

## Dragon Tales

October 23, 2020

Dear DMS Families,

Here are this week's updates and information. You can also check out our website: <http://dms.hcpss.org/> for important updates and information.

### Intent to Participate in Hybrid Instruction

This fall, there will be significant public discussion and consideration around the second semester. At this time, HCPSS is seeking to understand families' intentions regarding sending their students back to school, if that option becomes available, or continuing fully virtual learning. Please see directions below for accessing this questionnaire. **This is not a commitment for the second semester; you will be able to change your reply.** Your intention at this time will help facilitate planning. **Please complete this form by Friday, October 23 at 4:00 p.m.** and contact the school if you require assistance completing the form.

More information, and translations, may be [found online](#).

To complete the form:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#)
2. Select **More Options** from the left panel
3. Select **Intent to Participate in Hybrid In-Person Instruction** from the middle of the page
4. Complete the questions in the form for each child. Click "Save"

**Translated Versions:** [Chinese](#), [Korean](#) and [Spanish](#).

### Chat-n-Chew with the DMS Administration

**What are you doing for lunch? Come spend it with the DMS Administrative Team and Teachers!**

Students, join the DMS Administration and Teachers for our **Chat-n-Chew** lunch bunch on **Wednesday, November 4 at 10:45 am to 11:15 am**. Ms. O'Byrne and I are missing our daily interactions with the students. We want to virtually catch up with you. Drop in and chat with us and your friends while eating a snack, drink, etc. The meeting code will be shared with students through the DMS Student Resource Canvas page. Look for the announcement in the coming weeks.

## Heritage Speakers of Spanish

The Office of World Languages will be testing our Heritage Speakers of Spanish to establish high school placement on **November 13, 2020**. Attached is a [flyer in Spanish](#) with more information about the assessment.

## Announcements for International Families

### Interpreter Request for November Conferences

If you need interpreting service in your home language for November parent/teacher conferences, please contact Mr. Sung Kim at [sung\\_kim@hcpss.org](mailto:sung_kim@hcpss.org) with your child's name, school, grade, and the language you need. **Please send your request by Friday, 10/30/2020.**

## DMS Spirit Days

There are so many ways to stay connected, even though we are not together in person.

Remember, if you are participating in any of our spirit days, take a picture and send it in this [Spirit Day Google Form](#) for any and all spirit days! Get creative - take the picture with the whole family if you can!

Our last two spirit days for the quarter are: **Friday, October 23: Pink Day** and **Friday, October 30: Wacky Tacky Day**.

And if you are interested in submitting a photo or video for DMS News, be sure to use the following [Google Form - DMS News](#). This may just be included in the video announcements shown during FLEX classes on Monday.

## Family File

We have **175** families that have not verified or updated their personal information in the Family File. This information is still vitally important in the virtual learning environment. If you have not verified or updated personal information in the Family File, please log into [HCPSS Connect](#) today!

As a reminder, 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.

## Community Messages:

### Light the Night Community Walk

On Saturday, November 7th, the **BMMS** staff and community will be participating in Burleigh Manor Middle School's **Light the Night Walk to support BMMS health teacher, Mrs. Brittany Smith, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society**. [Please view the attached flier](#) for additional

information on how to participate in the walk virtually, and [donate to Mrs. Smith's brother's LLS team](#). Don't forget to add **#TeamBrittany and BMMS** to send your donation message, and share the link within the greater HCPSS community. Together we will **Be The Voice That Speaks Up...Be The Hand That Reaches Out...Be The Light That Cures Cancer.**

**Kelsea Valance**

**Burleigh Manor Middle School**

Spanish Teacher, SGA Advisor

**Centennial High School**

JV Girls Lacrosse Coach

*kelsea\_valance@hcpss.org*

### **Calming the COVID Chaos: A Virtual Parent Support Workshop Sponsored by DMS PTA**

This free parent support workshop is to help you deal with the stress and issues that come from living through a pandemic and virtual schooling. Most children have been experiencing bouts of frustration and anxiety. They miss their friends. They can't play sports. They have to sit and do school work all day long... AT HOME! You are not alone. All of us are going through this, and all of us could use some additional support. **Calming the COVID Chaos on October 29 from 6-7:30pm**

During this workshop, you will gain new skills to add to your current ones that will help you and your children handle this extraordinary time. We will discuss such topics as grief (the loss of what could have/should have been). We will also address stress reduction and proactive parenting. You will learn about ANTs (Automatic Non-Supportive Thoughts) and how to tap into PETs (Positive Empowering Tools). Parents will even be given several resource lists and take-home activities for you and your children.

#### **Speaker:**

Nancy Sheain, LGPC, NCC is a *Board-Certified Licensed Professional Counselor who has been serving the Howard County School Community in several ways.* She is most known for the creation of the **Smashing ANTs Kid Empowerment programs**, (currently known as PET Power: Kid Empowerment programs). These programs teach children how to use PETs, **Positive Empowering Tools** to chase away ANTs, **Automatic Non-Supportive Thoughts**. It's a great way to help children with anxiety reduction, self-management, and success-mentality.

Visit [www.SmashingANTs.com](http://www.SmashingANTs.com) for more info.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- **November 3:** Election Day – Schools and offices closed
- **November 6:** Professional Work Day – Schools close 3 hours early end of 1<sup>st</sup> marking period
- **November 23:** Schools close 3 hours early – Parent Teacher Conference
- **November 24:** Schools close 3 hours early – Parent Teacher Conference
- **November 25:** Schools closed for students – Parent Teacher Conference

- **November 26-27:** Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed

### **Community News and Programs**

DMS parents and community members interested in having information, in the form of an announcement or flyer, published in the school newsletter or Community News Feed must submit a request through the Public Information Office for approval, at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto: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](http://www.dms.hcpss.org)

