



MURRAY HILL

Middle School

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

Week of January 23, 2017

RESPECTFUL

RESPONSIBLE

READY

MHMS Community

8th Grade News

Reservoir High School to Hold Music Department Placement Day

The Reservoir High School Music Department is holding a Placement Day on **Saturday, January 21st** for all 8th grade students interested in registering for a performing ensemble at Reservoir next year. Please visit the RHS Music website (<http://rhsmusic.wikispaces.com/>) and follow the link to the registration SignUpGenius page. Students should sign up for a 10-minute block for the discipline they are interested in--band, orchestra, or choir. If there are any questions, please contact your director, or e-mail the appropriate director at Reservoir: David Bacon, band; Colin O'Bryan, orchestra; and Greg Knauf, choir.

Reservoir High School New Student and Family Orientation

New Date for Reservoir High School New Student and Family Orientation is Wednesday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. Pizza and salad will be served from 6:20 p.m. – 6:50 p.m.

PTA Meeting

Our next PTA meeting will be held on **Monday, January 23rd at 6:30pm** in the Media Center! Come out and see what your PTA has planned for you for the rest of this school year!

Dates to Remember:



January 23 – PTA Meeting – 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center

January 26 – End of the 2nd Marking Period

January 27 – Professional Work Day – No School for Students

January 30 – Bridges 2nd Session Begins

February 1-3 – History Day Projects on Display

February 3 – 2nd Quarter Report Cards Go Home

February 9 – Science Fair – 6:00 p.m.

Attendance and Extended Vacations

When planning vacations, please note the language from HCPSS policy #9010 - Student Attendance:

Absences for Non-emergency Circumstances

- a. A written request for such absences to be lawful/excused should be submitted in advance to the principal/designee.
- b. Such absences may not occur during exam or state-mandated testing periods unless authorized by the principal/designee.
- c. For absences of up to 3 days per year, the principal may determine whether the absences will be lawful/excused or unlawful/unexcused. Such absences may include, but are not limited to, the following events directly involving the student:
 - i. Visits to post-secondary institutions
 - ii. Participation in college orientation programs
 - iii. Scheduled interviews with prospective employers
 - iv. Special family events, including vacations/trips.

The HCPSS form to be used to request approval of these pre-arranged absences is available through our website at: <http://mhms.hcpss.org/about/attendance-guidelines>

Teaching the Whole Child - Asset of the Week:

One of the many wonderful things about being a middle school educator is observing how much our students grow during their 3 years with us. This growth is not just physical or in the critical academic arena, but also in their equally important social/emotional domains. In an effort to support the social/emotional growth of our students this year, Murray Hill will be leading our students through a introduction to the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets. This week's asset is "interpersonal competence". Each week, 1 asset will be highlighted with MHTV segments, associated quotes, and posters displayed throughout the building. We hope you will reinforce these assets at home with your children and support their individual development with positive praise and recognition.

Want to know more about the 40 Developmental Assets and ideas for helping young people build them? Visit <http://www.search-institute.org/assets>.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please don't hesitate to reach out to Mr. Wilson.

MHMS January Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students for receiving Student of the Month for January : Olivia Struble (6th Grade), Reese Roberts (7th Grade), Elli Ahn (8th Grade), and Drew Swartz (Related Arts).

Congratulations to the following students for receiving the Respectful, Responsible, Ready award for January: Ryen Eley (6th Grade), Mai Tran (7th Grade), Katherin Parris (8th Grade), and Alia Ogunsanya (Related Arts).

These students have been nominated by their teachers for displaying the appropriate behaviors and work ethic both in and out of the classroom.

Memory Book Seeks Student Artists

The Memory Book team is hosting a Cover Contest. We want to tap into the creative talent that a lot of our students have, but who aren't necessarily part of the Memory Book team. Students were informed this week about the contest (through their math classes). Students are encouraged to create a front cover and a back cover with lots of color! Flyers were handed out to interested students that have all the specifics about what should be included and the necessary margins. Ms. Behrens has extra flyers or if your student needs more information.

All covers must be submitted to Ms. Behrens by February 10, but students can definitely submit their designs early. Once all the submissions have been collected, students will vote on their favorite cover. The winning cover will receive a free Memory Book!!

Reminder from Savage Library

A friendly reminder that your local library (Howard County Library System's Savage Branch and STEM Center) does offer lots of free educational and fun activities for students after school. Please call the branch or stop by for more info, and also please be aware that if students do not meet behavior expectations at the library they will be asked to leave. You may contact them at 410-313-0760 with any questions you may have.

From the Health Room

In accordance with HCPSS policy, please remember that students are not allowed to have medications on their person unless they have a doctor's order specifying that they can self-carry. Also students who have the proper orders should make sure medications are labeled and kept secure.

PTA News

PTA Membership

You can still join your PTA. Membership forms can be found on our website at http://media.wix.com/ugd/ed7733_186e5364d7f145279ef0ff62a62d972d.pdf. Fill one out and send it in with your student in an envelope marked "PTA Membership."

Box Tops

Continue clipping your Box Tops! We are collecting Box Tops again! Check your Kleenex boxes, cereal boxes, Land O Lakes butter, etc. for the box top symbol and clip it out and send it in with your child; make sure you include their name and homeroom teacher's name on the envelope/baggie. Your child will give the envelope to his/her teacher. The child with the most box tops will win a prize!

Facebook

Find us and "Like Us on Facebook" (Murray Hill Middle School PTA) to stay up to date with our events and happenings during the school year! Our website will also have up to date information as well: <http://mhmsptawebmaster.wixsite.com/mountainlion>

Music News and Notes

You have supported your student, come help us support all of our talented students and directors!!!!

"Bye Bye Birdie" Drama Production

These talented students have been and continue to work so hard to make this production the best! We hope to see you during these fabulous performances on February 24th & 25th!

Save these dates:

Friday, March 17th - Family Gift Card Bingo

Come have dinner and play to win wonderful gift cards from our local business community! Volunteers are needed to help with this extremely fun event! Last year we had over \$1,300 in prizes!

Saturday, May 6th

Bands - Music In The Parks Competition at Hershey Park

Last year, our students won so many awards. We are looking to meet or exceed last year!

Volunteers are always needed to make MHMS Music the BEST! If you are able to help in any way (a little time or a donation), please let your Director know so that we may add you to our email list or go to our website at <http://mhmsmb.weebly.com/> and sign up!!!

HCPSS News

Weather Information Notifications

In times of emergencies or [school closings](#), information will be shared with the community through the school system [homepage](#), [HCPSS News](#) and text message alerts, the HCPSS Information Hotline (410-313-6666), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and via HCPSS cable TV (Comcast 95/Verizon 42).

HCPSS Introduces Canvas App for Middle and High School Parents

The new mobile app, Canvas Parent, allows parents to check grades, review assignments and events, view course announcements, see a weekly calendar, and set student activity alerts, such as missing assignments or grades above or below a set threshold.

Announcements of Upcoming Community Events

Please visit the Community News and Programs page on the HCPSS website (<http://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/>) for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

Academic Calendar Public Hearing, Thursday, January 26, 4 p.m., Department of Education

A public hearing on the 2017–2018 Academic Calendar [proposals](#) is scheduled during the January 26 meeting of the Howard County Board of Education. Board action on the calendar is scheduled for February 23, 2017.

Community News

River Hill GSA to Hold County Gathering

Alisha Tronetti, President of the Gender Spectrum Allegiance (or Gay-Straight Alliance) at River Hill High School, invites all Middle School and High School students to a gathering in the River Hill Cafeteria from 5pm to 10pm on February 4th, 2017 to raise awareness of the LGBTQ+ presence within our county as well as provide a place for all schools to be one, together and make new friends. Admission will be \$3 and there will be monitored drinks and food there for all. The River Hill H.S. sponsoring teacher is Richard McCready and his email is richard_mccready@hcpss.org.

Glenelg High School PTSA Bingo

Each game prize includes bag (ex. Coach, Kate Spade, Vera B & more), gift cards & more donated by our local businesses

Tuesday, January 31st, 7-10pm; Doors open at 6pm

Glenelg High School After-Prom Party Fundraiser

\$15 in advance; \$20 at the door

Ticket includes 20 Games & 3 Specials

Food & Raffles also available for purchase