

Message from the Principal:

We had a successful start to the school year. The students came back recharged and ready to learn. This week our staff took time to get to know your child. Students participated in opening week **Engagement Lessons** designed to create a **community of care** among the students and staff. Our goal is to start the year building positive relationships with all of our students that focus on Dr. Martirano's guiding principle **"to teach a child well, you must know a child well."** This year, we will continue to put "equity into action" ensuring our instructional practices provide students with access, attendance, achievement and acceptance: the four basic principles needed to support their social-emotional and academic success.

Next week, students will report directly to their 1st period class and will follow our normal bell schedule. You can find the DMS Daily Bell Schedule on our website: <https://dms.hcpss.org>. Under the "About" tab, click [School Schedule](#).

Sincerely,
Antoinette Roberson

Reminders:

- **Car Pool:** Parents, we want to make sure all students are arriving to and from school safely. Please remember to adhere to the car pool guidelines and follow the attendant's directions when dropping your child off in the morning and picking them up in the afternoon.
- **Bus Riders:** This week we had a number of students forgetting their bus number and/or getting off at the wrong bus stop. Parents, please review with your child their bus number, pick-up and drop-off location. Safety is our number one priority.
- **Bikers/Walkers:** Students are not allowed to walk or ride their bikes through the parking lot as that is a safety concern. When walking or riding a bike to and from school, students are to remain on the sidewalk for their safety.
- **Lunch:** Parents, for the safety of our students and staff, you cannot have a mobile food delivery service (Door Dash, Grub Hub, Uber Eats etc...) drop off lunch to the school for your child. Parents or guardians must come into the build to drop off a lunch. Thank you in advance for adhering to these guidelines.

Back to School Night (BTSN):

Join us on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. for **Back to School Night**. Our evening will begin with a **Canvas Parent Information Session** from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the media center. Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions and receive support on how to create an HCPSS Connect account, as well as other helpful tips and information on Canvas. This is a perfect time to update your Family File if you haven't already done so. Right now, 209, or 33%, of our families have not updated their Family File. Remember parents, students are unable to participate in field trips or other extracurricular activities if their Family File has not been completed. Please complete your Family File today. We want to reach 100% completion at **Back to School Night...we can do it!**

In preparation for BTSN, parents, please print a copy of your child's schedule from Synergy via HCPSS Connect. You can also check your child's agenda book for their daily class schedule. There will be a staff person on hand to assist parents with obtaining their child's schedule if needed. The agenda for BTSN will be posted on our website: <http://dms.hcpss.org>.

Family File

Please remember to update your contact information in Family File by logging into [HCPSS Connect](#). This information must be updated annually even if you do not have any changes. You will still need to click through each screen and click submit at the end in order for your Family File to be considered complete. Visit [HCPSS Connect](#) today and click submit on the final screen!

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

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

Please be sure **each section** is reviewed and completed. Click here to view the [Family File User Guide](#).

Emergency Operation Procedures

On September 3, 2019, the Dunloggin staff and students participated in an Emergency Evacuation Drill. The objectives of this exercise are to train students and school-based staff in emergency evacuation procedures and to familiarize the school-based staff with common life safety hazards. This drill is one of fourteen drills we will conduct this year with students and staff. Reinforcing safety is a top priority not only for DMS, but the entire Howard County Public School System as part of our [Emergency Response Plan](#).

On September 13, 2019, we will practice our second scenario drill, which will be lockdown procedures. Your child may have questions about what to do during a lockdown. In advance of the drill, our staff will instruct students on what to do, to avoid any unnecessary anxiety or stress. We encourage you to review these procedures with your child by visiting the [School Safety and Security](#) link on the HCPSS website. Remind your child to listen to and follow directions during the drills.

After any emergency response drill, we encourage parents to talk to your child about the drill and let us know if they have any questions or concerns. Parents, you can also find more detailed information about the HCPSS [Emergency Response Plan](#) and the proactive actions used in times of emergencies on the HCPSS website. It is our goal to ensure DMS is a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

Lunch/Meals:

This is a reminder to our families to please make sure you reload funds on your child's lunch account through www.myschoolbucks.com.

Free and Reduced Lunch Meal:

Parents of students who qualify for Free and Reduced Meals must submit a new application every school year. Details on the HCPSS Free and Reduced Meals program are online, including how to apply. Click the link to find out more information! [FARMS Application](#).

Bus Schedule:

Our bus stop locator is now updated. Users can locate bus stops by entering their street number and name in the search field. Click the link to find bus stop locations and schedules! Bus Stop Locator: <http://www.infofinderi.com/ifi/?cid=HCP2IOASIJVW>.

Please check out our website: <http://dms.hcpss.org/> for important information and updates, as well as to sign-up for School Messenger emails.

Car Pool Procedures:

Parents: For your student's safety and the safety of our staff, please follow the following procedures for morning drop off.

- Once buses have arrived, students must be dropped off at the stop sign.
- Cars in the carpool line should let students exit the vehicle in advance of reaching the actual stop sign.
- All students are asked to exit the vehicle on the side closest to the sidewalk to avoid being hit by oncoming traffic.

- Parents needing to park and enter the buildings should park in the paved parking area before the stop sign (to your right).
- If your child is traveling to school with a project, large instrument, etc. please arrive early or later for their drop off- and lastly, if there is a substitute driver, please tell that person about procedures.

DMS Jazz Band Auditions:

DMS Jazz Band Auditions will be on Tuesday, September 17 from 2:40-4:30 PM. Those interested in auditioning should pick up a permission slip and audition music in the band room starting on September 9. Any student who stays after school must return the permission slip to Ms. Henderson by Friday, September 6. All musicians who are auditioning should be in the band room from 2:40-4:00 PM. Those in the rhythm section will stay to 4:30 PM. Any questions, contact Ms. Henderson at patricia_henderson@hcpss.org.

Upcoming Events

- **September 9** – DMS PTA Meeting from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Media Center
- **September 10 & 11** – Fall Play Auditions at 2:30 p.m. in the Chorus Room
- **September 12** - Canvas Parent Information Night from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center
- **September 12** - Back to School Night from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- **September 17** – DMS Jazz Band Auditions 2:40 – 4:30 p.m. in the Band Room
- **September 27** - DMS Claire's Holiday Fundraiser Kickoff
- **October 21:** End of Sales for Fundraiser

Community News:

HCASC Leadership and Service Opportunity:

All Middle and High School Students are welcome to attend the HCASC Meeting on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Homewood School, 10914 Clarksville Pike Ellicott City, MD 21042.

We invite students to...

- Work with student leaders from across HCPSS
- Meet with the Student Member of the Board of Education
- Gain Leadership Skills
- Turn ideas into actions
- Learn about Community Service opportunities
- Practice civic engagement and serve as an informed citizens

We welcome all interested students to attend Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC) meetings throughout the year on the second Wednesday evening of each month.

Next Meeting Wednesday 9/11 7-8:30 at the Homewood School

For more information please contact cindy_drummond@hcpss.org

Community Messages:

DMS parents and community members interested in having information, in the form of an announcement or flyer, published in the school newsletter or Community New Feed must submit a request through the Public Information Office for approval, at publicinfo@hcpss.org.

Announcements may not be disseminated through students or schools without prior approval from the Public Information Office.

For other Community News visit our website www.dms.hcpss.org