

Dunloggin Middle School

October 16, 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.

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 with your child's name, school, grade, and the language you need. **Please send your request by Friday, 10/30/2020.**

Google Meet Expectations

As a follow up to yesterday's communication, we are asking parents and guardians to review the following expectations with your children to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities as active and engaged learners in Google Meets.

- Follow the behavioral expectations for Google Meet sessions and directions provided by their teachers. Nobody should share Google Meet URLs or access telephone numbers with other students who are not in the class or with any other individuals.
- Every student has an HCPSS account, regardless of whether they are using an HCPSS device, and must use that account rather than a personal account to log into Google Meet sessions. Unknown individuals will not be permitted entry into the session.
- Any student having difficulties with access should contact their teacher directly to resolve the issue. Our staff are here to support students and will work toward providing a solution. If an HCPSS staff member is not present when a student enters a Google Meet session, the student should immediately exit the session, contact the teacher and monitor Canvas for a notice from the teacher.

HCPSS students must follow the expectations set forth in the [Student Code of Conduct](#), which also identifies appropriate disciplinary consequences in the event of violations.

REMINDER TO OUR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Interim reports will not be issued.

Parents and students will need to regularly check HCPSS Connect/Canvas in order to keep up with grades and attendance. <https://www.hcpss.org/connect/>

Synchronous Lessons/Asynchronous Assignments

Ensuring academic success of our students is of the utmost importance to our staff and the administrative team. Regular attendance and work completion is the pinnacle to this success. We want to remind students and parents that their child's active engagement and participation in weekly synchronous lessons along with completion of asynchronous learning activities and assignments is key. Students need to ensure all weekly assignments are completed and submitted on time. Parents, remember to check the Canvas calendar and announcements for regular updates on assignments and due dates.

Family File

To date, DMS has **206** families that have not verified or updated their personal information in Family File. This information is still vitally important in the virtual learning environment. Today, an email was sent to all families that haven't verified or updated their personal information in the Family File. If you received an email, please log into [HCPSS Connect](#) to update your information in the Family File.

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.

The Library Media Center May be Closed, but Our Shelves Are Open!

We are pleased to offer Contactless Circulation from the DMS Media Center. We are currently visiting classes to introduce students to the procedure, and instructions can be accessed through the Media Orientation Module shared in those classes. Students can put books on hold in the PAC and then pick them up the following Wednesday between 9 AM and 2 PM. Here are the links to the full instructions as well as video tutorials.

[Directions: How to Put a Book on Hold in PAC](#)

[Video Tutorial: How to Put a Book on Hold in PAC](#)

[Video Tutorial: Check Your Account to See if Your Holds Are Ready to Be Picked Up](#)

There will also be a bin for book returns. We ask that you check for any media books that you may have from last year and return them as soon as possible so other students are able to check them out.

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 schoolwork 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**, (more recently 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 for more info.

Upcoming Events

- **October 16:** Professional Workday/MSEA Convention - Schools close 3 hours early
- **November 3:** Election Day – 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.

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

