



Falcon Newsletter

Phelps Luck Elementary (410) 313-6886

<http://ples.hcpss.org>

September 24, 2020

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Important Dates

September 24	6:00pm Back-to-School Night for Fifth Grade (Code: PLESFifth) 7:15pm Back-to-School Night for GT (Code: PLESGT)
September 30	6:30pm PTA Smashing Ants Parent Workshop
October 1	PTA Square 1 Art Fundraiser Begins
October 7	MAP Testing for Grades 2, 3, 4, 5 – 9am & 1pm– more info to come 7pm Virtual PTA Meeting via Zoom
October 14	MAP Testing for Grades 2, 3, 4, 5 – 9am & 1pm – more info to come
October 23	6:30pm PTA Virtual Dance Party
October 27	4-8pm PTA Dine-Out Night at Chipotle
October 28	6:30pm PTA Virtual Halloween Bingo for Grades 3, 4, 5

From the Principal. . .

Dear Phelps Luck Families,

Thank you to our families who have been able to attend our Back-to-School Nights this week! It has been great to see everyone and answer questions! We will be posting the PowerPoints on our website and sending them out through e-mail. Please contact your child's teacher with questions.

Sincerely,
Michelle M. Leader
Principal

School News

PLEASE COMPLETE: Family File Information:

Every year HCPSS parents must complete a Family File (electronic emergency card) for each child. HCPSS utilizes Family File for parents/guardians to complete emergency information. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information for each child, and can do so by logging in to [HCPSS Connect](#) and selecting the "More Options" tab on the left and then clicking on "Family File" from the list. If your child was in an HCPSS school in previous years, you only need to update any changes. Please update/provide the info ASAP. Thank you!!!

Once logged in, you will be asked to update or provide the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information
- Arrival/Dismissal Procedures
- Photo Approval
- Data Confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA Directory

PLEASE COMPLETE: Free and Reduced Meal Application:

Once you have completed your Family File Information, a screen will pop up asking you to complete the Free and Reduced Meal application. Please complete the FARM application if you think you will qualify or if you have qualified in the past. Qualifying for FARMs provides benefits for meals, reduced Comcast internet fees and much more! Please find the [FARM application here](#).

Face-to-Face Supports to Small Groups of Students

In the coming weeks, HCPSS will begin providing face-to-face support to small groups of students. Identified students and staff have been invited to complete an interest survey. If you did not receive a survey, it is because your child has not yet been identified for in-person support.

All students who receive special education services will receive an email with directions to complete a survey. If your child receives special education services, and you have not received an email by Friday, September 25, then please reach out to Ann Scholz (ann_scholz@hcpss.org) from the Office of Special Education Compliance, Non-Public Services, and Family Support. More information about the HCPSS In-Person Support initiative can be found here: <https://www.hcpss.org/2020-2021/small-groups/> .

ESSA Info:

The Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains several provisions that promote a parent/school partnership through communication. One such provision gives parents the right to ask for and receive information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Attached are letters with more information. The letters are provided in English, Spanish, Korean and Chinese.

Google Meet Behavioral Expectations:

- Adhere to HCPSS Policy 8080 Responsible Use Technology and Social Media and other relevant HCPSS policies.
- Follow the school's values (ex. Be Safe, Act Responsibly, Respect Self and Others, Keep Focused)
- Students will only be permitted into a Google Meet session with a HCPSS account. All students can be identified through their HCPSS account.
- Inappropriate/offensive/threatening comments, misrepresentation of identity, and/or disruptive participants (invited or uninvited) during Google Meet sessions will not be tolerated.
- Sharing login information violates the confidentiality rights of other students and places them at risk of having to witness disruptive behaviors from students who are not members of the class or school community.
- Students who are disruptive and/or "trespass" Google Meet sessions will be immediately reported to administration and will receive appropriate consequences in accordance with the HCPSS Code of Conduct. Consequences may result in temporary or permanent loss of technology access, which will also result in a student's inability to participate in Google Meet sessions; arrangement for receiving instruction and assignments will be established by administration communicated and arranged with parents.

Technology Resources:

Occasionally, students may have issues with Canvas, Google Meet or other learning platforms used by HCPSS. If your child is having difficulty:

- Logging in to Google Meet - Directions on [joining a Google Meet](#) can be found online. If your child is still unable to join, have them send their teacher a message via Canvas or you can send the teacher an email to make them aware. Your child can work on other assignments in Canvas and/or you can have them focus on another learning platform used by their teachers, such as Lexia Core5 or DreamBox at the elementary level.
- Logging in to Canvas - Have your child attend any scheduled virtual learning sessions and/or have them focus on another learning platform used by their teachers, such as Lexia Core5 or DreamBox at the elementary level. Make sure to let your child's teacher know about the issue via email.

Families also may find the following resources to be helpful:

- [Student Technology Resources](#): Provides guides, resources and videos for HCPSS student technology. Below are some direct links to commonly used resources:
 - [Canvas Orientation](#) - includes how to navigate Canvas
 - [Google Meet](#) - includes a [video overview](#) of how to login
 - [Chromebooks](#) - provides a variety of resources for using an HCPSS Chromebook
- [Password and Username Self-Service](#): Allows families to request a password reset or student's username. New students can use this application to retrieve their account information. This application is also linked off the [hcpss.me](#) website, which also includes user directions.
- [HCPSS Connect Parent Resources](#): Provides HCPSS Connect—including Synergy, Canvas, and Family File—guides and videos for parents.

If after reviewing these resources, your family continues to need support, please complete the form at [PLES Technology Support](#)

and one of our staff members will reach out to you as soon as possible. If you cannot access the online form for any reason, please call the school at 410-313-6886.

Staff will attempt to resolve the issue, and if unsuccessful will provide directions for exchanging the broken device for a working one at the school system's [Onsite Technology Center](#).

Internet Assistance:

Any family without access to internet who need financial assistance to have it, should notify HCPSS using the steps below. HCPSS is working with Bright Minds Foundation and Comcast to support families who may be eligible to participate in the Comcast Internet Essentials Program.

To identify your need for Internet:

1. Parents/guardians should log in to [hcpss.org/connect](#)
2. From the left menu, last choice, select "More Options" then choose "Student Technology" from the center of the screen.
3. On the HCPSS Student Technology Screen, use the drop down arrows to indicate the "Internet Access" for each student. Changes are saved immediately.

Virtual Learning Schedules:

See the link below for the elementary schedules for virtual learning. They are listed by grade.

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2020/08/hcpss-2020-2021-reopening-plan-posted-online/>

FREE Grab-and-Go Meals:

Beginning September 8: Grab-and-Go breakfasts and lunches served Monday through Friday from 8-9am and 10:45am-12:45pm respectively. We will be giving these out at Phelps Luck. It is recommended that you get food from your home school but you may also visit any HCPSS school. All breakfast and lunch grab-and-go meals are FREE to all students!!!

Message from the MUSIC Department

From Ms. Strawley:

Attention all 3rd, 4th and 5th graders and families: It's time to sign up for band and orchestra!

Students in 3rd grade may participate in orchestra, and students in 4th and 5th grade may participate in band or orchestra. This semester we will have virtual lessons and rehearsals, both synchronously and asynchronously. If your child would like to play an instrument, you can get more information and sign up online

at <https://sites.google.com/site/msstrawleymusicsite/home>. Please contact Ms. Strawley if you have questions or need any help: karissa_bryant@hcpss.org.

From Mrs. Yi:

All 4th and 5th grade singers are welcome!

If you love to sing and make new friends, please join our chorus. We will be having our chorus both synchronously and asynchronously for this semester, and I am looking forward to making beautiful music with all of you. Our rehearsals will be held synchronously on Wednesdays. Thank you!

Social Emotional Learning Corner:

What is a Brain Break? Why is it important?

A **Brain Break** is a short (3-5 minutes) break from work. There are many ways it can help young people, and grown-ups, be their best: refocus, energize, calm, and add humor. You may see your young person doing **Brain Breaks** during the school day - this is great! They are making new pathways in their brain, creating space for new information. Also, they are giving their body and mind a rest from sitting and screens. **Brain breaks** are great for grown-ups too! Grab a break for you, and a quick family time too!

Here are some easy to do, in-home ideas. Try one when you notice your young person needs to move.

- Jump Skip Counting: count by twos, fives, tens etc. while jumping with each count.
- Be an animal: Bunny hop, swim like a fish, frog jump, prance like a horse, slither like a snake,
- Bean Bag Toss: Kids can do this one on their own, or as partners. Use anything that can be safely tossed; foam balls, small stuffies, etc. Take turns trying to toss it into a box. Or, count how many completed passes you make.
- Letter Guess: One player uses their finger to “draw” a letter on the back of the other player, who then guesses which letter it was. Try upper- and lowercase letters, numbers, or short words.
- Have a mini dance party: Pick a couple of songs and rock out. Turn it into freeze dance and stop the music every so often. Alternatively, sing a few songs or try karaoke.
- Stretching: Stand up and do some simple stretches. Touch your toes and hold it; reach up to the sky and stand on tippy toes; arms relaxed at sides and slowly twist your waist side to side; arms relaxed at sides and bend side to side; gentle neck rolls; gentle shoulder rolls
- Scavenger Hunt: Send your young person looking for something, or a short list of things. Try to get them into another room or up and downstairs. Ideas to find: something orange, or polk-a-dot; something soft or smooth, or furry; your pet; a particular shoe/slipper/shirt/toy/stuffie.

I hope everyone is having a successful week! You’ve got this!!! Please feel free to email me with any questions at sarah_croushler@hcpss.org.

Title I News and Updates

Phelps Luck Elementary is one of 13 Title I schools in Howard County. Title I is a federally funded program designed to ensure all children have an opportunity to access a high-quality education. Title I federal funding is used to support and enhance the school program and provide additional academic support. The goal of this program is to close the achievement gap for all students. Our program allows all students to be eligible for additional academic support and the funds are used to support and enhance the overall school program. During the school year, we would welcome any feedback related to our Title I School-wide programming.

News from the PTA:

Clothing Bin:

Our Clothing Bin is still accessible during the school closure. Please feel free to donate any items to our Clothing Bin in our school parking lot. This is a fundraiser and supports our PTA! Please place all items in a closed trash bag before placing the bag in the bin. Thank you!!!

From the Community

Here is a list of food sources for you to access:

OMHS Food Pantry

OMHS Food Pantry will be open next week for distribution. For the foreseeable future, we will be distributing on the last WEDNESDAY of every month from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Our upcoming dates are:
Wednesday, September 30
Wednesday, October 28
Wednesday, November 18

Columbia Community Cares:

This group gives out food at Howard High, Swansfield Elementary, and Oakland Mills Middle on Wednesdays from 5-8pm and Saturdays 10:30am-1:30pm. You can also fill out their form for food and they can deliver as well.

Website: <http://columbiacare.live/>

Form for food:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJIRfYmnGVs1KNEvq0mfqL8qoOJtIVkOo8utBVyKeoEbxA7g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>

Open Doors Food Pantry:

Mount Zion United Methodist Church will be hosting The Open Doors Food Pantry on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Check-in from 9:00 am – 11:00 am, Please bring ID with you to check-in. If you need transportation to the food pantry, contact the Rotary Club at ctcrotary@gmail.com.

Mission 19:

A local company located in Maple Lawn is offering gift cards to Food Lion and some local restaurants, as well as CVS gift cards to help with any needed prescriptions. You can apply through their website, mission19.org.



No Doubts... No Limits...

Michelle Leader ~ Principal Connie Fowlkes ~ Assistant Principal Sandra McGraw ~ Assistant Principal