



## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

January 17, 2020

### Midterms Are Upon Us, Vikings!

If the school year were a marathon, we'd be approaching the 13-mile marker, almost halfway done! And at this pit stop, students will have an opportunity to show their teachers all that they learned in the first half of the school year by taking their midterm exams next week. Midterms are an exciting and stressful time for our students as this weekend will undoubtedly be filled with studying. (Mother Nature appears to be on our side as the weather looks perfect for staying indoors.)

Studying and reviewing are very important. Our freshmen had an overview of midterms before winter break, and they have a number of resources available to help them on their Student Canvas Page. Exams are 90-minutes long, and students will take one exam on Jan. 21 and then two exams each day on Jan. 22, Jan. 23 and Jan. 24. *(As a reminder, Jan 22-24 are also half days for students who will be dismissed at 11:10am.)*

Please make sure students get enough sleep next week, eat a healthy breakfast and bring a snack to sustain them between exams. Students must arrive on time! I encourage students to ride the bus or get dropped off early. Our cafeteria opens at 6:30am, and students can buy breakfast. They do not need the stress of sitting in traffic in the drop-off line. PLEASE COME EARLY. Additionally, make sure students bring all of the materials they need for their exams. *Midterms account for 10% of the final class grade.*

In addition to preparing for midterms, students are also selecting their courses for next year, thinking about what interests them and where they can push themselves. We strongly suggest that students select a schedule which promotes rigor, challenges them and engages them. If you don't already know what classes your student has registered for, ask them to share with you what they chose and why. Did they choose electives that interest them? That will teach them something new and help them step outside their comfort zone? School counselors are always available if your student wants to talk about their course load and ensure that it's balanced.

I had the joy this week of popping into one of our elective courses, **Food and Nutrition Technology**, and seeing their incredible cupcake displays, the result of **Ms. Teyarnte Carter's** annual Cupcake Wars competition. I posted some pictures on Twitter this week and also shared them below. So much creativity and fun, and this is just one example of the many amazing electives we offer for your students.

Second semester and third quarter officially begin on January 28, but before we start the back half of our marathon, let's finish the first half strong! I know our Vikings are going to *ROCK* their mid-terms!

Joelle

## **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
January 20		Schools & offices closed/ Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 20	8:30am-4:30pm	MLK, Jr. Day of Service @ Glen Mar Church
January 21-24		Mid-term exam window
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 1	9-11am	HCPSS Summer School Registration Open
February 3		Quarter 2 Report Cards Distribution during 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period
February 4		<b>NEW **Schools &amp; offices closed for Special Election</b>
February 8	10am	It's Academic Team competition airs on WJZ-channel 13
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 7		Science Olympiad @ Hebron
March 18-22	3/18, 10am 3/19-21, 7pm 3/22, 2pm	"Beauty and the Beast" Musical Production
March 26	6-7:30pm	College Night (College Park, HCC, Armed Services and UMBC) in the Auditorium
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 Post Pavilion
May 25		Schools closed for Memorial Day
June 22		Last possible school day if all 5 snow days are used
June 22-July 31		HCPSS Summer School
August 25, 2020		First School Day for Students 20-21 School Year

# CELEBRATIONS!

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



**Congratulations** to Seniors **Anna Romenskaya** and **Pablo Perrotti** who won the PTSA After-Prom 2020 Logo Design Contest! (*Pablo was not in school when the photo was taken.*)

They won a \$20 gift card to Qdoba +2 free tickets to after prom!!

## Watch Super Plunger Lexi on WBAL

News reporter, Jennifer Franciotti, came to Mt. Hebron to interview Lexi for [this article](#). We will all be rooting for her this weekend as she plunges into the Chesapeake 24 times in 24 hours!

## CUPAKE WARS!







**Congratulations to the 71 students who were inducted into the Mu Alpha Theta National Mathematics Honor Society last night!**

Shaqib Ahmad	Jessica Iveljic	Pragat Patel
Asiya Ahmed	Jasmine Ives	Khushi Patel
Stephen Aldred	Norah Jackson	Rajjya Paudyal
Peter Alman	Sebastian Joseph	Andy Pu
Trisha Anand	Kaylee Kim	Pesanth Janaseth Rangaswamy Anitha
Amuthini Arivazhagan	Jennifer Lee	Prad Rangini
Akshay Badrinathan	Aditi Madabushi	Vani Sri Lalitha Ravipati
Sai Harshini Badugu	Saniya Mahate	Rumsha Raza
Mallery Baisley	Pratham Mathapati	Jeremy Roberts- Kleban
Aleena Bano	Liam McCaffrey	Sarah Sating
Arjun Bhatia	Amanda McLaughlin	Logan Scarbath
Melanie Brandt	Prem Mehta	Shiya Shah
Isabella Broccolino	Harit Metla	Hyder Shahine
Nihar Chegireddy	John Michaels	Suyesh Shrestha
Connor Croft	Advaitha Midde	Manroop Singh
Emily Davies	Michael Mironenko	Sai Sreeramani
Avani Devadiga	Amy Moy	Zarish Sultan
Ethan Doan	Shruthika Nallamaddi	Varshini Suresh
William Eisentraut	Leah Nath	Mira Tadimalla
Ayesha Fadlaoui	Kayla Nemirovsky	Sam Thoguru
Ahmed Hamad	Aditya Nyavanandi	Pavankumar Umashankar
Sophia Hogle	Rayan Overcast	Daisy Zheng
Maison Holcomb	Michelle Pak	David Zheng
Gwyneth Holzman	John Sangmin Park	





## STAFF FOCUS



Mt. Hebron has a ***new dance teacher this year- Jennifer DiPietro*** and she is literally shaking it up! Her dancers begin class with warm ups and traveling dance steps across the floor as she continually provides detailed feedback on technique. Her classes are nonstop engagement, where students are constantly moving. There is an atmosphere of trust as students try all moves - giving their best effort every day.

Last Friday, students performed 24 dances of all styles at their two-hour Winter Dance Spectacular concert, and we've heard nothing but praise! Ms. DiPietro has been a dance instructor for 15 years, twelve of those in Howard County. Senior Alexandra Berry says, "She always seems to be having fun so students have fun too." Currently, students are preparing for midterms by working on their modern dance technique.

In addition to teaching her regular classes, Ms. DiPietro is also choreographing for our spring musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, and preparing the students for the Howard County dance festival. The spring show is April 30 and May 1 at 7 pm, so mark your calendars now!

Students say she cares about us; she treats us all equally no matter the level; she never lets us stop; she pushes us; she includes us and always asks us what we think.

We are incredibly lucky to have such a talented instructor on our staff. If your student is interested in taking any level of dance class next year, they can talk to their school counselor or see Ms. DiPietro. All are welcome!

# NEW NEWS

## **Start Date for Next School Year**

As this is the time of year when many people start making plans for summer, please remember that the start date for students for the 2020-2021 school year is ***Tuesday, August 25, 2020.***

## **Science Olympiad Needs You**

Thank you for assisting on Saturday, March 7th, 2020 at our 2nd Annual Science Olympiad competition at Mt. Hebron High School! Please sign up for all the jobs that you feel most comfortable in doing. If you are an "Event Volunteer" we will notify you which one you are covering ahead of time. If you want to help with a specific event like Forensics or Ornithology please leave a comment. Note: if you sign up for an event we will need help grading the tests.

\*Please note this is a Div. C (high school) tournament.

Students age 16 and up may volunteer on their own; high school students under age 16 may volunteer with an adult. Any age student may volunteer for setup and cleanup. All students may earn service hours for volunteering.

We also need people to work set-up after school on Friday 3/6/20, early set-up Saturday morning before the event, and clean-up after the awards that same Saturday.

Email the Director, Paul Sabota, at paul\_sabota@hcpss.org for further clarification or if you want to see a list of events. The address of the venue is 9440 Old Frederick Road Ellicott City MD 21042.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4da9a62fa31-mthebron1>

This Sign-Up Genius will be updated. You will receive an email if you signed up.

## *Counselors Corner*

- **It's Scheduling Time**
  - Counselors met students during all lunch shifts in the cafeteria January 13-17 to answer student questions and help students sign up for courses. The deadline for course registration was today, January 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Does your student still have questions? Counselors will meet with EVERY student in grades 9-11 to help with course selection beginning January 28. Students will receive passes to come to Student Services. Lists will also be posted for students to see when their appointments are.
  - Need registration directions in Korean or Spanish? See your counselor for more information!
- **Student Services College Night:** March 26<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm in the auditorium. We will have presenters from College Park, HCC, Armed Services & UMBC.
- **HCPSS Summer School** (June 22-July 31) – registration opens through HCPSS Connect on February 1 or in person at the Homewood Center February 1, 9-11 am. Check out course offerings on their website after January 21 : <https://www.hcpss.org/summer-programs/>

- Is your child planning on attending **HCC in Fall, 2020**? Your child may be eligible for the Maryland Promise Scholarship available to students attending community college. Find out more information here: [https://www.howardcc.edu/admissions-aid/pay-for-college/financial-aid/scholarship\\_programs/promise.html](https://www.howardcc.edu/admissions-aid/pay-for-college/financial-aid/scholarship_programs/promise.html)
- **PSAT results** are out! Get our full score report and explanations of how to interpret your scores by going to [www.psat.org/myscore](http://www.psat.org/myscore). You can also access practice tests based on your responses. Need help? See your counselor!
- **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](mailto:SBurley@IECChesapeake.com)**

## SPECIAL SECTION for SENIORS

### **Graduation Window Announced**

HCPSS has confirmed the window for the 2020 high school graduations as Monday, May 18 to 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**

Senior 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](mailto: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/Time	Location
Makeup Senior Portraits	January 30, 2020	
Senior Portraits Due	January 31, 2020	
Senior T-shirt	January	
Deadline to Submit Casual Portraits and from Outside Photographer	February 14, 2020	Submit to: <a href="mailto:yearbook.mounthebron@gmail.com">yearbook.mounthebron@gmail.com</a>
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



# NEWS WORTH REPEATING

## **Midterm Exam Schedule for NEXT WEEK**

Mid-Term exams are Jan 21-24. The complete schedule and more information is posted on our website. <https://mhhs.hcpss.org/news/2020/01/mid-term-exam-schedule-2020>

## **Leadership U Class of 2020**

Is your student looking to build his/her confidence, strengthen their leadership, and problem solving skills, and learn how to network? Does he or she want to make a difference in our Howard County community? Consider joining the Leadership U Class of 2020! Leadership U is an exciting, experiential leadership, teambuilding, and community service opportunity for **current high school sophomores**.

This unique four-month program involves a week-long summer program of hands-on activities, as well as involvement in a team community service project. This program is for students with leadership potential, a desire to learn with others, and for those with an interest in the community.

Come to learn more and speak to some of our grads at one of our information sessions being conducted at the Howard County Library System: **January 27 at HCLS-Miller Branch from 7-8pm, February 13 at HCLS-Central Branch from 7-8pm or March 1 at HCLS-Miller Branch from 3-4pm**. Both parents and students are highly encouraged to attend. Additional information is available at <http://www.leadershiphc.org/leadership-u-2/> or email Meg Ignacio [mignacio@leadershiphc.org](mailto:mignacio@leadershiphc.org). Applications are due March 12, 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!

Applications are available in the Mt. Hebron Media Center beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> and online at [www.MtHebronGT.com](http://www.MtHebronGT.com). They are due Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Students are welcome to see Dr. Kiehl in room 109 or email [mkiehl@hcpss.org](mailto:mkiehl@hcpss.org) with questions.

## MLK, Jr. Day of Service Opportunity



**" Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?' "**

– MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Our sixth annual Day of Service will be hosted at Glen Mar Church partnering with Ames Memorial UMC, St John Baptist Church, and Terps Against Hunger. Join us for family-friendly short-term service activities for ages 5 to 105 that will make a positive difference in our community. There will be about 18 different on-site and a couple off-site activities. The activities help with food security, community development, public health, and support the morale of service members. The Day of Service offers individuals, families, and friends, the opportunity to serve together. We hope to attract over 1,400 people (last year's attendance was 1,345) and package over 100,000 meals. We will also hold a blood drive with the American Red Cross. So, come for an hour or come for the day!

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020 (MLK JR. DAY) FROM 8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM**

**COST:** The event is FREE and open to the public but donations allow us to expand the event.  
**WHAT:** Family friendly short-term service activities for ages 5 to 105 years old. We will offer free childcare from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM for 1 to 4 year olds.  
**WHERE:** Glen Mar Church, 4701 New Cut Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043  
**SERVICE HOURS:** Authorization forms for your service hours are available at the sign-in table  
**ON-SITE LUNCH:** Bowl of chili with or without meat, grilled cheese sandwich, and a bottle of water  
**VISIT US:** [www.glenmarumc.org/gmcevents/dayofservice/](http://www.glenmarumc.org/gmcevents/dayofservice/)

**Have questions? Email us at [dayofservice@glenmarumc.org](mailto:dayofservice@glenmarumc.org) or call 410-465-4995**

\*Partnership opportunities are available

#### **PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 5 YEARS OLD AND UP:**

- Packaging meals for the hungry
- Decorating cookies for inner-city school teachers and childcare workers
- Writing letters and drawing pictures for service members, college students, and others
- Making no-sew fleece blankets for students and elderly

#### **PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 8 YEARS OLD AND UP:**

- Sewing pillowcases for people during a hospital stay
- Making jump ropes out of clean old t-shirts for school children
- Making fishing kits and pony bead kits for children
- Assembling health care kits for children
- Knitting items for those recovering from an illness
- Making tic-tac-toe kits and flannel teddy bears for school children

#### **PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR ANY AGE:**

- On-site food collection for the Sandtown community in Baltimore: non-perishable food items
- On-site collection of gently used clothing for those in need
- On-site collection of gently used shoes of any size for those in need of footwear
- Health screening for 16 years old and up (BMI and blood pressure screening, pre-diabetes risk assessment)
- Blood drive with the American Red Cross for 16 years old and up

#### **PLANNED OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS AND UP:**

- Several all-day off-site activities (meet at church at 8:30 am, bring a bag lunch and two water bottles)

\* The information is neither sponsored nor endorsed by HCPSS or the school.

## **HC DrugFree Updates**

Not My Child - Teen Vaping and More: Parents/guardians are invited to join HC DrugFree and Marriotts Ridge High School PTSA for a free educational program on January 29 at 7:00 p.m. Open to the public. MRHS auditorium. (If school evening activities are cancelled due to weather, the program will be held on February 11.)

HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council (TAC) will meet on Monday, February 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Barn/Teen Center in the Oakland Mills Village Center. TAC meets one Monday evening a month and is open to all Howard County high school students. Community service hours are available for all meetings and events. To access the registration form, please visit <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council-1>. Refreshments provided at meetings, so must RSVP to [Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:Admin@hcdrugfree.org) or call 443-325-0040.

**TAC is open to all Howard County high school students (public, private and home school)**, but students must RSVP to [Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto: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.

**Your next VALHALLA VOICE will be published January 21st 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](mailto: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-1Hrly6lvIbQea0HtTzOdfwmo/edit>



**Bus Dates:**

January: 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](http://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.

