulary development is a crucial component of an effective literacy program, and we are restarting Word of the Week for the 23-24 school year. 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” for next week is....Sociable!

## News and Notes:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents ONLY: All 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the NWEA MAP assessment between September 25 and October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This assessment is a computer adaptive test that measures skills in Reading and Math. MAP is used as a universal screener and a nationally normed assessment. The results help determine a student’s overall academic performance level and identify students who may benefit from additional services or support to meet their learning goals. MAP scores will not be entered into the grade book.

The Math MAP assessment will be given during the window of September 25<sup>th</sup>-September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, during 7<sup>th</sup> grade math classes. The Reading MAP assessment will be given during the window of October 2<sup>nd</sup>-October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, during 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA classes. The test will not take the entire week. It is estimated to be between 45 and 60 minutes long.

If you have any questions about the MAP assessment, please reach out to Amy Cousin at [CousinA@fultonschools.org](mailto:CousinA@fultonschools.org). See the flyer ([MAP Parent Flyer 23-24.pdf](#)) for additional information.

- 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:

- In honor of Bullying Prevention Month, local Alpharetta author, Mike Buchanan, will be coming to Hopewell Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 PM to discuss his novel (and subsequent movie) "The Fat Boy Chronicle." He wrote this story from the experiences of one of his former students and the bullying that he endured by being overweight. Mr. Buchanan came to Hopewell last year and gave a very inspiring talk, so we are lucky to have him return during such an important month.

Parents, please sign up your student at [bit.ly/oct3authorvisit](https://bit.ly/oct3authorvisit)

- Tennis News!!!
  - o 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders interested in trying out for the Hopewell Tennis Team please complete [Tennis Registration](#). Tryouts will be October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am on the Tennis courts. Contact Anna LoBean questions: [lobean@fultonschools.org](mailto:lobean@fultonschools.org)
  - o Intramural Tennis is underway for 6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> graders that want to hit/ practice in the mornings at 7:45 am. This is not the Hopewell Tennis Team. Please fill out [Intramural Tennis Form](#) to participate. Contact Anna LoBean for questions: [lobean@fultonschools.org](mailto:lobean@fultonschools.org)

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Festival is scheduled for Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> immediately after school. Fliers were passed out to students last week and attached to the Friday notes. We are asking for a small \$6.00 donation to cover some of the costs. The deadline to sign-up is Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up your student here:



- All 7<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a Fall Festival on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:15 until 6:00 p.m. This is an outdoor event for 7<sup>th</sup> graders ONLY. Students need to be picked up promptly at 6:00 p.m. in the carpool and bus lanes. Food, music, and games will be provided! Students are expected to show their Mustang PRIDE at the event.

Look for a link to the permission form and a \$6 donation through OSP in next week's message.



- Volleyball Tryouts (Boys and Girls!) - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls AND boys are eligible to try out for volleyball this year! Girls tryouts are October 2 & 3 at 7 am in the Hopewell gym. See Emily Moore for questions [meyere@fultonschools.org](mailto:meyere@fultonschools.org) Boys tryouts are October 4 & 5 at 4:15 pm in the Hopewell gym. See Logan Deyarmin for questions [deyarmin1@fultonschools.org](mailto:deyarmin1@fultonschools.org)

Follow this link to fill out all necessary paperwork: [Microsoft Forms](#)

- **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](mailto:allenk2@fultonschools.org)).

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

**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>

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](https://images.jostens.com/0mRzn1-bo_AYGOy_MnaE1TA)

- It is not too late to join the HMS Debate team. Come out and enjoy the fun of arguing with others! If your child is interested, please have them stop by C117 and pick up an information sheet and membership form. Practices are Mondays after school until 5:30. Mrs. Karen Allen is the coach for the debate team: contact her with questions: [allenk2@fultonschools.org](mailto:allenk2@fultonschools.org)
- Got old athletic shoes sitting in your closet or garage? Junior Beta wants them! We are conducting a shoe drive for new and used athletic shoes. They can be any type of sneakers or running shoes. Cleats (with no metal spikes) are welcome as well. Shoes are sent to women in third-world countries where the shoes are recycled, repurposed, or resold to make them more financially independent. We are collecting shoes until October 31. If you have any you want to donate – please send them in with your children and have them drop it off in Mrs. Allen's room (C117).

## Other Items:

- Innovation Academy is hosting a Phoenix Tank on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Students who sign up will take a FCS bus to and from IA where they will spend the day doing a deep dive into the world of Design Thinking as students embark on a journey of managing their own business. [Click here](#) for more details. If you want your student to participate in this unique experience, please complete [this form](#). There are limited spots available, but you will be notified on October 16th if your student will be attending.
- Innovation Academy will be hosting a **free STEM Saturday for all 7th and 8th grade students** who are eligible to apply on **11/4/2023 from 9am-12pm.** This day each student will engage in STEM activities that will be led by our students and teachers. Registration for the day will begin at 8:30 with activities beginning at 9:00am.

Sign-ups will be available to the first 100 students who sign-up. Every sign-up after the first 100 will be waitlisted. **Deadline to apply is 10/22/23 (use the QR code below).** Any questions, please reach out to [guraishyh@fultonschools.org](mailto:guraishyh@fultonschools.org)



- From the PTA:

- Reflections - Does your student enjoy art, music and dance or have an interest in writing, producing films and taking photos? We invite them to unleash their inner artist with PTA Reflections! Reflections is a national art contest celebrating the importance of arts education. In the 50+ years since the program's founding, millions of students have been inspired to participate by reflecting on a specific, student-selected theme to create original artwork. For inspiration, visit the Reflections virtual art gallery and learn more about prizes and scholarships at [PTA.org/Reflections/Awards](https://PTA.org/Reflections/Awards).

This year's theme is: I am hopeful because...

Entries are due no later than Friday October 20th. Download submission guidelines and an entry form from the Hopewell PTA website:

<https://hopewellmspta.membershiptoolkit.com>

*Feel free to reach out to the HMS Reflections Chair Katie Black at [vlackkm@yahoo.com](mailto:vlackkm@yahoo.com) with any questions.*

- Book Fair - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA4AE2EA4F4C70-2023>
  - It is that time of year again for the annual Book Fair at Hopewell Middle School.
    - When: **October 5 - 17th from 7:45 AM - 4:15PM**
    - Where: HMS Media Center
    - How do students attend? They come with their ELA classes during the school day. They can also attend our Family Fun Night.
    - How can I help? Volunteer spots are open now for parents to volunteer to help with the Book Fair. Prior to volunteering you need to complete the Fulton County Volunteer requirements by going to <https://www.fultonschools.org/volunteer>. Don't worry it is quick and easy! On the day you volunteer sign in with the front desk and head back to the Media Center.
- Family Fun Night - Date: **October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6-8pm**
  - Location: HMS Cafeteria, Atrium and Gym
  - Who can attend? All families are invited, including younger children! Students need to be supervised to attend.
  - Help us setup, clean up or run the event by volunteering HERE (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA4AE2EA4F4C70-hopewell>) The more volunteers we have the more we can divide up tasks so that everyone can enjoy time with their families at the event.
  - Cost: This event is sponsored by the HMS PTA and is **FREE** to attend !
  - It is that time of year again to bring your family to Hopewell MS and discover the exciting world of Harry Potter during our Family Fun Night. The Hopewell

PTA will provide Pizza, Popcorn and Butter Beer (soda) as you engage in the wonderful world of Harry Potter.

- At the Family Fun Night, you can:
  - Purchase books for your family and teachers at the Book Fair
  - Engage in Harry Potter themed activities such as:
  - Play Quidditch
  - Engage in craft activities
  - Be sorted into your Hogwarts House
  - Take Harry Potter pictures using our green screen
  - Participate in Harry Potter Trivia
  - Go on a scavenger hunt to find the Golden Snitch and more



## 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](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.
- 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

Follow HMS on Twitter - @HMSMustangPride