

9/3/24



Hollifield Station Elementary School

School Hours

9:05 a.m. Bell Rings

9:20 a.m. Late Bell - Instruction begins

3:50 p.m. Dismissal begins

Dear HSES Families,

Please enjoy this week's edition of the Hollifield Herald.

Warmly,

Amanda Wadsworth, Principal

Aaron Tark, Assistant Principal

&

Laurie Poquette, Administrative Intern

Important information included:

- Important dates
- Strategic Plan Stakeholder Meetings and Input Survey
- Free and Reduced Applications Due
- Has your address changed?
- Lightspeed Parent Information
- HCPSS Positions in Food Services

Important Dates

September 2nd	Labor Day - Schools and Offices Closed
September 11th	Back to School Night - GT and 3rd-5th 6:00 - 6:30 PM - GT Information sessions 6:30 - 7:30 PM - 3rd - 5th Grade
September 12th	Back to School Night - 1st & 2nd 6:30 - 7:30 PM - 1st and 2nd Grade
September 18th	3 hour early dismissal
September 19th	PTA - Welcome Back Party on the back blacktop 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Virtual Office [Link](#)

Related Arts Color Days Schedule for the Upcoming Week

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Labor Day Schools and offices closed (State mandated holiday)	red	orange	yellow	green	

Strategic Plan Stakeholder Input Meetings

Community members are invited to attend one of these meetings to help inform the system's new strategic plan by providing their input about stakeholder values during this virtual, hour-long opportunity facilitated by HCPSS staff. No registration is required.

- September 9, 2024 - 5:00-6:00 pm - [Google Meet link](#)
- September 10, 2024 - 7:00-8:00 pm - [Google Meet link](#)
- September 17, 2024 - 5:00-6:00 pm - [Google Meet link](#)

As part of the HCPSS strategic planning process, 5th grade students, staff and families are being asked to provide input about their values for our school system.

Parents/Guardians: Starting September 4th, please complete this HCPSS Strategic Planning Input [Survey](#) by 9/20/2024 and share the student [version](#) with your Grade 5-12 student(s). This survey is anonymous and available in multiple languages. If you have students at more than one school, please complete the survey one time, and indicate each school your students attend.

If your student needs assistance completing the survey, please contact our front office for assistance.

Free and Reduced Applications - Must be done every year

HCPSS participates in the Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMs) program. [Qualification Links to an external site.](#) is based on family size and income, and enrollment is confidential.

Participation in FARMs qualifies students for a wide range of opportunities and resources beyond breakfast and lunch, including free college applications, free or reduced JumpStart tuition, discounted internet through the Comcast Internet Essentials program, and more.

Families must submit a new application every school year by Oct. 31. During the first 30 school days, students with FARMs eligibility from the prior school year will continue to receive benefits. Any student whose family has not filled out an application by the 30th school day will have their status changed to full pay until a new application is received.

Parents/guardians are highly encouraged to fill out the applications as soon as possible. It is very important that applications are filled out accurately and completely. Families can:

- [Apply online](#)
- Apply by mail: Paper applications can be picked up in the Food and Nutrition Service Office (5451 Beaverkill Rd, Columbia, MD 21044). Applications can be returned to your child's school or mailed to: HCPSS Food & Nutrition Service Office, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

If you have questions regarding the program, please visit www.hcpss.org/FARMS

[Links to an external site.](#) or call Food and Nutrition Services at 410-313-6743.

Has Your Address Changed?

As a reminder, all families are required to notify HCPSS if they move to a new home address. Current residency documentation must be updated each time residency changes. Be sure to call our front office secretary to update your address information

LightSpeed Parent Information

Parents/guardians can monitor their child's HCPSS Chromebook internet usage by signing up for Lightspeed Parent Notifications to receive a weekly email summary of their child's usage.

Once parents have signed up for Lightspeed Parent Notifications, the email summary delivered each Sunday will contain a link with access to the [Lightspeed Parent Portal](#), which provides near real-time information on their child's internet activity.

The Lightspeed Parent Portal offers additional details about internet usage and the ability to control a child's online activities when they are not on the HCPSS network at school by allowing parents to pause the internet for 1 hour, 3 hours or until 6 a.m. the next morning. [Frequently asked questions](#) about Lightspeed and the Parent Portal can be found online.

HCPSS teachers will access Lightspeed in the classroom to monitor student Chromebook usage. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher if they notice their child is regularly on non-academic websites during the day.

Find instructions on signing up for Lightspeed Parent Notifications online.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to review [HCPSS Student Mobile Technology Duties and Obligations](#), which outlines the responsible use of technology in accordance with HCPSS Board Policy 8080 Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media.

Looking for a Position in Food Services in HCPSS

Food Service Assistant Vacant Positions

Centennial High School - 6.5 hours (this involves cooking)

Ellicott Mills Middle School - 4.0 hours

Folly Quarter Middle School - 4.0 hours
Guilford Park High School - 4.0 hours
Mt Hebron High School - 6.5 hours (this involves cooking)
Mt Hebron High School - 5.0 hours
St Johns Elementary School - 4.0 hours
Veterans Elementary School - 6.0 hours

Contact Brenda Smith at Brenda_Smith@hcpss.org if interested.

PTA Newsletter

**** To highlight the great work that they do and all the support they provide us, we will send the PTA Newsletter in a separate alert this year. ****