Principal’s Message

Welcome, Reminders, & Celebrations!

I am pleased to announce the H.P.E.S. STEM Fair overall winners: 1st Place: Princess Jehoun, gr. 5; 2nd Place: Sebastian Maldonado, gr. 3; and 3rd Place: Demi Holloman, gr. 4.

Thank you to Ms. Chin and Mr. Bowman for presenting a wonderful music program on February 27, 2020. The students that participated did a fantastic job!

A hearty welcome to our new grade 2 Paraprofessional Educator, Ms. Tameka Carter!

We thank you for continuing to encourage appropriate behavior and adherence to the school rules. In order to continue to promote a school environment supportive of teaching and learning, we will be making some changes to some of the lunch shifts that will allow us to safely manage students during lunch.

Please be reminded that students are to wear the school uniform daily, unless notified by the Principal.

Ensure that cell phones are turned off and remain in the child’s book bag. Students are sneaking cell phones into the bathroom and messaging other students which is helping to cause incidents between students during the school day.

Lastly, unless your child is extremely ill or has a fever, please send them to school on time every day.

Visitor and Parent Sign-in Reminder!

All visitors, parents, and maintenance workers who enter the building must present a state issued I.D. at the door and then again in the main office after which they will receive a printed pass before going to the classroom. Parents are to refrain from going to the classrooms and/or standing outside of the classroom doors during dismissal. Early student pick-up is before 2:00 p.m. Only in cases of emergency will students be called down for dismissal after 2:00 p.m.

Thank you for adhering to this procedure as we work together to keep everyone safe.

H.P.E.S. Vision and Mission

Highland Park Elementary School is a student focused, nurturing, and engaging learning environment, which provides a culture of mutual respect and high academic achievement through a rigorous instructional program that infuses literacy throughout all content areas to enhance the College and Career preparation of our students.

We strive to accomplish this vision by maintaining high expectations for the implementation of our School Performance Plan focused on academic teaching and learning; sustaining a safe, positive, and inviting school climate; monitoring the progress of students on a frequent basis to provide prescriptive measures that support continuous learning; and promoting effective teamwork and communication among all members of the learning community.

March Dates to Remember!

Mar. 9, 2020: – Progress Reports Released
Mar. 12, 2020: – MCAP & SBB Parent Night, 6:30 p.m.
Mar. 12, 2020: - Civic Assoc. Mtg., 6:45 p.m.
Mar. 20, 2020: – Student Picture Day
Mar. 23, 2020: - Gr. 5 MISA Assessment
Mar. 27, 2020: - Eagle Buck Store
Mar. 30, 2020: - 3rd Quarter Ends
Mar. 31, 2020: - 3 hr. Early Release for Students (Dismissal@11:25 a.m.)
Apr. 1, 2020: - H.P.E.S. Career Day
Apr. 6-13, 2020: Spring Break-School’s Closed

"Valiant Women of the Vote" 2020
1. Academic Excellence
2. High Performing Workforce
3. Safe and Supportive Environments
4. Family and Community Engagement
5. Organizational Effectiveness

**Student Lunch Accounts**

All students that pay for lunch will need lunch money placed on their accounts. Students who receive free/reduced lunch will continue to do so. Any parents needing to complete the Lunch Application can do so on the PGCPS website or by requesting an application from the school office.

**Parent's Help Us Help Your Children Achieve Academic Success**

Parents can assist the school by reading with your children nightly; making certain they complete their homework; and rewarding them when they work on IXL, Vocabulary.com, Kahn Academy, and Math Seeds (grs. K-2).

When our students strengthen their vocabulary and are able to use and understand words in context, they will be more successful in not only reading, but also mathematics and science. Weaknesses in reading, for many of our students, causes underachievement in mathematics and science. Working together, we can assist our students in being successful on the state assessment as well as in being prepared to matriculate, on-grade level, to the next grade.

**Parent Tip on Student Attendance:**

- Students missing 3 days and/or having below 94% attendance rate for the month will be contacted by the classroom teacher.
- Students missing 3 days within one quarter due to an illness, may be required to provide a physician’s certificate.
- Students missing 6 days within one quarter due to an illness, will be required to provide a physician’s certificate.
- Students missing 4 days within one quarter will be referred to Administration and the School Instructional Team (SIT) to discuss absenteeism.
- Parents/Guardians must notify classroom teacher when student is absent and provide a written note within 3 days of student’s return.
- Only students with lawful absences will be allowed to receive missed assignments once note has been provided within 3 days of return; work must be returned within designated timeframe to receive credit.
- Students with unlawful absences will not be allowed to make up missed assignments and will receive a "0".

**School Uniform Reminder**

All students in grades PK through 6 should be in the proper uniform daily unless otherwise announced by the Principal. Parents will be contacted and violation notices sent home for all students not wearing the proper school uniform clothing and accessories. Please be reminded that light-up sneakers are not permitted.

**Working or volunteering in PGCPS schools?**

Getting fingerprint background and CPS clearance checks just got easier!

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) has added two new processing locations. The sites will provide evening hours four days a week and Saturday hours from 8 a.m. to noon! For questions, call the PGCPS Background Unit at 301-952-7831.

**NEW LOCATIONS**

- **Hughes Barney Investigations**
  9315 Largo Drive West, #100
  Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
  301-333-1728
  Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (by appointment only)
  1st & 3rd Saturday of the month - 8 a.m.-noon (by appointment only)
  [http://hbinvestigations.com](http://hbinvestigations.com)

- **E. House Executive Security Professionals Inc.**
  4147 Auth Place, #420
  Suitland, MD 20746
  301-399-2828
  Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
  Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (by appointment only)
  2nd & 4th Saturday of the month - 8 a.m.-noon (by appointment only)
  [www.ehsesp.com](http://www.ehsesp.com)

**SERVICES & FEES**

Fingerprinting and Child Protective Services (CPS) Clearance $5.00 - For all PGCPS employees, volunteers assisting on campus more than once each school year with students and/or chaperoning on field trips, and independent contractors.

Commercial Background Check $15 (online only at www.myschoolbucks.com) – Only refers, athletic officials and independent contractors who do not have unsupervised access to students may utilize the Commercial Background Check.

You can also continue to use the PGCPS Background Unit Sasser Administration Building
14201 School Lane
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m. (no appointment necessary)