

Back to school Checklist

2026-2027

- ☐ Review the [2026-2027 Parent-Student Handbook Calendar](#) for full calendar details and important inclement weather information. Take special notice of the potential inclement weather makeup days throughout the school year.
- ☐ Complete [all required forms/documents](#) for ALL students.
- ☐ Optional Student Accident Insurance information can be found [here](#).
- ☐ Check our [School/Bus Locator](#) on or after August 17 to determine your child's bus number and bus stop.
- ☐ Review [HCPS Payment Options](#) for information on paying fees online.
- ★ ☐ Complete a [Free and Reduced-priced Meals application](#) to qualify for free and reduced meal costs and free student device protection.
- ☐ Locate your school's [cafeteria menu online](#), review meal and a la carte choices including allergen, nutrition, and ingredient information for most items.
- ☐ Bookmark www.hcps.org for news, events, and important announcements. Find us on Facebook (@HCPSSchools and @HCPSParentAcademy), Instagram (@HCPS_schools), and YouTube (@HCPSSchools). Download the HCPS app on your favorite device.
- ☐ Visit the [Parent Academy webpage](#) to register for parenting workshops and find links to Real Talk videos.
- ☐ Check out HCPS' [Launch Plus](#), a new interface designed to help parents/guardians stay up-to-date on their student's path to graduation.
- ★ ☐ Learn more about [Xello](#), an online tool for students in grades 6-12 to help explore and plan for life after graduation.
- ☐ Make sure your contact information is up-to-date at your student's school.
- ☐ Watch for information from your school regarding Open House events.
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with the [Portable Communication Device](#), [Dress Code](#), and [Bag policies](#) for important guidelines.
- ☐ Learn about the [Open Gate Security System](#), which will be used more frequently at all grade levels.
- ☐ Explore [Unplug to Connect](#), a community-wide campaign that encourages families to put devices aside during meals and reconnect through conversation.
- ☐ Visit and bookmark your [school's website](#) for school specific information and updates.
- ☐ Bookmark your school's [Home Access Center \(HAC\)](#) after August 21.
- ☐ Sign up for your school's PTA/PTSA.
- ★ ☐ Learn about [Care Solace](#), a free mental health care coordination service for HCPS students, staff, and their families.
- ☐ Fill out the [HCPS Trusted Path document](#) to ensure your student has a safe, trusted place to go if you're unavailable after school.
- ☐ To review or edit your child's race and ethnicity info, log in to [online forms and registration](#) before September 30.
- ☐ Learn more about Superintendent Dyann R. Mack's vision of [Ready by Design](#).

www.hcps.org/parents/backtoschool

