

WILDCAT PRESS

December 4, 2020



December

- 4th - School Spirit Day - Crazy Winter Hat Day
- 7th-11th - Inclusive Schools Week
- 8th - PTA Meeting 6:30-7:30 PM
- 18th - School Spirit Day - Please submit your ideas below.
- 24th - Winter Break Begins

January

- 4th - Schools Reopen



November

23rd Savannah Rodriguez
25th Evan Lessler
26th Saira Shahzad
29th Rory McIntyre

December

1st Junu Lim
Aiden Wong
3rd Saanvi Raval
Rahul Reddy
6th Victor Wynn

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATORS

Happy Friday!

We hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing Thanksgiving and holiday weekend!

Next week is ***Inclusive Schools Week***. ***Inclusive Schools Week*** is an annual international event celebrated the first full week in December to acknowledge the continued journey of schools and communities to provide quality education to all children regardless of differences in ability, gender, ethnicity, language, and health status. The theme for this year is “The Time for Inclusion is Now.”

Inclusive Schools Week offers an opportunity for educators, students, and parents to engage in dialogue about inclusive education and to plan for the future. Students will participate in activities, lessons and/or read alouds this week geared towards highlighting ***Inclusive Schools Week***. Since the inaugural celebration in 2001, ***Inclusive Schools Week*** has been celebrated by tens of thousands of students, families, and educators in schools and communities in every state in the United States as well as communities across the globe.

At Worthington, we will continue to strive for a culture/climate for which students and staff acknowledge and appreciate differences. We are fortunate to be a part of a school system that makes diversity, equity and inclusion a priority!

For more information regarding ***Inclusive Schools Week*** please access this [Inclusive Schools](#) website.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Kelli Jenkins
Principal

Jason Morton-Ortega
Assistant Principal



SCHOOL NEWS/UPDATES

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

If your child is absent, please send a note explaining the absence to this email address: WOESABSENCE@hcpss.org.

WORTHINGTON SPIRIT DAY: TODAY!

Attention Worthington Community! Let's kick off the month of December with some school spirit! On Friday, December 4th, show your school spirit with a "**CRAZY WINTER HAT!**" Students and teachers can wear their crazy, winter hat, to feel warm, excited for winter, and full of spirit. Send your crazy hat pictures to Mrs. Miller at hannah_m_miller@hcpss.org. She will be compiling all pictures into a fun collage!

Since we picked our November Spirit Days, we need your input for December. If you have a fun spirit day idea for December 18th, [please consider filling out this quick survey](#) to let us know your AWESOME ideas! Thank you everyone! We are #WOESSTRONG!

<https://forms.gle/VLHzTSTfe7awdnms9>

From the WOES Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force

During the week of December 7 - 11, students within the Howard County School System will be celebrating, "Inclusive Schools Week". The purpose of Inclusive School Week is to allow students and staff the opportunity to learn about different disabilities and cultures while bringing awareness to being kind, avoiding being insensitive, and celebrating our similarities and differences.

Classroom teachers will be completing various Social and Emotional Lessons, as well as conducting different activities with our students. To bring a connection to the home experience, listed below are EPIC (all students have free access to this website) book titles and activities you can do at home with your child. Feel free to contact Ms. Thomas (DEI Chairperson nicole_thomas@hcpss.org)

Book Title: Rescue and Jessica- A Life Changing Relationship

By: Jessica Kensky, Patrick Downes

EPIC Video Title: This Bionic Suit May Be the Future of Prosthetics

Possible Activities -1. Students use winter gloves to try to pick up small objects. 2. Place a piece of paper or tape inside of your shirt and see how long you can tolerate the piece of tape. 3. Complete a common activity without the use of a body part of your choice.

Discussion Prompts - Have a family discussion asking, “ What was challenging about the activity?” “ What did you learn from the experience?” “ How could you show kindness to a person who may have to deal with this disability on a daily basis?”

2020-2021 Inclement Weather Protocols

Email sent from the HCPSS on December 3, 2020

The implementation of virtual instruction has changed the way the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) will manage inclement weather days. In prior years, inclement weather delays and closings have resulted in scheduling challenges and instructional disruption for students, staff and families, as well as unpredictability about when the school year will end.

For the 2020-2021 school year, while in virtual, small groups or hybrid instructional models, HCPSS will transition to fully virtual instruction during inclement weather days.

This will allow the school system to make a decision earlier when inclement weather is expected and provide families with earlier notice so they may make necessary adjustments. The Maryland State Department of Education has approved the inclusion of virtual instruction days among the 180 minimum required academic days each school year, so these days will not have to be made up at the end of the school year.

Four possible inclement weather decisions are provided below. For the 2020-2021 school year, there will no longer be an option for a 2-hour delay. Instead, HCPSS will transition to virtual learning on those days.

On inclement weather days that virtual instruction is implemented, the same virtual schedule will be implemented that has been in place for the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year. Students will be expected to log in to each of their classes and attendance will be recorded. To provide

consistency and remain aligned to current virtual instructional schedules, instruction will be synchronous on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and asynchronous on Wednesday. It is important to note that the primary purpose for closing schools is for safety. Canceling all instruction on inclement weather days would require make-up days to be used in the summer. By being able to use virtual instruction during inclement weather days, HCPSS will be able to follow the [academic calendar](#) as scheduled. This will allow staff better flexibility to implement summer interventions without disruption for students requiring the additional academic support.

The [full list of weather status codes](#) are available on the [HCPSS Status website](#).

2020-2021 INCLEMENT WEATHER OPTIONS

Virtual Instruction: Buildings Open

This option will include minor weather events that are deemed not significant enough to close the building for staff. This option allows HCPSS to make the decision and provide notification to families and staff much earlier without having to make up a day of instruction at the end of the school year.

- Instruction: Virtual for all students
- Meal Service: No morning service; [Lunch Available for pickup, as scheduled](#)
- Buildings: Open for staff
- Athletics: As scheduled

Virtual Instruction: Buildings Closed

This option will include weather events that may have closed school in years past. Similar to the Virtual Instruction; Buildings Open option, all instruction will be delivered virtually resulting in an approved academic day.

- Instruction: Virtual for all students
- Meal Service: Canceled
- Buildings: Closed
- Athletics: Canceled

No Instruction: Buildings Closed

This option mirrors a typical inclement weather day when schools and offices are closed.

This decision may be implemented at times of widespread internet or power outages when virtual instruction is not feasible. These days would potentially need to be made up at the end of the school year.

- Instruction: Canceled
- Meal Service: Canceled
- Buildings: Closed
- Athletics: Canceled

Early Dismissal

This option would be implemented when an unexpected weather event occurs while students may be in school buildings (small groups, hybrid, etc.). During an early closing, instruction would end early (90-minutes or 3-hours) for all students, including those learning virtually.

- Instruction: Virtual and in-person ends early
- Meal Service: May end early
- Buildings: Closed early for all
- Athletics: Canceled

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Celebrating Inclusive Schools Week with Lunch Bunches that Celebrate Diversity

HCPSS is recognizing Inclusive Schools Week December 3rd-7th. Our schools are practicing inclusive education in many ways to create a more positive school climate and culture where all students can thrive.

In the spirit of Inclusive Schools Week, we are hosting open invitation lunch bunches for each grade to celebrate diversity and inclusion. During our time together, we will get to know other students and learn about different cultures. Participants are encouraged to bring a special food or cultural artifact to show and tell!

Code: WOESLUNCHBUNCH

Time: 11:45am

Monday, Dec 7 - 2nd grade

Tuesday, Dec 8 - K/1st grade

Wednesday, Dec 9 - 4th grade

Thursday, Dec 10 - 3rd grade

Friday, Dec 11 - 5th grade

Free Program: Family Resiliency: How to Cope During Stressful Times

Monday December 7th

6:00-7:00pm

Read more >>

Many families are experiencing stress and challenges due to the impact of COVID-19 that have affected your physical and mental health, as well as the well-being of your children. In this Zoom “mental health wellness presentation”, counselors from the **National Family Resiliency Center** will share information on what you can do for yourself and for your children to build your family’s level of resilience and cope with the many stressors that these challenging times may be causing.

Student Enrichment Opportunities

HCC’s well-known Kids on Campus program provides enrichment education for youth ages 8 to 17. Topics range from Art from Around the World, Roblox, Nature Explorers, World Languages, and SAT Prep. HCC Kids on Campus has something for every interest! Registration is now open for Winter and Spring courses, and several scholarships are available. For additional information, please click [here](#) and plan to attend the information session on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:30pm (<https://hcpss.zoom.us/j/98975834650>).

Reminder - Free Meal Assistance Available for ALL Students

Meals are provided at no cost to any HCPSS student or any child under age 18. [More information about Fall 2020-2021 meal services](#) is provided online.

INFORMATION WORTH REPEATING

CONTACTLESS MEDIA CENTER CHECKOUT!

We are happy to announce that our contactless checkout has been going well! The books will now be available any day of the week from 8 - 4pm either out in the front of the school or right inside the blue doors. However, please wait for an email from me letting me know the books are ready before stopping by! Check out the link to request a book:

<https://forms.gle/mUjKQw8x2EF4jsrt8>

Happy Reading,
Mrs. Howe (emily_howe@hcpss.org)

RECOGNIZE A WOES STAFF MEMBER

November, for many, is a month centered around being thankful and showing gratitude. Do you have a staff member you would like to recognize? If so, please complete a [#WoESSTRONG Staff Shout Out](#). We know words of support, sharing gratitude and/or expressing thankfulness for a staff member will surely brighten a staff member's day!

Thank you to all of our students, parents and/or family members who have completed a shout out to a Worthington staff member already this year. Our staff appreciate your kind words! It's not too late to submit a shout out if you have not already done so, or to send another one! [#WoESSTRONG Staff Shout Out](#) can be completed at any time!

PTA NEWS



Contents:

- ***“Teacher Allotments” for the classroom are being distributed***
- ***Secondary monitors for teachers***
- ***Spiritwear orders are being processed***
- ***PTA Meeting next Tuesday (12/08/2020; 6:30-7:30pm; Zoom)***

Teacher Allotments

The PTA has a budget item “Teacher Allotments” to reimburse classroom staff for purchases used to assist with teaching and enrich the classroom. This year, we have already distributed 13 of these allotments (\$50/full-time, \$25/para + part-time), and we have remaining funds budgeted for more. We are happy to be able to support each class in a way that is tailored to each of them.

Secondary monitors for teachers

In our last Wildcat Press section (11/20/2020), we outlined why it's a good idea to try and get secondary monitors into the hands of those running our classrooms. We have a few individuals who have volunteered to donate or even purchase secondary monitors (we'll

probably structure it as a donation, then the PTA can deal with the purchase). Working with our administration, there are 11 staff in total that could benefit from a secondary monitor, leaving us 7 short at the moment. Please consider signing up at the link below if you'd like to donate or sponsor a monitor, and we'll start a conversation with you about it.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4EA5A62FAAFA7-woes>

At the PTA meeting next week, we plan to discuss details of how we will implement this - any WoES families with opinions are welcome to join us.

Spiritwear orders are being processed

Spiritwear was a success - 139 items are currently in production! If you ordered, we will reach you by email when the orders are in with information on a contactless pickup/distribution! We are happy to be #WOESSTRONG no matter the distance!

PTA Meeting, Tuesday 12/08/2020, 6:30-7:30pm, via Zoom

Our monthly PTA meeting will be held next Tuesday evening, via Zoom. Topics will include a discussion on supporting WoES teachers with secondary monitors, and other details to be added to the agenda before Monday. The Zoom URL follows below. All WoES community members will be welcomed.

Google Drive folder containing the meeting agenda:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pGw0DVJiuzX-Ge5_6kSd6f2aPT4ONSNp

Zoom Meeting Details

Nov 10, 2020 06:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86152916369?pwd=LzhLNkEyMWprR3VyS09sQ1NlQnFldz09>

Meeting ID: 861 5291 6369

Passcode: woespta

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 861 5291 6369

Passcode: 5727616

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kgpATi2Fa>

Questions and Comments:

John Gallagher

worthingtonptapresident@gmail.com