

## Dragon Tales

August 18, 2020

### Summer Updates and Information

Hello DMS Families,

Our staff have been gearing for the start of the new school year. We are anxiously waiting to reconnect with our Dragons and their families. We have the following summer updates and information to share.

#### Chromebook/Internet Access Request

HCPSS will provide a Chromebook to every student in middle school within the first quarter. While devices are being procured, parents/guardians of middle school students currently in need of a device may request one. Requests will be prioritized based on students' access to personal devices meeting the minimum requirements. Please click [here](#) for more information from HCPSS.

In addition to Chromebooks, any family without access to the internet should notify the school system using the directions below. HCPSS is working with the Bright Minds Foundation and Comcast to support families who may be eligible to participate in the [Comcast Internet Essentials program](#). Additionally, HCPSS will prioritize the distribution of a limited number of hot spots to families who cannot obtain access to the internet.

To identify your need for a Chromebook or internet:

1. Parents/guardians should [log in to HCPSS Connect](#).
2. From the left menu, last choice, select "More Options" then choose "Student Technology" from the center of the screen.
3. On the HCPSS Student Technology screen, use the drop-down arrows to indicate the Technology Requested for each student. Changes are saved immediately.
4. If a device has already been issued, it will appear in the inventory list. If a student already has a device issued, a new request will not be processed.
5. Families will receive a confirmation email with the necessary information, including pickup location, date, and time.

[Español](#) | [中文](#) | [한국어](#)

#### Sample Student Schedule and Revised School Supply List

Many families have requested information on the 2020-2021 student schedule and school supply list. Here is the [link](#) to a sample student schedule and the [revised school supply list](#). Feel free to use this as a guide as you prepare for the upcoming school year.

## Collection and Distribution of Material Dates

Below are the Collection and Distribution dates for families to pickup/drop-off items to the school. These dates are specifically for students transitioning to high school and existing students in 7th and 8th grades.

- **Tuesday, August 25:** 12:00 to 3:00 pm
- **Wednesday, August 26:** 12:00 to 3:00 pm
- **Thursday, August 27:** 9:00 to 12:00 pm

In preparation for the 2020-2021 school year, we want to share information related to the collection of materials still in your possession from last year and the distribution of new materials for use this school year.

Please know that our number one priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of every student, staff, and family member during this process. We ask that you adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Students and parents/guardians should remain in their cars during drop-off and pickup of materials. Students and parents/guardians who will walk/bike to the school should also adhere to social distancing expectations throughout the process and will be directed by HCPSS staff upon arrival.
2. Students and parents/guardians must wear masks and adhere to social distancing guidelines at all times.

### Materials Drop Off

Materials must be returned to the school they were borrowed from (i.e. the student's 2019-2020 school). It is up to the discretion of each HCPSS school to set collection and distribution dates. All materials returned will sit for a four-day period as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention before being inventoried. If your child attended a different school last year, please [go to that school's website](#) to view their collection plan. If your child attended our school last year, our collection plan is as follows:

On **August 25, 26, & 27, 2020**, parents will be allowed to pick up items left in the DMS building and return items to DMS. No families will have access to the building, and all family members must remain in their cars when dropping off items or retrieving items. Three stations will be set up for check-in, drop off of materials, and pickup of materials.

**Students leaving HCPSS**, regardless of grade, will need to return HCPSS property to DMS except for instruments and Chromebooks. Rising 9th Graders will also need to return HCPSS DMS property except for Chromebooks.

### Possible Items to "Drop-off"

- School Instruments (if not returning to HCPSS in the fall)
- Chromebook (if not returning to a HCPSS in the fall)
- Library Books/Textbooks
- **If students are returning to DMS** and have school system properties such as Chromebooks, band and orchestra instruments, or other materials and supplies belonging to HCPSS are being asked to hold onto the materials until school resumes in school buildings. Once school resumes in school buildings, students will bring their school system property to DMS.
  - To help expedite the process, the student's last name should be written on an 8x11 piece of paper and placed on the front dash of the car or held up as the student/parent approaches the check-in, so that it will be visible to staff.
  - Items to be returned to (school) must be placed in a plastic/shopping/grocery bag or box labeled with the student's first and last name. (The bag/box will not be returned.) Include a printed **DMS Returned Book/ Materials Form** in the bag. This form can either be printed and filled in, or this information can simply be written on a sheet of paper.
  - Students/parents must follow the directions of staff as they enter the school driveway. At the different stations, a staff member will provide student belongings/collect any school items. Each student/parent will travel through 3 stations during this process.
    - **Station 1** - Check-in (Front of school)
    - **Station 2** - Drop-off student belongings (Back playground)
    - **Station 3** - Pickup student belongings (Back playground)

#### **Possible Items to "Pick Up"**

- Items from lockers
- Yearbook (if pre-paid)

An additional distribution date will be scheduled for the week of **September 2** to disseminate instructional materials to students. More information is forthcoming.

#### **It's Time – Update Family File**

Family File now available for the 2020-21 school year: Parents can now access and complete the Family File for the 2020-21 school year. Parents must complete the Family File every year, even during virtual learning, to ensure HCPSS has the most current information for each child. Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to verify, or update the following information: Student Information, Parent/Guardian Contact, Emergency Contact, Medical Information, Arrival/Dismissal Procedures (for when in-person classes resume), Photo Approval, Data Confidentiality, PTA/PTSA Directory. Update your Family File today; click on the link [HCPSS Connect](#) to complete.

#### **Grab and Go Meals**

Summer Meals Extended to August 28: The free [Grab-N-Go summer meals program](#) has been extended through Friday, August 28. There were several location changes effective Monday, August 3. If you have not already done so, please share this information with your community.

### **Free and Reduced Meals Program**

The coronavirus pandemic is causing a lot of hardship for many of our friends and neighbors. Many HCPSS families have been impacted financially by the pandemic, and may be eligible to receive benefits through the Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMS) program. Qualifying families can take advantage of a wide range of additional resources and discounts, including testing fees, tuition, internet, and more. Click here to [learn more or to apply](#). Please share this information with your community.

### **New Student Orientation and Back to School Night**

#### **New Student Orientation (Open House)**

The DMS family wants to welcome all New Dragons! Please join us on September 3, at 1:00 pm, as we host the New Student Orientation (Open House) for all students and families new to DMS. Detailed information on the New Student Orientation (Open House) and meeting link will be shared later.

#### **Back to School Night**

Mark your calendar for BTSN, September 17, at 6:00 pm. Parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's teachers, receive Canvas support, and talk to the administration. More information forthcoming, stay tune!

Although this year will look uniquely different from others, we want to assure you we are here to support you. Please don't hesitate to email [Antoinette Roberson@hcpss.org](mailto:Antoinette_Roberson@hcpss.org) with your questions. As always, stay safe and healthy, enjoy the remaining days of the summer.

Antoinette Roberson  
Principal

### **Community News**

St. John's Lane will be holding their Collection and Distribution of Student Materials on Wednesday, September 2nd from 9:00-3:15. Please email [alexcia\\_redd@hcpss.org](mailto:alexcia_redd@hcpss.org) with any questions.

- 9:00 - 9:45: Last names that begin with A - C
- 9:45- 10:30: Last names that begin with D - F
- 10:30 - 11:15: Last names that begin with G - J
- 11:15 - 12:00: Last names that begin with K - M
- 1:00 - 1:45: Last names that begin with N - Q

- 1:45 - 2:30: Last names that begin with R - Z
- 2:30 - 3:15: Additional pickup window for all families A-Z
- Rain date: Thursday, 9/3/2020