

Dunloggin Middle School

October 9, 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.

School Based Learning Center

Recently we announced that DMS was considering the potential for offering in-person support programs for small groups of selected students. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer an in-person support program at our school at this time, because our ability to offer this program is dependent on staff availability, which is currently not sufficient to meet the level of student interest. We are looking into other options for serving additional children in small groups.

As a reminder, any child may meet their teacher individually or in small groups during the synchronous support times built into the daily school schedule. You and/or your child may also meet virtually with a member of the school support team. Please contact your child's teacher, school counselor, or the school psychologist to request a virtual meeting, or with questions or concerns, and encourage your child to do so as well.

Please know that we are fully committed to supporting your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Debra O'Byrne, Assistant Principal, or any other staff member if there is anything else that we can do to help support your child.

Sincerely,

Antoinette Roberson

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

DMS MAP Assessment

Next Wednesday, October 14, students in grades 2-8 will take the Measured Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. The data from the MAP assessment will help schools and teachers measure where your child is starting the year academically. The HCPSS intends to also give the assessment in winter and spring to measure how your child's learning is progressing throughout the year. The MAP test does not affect grades, and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly. To learn more about the MAP assessment, please visit:

<https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/>

The Math test will be administered on October 14 at 9 am and 1 pm. Students may choose to attend either the morning or afternoon session. Teachers will share Google Meet information and your student's testing group as we get closer to the Oct 14 date.

Update Family File NOW!

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.

School Meals Update

Beginning Monday, October 12th, snacks and dinner will be added to each daily grab-and-go meal. Weekend meals will be included in all meals picked up on Fridays and with meals pre-ordered for pickup on Thursdays. Multi-day pre-orders will be available for pickup on Mondays and Thursdays only. Meals are provided free of charge for all students and any child under age 18.

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.

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 7 & 14:** MAP Testing at 9:00 am and 1:00 pm
- **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.hcps.org

