

Hollifield Herald
August 23, 2021

Dear HSES Families,

We are just a week away from the start of the school year. We are very excited to see our students and get the school year started! We recognize that our welcome back letter/newsletter and this newsletter are quite lengthy.

However, we want to be sure we provide all the information our families need to ensure a smooth, safe and successful beginning to the school year. As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any additional questions or concerns.

HSES Lunch Preference Survey

There are several HCPSS updates related to lunch protocols to further reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19. All schools will have outdoor eating spaces for lunch available on campus for student use as weather and staffing permits to lessen the number of students in the cafeteria. In an effort to maintain a healthy environment in cafeterias, the following actions are being implemented:

- Additional tables have been ordered and will be distributed to schools to help ensure outside eating areas are furnished as well as to allow maximum spacing indoors.
- Based on the availability of products from vendors, large tents that are compliant with local code will be provided to elementary schools to increase outdoor dining spaces. We anticipate a number of tents will be in place to begin the school year with additional tents being provided in September.
- Plexiglass shields for indoor cafeteria tables are being secured for grades K-6 where students are largely unable to be vaccinated. These panels will provide additional protection between students who are unable to be vaccinated while eating when masks cannot be worn.

In an effort to plan accordingly, please complete our [HSES Lunch Preference Survey](#) for each of your students to inform us if you would prefer your child to eat lunch outside when conditions and staffing permit. *To assist you further in*

your decision, please know we have 20 cafeteria tables for use with indoor seating. This means that even if all students eat indoors, our tables would still seat only up to 8 students (2 per bench). To provide context, typically we have up to 16 students at a table (4 to a bench) and use 15 of our 20 tables.

We are also looking for volunteers! The survey provides an opportunity to let us know if you are interested in supporting this effort for our students.

Homeroom teacher assignments

On Wednesday, August 25th, all families that have filled out their Family File will be able to see their homeroom teacher assignment. Although most students will remain in their homeroom assigned as of 8/25/21, we want families to be aware that your child(ren)'s homeroom teacher could change based on instructional needs. Any changes will occur within the first two weeks of school.

How do I find out my teacher?

As a reminder, all families must fill out their Family File (emergency information) in order to find out their teacher on Wednesday. At this time, we have 51% of our families who have completed the Family File. Please see the information below on how to fill out your Family File. This is critical information that we need from every family. Please fill it out today. It takes very little time, especially for those families who have already filled it out in previous years. It took me less than 5 minutes as a parent to complete.



FAMILY File



www.hcpss.org/connect

Family File is replacing the Emergency Procedure Card and can be found by logging in to HCPSS Connect. In the **Family File** section parents will find all of the information historically located on the Emergency Procedure Cards such as contact information, medical considerations, and preferences.

Find **Family File** at www.hcpss.org/connect.

LOG IN at HCPSS Connect

Parents can find Family File by first logging in to HCPSS Connect at www.hcpss.org/connect.

If you encounter any problems logging in or accessing Family File, please contact your school.



HCPSS Connect

HCPSS Connect provides access to a variety of student information and classroom instructional tools offering personalized communication and timely, relevant, and easily accessible information relating to your student.

 HCPSS CONNECT LOGIN

UPDATE Your Family File

Once logged in, parents will be able to provide or update all of their contact information, medical considerations, and preferences in approximately 10 minutes.

For existing parents, data will be there from last year when you log in for the first time.



For assistance,
visit HCPSS
Connect at
www.hcpss.org/connect



HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

How can I support the school?

HSES is still in need of a Lunch/Recess monitor and a Close Adult Support position. Please email Aaron Tark (aaron_tark@hcpss.org) if you are interested in joining our outstanding staff!

Where can I find details on the Re-Opening Plan?

HCPSS has provided a detailed Re-opening Plan that addresses multiple aspects of school year 21-22. Please click [HERE](#) to access this plan.

Important Dates

August 26th	6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Kindergarten Back to School Night
August 27th	Open House and New Family Orientation
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Kindergarten Open House followed by Popsicles on the Playground
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	1st and 2nd Grade Open House
12:00 - 12:30 p.m.	New Family Orientation in Cafeteria
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	3rd - 5th Open House
August 30th	1st Day of School for Students
September 6th	Schools Closed - Labor Day
September 7th	Schools Closed - Rosh Hashanah
September 13th	6:30 - 7:30 p.m. 1st and 2nd Grade -- Back to School Night
September 14th	6:00 - 7:30 p.m. 3rd - 5th -- Back to School Night GT (6:00 - 6:30 p.m.)
September 16th	Schools closed - Yom Kippur

Previously Shared Information

Welcome Back Newsletter