



## **PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER**

September 21, 2018

Happy Last Day of Summer Viking Families!

And in Maryland, nothing says summer like CRABS! Which is why I was thrilled last night to share in our school's long-standing tradition, The Senior Crab Feast. A huge THANK YOU to our Senior Class Sponsors, Greg Murach and Lisa Vitali, who coordinated a memorable evening for our seniors filled with food, fun, and friendship. It was the perfect way to bid summer farewell. And now I'm ready for fall and all the changes a new season brings. Heraclitus famously said, "Change is the only constant," and as a former science teacher and now principal who has the privilege of watching your children change and grow every day, I couldn't agree more. I'm ready to move from crabs to apple crisps and from short-sleeves to sweatshirts. I hope the change in seasons brings you something you're looking forward to as well!

Joelle

P.S. As always, there's much going on in our school. You can click on the links below to take you directly to that section of the newsletter or scroll down to read the all the news. And remember, my newsletter is always posted on our website as well under, "News."

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[Upcoming Dates/Events](#)

[Celebrations](#)

[New News](#)

[Worth Repeating](#)

## **FOLLOW US & STAY CONNECTED**

Follow us on twitter: [@hcpss\\_hebron](#)

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

The Mountain: Hebron High School's Online Newspaper: <https://mthmountain.com/>

## **UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
September 22		MTHMU Sub Sale: Making at School & Delivery
September 26	7-8:30pm	PTSA Café Conversations
September 27	6:30pm	College Night for Seniors @ Auditorium
September 28	7pm	The <i>Fantasticks</i> Musical- Auditorium
September 29		MTHMU Stevenson Band Day
September 30	2pm	The <i>Fantasticks</i> Musical- Auditorium
October 3	6pm	MTHMU Booster meeting in the Band Room
October 3		Professional Work Day- School closed 3 hours early
October 7	9am	Viking 5K & 1mile Fun Walk
October 9		Interim Progress Reports Issued for Quarter 1
October 9		Flu Clinic @ Health Room
October 9	6-8:30pm	PTSA meeting in the Media Center
October 10		PSAT for 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , & 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students
October 10		Seniors discretionary day to visit colleges
October 11		Homecoming Guest Form Due
October 13		Homecoming Festivities & Dance
October 19		Professional Learning Day- No school for students
October 22	6:30-8pm	PTSA Cafe Conversations
January 17, 2019	7:30-9am	PTSA Cafe Conversations
March 5, 2019	7-8:30pm	PTSA Cafe Conversations
April 27, 2019		Prom @ The Hotel at Arundel

## **CELEBRATIONS**

**Congratulations** to Uma Phatak/Soprano, Katie Lee/Clarinet and Joanna Choi/Violin for being eligible to attend the extremely prestigious All-Eastern Music Festival this year. They have been chosen to participate from over 5000 students and 16 states. Way to go!

**Congratulations** to the Mt. Hebron Boys Basketball Coaching Staff who traveled to Camden, NJ on September 17th to attend a clinic led by some of the NBA's best and brightest coaching minds. Our staff learned about some important philosophies and strategies from 76ers Head Coach Brett Brown, as well as USA Basketball assistant and former Head Coach of the New Orleans Pelicans, Monty Williams. One key takeaway; "love learning and be instinctively curious." (*Mt. Hebron coaches can be seen in front row towards the right of the image*)



## **NEW NEWS**

**Dear Parents of 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Graders,**

It was a pleasure meeting with 9<sup>th</sup> grade students last week in the Student Services Office! Students took a field trip to the Student Services Office during their Lifetime Fitness or Health class to learn about the multiple resources available to them as a high school student. Information regarding GPA calculations as well as the many reasons you can visit your counselor were reviewed. Finally, students met one-on-one with their counselor after completing a 'get-to know you' activity. We enjoyed learning more about each of our students and look forward to working with all of you.

If your student was not able to meet his/her counselor, please sign for an appointment on the sheet in front of your counselor's door.

This week we are going into 12th grade English classes to discuss the transcript process, teacher recommendations and choosing the right college for you. In addition, seniors were given their unofficial transcript. Please review it carefully and notify your child's counselor if there is an error.

Lastly, we will have our College Night for Seniors on Thursday, September 27th at 6:30pm in the auditorium. Come out and hear information about the college application process!

## **Beyond School Hours Programs**

Several intervention initiatives are available this year to support the academic success of our students:

1. The **Media Center** is open until **3:45PM** on **Tuesday & Thursday** for students who would like to study, use the computers, work on group projects, or receive tutoring.
2. An **After School Activities Bus** is available on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** beginning September 25 and continuing until May 16. The **bus will depart at approximately 4:00pm** from the front of the school and make stops at four major areas: **Liter Court & Liter Drive, Hollifield Station Elementary School, Town & Country & West Spring Drive, and Worthington Elementary School.** Students may use the After School Activities Bus if they need to: make-up work, attend club meetings, serve detention or study in the Media Center. This should be especially useful for our Freshmen and Sophomore students who do not drive to school. If you would like your son or daughter to ride the After School Activities Bus, **look for an email on Monday with a permission form attached.**
3. Tutoring in major academic subjects, English, Math, Social Studies, Science and World Language will become available on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** in the **Media Center.**

Please direct any questions to Danielle Borgia and Dwayne Williams.

## **Withdrawal Date for Students to Drop Classes**

Please note that the county ***withdrawal date for students to drop courses is Thursday, October 18th.*** This is different than what is listed in the county calendar that went out.

## **Parent Volunteers are needed for the Flu Clinic**

We need your help on October 9th to hand out the completed consent forms to the students. The clinic will begin at 7:30am and hopefully finished by 10:00am. If you can volunteer for any amount of time, please call the Health room at 410-313-8178 or email Karen\_Torpey@hcpss.org. Thank You!

## **Homecoming Hoopla!!!**

Just a reminder that in order to purchase a Homecoming Dance ticket, the following FIVE obligations must be met:

- Your Family File has been updated for this school year. ***(Even if nothing has changed, you still need to log in & go through each page and hit submit at the end.)*** You can click on the link if you need to update your Family File.

<https://www.hcpss.org/connect/>

- You've turned in the MHHS Honor Code
- You've turned the HCPSS Student Code of Conduct & Related Policies
- You have no outstanding Media books
- Athletic uniforms from past seasons have been turned in

Would you like **to bring a guest to Homecoming who is not a student at MHHS?** In order to bring your guest, you will need to fill out the form below.

[http://docs.google.com/document/d/152m\\_fmqujGQeLSLeTXRdVyWeSPATSg0mZ6j0X3Hyel8/edit?usp=sharing\\_eil&ts=5b9826b9](http://docs.google.com/document/d/152m_fmqujGQeLSLeTXRdVyWeSPATSg0mZ6j0X3Hyel8/edit?usp=sharing_eil&ts=5b9826b9)

***MHHS County Dance Guest Forms are due by October 11.***

## **WORTH REPEATING**

### **Detailed Directions for Parents to Access the Family File**

To access the Family File you go through your HCPSS Connect account (also referred to as "Synergy" and "Parent Portal").

- 1) Go to the Mt Hebron website <https://mhhs.hcpss.org/>
- 2) Scroll down to Essential Applications and click on the first one, HCPSS Connect
- 3) Click on the blue bar that says HCPSS Connect Login. (There are also several Guides and Tutorials on this page which can help you.)
- 4) On the login screen enter your full email address as your Username and your Password and then click Login. The Family File will be one of the choices on the left side of your screen.
- 5) If you have forgotten your password or haven't set up an account yet, click on the blue words "Account Activation and Forgot Password" below the login area and follow the prompts.
- 6) If you need assistance, contact Mary May at 410-313-2880 or [Mary\\_May@hcpss.org](mailto:Mary_May@hcpss.org)

### **News from the Health Room**

The flu clinic at MHHS will be held **Wednesday, October 9th**. **If you want your child to receive a flu vaccination, fill out the hard copy OR the online consent. DO NOT FILL OUT BOTH.**

Online consent form can be found at [www.vaccineconsent.com](http://www.vaccineconsent.com). This is a secure, private site. Forms need to be filled out completely.

Your child may pick up the paper consent form in their English classroom. If your child does not have English this year, they may obtain one from the Health Room **OR** complete the online consent form.

ALL forms, online or hard copy **MUST BE HANDED IN TO YOUR ENGLISH TEACHER OR COMPLETED ONLINE BY FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 21st**. There will be no exceptions.

### **Play It Safe Poster Contest**

An amazing opportunity for all of our creative and talented students. Check out our website & click on "Play It Safe Poster Contest" under our News section for more information. <https://mhhs.hcpss.org/news>

### **Homecoming**

Have you heard the news? Our theme this year is **ECOSYSTEMS!**

*Freshman/Desert, Sophomores/Arctic, Juniors/Marine, Seniors/Tropical Rainforest*

Homecoming is October 13<sup>th</sup>! More information will be coming as the date approaches, but be sure you have the entire reserved as the festivities start early and end with our dance!

### **Best Buddies**

Best Buddies is a club that promotes friendships and high school experiences between students with and without disabilities. Students interested in participating as a peer buddy or club member should attend the informational meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 26th after school in the cafeteria. Best Buddies will meet monthly after school beginning in October. Email Ms. Ewart if you have questions ([patricia\\_ewart@hcpss.org](mailto:patricia_ewart@hcpss.org)).

### **Bikes Are Coming on Monday!**

Ms. McCarthy's Lifetime Fitness and Aerobic Conditioning classes will be riding bikes during PE starting on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>! Please consider making sure your child

is dressed in shorts or pants that are not wide at the bottom as these risk getting caught in the bicycle chain. Tennis shoes are, of course, still necessary for safe participation in class.

If you would like to bring your own bike helmet to school during this time, you may bring it to school and have your fit adjusted. It also gets you on the bike faster during class which equals more riding time! If you choose to bring your helmet from home, please make sure your name is inside/on the helmet somewhere. Students are responsible for storing their helmet in their locker while at school. The helmet is the sole responsibility of the student and will not be replaced if it is misplaced.

Students may NOT bring their own bikes for use in PE. Bikes and helmets are provided for all students during class. If your child is unable to ride a two-wheel bike independently, they will get to practice gaining skill on a balance bike (no pedals) until they feel more confident and are ready to try riding using pedals.

Remember that if you ride anything with wheels (scooters, skates or bikes) and are under the age of 16, you must wear a helmet in the state of Maryland. Helmets protect our growing brains while we sharpen our safety skills and have a whole lot of F-U-N! Please contact Ms. Melissa McCarthy (Melissa\_McCarthy@hcpss.org) if you have further questions.

### **The PSAT Is Right around the Corner**

Another “save the date” for your calendar! On Wednesday, October 10, the PSAT will be administered to student in grades 9-11 in the morning. Students will attend regular classes in the afternoon. The schedule will be adjusted once testing is complete.

There will not be a make-up day for the PSAT. Students will need to bring #2 pencils and an approved calculator such as the TI-83. Calculators may not be shared. Late students will not be allowed to enter a testing classroom once the test has begun, so please help ensure your student arrives to school on time. We have over 1200 students taking the PSAT, and we need to start immediately at 7:25am.

**Other than for emergency purposes, please do not plan on picking up your child for early dismissal until the test is completed.**

**If you are a SENIOR**, we encourage you to use this day (October 10<sup>th</sup>) as a discretionary day to visit colleges, set up appointments etc. If seniors are in need of assistance on their college essays, English teachers will be available to help in the Media Center. Please note: if you enter the Media Center for assistance, you will be required to remain in the media center for the duration of the test as all other teachers will be proctoring the exam.

**As a reminder, your VALHALLA VOICE is coming on Monday with the latest news from your parent advocacy groups and community news.**