

In the News!



HCPS has created a News & Events section on the website, which can be accessed by clicking "HCPS in the News" on the homepage above the scrolling photos (www.hcps.org). Events are organized by year and month and are updated on a regular basis, particularly during the school year. Be sure to check out this section of the website to learn about the positive events and accomplishments happening in Harford County Public Schools!

The news section also features our HCPS Educator Hall of Fame members including newly inducted members, as well as an archive of those inducted in previous years. Each month during the school year, one former HCPS educator is inducted into the Hall of Fame based on their outstanding service to students, colleagues and the community for at least 20 years. Applications will be available on www.hcps.org for 2010.



Margaret C. Cook, May 2009

CONTACT US

General Information	410-838-7300
Communications Office	410-588-5203
Curriculum & Instruction	410-588-5298
Early Childhood	410-588-5252
Elementary Education	410-588-5207
Secondary Education	410-588-5228
Athletics	410-588-5276
Special Education	410-588-5246
Student Services	410-588-5334
Transportation	410-638-4092

Resolving School Concerns

There will be times when a parent/guardian may need to ask school personnel to address a concern or question. Here is some helpful information and steps parents should take so that school-based inquiries or problems are resolved as quickly and satisfactorily as possible.

Academic

Academic questions or concerns should be first discussed with the **child's classroom teacher** at a face-to-face conference or over the phone. If the issue cannot be resolved at this level, the parent/guardian should contact the following personnel, in the order listed, until a resolution is achieved:

- Assistant Principal
- Principal
- Executive Director of Elementary Education or Executive Director of Secondary Education
- Superintendent (*the Superintendent may direct a designee to respond to the concern*)
- Board of Education of Harford County

Disciplinary or Other School-based Concerns

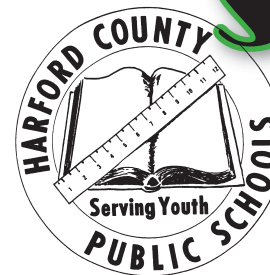
Disciplinary or other school questions or concerns should be first discussed with the **school assistant principal** at a face-to-face conference or over the phone. If the issue cannot be resolved at this level, the parent/guardian should follow the same order listed above until a resolution is achieved.

Athletic/Extra-Curricular

High school athletic and extra-curricular questions or concerns should be first discussed with the **school's athletic director**, group sponsor or team coach at a face-to-face conference or over the phone. If the issue cannot be resolved at this level, the parent/guardian should contact the following personnel, in the order listed, until a resolution is achieved:

- Principal
- Supervisor of Athletics (for athletic concerns)
- Executive Director of Secondary Education
- Superintendent (*or designee*)
- Board of Education of Harford County

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Staying Connected...

Harford County Public Schools

A.A. Roberty Building

102 S. Hickory Avenue

Bel Air, Maryland 21014

410.838.7300

www.hcps.org



Stay Connected!

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) is committed to parental, family and community involvement in the educational process. HCPS encourages two-way communication and strives to keep the public informed about issues affecting its schools, decisions made by Harford County Board of Education and student activities through various methods of regular communication.

www.hcps.org

The school system's website, www.hcps.org, offers information to meet the needs of parents, students, staff and the general community. The "Parents" tab at the top of the homepage includes links to useful information for parents such as registration information, brochures, immunization requirements, academic programs and calendars, as well as athletic and arts information. This page serves as a quick resource to the most-requested information for parents at HCPS.

Alert Now

The Alert Now notification system provides the HCPS System and individual schools the means to notify parents and employees of emergency or other important information by way of mass telephone contact.

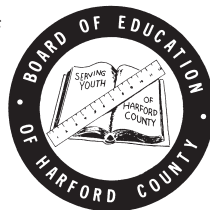
The school system uses the system to inform parents of school closings, key system initiatives and other critical information. Alert Now has proven to be a major step in providing for positive contact between schools and parents allowing the Superintendent, principals, or others with whom parents are familiar to deliver a consistent and timely message.

Email Newsletters

E-Newsletters will be utilized to communicate key information to parents and guardians about upcoming events, Board of Education information, assessment scores, etc. The email component will also be used to inform parents of emergency/inclement weather school closures or delays. Check with your school to make sure your contact information is up-to-date.

Board of Education Public Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Education are normally held on the second and fourth Monday of each month (except July and August) at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. All meetings are announced in advance on the HCPS website and in other print/electronic media including the Harford Cable Network (HCN). Meetings are open to the public, unless otherwise announced, and attendance is encouraged for those with an interest in business operations of the school system.



Each regular, public business meeting of the Board includes a public comment period in which any citizen, group representative, parent or student may make a statement regarding an item on a past, present or future Board open-session agenda, or a matter of general policy over which the Board has jurisdiction. Slots may be filled—first come, first served—on the day of the meeting by filling out the appropriate card at the Board meeting prior to the start of the meeting.

Visit www.hcps.org and view "Hot Topics" on the right-hand side to send the Board your thoughts on current topics!

2009-10 Board of Education of Harford County

Mark M. Wolkow, *President*
Leonard D. Wheeler, Ed.D., *Vice President*
Ruth R. Rich, *Member*
John L. Smilko, *Member*
Alysson L. Krchnavy, *Member*
Don. R. Osman, *Member*
Robert M. Tomback, Ph.D., *Secretary-Treasurer*,
Superintendent of Schools
Kate E. Kidwell, *Student Representative*

Get Involved!

Hundreds of persons each year assist students in the schools by donating their time to work in classrooms, libraries and health rooms. These persons make valuable contributions to the educational system by working directly with children or by performing duties which allow others to give students more individual attention.

Volunteers are selected at the school level and assigned specific duties. Before they actually begin work, they participate in meetings which are designed to help them become familiar with the school program and their new roles. Following these general meetings, the teacher and the volunteer meet to discuss classroom standards, routine operations and duties to be performed.

Persons interested in donating their services should contact the schools in which they would like to work.

Inclement Weather

Delayed openings and school closings are communicated in a number of ways:

- Alert Now – Announcements of delays and closures are sent using the automated phone notification system, Alert Now, directly to the phone numbers on file with your school(s).
- Email – Announcements are also sent to the email address(es) on file with your school(s).
- HCPS Website – Announcements will be posted on our homepage, www.hcps.org, as early as 5 a.m. and as messages change.
- HCPS Central Office Switchboard - Call 410-838-7300 or 1-866-588-4963 to listen to a recording of current school closures and delays.
- Local television channels and radio stations.

Remember!

Make sure contact info on file with your school is accurate. This is used to communicate with parents via phone, email, mail, etc.