

Cougar News

We have finished the second full week of school and looking forward to week 3 albeit a short one! Just to recap, the past two weeks: kindergarten students were assessed and been placed into homerooms, Back to School Nights have occurred for GT, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5.

FAMILY FILE is one of two new data systems that HCPSS has implemented this school year. If you have not yet completed the ER Card in the [Family File](#), please do so at your earliest convenience. If you have difficulty with the system, please email CESFamilyFileIssues@hcpss.org. Someone will address the issue just as soon as possible. As always, we appreciate your patience as we work thru some kinks in the new programs.

MAP Testing - Grades 1-5 will begin testing at the end of September and go into October. Specific dates will be listed, in the near future, on the website calendar. Please try and avoid late arrivals and early dismissals on those dates that affect your student.

VOLUNTEERING and CHAPERONING – Thank you for your interest in volunteering/chaperoning at Clarksville Elementary! We value you and the contributions you make to our students. According to HCPSS Board Policy, all parent volunteers and chaperones must complete a *"Confidentiality Training Course"* and *"Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting Procedures Online Training"* about protecting the privacy & safety of our students, staff, and schools. Please complete these two courses and send in both certificates of completion before registering to volunteer or chaperone at Clarksville. The courses will each take about 5 minutes to complete.

1. Click to view the [HCPSS Confidentiality Training Course](#). Print out [this certificate](#) & send it to school.
2. Click to view the [HCPSS Child Abuse and Neglect Training PowerPoint](#). Please print out [this certificate](#) & send it to school.

Upcoming dates:

Sept 7	SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED – Labor Day
Sept 10	Kindergarten Back to School Night 6:30pm
Sept 14	SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED – Rosh Hashanah
Sept 17	Constitution Day – wear red, white and blue
Sept 21	7:00pm PTA Meeting in CES Media Center
Sept 23	SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED – Yom Kippur
Sept 30	Picture envelopes home – complete envelope, enclose payment, send in with your student. ALL students will be photographed for inclusion in the yearbook at no charge. If you do not want your student pictured in the yearbook, please send a note in.
Oct 1	Progress Reports home
Oct 1	Individual Photos of students for inclusion in the yearbook
Oct 2	SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS – Professional Development Day
Oct 7	Walk To School Day!

Walk to School Day 2015 is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7.

International Walk to School Day is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day. It began in 1997 as a one-day event. Over time, this event has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school and a celebration – with record-breaking participation – each October. Today, thousands of schools across America – from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico – participate every October.

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM:

Our goal in Health Services is to deliver services that will:

- Provide all students the opportunity to achieve academic excellence through the promotion of optimal physical, emotional, and behavioral health
- Promote professionalism amongst all Health Services members through professional learning, collaboration, and commitment to teamwork
- Engage students, families, HCPSS staff, and communities in activities that promote individual and group wellness, safety and disease prevention through identification, early intervention, and remediation of student health concerns
- Ensure compliance with local, state, and federal mandates through innovative continuous improvement strategies

There are times when illness may prevent your child from attending school. Please consider the following if your child does become ill to **prevent** the spread of illness.

- Children who have symptoms of vomiting and/or diarrhea need to remain home until they are symptom free for 24 hours and able to tolerate their normal food and fluid intake.
- Children who have a fever are required to remain at home until they are fever free for 24 hours after their last dose of fever reducing medication (Tylenol, Advil, Motrin).
- If a child develops symptoms of an eye infection, such as “pink eye” or if a rash develops, they will be excluded from school until they have written permission from their health care provider to return to school or have been under treatment as needed for at least 24 hours.
- Contact your health care providers should your child experience the following:
 - sore throat - headache -chills - rash
 - earache - runny nose - severe coughing

MEDICATIONS - All medications, either over the counter or prescription, should be given at home whenever possible. Should it become necessary for your child to receive medication at school, a school medication order form needs to be completed and signed by your child’s health care provider. Parent/guardian permission is also required. Medications must be in their original unopened container or pharmacy bottle with an accurate label. The first dose of any medication must be given at home with the exception of emergency medications. Only an adult should deliver medications to the health room.

Please contact the Health Room if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student’s illness. Remember, the Health Room is not a replacement for your child’s own Health Care provider.

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School Rules: A Quick Reference

Security/Visiting/Volunteering: Security at CES employs a variety of tools including, but not limited to, cameras, computer sign in/out, and electronic locks. All exterior doors are locked from 6am-6pm, every day. To gain access, you must come to the main entrance and enter the first set of doors. On the right is an entrance to the school office. Please push the buzzer on the door frame and wait to be greeted. You will be asked to state your name and reason for coming to school. Office staff will buzz you in. You will be required to sign in and wear a visitor's badge. Although we recognize many of you, there are still some unfamiliar faces and you may be asked to provide identification. Your student's safety is of utmost importance. We appreciate your continued support with our security measures.

The Instructional Day: Our teachers spend the majority of their day teaching students. When they are not teaching, they are planning. Classroom interruptions distract from instruction. Please do not drop in unannounced to teachers/classrooms. Academic time is crucial and we wish to minimize interruptions. If you need to speak with your child's teacher, a note to school or an email are your best points of contact.

The School Day: The academic day at Clarksville begins promptly at 9:25 am. Please don't send your child to school before 9:10 a.m. as there is no supervision for them. The school day officially ends at 3:55 pm.

Dismissal routine changes: Any changes to the normal routines (including but not limited to after school activities such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, CES PTA afterschool programming) MUST be communicated to the school, in writing. Be sure to include your student's full name, your name and a contact phone number should we have questions regarding the note. Please write legibly and include last names for you and your student. We also ask that you make your child aware of these changes prior to his/her arrival at school that day. We understand unexpected situations arise during the day, however, due to the number of students in the building, and the number of phone calls received daily, we feel that this procedure will help to avoid confusion at the end of the day. Your child's safety is our number one concern.

Early Dismissals/Late Arrivals: You must come to the office to sign your child in/out in the event that your child is tardy (arrive at school after 9:25am) or needs to be dismissed from school early. Please do not go to the room to retrieve your child, come to the office and your child will be called. Please do not call the office and ask us to call your child to the office. Our policy is to wait till your arrive in the office before calling the student down. Instructional time is of utmost importance, and this policy minimizes time missed in the classroom. It becomes quite hectic at the end of the day in the front office during the final 45 minutes of the day and we want to be focused on getting students home as quickly and safely as possible. Therefore we cannot accommodate any early dismissals after 3:30pm.

Play Dates: Please remember, HCPSS policy is that students may not ride a bus other than what is assigned to them. When making play dates, children must be dismissed as car riders/walkers or make other arrangements after school.

Absence Note: When your child is absent, you must send a note to school stating the reason for the absence. If no note is received, your child's absence will be coded as "unexcused" for the day. It is not necessary for you to call to report your child's absence.

Missed Work Due to Absence: If you would like work collected for your child, please call by 9:25 am on the **second** day absent.

No Cell Phones: While in the building volunteering, we ask that you turn off your cell phones. Ringing phones are a distraction in the classroom and interfere with the learning environment.

LUNCH MONEY – Lunch is **\$2.75**, please send your student with exact change or SMALL bills, preferably \$1 or \$5 denominations. It is difficult to make change for \$20 bills and we are uncomfortable sending such a large sum of money back home with students. Sorry NO CHECKS can be accepted for lunch purchases. HCPSS has instituted a Point Of Sale system (POS). All students are assigned a pin. They will enter the pin whenever they purchase lunch, even if they pay cash. Parents may electronically load money into the account for use by their student or send cash in an envelope marked "Load to lunch account for *student name*" More details regarding the POS and LUNCH MENUS can be found on the HCPSS web page at <http://www.hcpss.org/foodservice/index.shtml>.

Home-School Communication: You are automatically enrolled in School Messenger, our primary method of communication. Please consider downloading the HCPSS app from the App Store or Google Play. It provides quick access to some of the latest information.

Inclement Weather Closings

Howard County Calendar Handbook details three possible emergency closing situations. Below is a summary of those situations.

- **"Schools Closed"** means students do not attend school and all school-sponsored activities (including CA aftercare) are cancelled.
- **"Schools Open 2 Hours Late"** students report two hours late. (CES time 11:10 am) Buses will be at the stops two hours late.
- **"Schools Open 1 Hour Late"** students report one hour late. (CES time 10:10 am) Buses will be at the stops one hour late.

On days when schools are closed, or closed early due to weather conditions, all after-school and evening activities, both school and non-school sponsored are cancelled – **INCLUDING Columbia Association Before and After School Care.**

The decision to open schools late must be made no later than 5:10 a.m. and the decision to close schools early must be made no later than 10:30 a.m. The Central Office will send closing/delay announcement emails and cell alerts via HCPSS News. Sign up at <https://www.hcpssnews.com/> It will also be posted as a message on the main web page at www.hcpss.org

During weather events, *please* refrain from calling the school to inquire about early closing/delayed opening times.