

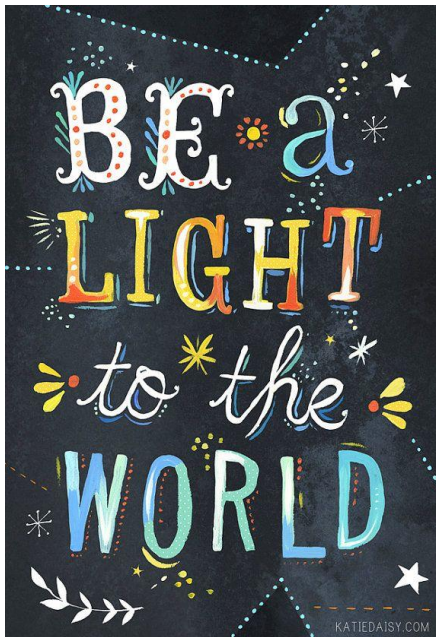


PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

December 20, 2019

Winter Break is upon us, Vikings!

And as always, the success of our **Canned Food Drive** propels us into break with joyful and grateful hearts thanks to our incredible students, staff and community. Each year, we increase our goal in hopes of serving more families in need, but this year, in particular, we stretched ourselves, and you rose to the occasion! At final count, we nearly doubled last year's numbers, collecting 14,758 cans and \$19,000. We also added hygiene products to our wish list this year and again, we were blown away by your response. Last year, we were able to give 2 boxes of food to each family; this year we gave 3 boxes (around 100 cans) to each of our 150 families with 65 of those who have students here at Hebron. In addition to the canned food, families also received a large ham, breakfast, lunch and for their holiday as well as well as paper goods and diapers, if appropriate.



My heartfelt thanks to **Katie Engelstatter** and **Phil Herdman**, our amazing **SGA** sponsors who truly go above and beyond their teaching positions to orchestrate, coordinate and execute the myriad of details that go in to an undertaking of this magnitude. **Mike Tittsworth** and his Leadership students spent countless hours selling pizza and hosting fundraisers and helping along the way, and **Suzanne Stafford, MaryAnn Sankey** and their **NHS students** raised \$6430 to buy presents for 281 children that were delivered along with all of the food. Additionally, they wrapped all of the presents and worked with our SGA and Leadership students prepping for our delivery day today.

I also want to give a special acknowledgement to **Glenwood Middle School** who surprised us this week with a donation of over 2500 cans, extending the reach of what it means for us to be in community with each other.

At this time of year when, for some, there can be darkness, it's our way of shining our light a little brighter and showing our Viking spirit throughout the area. Light is an integral aspect of all of our observances. Whether you celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah or Kwanza or Ōmisoka or the Winter Solstice, the season of light connects us and permeates all of our celebrations, reminding us that we shine brightest when our lights come together.

Wishing you all a warm and wonderful winter break with time to celebrate and rejuvenate. I can't wait to see you again in the New Year!

With a joyful and grateful heart, all my love,
Joelle

P.S. To the **staff member** who gave \$200 to wipe out all of our student lunch debt, I know who you are, and on behalf of all of the students you helped, THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart. I'm overwhelmed with your generosity and kindness!

Enjoy these pictures from our Canned Food Drive Delivery Day Today!









FOLLOW US & STAY CONNECTED

Twitter: [@hcpss_mhhs](https://twitter.com/hcpss_mhhs)

Website: <http://mhhs.hcpss.org>

Student Online Newspaper: The Mountain: <https://mthmountain.com>

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

See the [calendar](#) on our website for additional dates.

Date	Time	Event
Dec 23-Jan 1		Schools closed for Winter Break
January 8		Course recommendations for 9th-11th sent home by email for parents to review
January 8-17		Course Requests window is opened in Synergy for 9th-11th graders to pick electives and alternates
January 9	6pm	8 th Grade Parent Night in the Auditorium
January 10	7pm	Winter Dance Spectacular in the Auditorium
January 11		MS/ HS Honors Band Rehearsal
January 13	6:30-8pm	Electives Fair in the Gym and Cafeteria
January 14	7pm	GT Information Session in the Auditorium
January 20		Schools & offices closed/ Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 22-24		HS only 3-hour early dismissal at 11:10am
January 27		Schools closed/Professional Work Day for Staff
January 31	7pm	Jazz Showcase
February 4		NEW **Schools & offices closed for Special Election
February 17		Schools closed for Presidents' Day
February 28	7-8am	Restorative Justice in Education Book Discussion over Coffee Sponsored by PTSA in the Media Center
March 18-22	3/18, 10am 3/19-21, 7pm 3/22, 2pm	"Beauty and the Beast" Musical Production
April 2	6pm	HebronFest
April 3		3-hour early dismissal/ Professional Work Day for Staff
April 6-13		Schools closed for Spring Break
April 14	6:30-7pm	Guest Speaker on Restorative Justice in Education
April 14	7pm	PTSA Meeting in the Media Center
April 28		Schools closed for Primary Election Day
May 15		3-hour early dismissal/Professional Work Day for Staff
May 18-28	TBD	Graduation Window @ Merriweather Pavilion
May 25		Schools closed for Memorial Day
June 22		Last possible school day if all 5 snow days are used

CELEBRATIONS!

****For even more celebrations & good news, follow us on Twitter: @hcpss_mhhs
We now have over 2,000 followers!!! Go Vikings!!**



Congratulations to the following 9th grade students who were recognized by The Council of Elders for their achievement: **Obaloluwa Akinyemi, Mofiyinfoulwa Amure, Jada Brown, Alyssa DeBels, Preston Henry, Danielle Nwosu, Ugonna Okonkwo, Kamyra Osmer, Ava Pierre, Talyn Robinson, Isaiah Royster, Darius Smith, Kenneth Stewart, Nicholas Stewart, Aliyah Williams and Jayden Williams**



CONGRATULATIONS to Alexandra Mouangue!
She will be attending Wellesley College as a Questbridge Scholar!



Congratulations to Rashi Kejriwal, Shreya Santhanagopalan and Caroline Kasuba who won *The Congressional App Challenge* which is one of the most prestigious prizes in student computer science. They were recognized this past Wednesday at a celebration in Baltimore. See their video of their app below!

Congressional App Challenge Winner- "Safe Haven"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hzp1O_pMEsA



NEW NEWS

Help Support Lexi's Super Plunge!

A member of our junior class, Lexi Cucchiaro, is in the middle of a significant fundraiser for Special Olympics and is asking for help from the Mt. Hebron community. Lexi has been volunteering for Special Olympics since fifth grade and has participated in their annual Polar Bear Plunge for the past three years to raise money for the 8,000+ Maryland athletes with intellectual disabilities who are served by the organization. This year, Lexi's goal is to be one of only 30-40 Super Plungers statewide, which means she needs to raise at least \$10,000 for the privilege of plunging into the Chesapeake Bay 24 times over 24 hours in mid-January.



Last Thursday, December 12, Lexi was recognized at Mt. Hebron for her fundraising efforts by (pictured, l-r) Allan Waschak, Special Olympics Howard County executive committee member; former Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman, who has been a Super Plunger for several years and will be one again this year; Mt. Hebron Director of Bands Joe Fischer; Howard County Councilman David Yungmann, a Mt. Hebron graduate and former drum major; and Mt. Hebron Principal Dr. Joelle Miller. Mr.

Kittleman and Mr. Yungmann also took the time to speak to some of the Mt. Hebron band members about Lexi's Super Plunge prior to their performance at the winter concert that evening.

Lexi has also gotten the support of local Meteorologist Justin Berk (pictured here), who created a video with Lexi that was posted on Justin's Facebook page this week. Justin met Lexi through connections to his wife and to his foundation's executive director who also works for Special Olympics, and he decided he wanted to help get the word out about Lexi's Super Plunge.



Lexi's fundraising efforts are ongoing, and she is getting close to her \$10,000 goal.

Even after Lexi reaches that goal, she will continue raising as much money as she can until the Super Plunge takes place January 17-18, 2020, and she would appreciate your donations. If you would like to contribute to Lexi's campaign and help support Maryland's Special Olympics athletes, please visit her fundraising page at <https://support.somd.org/fundraiser/2229452>. Thank you!

Freshmen News

We know midterms may feel a long way off, but the 9th grade team is already planning. There is a **9th grade Midterm Mania link** on the MHHS Student Community Canvas page under the Academics tab. This page has test taking strategies, study skills, the midterm schedule, and a midterm document for almost every 9th grade class. Please encourage your student to utilize these resources over break and the weeks leading up to midterms to prepare for the exams. If your student does not see a document for a specific class, please have the student contact the teacher directly via email.

Students can also stay after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45pm-4pm for additional help in the media center with the beyond school hours program. This is a free, drop in tutoring program where students can receive additional support from other students from various National Honor Societies. Please contact the school with questions regarding the beyond school hours' bus.

Please contact Ms. Mongano or Ms. Stafford (the 9th grade Instructional Team Leaders) or your child's school counselor with any questions.

SPECIAL SECTION for SENIORS

Seeking Graduation Speakers

It's already time to start planning for graduation! We are looking for a few student speakers who would like to be part of the commencement ceremony. If you are interested in auditioning, you will need to audition with your own speech. Auditions will be held on 2/13/20 after school.

In order to audition, you must complete the [Google form](#) by Monday, 1/13/20. Speeches must be no longer than 3 minutes and will be read by you in front of a panel, so be sure to practice reading out loud and time yourself.

We look forward to your creativity!

Graduation Window Announced

HCPSS has confirmed the window for the 2020 high school graduations as Monday, May 18-Thursday, May 28, 2020. The 12 HCPSS comprehensive high schools will hold ceremonies at Merriweather Post Pavilion. The Cedar Lane School ceremony will be held at that school.

HCPSS has made this early announcement to accommodate planning by parents, students, schools and community members. We will provide the specific dates and times of each school's graduation ceremony after Merriweather finalizes its concert schedule, historically in the early spring.

A Note from Student Services

Please periodically check out the folders located under the **DOCUMENT RESOURCES** link on the Home Page of Naviance. There are folders for College Planning, Career Planning, Financial Aid, NCAA/ Student Athletes, Parent Presentations, among others. We upload resources we think will be valuable for you and your students!

Senior Portraits

The final date here at Mt. Hebron will be Tuesday, January 7. Portraits are due by Friday, January 31, 2020, if you want your portrait to be in the yearbook.

Any outside portraits should be mailed to the yearbook email:

yearbook.mounthebron@gmail.com

All other questions can be answered from the FAQ on the yearbook webpage

<https://mhhs.hcpss.org/yearbook>.

Senior Events Calendar

Event	Date	Location	Cost
Final Senior Portrait date from Lifetouch @ Hebron	January 7, 2020		
Senior Portraits Due	January 31, 2020		
Senior T-shirt	January		Free
Prom	May 2, 2020, 8-11pm	Turf Valley	
Class Night Dinner & Dance	May, 2020	TBD	
Senior Picnic	May, 2020	TBD	
Graduation Window	May 18-28, 2020	Merriweather Post Pavilion	Free

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

After-Prom 2020 Logo Design Contest

All student artists, graphic designers, and creative talents are encouraged to participate in the After-Prom 2020 Logo Design Contest. The PTSA is soliciting entries for the After-Prom Logo Design Contest *through midnight January 10, 2020*. The winning design will be featured on the t-shirts given away at After-Prom, plus correspondence and other marketing materials. The **winning artist receives a \$20 gift card to Qdoba**, and if that person is a junior or senior, they also receive **2 free tickets to After-Prom**. See all Contest Guidelines and Design Specifications on the [PTSA website](#). Hard copies will also be available in the front office. Please no hand-drawn images – those are more difficult to transfer to digital copy for printing.

Contact Caroline Bodziak at cbodziak@aol.com with any questions.

Schools Closed on February 4, 2020

This is a reminder that all school and offices will be closed on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, due to the special primary election to fill the 7th congressional district seat vacated following the passing of Rep. Elijah Cummings.

Winter Dance Spectacular



Mt. Hebron High School
Dance Department presents

The Winter Dance Spectacular

January 10, 2020*
Mt Hebron High School Auditorium
7:00pm
Tickets \$8.00 at the door or online

Order tickets ONLINE at:
<http://mounthebron.booktix.com/>

*Snow date: January, 11, 2020

Mt. Hebron Gifted and Talented Research Program

The Gifted and Talented Research Program at Mt. Hebron High School includes two courses – **Independent Research GT** and **Intern/Mentor GT**. Both courses provide our students with a unique opportunity to explore a topic of their choice for the entire school year.

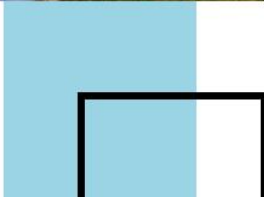
Students in **Independent Research** are in class with Dr. Kiehl every day. They learn about the process of conducting scholarly research, finding appropriate sources, refining their writing skills, connecting with professionals in their field, and presenting their research. They focus all of their assignments on a topic they choose and receive guidance at every step from Dr. Kiehl. Every year, the diversity of topics is fascinating. A few of this year's topics include brain

cancer, the bystander effect, water availability in third world countries, special education, and so much more!

Students in **Intern/Mentor** are placed in an internship in the community. They also advance their skills and understanding of research, writing, and presenting, but do so through authentic experiences with professionals and periodic instruction from Dr. Kiehl, who also monitors their internship progress throughout the year. Students are fortunate to be placed with a number of prestigious mentors in the area. Internship locations include financial advisors, hospitals and universities, the Applied Physics Lab, local doctors' offices, the court house, and many more!

If you are interested in learning about these unique opportunities that set your child apart from others, please be sure to attend the **GT Information Session** on **January 14th at 7pm** in the **Mt. Hebron Auditorium**. Applications are available in the Mt. Hebron Media Center beginning December 1st and online at www.MtHebronGT.com. Students are welcome to see Dr. Kiehl in room 109 or email mkiehl@hcpss.org with questions.

Design A T-Shirt Contest for Earth Day



TO CELEBRATE THE
30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE HOWARD
COUNTY
CONSERVANCY &
50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF EARTH DAY,

DESIGN A T-SHIRT!

Submit by Jan. 13th, 2020 to
watershed@hcconservancy.org.
Open to all high school
students, grades 9-12.

THE WINNING DESIGN...

Will receive an \$100 Visa
Gift Card, and have their design
featured on the HCC Shirt for
the 50th Earth Day Celebration
in April of 2020

**For contest rules and
information, visit:**

<https://tinyurl.com/HCCdesign>

Norovirus/Stomach Bug

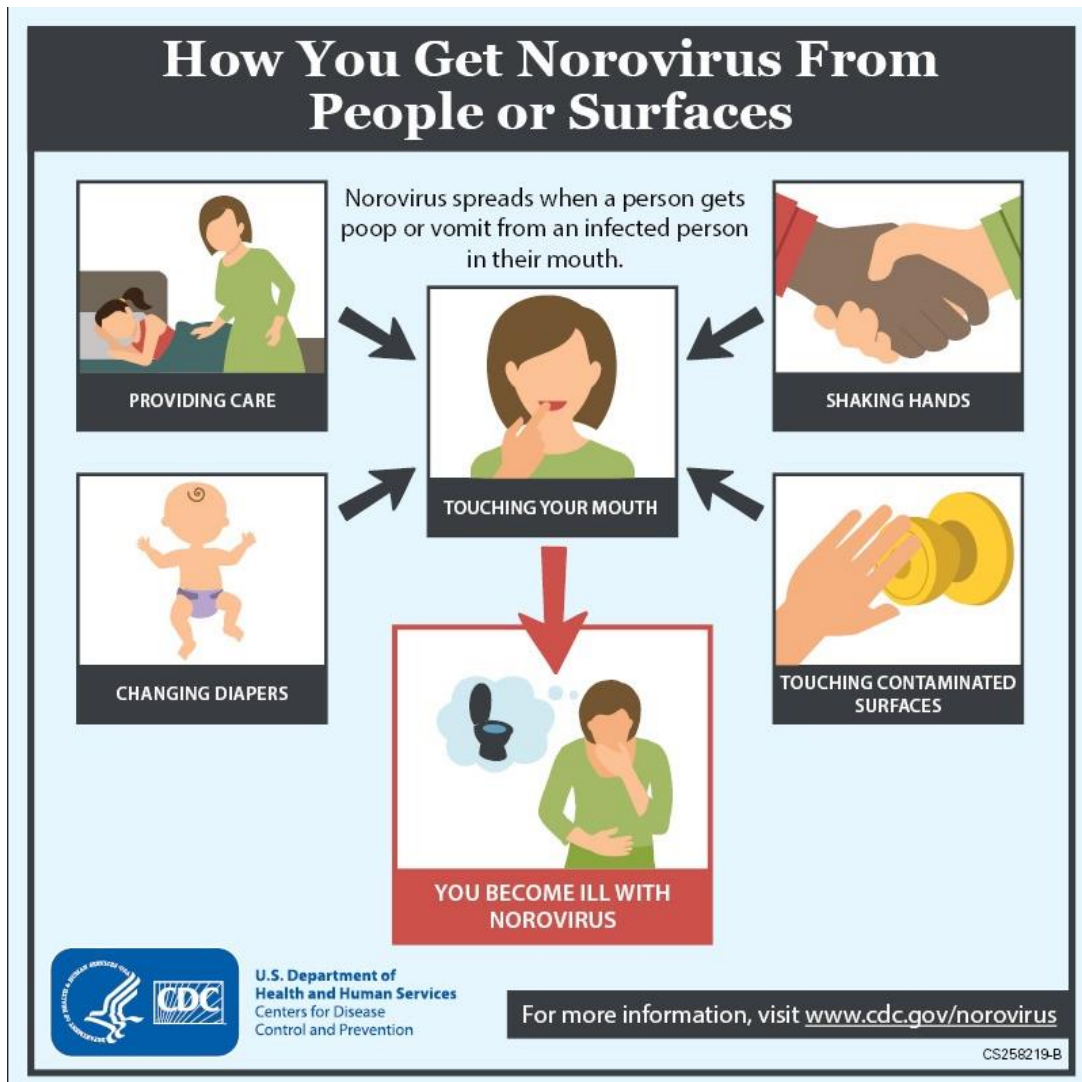
Symptoms: may include vomiting, stomachache, and diarrhea

Transmission: contaminated food/drink, shared surfaces/objects, direct contact with ill people.

Prevention: frequent and thorough hand washing is still the number one method of prevention. The CDC also recommends washing all fruits, vegetables, and shellfish.

At Home: clean and disinfect all surfaces, utensils, and laundry

For additional information, you may find suggestions at www.CDC.gov



Counselor's Corner

Is your child interested in a career as an electrician? Check out the Open House!

Future Electrician Open House

Friday, February 28, 2020

8:30am-1:00pm

IEC Chesapeake 8751 Freestate Drive, Suite 250 Laurel, MD 20723

R.S.V.P BY January 24, 2020 To SBurley@IECChesapeake.com

[PERMISSION SLIP](#) for field trip

HC DrugFree Teen Meeting

We encourage all Howard County high school teens to join HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council (TAC) where they will have a safe place to learn about risk taking and healthy alternatives, discuss what is happening in and around our community, and much more. Questions? Call 443-325-0040 or email Admin@hcdrugfree.org.

The next TAC meeting will be held on **January 13** from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Barn (The Columbia Association's Teen Center) located in The Oakland Mills Village Center.

TAC is open to all Howard County high school students (public, private and home school), but students must RSVP to Admin@hcdrugfree.org for each meeting. TAC follows the HCPSS school cancellation policies. Registration forms can be found on the TAC page at <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council-1/>. Refreshments provided.

Join the Plastics Student Task Force

Are you concerned about plastics in our waterways?

Students from each high school are encouraged to apply to the plastics student task force.

Please see your teacher for an application.



All meetings will take place at the Howard County Conservancy, 10520 Old Frederick Rd, Woodstock, MD

11/6 5:30-7 Work Group
12/11 5:30-7 Work Group
1/8 5:30-7 Work Group
2/5 5:30-7 Work Group
3/4 5:30-7 Work Group

Your next **VALHALLA VOICE** will be published January 6th with the latest news from your parent advocacy groups and community.

School Year Resources

Update Your Emergency Information ANNUALLY

Parents/guardians may now complete/update their Family File emergency information. *Parents must verify or update information for each child, each school year.* Access your Family File by logging in to [HCPSS Connect](#), selecting the Family File tab on the left and then selecting Family File. [Details and resources](#) can be found on the HCPSS website.

Free Drop-In Tutor on Tuesday and Thursday

The Media Center will be open every Tuesday and Thursday until 4pm. National Honors Society tutors will be available for free drop-in tutoring. All students are welcome. Please contact danielle_borgia@hcpss.org with any questions.

After School Activities Bus Schedule

The Activities Bus is available for any student staying after school for academic support or extracurricular activities. The dates for the bus, as well as the stops, are listed below. Both are subject to change. If your child is interested in taking the bus, please fill click on the link & complete the form. **Students may not ride the bus without parent/guardian permission.**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hfuJg83ak7JXXsSaOv-1Hrly6lvbQea0HtTzOdfwmo/edit>

Bus Dates:

January: 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 28, 30

February: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27

March: 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31

April: 2, 14, 16, 21, 23, 30

May: 5, 7, 12, 14

Bus Stops (Pick up at MTH @ 4:10 pm)

*Maple Rock Dr and East Stayman Dr

*Hollifield Station ES

*High Ridge Rd and Rosemar Dr

*Town & Country Blvd and West Springs Dr

*Wheaton Way and Normandy Woods Dr

*George Howard Bldg - 3430 Courthouse Dr

*Worthington ES

Are You A Proud Viking? Become A Viking Backer!

We invite you to join the Viking Backers, Booster Club for Mt. Hebron High School. The Viking Backers is an all-volunteer, parent organization which supports ALL student extracurricular activities including academics, arts & athletics.

Visit www.vikingbackers.org to join online. We no longer are taking paper forms or checks; everything is going through the website. Your membership supports ALL students at Mt. Hebron.

