

Dragon Tales

September 10, 2021

DMS Absence Email – Need to Report an Absence? Early Dismissal?

Parents/Guardians, if your child is absent, late, or leaving early from school, please send all attendance notes to DMSAbsence@hcpss.org and include:

- Student First and Last Name
- Grade
- Indicate the reason for absence, lateness or early dismissal
 - **Absence/Late Arrival:** include the number of day(s) and/or time the student missed school, and reason
 - **Early Dismissal:** indicate the time, reason, and if they will return
- Parent/Guardian first and last name, phone number and email address (in Family File)

In the subject line of the email indicate if you are requesting an absence, late arrival or an early dismissal. Parents/guardians picking their student up for an early dismissal must sign them out in the front office and show proof of identification before the student will be released. If a family member or friend is picking up your student, they must be listed as an emergency contact in Family File.

If you have advance notice of an absence, late arrival, or an early dismissal, we ask that you email DMSAbsence@hcpss.org as soon as you become aware. All attendance notes must be received within 3 to 5 days of absence or otherwise it will be recorded as unexcused.

Instructional Supports for Students in Quarantine

Students who must quarantine have several [opportunities to continue learning and receive supports](#), which will help them easily transition back to instruction once they return to school.

Student/Family Chromebook Responsibilities

Beginning Monday, September 13, HCPSS will charge families for lost, stolen or damaged devices. [Details on how families can report a device incident and how charges will be handled](#) can be found online.

MCAP Testing

Dunloggin Middle School students will participate in the early fall Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) during the window of September 15 – October 3, 2021. Each student will be assessed in English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA/L) and Mathematics. Sixth graders will also be assessed in Science (Maryland Integrated Science Assessment) in addition to ELA and Math. Students will need headphones that can be plugged into the side of the

Chromebook for ELA testing. Students **cannot** use wireless AirPods or other wireless headphone devices.

Below is a link for frequently asked questions about MCAP:

[MCAP FAQ to the main website](#)

If you have any further questions, you are welcome to contact Mrs. O'Byrne, School Accountability Coordinator and Assistant Principal for Dunloggin Middle School.

COVID-19 Self-Screenings

All parents/guardians are to perform a [COVID-19 health check](#) every day before your student leaves home. Students are not to come to school if they are experiencing any [symptom\(s\) associated with COVID-19 or other communicable disease](#).

Family File

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the Family File! As of today, we have 66% completion. We are almost there but We Need More!

Parents must complete the Family File every year to ensure HCPSS has the most current information for each child. Please log on to [HCPSS Connect](#) to access Family File. Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to verify or update the following information: Student Information, Parent/Guardian Contact, Emergency Contact, Medical Information, Arrival/Dismissal Procedures, Photo Approval, Data Confidentiality, PTA/PTSA Directory. Below are instructions to complete Family File.

If you need assistance logging into HCPSS Connect or completing your Family File please log into <https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-quick-guide.pdf> for more information.

FARMS Application

FARMS eligibility provides discounts for summer school, SAT, recreation programs, Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and internet programs. Please click the link to complete a [FARMS application](#).

Schoolwide Announcements

First Lego League (FLL)

This First Lego League (FLL) is looking for new members to join our team. FLL is an after-school intramural which meets on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from the end of September through January. FLL provides students an opportunity to experience real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. Students will:

- Design, build, test, and program robots using LEGO MINDSTORMS® technology
- Apply real-world math and science concepts
- Research challenges facing today's scientists
- Learn critical thinking, team-building, and presentation skills

Days and Time: Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30- 4:00

Pick up an application from Ms. Plunkett or Mrs. Girma or click on this [link](#) to print one. Applications are due by Thursday, September 23.

Yearbook

The Yearbook Club is looking for students to work on the 2021-22 Yearbook. The Yearbook Staff works as a team to complete all sections of the yearbook. Jobs include writing articles/captions and taking photos; meeting with advisers, administrators, students, and/or coaches to get background information or interviews. **You** must be able to meet deadlines and be responsible for completing your pages, which includes designing layouts, proofing, editing, etc. **In addition, you** must commit to coming to meetings on time and prepared to work.

Day and Time: Wednesdays 2:30 - 3:45

Pick up an application from the Media Center or click on this [link](#) to print one. Applications are due to the Media Center by Thursday, September 23.

Community Announcements

Please visit the [Community News and Programs](#) page on the HCPSS website for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

Upcoming Events

- **September 16:** School Closed
- **September 23:** FLL and Yearbook Applications are due
- **October 15:** School Closed for Students – Professional Work Day

Please check the school website dms.hcpss.org for updates and information.