

January 5, 2024

Hello HMS Families,

I hope everyone had a great holiday break! On behalf of our staff, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

**“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” next week is...Endurance!!!

### **News and Notes:**

- Sad Staffing Update – Whitney Beem, our METI extraordinaire, is leaving us to take over as METI at FCS Innovation Academy. Ms. Beem is a former HMS Professional of the Year (2018) and was named FCS “METI of the Year” in 2021. We will miss all that she brought to our school and wish her well as she moves down the road a bit to serve the students at IA. Her last day at HMS is next Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Due to some new enrollments and adjustments that needed to be made to appropriately place students and balance classes, it became necessary to adjust some student schedules at the beginning of the semester. We did everything we could to avoid changes, but if they had to be made, we made them. When a change to your student’s schedule had to be made, we did the best we could to keep them with the same teacher and minimize the number of changes we made to their daily schedule. Scheduling 1,200 students is challenging enough, but making sure students are appropriately placed also ensures we receive as much state and federal funding as possible.

Our teachers will work hard to ensure that your child settles into their new classes as seamlessly as possible.

- Flu/COVID/RSV Update - [DHS Flu Update - Dec 2023.pdf](#)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents, you should have received an email earlier this morning with a bunch of information about upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade events and activities. In case you missed it, here’s a link to a document with this information - [8th Parent email january 2024 dance.trip.tour.pdf](#)

## 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](mailto:allenk2@fultonschools.org)). The link is: <https://bit.ly/3YpEgAi>
- **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)

## 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 today, **January 5<sup>th</sup>**.

Please visit our website, [www.fultonschools.org/fave](http://www.fultonschools.org/fave) for more information!

- From the PTA:
  - PTA General Membership Meeting will be held virtually on January 24 at 9:30am
  - Attention 8th grade families - Save the Date for the 8th Grade Dance!
    - Date: Friday, February 9th
    - Time: 7pm - 9:30pm
    - Location: HMS Cafeteria
    - Attire: Casual to Semi Formal
  - 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](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

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