

## **Dragon Tales**

September 4, 2020

### **Welcome Home Dragons**

Hello DMS Dragons and Families,

The first day of school is only a couple of days away. As you know, the staff has been busy preparing for your return. We were excited to see many of you this week at our Virtual New Student Orientation and Materials Distribution events. As you enjoy your long Labor Day weekend, take time to read the **“DMS Welcome Back Newsletter.”** It contains the Principal’s Welcome Back message, details on what to expect the first day, as well as important information you need to know to have a successful start to the school year.

Click the link to access the [DMS Welcome Back Newsletter](#).

### **How Can I Support My Student During Virtual Instruction?**

#### **Virtual Instruction Responsibilities, Expectations, and Best Practices**

A successful virtual instruction program for the 2020-2021 school year requires [collaboration and shared responsibilities](#) among students, educators, and families.

#### **Google Meet Expectations for Students and Parents/Guardians**

To ensure a positive, productive, and enjoyable learning experience for all participants, it is important that all students and parents/guardians adhere to these [Google Meet Expectations](#), which include online behaviors for students and privacy guidelines for parents.

#### **Student Participation Expectations**

One important difference this fall as compared to the spring Continuity of Learning program is that students are expected to take an active part in synchronous learning activities throughout each week. For example, students may be called on by their teachers to respond to a question or asked to share feedback by using the chat box. The use of the video camera will still be primarily optional for students but teachers may ask students to turn the video camera on for short periods of time in order to engage in an activity or assessment.

#### **Attendance and Grading**

Attendance will be taken daily and [more details](#) can be found on the website. Your child's grade level will determine when attendance will be taken and what constitutes being present. Changes to the HCPSS grading policy will be discussed at the September 10 Board of Education meeting. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

## **Student Schedules**

Student schedules are available for [viewing in Synergy](#) and will be posted in Canvas on Saturday, September 5. Students must log-in using their HCPSS credentials to access their schedule in Canvas on Saturday, September 5. They will also need to use their HCPSS credentials when joining their daily meets.

## **DMS Virtual Student Assignment Planner**

Help your child stay organized this 2020-2021 virtual school year. Use the [DMS Virtual Student Assignment Planner](#) to keep track of teacher meeting codes and daily assignments by subject. *Please do not type in the original template. Make a copy, with a new name, for your personal use.*

## **Updated Information on Meals**

Starting Tuesday, September 5, students can come to DMS or any neighboring school (except Burleigh Manor MS) to pick up breakfast and lunch. Meals will be distributed to students on the blacktop behind the gymnasium. Meals will be served Monday through Friday from 8–9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. These are Grab-and-Go meals.

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.

[More information](#) on the Grab-and-Go meal service can be found on the HCPSS website online.

## **Update Family File NOW!**

To update your information in Family File:

**Log in to <https://www.hcpss.org/connect/>**

This information must be verified or updated annually even if you do not have changes. Be sure to transition through each screen and click submit at the end, in order for your Family File to be considered complete. Parents new to HCPSS will receive a welcome email with instructions on how to activate your account.

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

## **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.

### **Free Vaccine Clinics**

Free vaccine clinic will be held at several HCPSS school locations during the week of September 21 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Click the link to access the [flyer](#) for more details ([En Espanol](#)).

### **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 tuned!

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.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **September 8:** Students Return
- **September 17:** Back to School Night at 6:00 pm
  - Parent Canvas Orientation at 5:00 pm

### **Community Announcements**

Please visit the [Community News and Programs](#) page on the HCPSS website for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.