



### **Summer Principal's Message**

Hello everyone!! I hope you are enjoying the summer. After the shift to virtual learning in the spring, I'm sure everyone was ready for a summer break. As you may already know, our school system has spent these past several months in work groups to address what school will look like for the upcoming school year. Although we are in a virtual environment again, the expectations will be different than this past spring. Students will be meeting virtually with their teachers every day, four days a week. New material will be taught, grades will be assigned, and rigor will increase. Teachers officially begin on August 25, but they have been working on updating their curriculum to fill in any missed gaps from the third and fourth quarters this past spring. We are getting updates almost daily from Central Office as they are working hard to finalize decisions. Check the HCPSS website regularly for information and updates at [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org)

### **Updated School Calendar**

**You can find the updated school calendar here: [school system calendar](#)** . School begins for students on **September 8, 2020**. The adjusted calendar is definitely an important bookmark for families.

**Schools will operate virtually for Semester 1 from September 8, 2020- January 28, 2021.** The student schedule incorporates a 4x4 semester schedule, which allows students to take 8 courses, instead of the 7-course model that we have traditionally followed. To complete this schedule, students had already included alternates in their original course requests and the scheduling program has pulled these requests into each student's course load. Once the scheduling process is completed, HCPSS will release student schedules, and there will be a DROP/ADD timeframe during which students can work with their assigned counselor to make adjustments. At this time, I do not have that date to announce.

The county has decided that there will **not** be student aides or student lab assistants for this school year. However, I do want to share that our schedule has added additional sections for some of our highly popular electives.

**The additional classes available in the 4x4 schedule also created the opportunity to expand the elective selections at MHHS to include the following:**

- MC-400-1 1 credit Academic Seminar - runs all semester
- MC-800-1- 1 credit AP Mastery Seminar - runs all semester
- MC-800-8-.5 credit AP Mastery Seminar - runs a quarter
- LA-800-1, 1 Credit: Advanced Composition for Seniors Only/College Essay Writing - runs all semester in the fall

**Academic Seminar Option** is for those students who would like to have scheduled time for study and work completion. Math/language arts seminars are provided for goal/content specific needs, and students can register for these courses in consultation with a counselor; these courses are helpful for students who need continuous math or English Language Arts instruction for a full year.

**AP Seminar Option:** This course can be one quarter or a full semester. This is for AP test preparation and is not content specific. These two course offerings are non-weighted, although attendance and grades will count. Students who might select one of these courses should be able to work independently in a structured setting.

**Work/Release Time Option:** Seniors can have up to 2 release periods a semester. Contact your counselor if this is something you are interested in doing.

**If you would like to add a Seminar or participate in Work Release, please contact your counselor:**

### ***COUNSELORS FOR RISING GRADE 12 STUDENTS WILL REMAIN THE SAME***

- Ms. Valentine, Grades 9-11, Last names beginning A-Cha  
[Veronica\\_Valentine@hcpss.org](mailto:Veronica_Valentine@hcpss.org)
- Mrs. Flynn, Grades 9-11, Last names beginning Che-G  
[Tina\\_Flynn@hcpss.org](mailto:Tina_Flynn@hcpss.org)
- Ms. Flores, Grades 9-11, Last names beginning H-Le  
[Monique\\_Flores@hcpss.org](mailto:Monique_Flores@hcpss.org)
- Mrs. Downey, Grades 9-11, Last names beginning Li-N  
[Allison\\_Downey@hcpss.org](mailto:Allison_Downey@hcpss.org)
- Mr. Miles, Grades 9-11, Last names O-Sa  
[Patrick\\_Miles@hcpss.org](mailto:Patrick_Miles@hcpss.org)
- Ms. Dolan, Grades 9-11, Last names Sc-Z  
[Elizabeth\\_Dolan@hcpss.org](mailto:Elizabeth_Dolan@hcpss.org)

## Administrative Assignments

- Assistant Principal Ms. Brown, Last Names A-E
- Assistant Principal Mr. Thomas, Last Names F-L
- Assistant Principal Ms. Clark, Last Names M-R
- Assistant Principal Mr. Dupski, Last Names T-Z
- Mr. Rau, Athletics & Activities Manager

## Virtual Learning Environment

Students will engage in four days of teacher-led synchronous (live) instruction each week, and complete asynchronous (work on your own) assignments on the fifth day. Check the HCPSS website regularly for information and updates at [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org)

## Sample Virtual Student Schedule for Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

8:30-8:50: Additional support (assigned by period)

Period 1: 9:00-9:45

Period 2: 10:00-10:45

Asynchronous Work/Lunch (work on your own): 10:45-1:10 (on Mondays there is additional flex time for students for help 10:50-11:20)

Period 3: 1:10-1:55

Period 4: 2:10-2:55

2:55-3:15 additional support (assigned by period)

Wednesdays are Asynchronous (complete work on your own)

**Recovery of Learning Packets:** The ROL packets were centrally distributed to students who received one or more 'Incomplete(s)' on the 2019-2020 Quarter 4 report card, in selected courses. Students who complete and return the packets will receive a "Pass" for the Quarter 4 subject areas completed. Central Office staff will be managing the process for distribution, collection, and grade correction. Students are to complete and submit the packet by mail, drop off, or scan and email on or before September 15 (*for athletic eligibility, packets are due by August 12\**). Completed packets may be mailed to the central office, care of "ROL return". To drop off completed packets, students will place the packet in the "ROL return" box at the Board of Education, or students may scan and email completed packets to [rolreturn@hcpss.org](mailto:rolreturn@hcpss.org). Please direct any questions about the packets to [rolreturn@hcpss.org](mailto:rolreturn@hcpss.org).

**If you need a Chromebook:** Chromebooks distribution will take place between August 25 and September 4. We will send out more information as we receive it.

**Activities/Athletics:** Many of you have asked about athletics and extra-curricular activities as well as the SAT administration scheduled for August. At this time, HCPSS is hoping to make these decisions very soon. MPSSAA or the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) have not yet announced any changes regarding the fall athletic season. HCPSS has made the decision that fall athletic programs will not begin on August 12, 2020, which is currently designated as the MPSSAA start date. As we await more direction, HCPSS will delay the start of the athletic season until at least **September 8, 2020**, when students are scheduled to begin virtual instruction. At this time, coaches may continue engaging with student-athletes through virtual meeting sessions to provide conditioning routines and drills and promote health and well-being. The HCPSS Return to Play committee will continue planning for reopening to be ready for September 8 or when the state and school system determine that it is safe to do so.

**Field Trip Refunds:** Refunds from field trips is an important update and I apologize for the complicated delays. HCPSS guidelines require us to receive all refund monies with a two-week deposit window to follow. Working with the vendors and agents during a pandemic has been challenging since most of these trips did not include refunds in the contract language. The good news is that students will be receiving refunds for every one of our trips, minus the administrative fees that the travel companies are charging us and some fees associated with hotel and transportation cancellations. At this point, MHHS is still waiting on refund checks for our trips so that we can process and mail those to you as soon as possible.

**Yearbook Pick Up & Textbook drop-off/Pick up:** Our last big hurdle before school opens in September will be textbook returns and yearbook pick-up. Once student schedules are finalized, issuing a new set of textbooks will need to be coordinated, although some digital sources may supplement instruction in the upcoming school year. Canvas will still be the primary vehicle for instructional materials, assignments, calendar and grades so every student should be able to fully utilize this platform.

**Class of 2021 Senior Portraits:** Information should be coming out shortly.

**Class of 2020 Celebration June 2021:** Please continue to celebrate the Class of 2020 as they begin a post-secondary journey that for many of them is different from the traditional college drop-off. We will work with the Class Board of 2021 to plan a reunion next June.

**WELCOME OUR NEW VIKING STAFF MEMBERS:**

Assistant Principal, Jon Dupski  
ESOL Teacher, Margaret (Maggie) Kapustin  
BSAP Liaison, Maurislyn Green  
Media Specialist, Michelle Brown  
Choir Teacher, Nick Dogas

**SAVE THE DATE(s):**

**September 3:** New Student Orientation: Virtually at 9:00 AM. We will send out a schedule and a link to all our students later in August.

**September 10:** Back to School Night: Virtually at 6:00 PM. Schedule and link to come out soon.

**September 8:** First Day of School

Please ensure that your children are practicing social distancing and wearing masks, since these factors may be norms for hybrid or face-to-face school settings as we move forward.

Stay safe and miss you all so much.

Viking Strong,  
Joelle Miller, Principal