

COUGAR NEWS

UPCOMING DATES:

September 28th – Yom Kippur - Schools and Offices Closed

Update Your Family File

If you have not already done so, please update your child's emergency contact information in HCPSS Connect! This is the most important step as we prepare for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. **Your Family file needs to be updated every school year.**

Having this information is critical to use for emergency information and early closings. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information for each child, and can do so by logging in to [HCPSS Connect](#) and selecting the Family File tab and then clicking on Family File.

HCPSS uses Family File for parents/guardians to complete emergency information. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information for each child.

Here are directions for the updating the Family file: [HCPSS Connect Parent Access.pdf](#)

Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to provide or **update** the following information:

- Student information
- Parent/guardian contact
- Emergency contacts
- Medical information
- Arrival/dismissal procedures
- Media release (photo approval)
- Data confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA directory

Changes of address may **not** be made through Family File. **If you have recently moved, please contact CES Mattia_Lambiotte@hcpss.org OR Amy_Stevens@hcpss.org** as soon as possible as we need to update your address in our files as well.



Congratulations to a Great First Week of Virtual Learning!

Dear Clarksville Families and Friends,

I want to say a sincere thank you to all of our CES staff, students, and families for such a successful first week of virtual learning. Although we had some challenges with technology, I am glad we were able to resolve concerns quickly. We received a great deal of communication from families last week and we were so appreciative, as it allowed us to ensure that we were able to support everyone with virtual learning. Throughout virtual learning, please continue to communicate with your classroom teachers or reach out to Ms. Slattery or me, so we can continue to support you.

I am so proud of our staff at Clarksville ES! They work tirelessly day in and day out to learn new skills in their profession and deliver quality instruction in this virtual setting. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated and devoted staff who want to help our students learn!

This evening, we will be hosting our first PTA meeting. It will be held at our CES playground. Please be sure to bring your lawn chairs. If you are interested in joining the PTA, come out and hear about what the PTA has to offer for our school and our students. We hope you will consider becoming a member of our CES PTA.

Finally, please take the time to complete your Family File through HCPSS Connect if you have not done so already. As of last week we still had many families who still had not completed Family Files. Please take some time to complete it this week. We will send an individual email to you next week if you need to complete it. Directions will be provided in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to our second week of virtual learning and hope that it is even more exciting than last week. Thank you for your continued support!

Ms. Malcotti, Principal

TECHNOLOGY HELP

As time progresses, ease of use of the platforms should increase. [Student Technology Resources](#)

Provides guides, resources, and videos for HCPSS student technology. Below are some direct links to commonly used resources:

- [Canvas Orientation](#) - includes how to navigate Canvas
- [Google Meet](#) - includes a [video overview](#) of how-to login & provides a variety of resources for using an HCPSS Chromebook
- [Password and Username Self-Service](#): Allows families to request a password reset or student's username. New students can use this application to retrieve their account information.
- [HCPSS Connect Parent Resources](#): Provides HCPSS Connect—including Synergy, Canvas, and Family File—guides and videos for parents.



[Google Meet Troubleshooting](#)

[Technology FAQ](#)

Attention Parents & Guardians!

We have just finished our 1st week of virtual instruction. Please help us improve by filling out [this form](#) to tell us what went well & what was challenging.



HCPSS STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK 2020-21

The Student & Parent Handbook will no longer be printed and instead will be available online. The 2020-21 Student & Parent Handbook is available [here](#).

- [Chinese](#)
- [Korean](#)
- [Spanish](#)

The handbook outlines districtwide practices and policies related to students and parents. It additionally features sub-topics that describe various services, procedures, and protocols implemented in Howard County Public Schools.

The [2020-21 Student Code of Conduct](#) can be found within the Student & Parent Handbook and also is [available online](#).

ATTENDANCE DURING 2020-2021 FALL SEMESTER

Active student participation is the key to student achievement, both in the classroom and during distance learning. Teachers will design engaging lessons and activities, both for virtual live classes and online assignments. Regular participation is essential for student growth, and students are expected to engage in learning activities every week.

Student attendance for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday instruction will occur as follows:

- At the elementary level, both the Homeroom teacher and Mathematics teacher will take attendance, noting whether students were present online for synchronous instruction.
- Daily attendance will be based on teacher-recorded attendance for the entire school day.
- If there is a technical difficulty, a student may submit asynchronous work for a particular day to receive credit for attendance.

Student attendance for Wednesday instruction will occur as follows:

- A student will be counted as present if they do one or more of the following since the previous Wednesday:
 - Submit an assignment to one of their teachers
 - Engage in synchronous instruction with a HCPSS teacher
 - Complete work in the Canvas learning management system, DreamBox or Lexia Core5

If your child is absent, please send a note explaining the absence to this email address:

CESAttendance@hcpss.org

FOOD SERVICES INFORMATION

Meals will be provided at no cost to all students through December 31, 2020, subject to U.S. Department of Agriculture funding availability.

The food services program during the 2020-2021 first semester (Sept. 8, 2020 - Jan. 28, 2021) will consist of Grab-and-Go meals served Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.– 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. –12:45 p.m. beginning Tuesday, September 8.

Breakfast and lunch can be picked up at either mealtime.

MEAL LOCATIONS

CES is a site for meals. *Grab-and-Go meals will be distributed in the front entrance of the school.*

For your convenience, meals may be picked up at any location where meals are being served. Details and updated information on meal service for all school locations is provided on the [HCPSS Nutrislice website](#) and [mobile application](#).

MEAL PICKUP

Children do not need to be present; parents/guardians may pick up meals for their child(ren). Those with children attending multiple schools may do a single-stop meal pickup. Parents must indicate their child(ren)'s name(s) when picking up meals.

ASSIGNING A DESIGNEE

Some families may find it difficult to pick up meals for their children at the locations or times when meals are served. Parents/guardians may pick up meals for their children and up to one other family's meals without completing a request form. Families may also authorize a designee, who may pick up meals for up to three families, by submitting an online or paper form. See [guidelines for meal pickup by designees](#) for detailed information.

Visit the [Food Services website](#) for all the information about Food Distribution during the first semester.

INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FOR FREE AND REDUCED MEALS (FARMS)

HCPSS participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs which provide families with significant benefits to help save money. Qualification is based on family size and income, and enrollment is confidential. All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can get free meals regardless of income, and students from households that meet federal income guidelines are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals. Those eligible for reduced-price meals pay \$0.10 for breakfast and \$0.20 for lunch. [More information is on the HCPSS Website.](#)

The application is also on the last page of the Family File when you update your emergency contact information.



Clarksville Elementary has a new email address dedicated to reporting your student's absences. If your child will miss class for any reason, please use CESAttendance@hcpss.org to inform us. This mailbox will be monitored by front office staff so, please include the following information:

1. Your child's first and last name
2. Grade
3. Homeroom teacher
4. The dates your child is absent
5. The reason for the absence (if it is an illness, please list the symptoms so we can inform the health room)

Thank you, The Front Office staff

NOW IS THE TIME TO RETURN ALL THOSE LIBRARY MEDIA BOOKS!!

We are happy to announce that we are working on a plan to let the students check out a book by the end of September. **So it's very important that we receive the books that were checked out to students last year.** You can drop them off any time to the school. **There are blue bins in the vestibule between the glass doors to collect returned books.** (You don't have to put them in bags as they will sit for a week before checking in) If you don't remember what your student checked out you can email me at donna_britton@hcpss.org or our media para, Elaine Thomas elaine_thomas@hcpss.org

We will start sending emails to the homes of students that still have a book(s) out in the coming weeks.

Thank you in advance for getting those books back to us!!

Announcement from Mr. Schwab and Mr. Weiskind

Video links shared with each class this week:

[2nd Grade Seminar Video Link](#)

[3rd Grade Seminar Video Link](#)

[4th Grade Seminar Video Link](#)

[5th Grade Seminar Video Link](#)

Students, if you watched the video about Instructional Seminars with your class (listed above), and you would like to sign up for a Seminar with Mr. Schwab and Mr. Weiskind, then click the link below. The link will take you to a Seminar Selector Survey. Your parents may help you fill it out. Be sure to check your schedule and decide which 1 or 2 seminars you would like to join. Read everything carefully, then answer all the questions, and click SUBMIT.

SIGN UP FORM LINKS:

2nd Grade	https://forms.gle/QuvVAqj5FK8R7U3LA
3rd Grade	https://forms.gle/ZgpABA4vEsT7uURF7
4th Grade	https://forms.gle/Aeb8yqcTuq2UVrXYA
5th Grade	https://forms.gle/tgBAAyRhK6fMnqsk9

Announcement from Band, Strings, & Chorus

Hi CES Families!

Ms. Cherry, Ms. D'Avella, and Ms. Thompson are excited to have your 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders join Band, Chorus, and Strings this year! Whether you are new to the program or participated last year, make sure you have signed up!

[Take a look at this document to learn more!](#)

[Click here to sign up now!](#) (If you've already filled this out, no need to do it again)

Have more questions? You can send us an email OR visit one of our music meet and greets! These will occur THIS WEDNESDAY at 2:30pm and 7:30pm! Google Meet code: **cesmusicmeetandgreet**

We can't wait to make music with you!

Ms. Cherry (Band) Jennifer_cherry@hcpss.org

Ms. D'Avella (Chorus) Emily_davella@hcpss.org

Ms. Thompson (Strings) Wesley_thompson@hcpss.org



Birthday Celebrations for September

The following students are celebrating a birthday this month. We want to wish them all a Happy Birthday!

1st	Chloe Bai	15th	Preston Haag
2nd	Banoshree Das		Ryan Salem
	Caleb Magana-Vasquez		Zein Akhras
3rd	Katherine Goldsmith	16th	Kennedi Young
	Juneyd Sakhavat	17th	Grace Chen
4th	Yasmine Cedars		Caleb Lee
	Emily Mei	18th	Liam Olson
6th	Emmallia Cortes	19th	Seth Demuren
	Sakshi Schull		Mila Rogers
7th	Isaiah Irvin	20th	Benjamin Kharrazi
8th	Hannah Gorsuch	22nd	John Kostibas
	Douglass Gartell		Elsa Nguyen
9th	Milan Merrills		Shahzaib Syed
10th	Ace Hart		Sebastain Taylor
	Grace Jung	24th	Aidan Kearney
12th	Soany Lopez Hernandez	25th	Katherine Liu
13th	Daniel Jackson	28th	Jeffrey Love
	Azra Mirasyedi		Marwan Almekkawi
14th	Emily Oh	29th	Xylia Wheat
	Gianna Lagurardia	30th	Kai Jensen
	Yassaman Nasser-Asi		Cole Pickett