

Dragon Tales

April 23, 2021

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

Quarter 3 Report Cards are now available!

Parents/guardians may view/download report cards by taking the following steps:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#) using your parent email and password
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select Report Cards from the middle
4. Select the report card you wish to access

Lifetouch Pictures - DATES: May 3, 2021 & May 7, 2021

Lifetouch will be photographing our hybrid students during the school day and will also offer time after school for our virtual students.

If you are fully virtual ONLY, Please, click this [link](#) and sign up for a time to have your picture taken in person.

- You must wear a protective face mask and comply with social distancing guidelines. We have scheduled 12 students per camera every 15 minutes (2 cameras = 24 students per 15 minutes).
- Order Your School Picture Today on - mylifetouch.com using your Picture Day ID - **EVTJJM44X**

The DMS yearbook is almost ready for publication and we want to have every child pictured in the yearbook. **That means we still need your portrait if you have not submitted one yourself or used Lifetouch to photograph your child.** See the link below for instructions and a link to upload your portrait so your child can be represented in the yearbook. If you have not submitted a candid picture yet, please consider uploading pictures of your child using this [Link](#) so these can be included as well. To purchase a yearbook online, go to jostensyearbooks.com. **Email Mrs. Girma with any questions.** Meron_girma@hcpss.org

If you are not comfortable entering the school for your school picture you may upload a portrait:

How to submit your portrait in 3 easy steps:

1. Take a selfie (**see requirements)
2. Save it as a jpg or png file with your name and grade (ex. Smith_Mary_6.jpg)

3. Upload it to <https://images.jostens.com/416174393> (Links to an external site.)

****Requirements**

1. Head and shoulders up (no hats or sunglasses, no hand gestures)
2. Only the student
3. Centered in middle of the frame
4. Natural background (no odd shadows)
5. Good lighting and focused (no filters and no black and white)

Deadline to Participate in the Digital Education Center 2021-2022 - BY MAY 5, 2021

HCPSS is planning for a full-time online option for students entering grades K-12 who wish to learn virtually for the 2021-2022 school year. Once finalized, the Digital Education Center (DEC) program will give students the opportunity to take classes and earn credits virtually, while receiving support services from both the DEC and their assigned home school.

Parents/guardians who wish to commit to the DEC should log in to HCPSS Connect Synergy by **Wednesday, May 5 at 4 p.m.** (see directions below). Families must **commit to the DEC for the full 2021-2022 school year.** [Click here](#) for more information.

To access the commitment form:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect Synergy](#) using parent/guardian credentials
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select Digital Education Center Commitment from the middle of the page
4. Complete the questions in the form for each child and select "save"

Health Room Updates

Parents/guardians, please remember to perform a symptom check daily, prior to your child's departure from home. Please reference the [Health Room Updates](#) Google doc for details.

Mobile COVID-19 Testing Site - Normandy Shopping Center

Great news! There will be a mobile testing site on Wednesdays at the Normandy Shopping Center. See attached flyer for details: [Mobile COVID-19 Testing Site](#).

Community Messages

HC DrugFree Updates for Parents/Guardians:

Free Parenting Classes: HC DrugFree and the Howard County State's Attorney's Office, partnering with HCPSS and the Health Department, will once again provide evidence-based

classes for families to gain skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will engage in risky behaviors including using drugs. This 4-class series for parents of 9-14 year olds will be held on Zoom from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 4, 11 and June 1, 8.

Parents/guardians must register

at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCDrugFreeSpring2021> If you have questions, email Joan Webb Scornaienchi, HC DrugFree's Executive Director at Admin@hcdrugfree.org

Drive-thru Medication, EpiPens, Needles, and Syringes Collection in the Wilde Lake Village Center Parking Lot: Bring your expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medication and "sharps" to HC DrugFree's convenient drive-thru collection on Saturday, April 24 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot near the Swim Center and The UPS Store. Medication will be guarded and transported by the Howard County Police and the DEA. Safe distancing. Masks worn. No need to remove labels or get out of your vehicle. Sharps must be in appropriate sharps containers. Separate sharps from meds. Looking for adult volunteers to assist at the event and medically-trained adults to assist with the medication collection. Go to <https://hcdrugfree.org/drug-take-back-day-1/>

Receive HC DrugFree's Free Newsletter: To receive HC DrugFree's free electronic newsletter packed with information for parents and opportunities for students, go to <https://hcdrugfree.org/eneews-signup/>

Upcoming Events

- **May 13:** Schools closed for students, Professional Learning Day
- **May 17:** Middle School Visits (Rising 6th Graders)
- **May 19:** MAP Testing (Reading)
- **May 26:** MAP Testing (Math)

New HCPSS Community News and Programs Site

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [Community News and Programs \(Links to an external site\)](#) website makes it easy for families to find educational and recreational resources, events, and after-school programs beyond the school day provided by non-profit organizations.

Community organizations requesting their announcements be shared in school newsletters should visit community-programs.hcpss.org for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss.org.

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