

HEREFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL



April 2021

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<http://herefordms.bcps.org/>

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. DELLONE

Dear Hereford Middle School Families/Community,

The return to in-person learning for our students has been a great success. We have 78% of our students back in person. We were so excited to see our students and have them in our physical classroom. While having 78% is wonderful, it does present us with some logistical challenges. We have new procedures in place to ensure all mitigation strategies are followed. Faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to prepare and ensure that safety protocols are in place. A special thanks to our building service workers and support staff for their daily efforts. Students assist us in safely following these strategies with their positive outlook and shared responsibility. Our students are amazing!

Teachers are designing lessons that can reach students who are in person and those who are virtual. They jumped right into a model of teaching that they have never done before. I have been so impressed with their thoughtful planning, implementation, and responsiveness to students' needs. No matter the challenge, they keep on doing everything they can to make the best out of any situation to support our students.

Calendar

April 5th – State Mandated Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed

April 6th – Schools Reopen – 7th & 8th Graders return

April 16 – Third Marking Period Ends, School closes 3 hours early

April 29th – Report Cards Distributed

To learn more about upcoming BCPS events, please use this link to access the calendar: [CLICK HERE](#)

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

Safe Schools Hotline: 1-877-636-6332

Text/Email: hotline@bcps.org

Maryland Crisis Hotline: 1-800-422-0009

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK

One of our challenges remains arrival and dismissal traffic. Usually, I would strongly encourage parents to have students ride the bus; however, due to COVID, we have more car riders than ever. We work through this daily and try to keep traffic moving and flowing.

We ask that parents not arrive in the Corbett Road area before 7:20 in the morning and the afternoon, not before 2:20. This allows the school buses time to exit the area before car riders' arrival.

Students with HP devices have/are scheduled to swap their old device for a Chromebook. Cohort A/B have swapped during the school day. Cohort C families will have an opportunity to swap on Wednesday, April 21st, from 3-6 pm, and Wednesday, April 28th, from 9 am-12 pm. Please remind students to come to school with a charged device each day. In addition, students are asked to bring their charging cord to school each day.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our PTA and the Hereford Community for all of the support and positivity. Through this challenging time, we have received many positive messages and thank you messages. On behalf of the staff at HMS, we thank you for your continued support and thoughtfulness. Your positive words mean so much.

Sincerely,
Julie A. Dellone
Principal

FROM THE PTA

Welcome to the HMS PTA!

The Hereford Middle School PTA provides the financial and volunteering horsepower behind many of the in-classroom improvements and entertainment elements of your child's HMS experience. Over the years the PTA has supported the administration's needs and purchased items that are outside the typical BCPS budget. (For instance, we recently purchased new library tables and provided a special lunch/treat for our custodial staff as they prepared our school for a safe return)

Your support is what makes us great. If you are unable to volunteer, please consider making a direct donation to the PTA (a 501 (c) (3) charity) so we can continue to make HMS the best experience possible for our students. If you haven't done so already, we ask for a \$50 per family donation, but we truly appreciate any donation amount you are able to provide.

HMS PTA Direction Donation Link 

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=KSSPRDGKWUT6C&source=url

NOTE: At this time, we are planning for the 2021-2022 school year and are looking for parents interested in volunteering for board or committee chair positions. As a chairperson, you can manage the volunteer effort for the PTA, organize spiritwear sales, and coordinate HMS hospitality events for students and faculty.

Interested in joining our executive board (President, VP etc)? The nomination process for elections are coming up and we need your help!!

To express your interest in a board or committee chair position, please send an email to herefordmspta@gmail.com.

We welcome our new HMS families and look forward to supporting the new hybrid learning plan in any way we can. Thank you for your continued support!

SPECIAL EDUCATION

If you have questions regarding Special Education services, IEP's or 504's, please contact:

- IEP Questions- Special Education/IEP Chair, Genese Neal, Email: gneal2@bcps.org
- 504 Questions- 504 Chair/ Assistant Principal, Brenda Thompson, bthompson4@bcps.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRADE LEVEL COORDINATORS:

6th Grade News

Welcome back, 6th graders! We hope you have had a wonderful Spring Break and are ready to continue hybrid learning. As a reminder, sixth-grade students and teachers are separated into three interdisciplinary teams:

- The Innovators are taught primarily by Ms. McShane, Ms. Hood, Mr. Walsh, Ms. Deen, Ms. Cunningham, and Ms. Dardozzi
- The Explorers are primarily taught by Ms. Sutton, Mr. Deen, Ms. Keen, Ms. Aloï, and Ms. Wagaman.
- The Legends are primarily taught by Ms. Smith, Mr. Friend, Ms. Wit, and Ms. Schanberger

All sixth-grade students are supported by our school counselor, Ms. Richardson, and the sixth-grade team leader, Ms. Benson.

We have all worked so hard already this year in spite of all the challenges we have faced! The teachers are so proud of the students' accomplishments, patience, and perseverance. As we transition into hybrid learning, students will be studying the following: In Science, 6th grade is learning about our place in space! We worked on the hierarchy of the Universe and have focused on gravity and its importance to the formation and movement of celestial objects. In 6th Grade, World Language students are learning about extracurricular activities that take place in schools and communities in Spanish-speaking countries. We investigate and compare the similarities and differences between those extracurricular activities in the United States and Hispanic countries. Students have opportunities to share their opinions of the activities and make comparisons to their own experiences. In April, ELA classes will be wrapping up our 3rd unit. Some classes will be working on writing an argument essay, while others will be working on analyzing and modernizing Shakespearean scenes. We will continue to use Vocab.com as a tool to help students practice with terms important to the unit. In World History class, students will start the month by completing the unit on India and taking the Unit 3 test on Greece and India. Then students will begin to learn about the rise of empires by exploring the creation of Rome, from its start, delving into their system of government in the republic and how that governmental system still impacts us today. Towards the end of the month, students will start to see how the republic falls, and the roman empire arises.

Our specials area classes are doing amazing things with the sixth grade. In Art, our 6th graders are finishing up a unit on illustrating a book cover, a book page, or a comic strip featuring a character they conceptualized and drew using accurate human proportions. In April will be working on a unit based on the theme of narrative. We will be studying the narratives found on different types of ancient Greek vessels and the techniques used to draw the pictures on clay. Students will then create a scratchboard, design a vessel, and illustrate a story on it using the technique of sgraffito. In Physical Education, our 6th graders are finishing up a Fitness/Yoga unit this week. In that unit, we completed our fourth Personal Fitness Test and focused on improving our flexibility and strength through yoga. When we return from Spring Break, we will begin a 2-week Disc Golf Unit. Students in Cohorts A and B will play on a course here at school. Students in Cohort C will be asked to create their own course to practice on. Sixth Grade Band, chorus, and strings students are working on the transition to hybrid learning with in-person and virtual performing. World Music students are finishing a unit on protest music, and music for change and will start our bucket drumming unit after spring break. In Agriscience, Quarter 3 students will take all of the knowledge they have gained about natural resources and link it to the roles that National Parks play in the US. Students will be exploring a National Park of their choice and identifying the natural resources that are protected by the park. They will also be exploring the benefits that National Parks provide to not only our natural resources but the economy and emotional/mental wellbeing of humans as well. For TechEd, Students are learning Python coding from the ground up. Students with varying coding experience are given weekly coding challenges that increase in complexity each week. By the end of this ten-lesson unit, students with no

programming experience will be programming robots to autonomously vacuum a floor using multiple sensors. Advanced students will be coding search and rescue robots using text-based Python. In Effective Learning, students have been learning about what it takes to be a dynamic speaker. Improving their ability to communicate effectively will certainly help them succeed both now and in the future- no matter where their future might take them. Students took pride in eliminating filler words in their speech as they practiced appearing confident, poised, and as articulate as possible!

If you ever have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher(s), Ms. Richardson, Ms. Benson, and/or administration. We look forward to seeing many of you in person and continuing to work with all of you virtually. Remember that for all 5-day weeks, we will continue to have asynchronous Wednesdays. Please remember to log on to Schoology and complete any missing work or redo opportunities you may have. Also, most teachers will continue to have our small groups to provide additional supports on Wednesday mornings (see class pages for specific times). We will keep you posted as to upcoming events and content in the upcoming newsletters.

7th Grade News

Welcome back, 7th graders! We hope you've had a wonderful Spring Break and are ready for hybrid learning. As a reminder, seventh-grade students and teachers are separated into three interdisciplinary teams:

- The Heroes are taught by Mrs. Hood (ELA), Mrs. Yearick (Math), Mr. Putnam (Science), and Mr. Endres (Social Studies). This team's color is purple.
- The Originals are taught by Mrs. Gent (ELA), Mrs. Amos (Math), Mrs. Kouyoumjian (Science), Mr. Cales (Social Studies), and Mrs. Comber (World Language). This team proudly sports blue.
- The Warriors are taught by Mrs. Klug (ELA), Ms. Lehman (Math), Ms. Zanetti (Science), Ms. Tiburzi (Social Studies), and Mrs. Ruark (World Language). Red is this team's color.
- All seventh-grade students are supported by our wonderful school counselor, Mrs. Kongkraphun, and the seventh-grade team leader, Mrs. Kouyoumjian.

We have already made a lot of headway with content this year, and the teachers are so proud of the students' accomplishments, patience, and perseverance. As we transition into hybrid learning, students will be studying the following: In ELA, seventh graders will continue to explore the exciting world of historical fiction. The unit culminates with students as authors. They have an opportunity to apply the techniques that have been analyzed in text to their own writing. Each student will spend the last weeks of the quarter producing their own piece of historical fiction. In Pre-Algebra, students have completed Unit 3, where they have been working hard at simplifying expressions as well as solving and graphing equations/inequalities. After Spring Break, students will begin Unit 4, where they will be analyzing and comparing data. In Algebra 1, students have been identifying key features of quadratic function graphs. An exploration of magnets and electricity is already underway in science class. Students are identifying similarities and differences between these two non-contact forces, stating factors that influence the strength of these forces, and describing how common items use these phenomena. World History classes have students uncovering the pre-Columbian societies of the Inca, Maya, and Aztec. We will discover how these societies developed, thrived, and declined in the Americas. We will also study the physical environment of the Americas to show how they impacted the cultural development of these ancient peoples. Students will explore the political, social, and economic structures of each civilization to explain how they play a significant role in history. In 7th grade World Language, students are learning about celebrations that take place in Spanish/French-speaking countries. We investigate the cultural aspects of these events to help us reveal their values. Students have opportunities to share their opinions of the events and make comparisons to their own experiences.

Our specials area classes are doing amazing things with the seventh grade. In Physical Education, students are finishing up a Fitness/Yoga unit the week prior to Spring Break. In this unit, we completed our fourth Personal Fitness Test, which focused on improving our flexibility and strength through yoga. When we return from Spring Break, we will begin a two-week Disc Golf Unit. Students in Cohorts A and B will play on a course here at school. Students in Cohort C will be asked to create their own course on which to practice. Seventh Grade Band, Chorus, and Strings students are working on the transition to hybrid learning with in-person and virtual performing. World Music students are finishing a unit on protest music/music for change and will soon start our bucket drumming unit after Spring Break. Last but not least, CTE. Seventh-grade Agriscience students are diving into the animal industry. Students will start by identifying the impact that domestication has had on both humans and animals alike. They will then begin to explore the hot button topic of Animal rights vs. Animal Welfare, during

which they will participate in a class debate to decide which ideology they choose to support. Tech Ed students are learning Python coding from the ground up. Students with varying coding experience are given weekly coding challenges that increase in complexity. By the end of this ten-lesson unit, students with no programming experience will be programming robots to autonomously vacuum a floor using multiple sensors. Advanced students will be coding search and rescue robots using text-based Python. And, in Effective Learning, students have been learning about what it takes to be a dynamic speaker. Improving their ability to communicate effectively will certainly help them succeed both now and in the future- no matter where their future might take them. Students took pride in eliminating filler words in their speech as they practiced appearing confident, poised, and as articulate as possible.

If you ever have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher(s), Mrs. Kongraphun, and/or administration. We look forward to the experiences that await us the rest of this school year, and we will keep you posted as to upcoming events and content in the upcoming newsletters.

8th Grade News

It is great to be back! When you step into the building, you can feel the excitement from the students and staff. Eighth-grade students are grouped into Interdisciplinary teams. There are three teams: Victors, Champions, and Legends. The Victors (team color purple) is composed of Mrs. Siegler (ELA), Mrs. Barboza (Science), Mrs. Karavis (Math), and Mrs. Mullinax (American History). The Champions (team color is Blue) is composed of Mrs. Simon (ELA), Mrs. Fieden (Science), Mrs. Stegmayer (Math), and Mr. Livermore (American History). The Legends (team color is Red) is composed of Mrs. Wit (ELA), Mr. Friend (Science), Mrs. Smith (Math), and Mrs. Schanberger (American History). The Eighth-grade Team Leader is Mrs. Fieden. ALWAYS feel free to contact your student's teachers if you have a question or concern. **The teachers have been so impressed with the amount of parental support we have received this year!**

This is the material your Eighth-grade student is currently learning about in their classes. In American history, students are finishing up westward expansion and starting the next lesson on Life on a plantation in the South. Science classes have been covering genetics material. Students have been completing and analyzing Punnett squares and learning the effects of mutations on various organisms. In Math 8, students are working with solving equations and systems of equations. In Geometry, students are using proportions and trigonometric ratios in order to find missing parts of similar figures. In ELA 8, students are wrapping up Unit 3, which centers on the Essential Question: How can one individual's challenges reflect the struggles of an entire nation? After spring break, students are writing an essay for their Performance-Based Assessment (PBA). In GT ELA 8, students are wrapping up Unit 3, which centers on the Essential Question: How do authors make the old new? GT students will also have a PBA after spring break.

Now some information regarding our special area classes:

In Physical Education, our 8th graders are finishing up a Fitness/Yoga unit this week. We also completed a Fitness Test and focused on our flexibility and strength. When we return from Spring Break, we will begin a 2-week Disc Golf Unit. Students in Cohorts A and B will play on a course here at school. Students in Cohort C will be asked to create their own course to practice on.

Eighth Grade Band, chorus, and strings students are working on the transition to hybrid learning with in-person and virtual performing. American Music students are finishing a unit on protest music, and music for change and will start our bucket drumming unit after spring break.

In Art, the 8th graders just finished a unit on Graphic Design. They had a choice of designing a minimalist poster to capture the main idea of a movie, book, or video game, designing a minimalist poster to entice people to visit a specific destination or designing the package for a snack, drink, or beauty product to make it appealing to teenagers. Students learned how to manipulate shape, color, and text features on Google Slides to visually communicate their idea. After Spring break, we will be working on a new unit based on the theme of Nature.

In Eighth grade Agriscience, students have been hard at work designing their own Agribusiness. They took the knowledge they have gained regarding business concepts and used it to design their own business. Now they will be gearing up to develop a business pitch that will aim to entice potential "investors" to buy into the companies they have created.

In Tech. Ed, students, are learning Python coding from the ground up. Students with varying coding experience are given weekly coding challenges that increase in complexity each week. By the end of this ten-lesson unit, students with no programming experience will be programming robots to autonomously vacuum a floor using multiple sensors. Advanced students will be coding search and rescue robots using text-based Python.

In Effective Learning, students have been learning about what it takes to be a dynamic speaker. Improving their ability to communicate effectively will certainly help them succeed both now and in the future—no matter where their future might take them. Students took pride in eliminating filler words in their speech as they practiced appearing confident, poised, and as articulate as possible!

As we transition from virtual into hybrid learning, communication will continue to be our main priority. In the upcoming weeks, you will be receiving information about grades, after-school programs, high school updates, and so much more. If you ever have a question or concern, please always feel free to contact any of your student's teachers. Our ultimate goal is for our students to have a smooth transition to high school next year, feeling very prepared and confident. Stay tuned for May's newsletter!

FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE

6th Grade- Lilly Richardson lrichardson2@bcps.org

7th Grade- Keleigh Kongkraphun kkongkraphun@bcps.org

8th Grade- Victoria Shields vshields@bcps.org

School Counseling Secretary- Terri Francis tfrancis@bcps.org

Phone 443.809.7905

Happy Spring! The HMS School Counseling Department is so happy to be back in our school building. Our students are acclimating to the new hybrid model very well, and we continue to meet with students virtually as well as in person.

Please have your students check the grade level Schoology groups run by the School Counselors regularly for important announcements and updates. We are continuing to offer virtual lunch groups several times a week as well as other small groups of interest. These groups are a great way for students to feel connected to their peers and stay engaged. We encourage your students to join us!

Additional Resources to check out:

Please check out the Parent University Newsletter, which is full of resources for BCPS families at:

[Parent University | Smore Newsletters for Education](#)

Also, there are several upcoming webinars from SERC (Special Education Resource Center) at the following link:

[Spring 2021 SERC Webinars \(bcps.org\)](#)

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

If your child has been tested for Covid due to symptoms, exposure to a close contact, or return from travel: PLEASE do NOT send them to school until you have received the results.

Refer to the chart: Can my child go to school today? Call Mrs. Kernan if you have any questions.

(443)809-686

TECH NEWS

hmstech is STILL here!

Our online HMS' help desk' has new hours: daily from 8 am to noon.

Mr. Thomas, Ms. Burke, and Mr. Putnam are on a Google Meet at the join code **hmstech**.

If students have any tech questions or problems with their laptops or school software, we are here to help.

Chromebook Swap - We are working on collecting from students the old, silver HP laptops and ProBook HP laptops. In exchange, students are receiving a BCPS Chromebook.

Chromebook TIPS

While Chromebooks run very similar to Windows machines, there are some differences on how to do things, including screenshots, right-clicking, and other popular tech tasks.

Most teachers have a folder on their Schoology course page with Chromebook tips files for students.

Students can also go to our school website for Chromebook tips at <https://herefordms.bcps.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=3705937&pageId=9056139> or [click HERE](#).

Chromebooks do not have Microsoft Office software. However, students do have an account with Office 365 where they can access Word, Powerpoint, and OneDrive via their chrome browser.

Please remind your child to:

1. Pack their laptop and charger each day
2. Carry their bag carefully and pack the laptop carefully. Students sometimes forget the laptop is in the bag and put the bag down hard on the ground.
3. Charge the device each school night.

AFTER HOUR EMERGENCIES

If you have an after-hours emergency, please call 911 or one of the resources listed below.

RESOURCES

Emergency – 911

Maryland Help Line - 211

Baltimore Crisis Response – 410-433-5175 (24 hours a day, seven days a week)

MD Dept of Health Crisis Line – 1-800-422-0009

Suicide Hotline Text CONNECT to 741741, for more information visit www.crisistextline.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1-800-273-8255

My Neighbors Foundation- 410-374-4657

Can My Child Go to School Today?

Answer the following three questions.

1. Do you believe your child may have been in contact with another person who tested positive for COVID-19?

YES

Stay at home. Inform the school.
Call your child's health care provider.
Student must stay home 10 days from last date of contact with positive individual even if student has a negative test.

NO

2. Is your child ill with cold/flu-like symptoms? (*temperature of 100 degrees or higher, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, cough/shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, muscle or body aches, fatigue, extreme tiredness, headache*)

YES

Stay at home. Inform the school.
Rest and Recover.
Call health care provider.

NO

3. Has your child been tested for COVID-19 and waiting for results?

YES

Stay at home until results are received.
Inform the school.

NEGATIVE COVID TEST OR OTHER DIAGNOSIS

POSITIVE COVID TEST

Return to school if fever free for 24 hours and not been told to stay home due to contact with another person who has tested positive.

Give return to school note/test results from the health care provider to nurse.

Come to school.

If your child has not been absent for illness, they may go directly to class.

POSITIVE COVID TEST

Stay at home for at least 10 days from when symptoms began.
Return to school only with health care provider note and when:

- **Child is fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication,**
- **AND symptoms have improved,**
- **AND it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared.**

If the child never had symptoms, then return 10 days after the date of the positive test.