

## **Dragon Tales**

March 5, 2021

Dear DMS Families,

It has been almost a year since students walked the halls of DMS. This week as we opened the doors again to welcome our Group E students, it was an overwhelming feeling. The staff was excited and eager to see the students for the first time. It marked the beginning signs of normalcy for all of us during this pandemic. I am so very proud of our amazing teachers as they pivoted to hybrid instruction this week. It truly speaks to the resilience they have displayed throughout this unprecedented time.

This week, students and families received notification of their group designation (A or B) and their official return to in-person learning date.

**Group A** students will attend on **Monday/Tuesday** and your first day in person will be:

- **Monday, March 29:** Grades 3-5; **Grade 6;** Grades 9, 12 and students attending programs at ARL
- **Monday, April 12:** **Grades 7-8;** Grades 10-12

**Group B** students' will attend on **Thursday/Friday** and your first day in person will be:

- **Thursday, April 1:** Grades 3-5; **Grade 6;** Grades 9, 12 and students attending programs at ARL
- **Thursday, April 15:** **Grades 7-8;** Grades 10-11

Parents/guardians may view your child's group designation at any time by taking the following steps:

1. [Log in to HCPSS Connect Synergy](#) using parent/guardian credentials
2. Select Student Info from the left panel
3. Scroll down to the Other Data section to see the Student group for the attendance field.

If after logging in you do not see the options, please confirm you are logged in with your credentials and not as your child. If you need additional assistance, please contact your grade level counselor, Ms. Madison, [Tiffany\\_Madison@hcpss.org](mailto:Tiffany_Madison@hcpss.org), or Ms. Peppers, [Ebony\\_Peppers@hcpss.org](mailto:Ebony_Peppers@hcpss.org) for assistance.

## **DMS Celebrates - HCPSS Career Art Educator of the Year!**

Congratulations to our very own **Stephen Guest** for being honored as this year's HCPSS Career Art Educator of the Year recipient. This is a tremendous accomplishment and we are so very proud of him.

### **From Ms. Han**

The Howard County Middle School Creative Works Magazine, Our Voice, is looking for original, creative student work in the category of writing and photography!

**Literary entries** will be evaluated based on originality, creative use of language, and distinctive voice. Pieces can be poetry, fiction, or nonfiction. Short stories generally accepted are 12-point font, 1 1/2 pages long, single-spaced.

**Photography entries** will be evaluated on composition, use of photographic techniques, and originality.

### **Submission Requirements:**

- \* All submissions should be the original work of the student from the current school year and are considered voluntary contributions.
- \* Submissions should be carefully drafted, revised, and edited for publication.
- \* The content should be appropriate for a middle school audience.
- \* All literary entries should be typed in Times 12-point font.
- \* All photographs must be in high resolution.

Please use this [form](#) to submit to Ms. Han your original short story, poem, review, essay, journalistic writing, or other creative composition; or a creative/artistic photograph. All entries will be juried at the school level before being sent to the county level for consideration. Selected writing and photographs will be published in this year's edition of Our Voice.

All submissions are due **Monday, March 22, 2021**.

Lois Han  
GT Resource Teacher

## **Upload Your Sixth Grade Yearbook Portraits NOW!**

We are excited to feature YOU in the yearbook! But in this year like no other, we need your help. If you did not get your portrait taken at school, please use the directions below to submit a yearbook portrait.

Right now we are asking that 6th grade students **ONLY** upload their portrait for the yearbook. Each grade will have a separate upload window.

How to Submit a Yearbook Portrait in Three Easy Steps:

1. Take a selfie

Guidelines:

- Head and shoulders up
- Only you
- Centered in the middle of the frame
- Neutral background
- Good lighting and focused
- No sunglasses or hats
- No hand gestures
- No odd shadows
- No black and white or filters

2. Save it as a jpg or png file with your last name, first name, and grade  
(Ex: Smith\_Mary\_8.jpg)
3. Upload it to <https://images.jostens.com/416174393>

Thank you for helping us tell the story of this year!

Yearbook Staff

## **DMS Hybrid Return – REMINDERS**

### **Health Room Updates**

Parents/guardians, please remember to perform a symptom check daily, prior to your child's departure from home. Students should not be sent to school if they are exhibiting any of the following symptoms

- New-onset cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fever over 100.4 or chills within the past 24 hours
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches; headache; sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting; diarrhea

Please reference the [Health Room Updates](#) Google doc for details.

### **Important Message for Car Riders**

This is a reminder to parents: in the morning, students should be dropped off at the stop sign at the top of the parking lot. Parents are not allowed to drive onto the parking lot when the busses are lined up; you must wait for the busses to leave the campus.

Staff, if you are entering the parking lot when buses are there, please flash your lights if someone is at the stop sign so you can come down onto the parking lot.

Much Appreciated!  
DMS Bus Duty Team

### **NEW CHROMEBOOK CARE WEBPAGE**

There is a new webpage for students, [Chromebook Care](#), which includes tips on caring for and transporting Chromebooks, as well as student mobile technology support and additional resources.

### **Upcoming TCOE/BSAP Workshops**

**TCOE Workshops** - Please [click here \(Links to an external site.\)](#) for detailed flyers:

- **March 13:** 9-10:30 a.m. – TCOE Community Academy– Suicide Prevention & Substance Abuse
- **March 20:** 9-10:30 a.m. -Family Financial Education Series

### **BSAP Workshops:**

- **March 6:** 6:30-8:00 p.m. – Re-Entry to School (more details to follow)
- **March 20:** 6:30-8:00 p.m. - BCAP CCON Webinar – Virtually Expanding Your Horizons – Jumpstart (more details to follow)

If you have any questions regarding any of these events, please contact Nicole Brown, [nicole\\_brown@hcpss.org](mailto:nicole_brown@hcpss.org).

### **Upcoming Events**

- **March 1-5:** Employee Appreciation Week
- **March 29:** Hybrid Students in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Return
- **April 1:** Hybrid Students in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Return

### **Community Messages**

#### **CHS Football**

The Centennial football program will hold an interest meeting for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders interested in playing football this fall on **Wednesday, April 21 at 5:00 pm**. Information will be provided regarding summer workouts, expectations, and the practice schedule for the fall. It is important that all players and parents attend this meeting if you are interested in participating in football this fall. Use the following google meet code to join the meeting: **CHS-Football**

## **FALL FIELD HOCKEY at WILDE LAKE!**

If you are an 8th-grade girl interested in athletics this fall at WILDE LAKE HIGH SCHOOL, consider trying out for field hockey. Please contact Mrs. Stefan (nancy\_stefan@hcpss.org) for any information. Don't worry if you've never played before....we can teach you how! What a great way to join a fall sport as a freshman!

### ***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 by non-profit organizations.*

*Community organizations requesting their announcements be shared in school newsletters should visit [community-programs.hcpss.org](http://community-programs.hcpss.org) for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss.org).*

For other Community News visit our website [www.dms.hcpss.org](http://www.dms.hcpss.org)