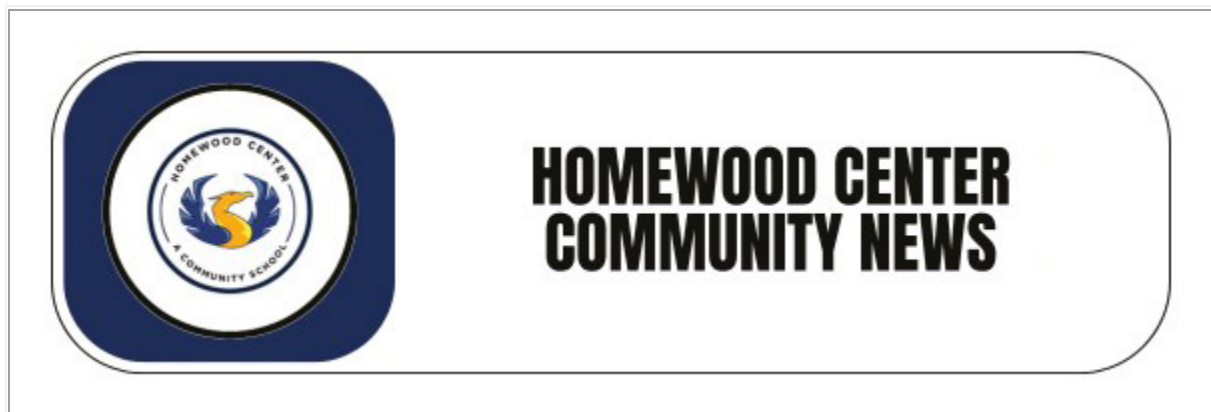

From:
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 7:48 PM
To:
Subject: Homewood Center Community School News 08/07/2024



August 7, 2024

Greetings from our new Assistant Principal Mr. Porritt...

Dear Homewood Community,

I am excited to introduce myself as the new Assistant Principal at Homewood. I am even more excited to specifically work with our Gateway Middle Students and our Innovative Pathways programs. It is an honor to join this wonderful community, and I look forward to working together to make this a fantastic school year!

*Kenny Porritt
Assistant Principal*

IMPORTANT DATES

[August 19 - Phoenix Community Call \(10 AM or 3 PM\)](#) *click to RSVP

[August 22 - Ice-Cream Social and 2024- 2025 Orientation 1 PM](#) *click to RSVP

August 26 - First Day of School for Students

September 2 - Labor Day Schools and Offices Closed

September 18 - Schools Close 3 hours early (Professional Work Day)

September 19 - Back to School Night 6:30 PM

Click links above for information and access the HCPSS system's [academic calendar](#) here.

Be sure to follow us on social media on Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) @hcpss_hc. Be sure that you are also receiving all the Homewood Center Community Announcements by signing up to receive news and texts here <https://www.hcpss.org/hcpss-news/>.

As a [Community School](#), Homewood Center serves as a hub that brings families, community, and partners together to support student success. We do this by creating a culture of belonging, safety and care; providing high quality instruction and learning opportunities; leveraging family, school and community partnerships; and building integrated systems of support.

(*Community programs are not sponsored or endorsed by HCPSS)



See you at the Ice-Cream Social and Orientation!

Join us for our Ice-Cream Social and Orientation on August 22nd at 1:00 PM at Homewood Center! Connect with students, families and caregivers for ice-cream followed by program-specific sessions for Bridges, Gateway High School, Gateway Middle School and Innovative Pathways Virtual Programs. Backpacks, school supplies and other resources will be available too. [Check out the flyer here](#). Be Sure to RSVP HERE: <https://forms.gle/GEwGQ6KQDQtNqBDv5>

Families We NEED your Help by Completing Your Family File

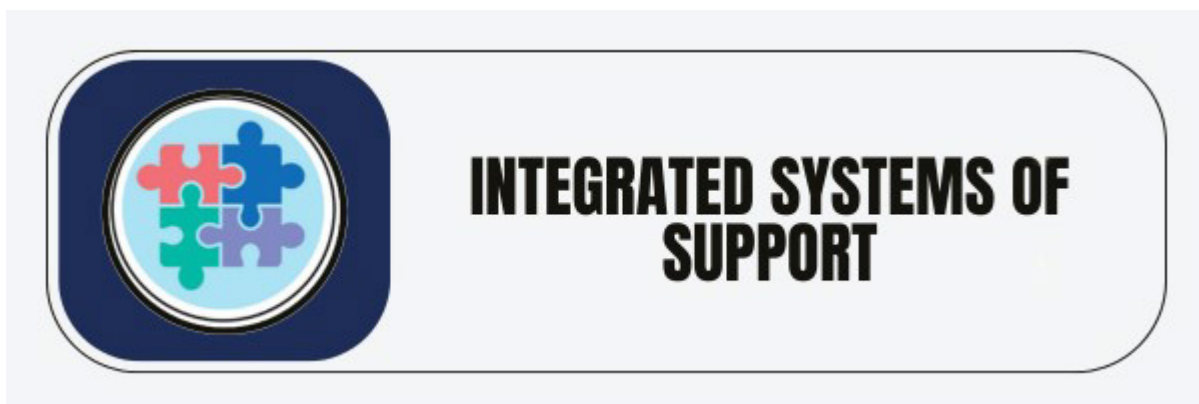
[Update emergency info for each child via HCPSS Connect](#). Must be completed prior to your child(ren)'s first day and to view teacher assignments on August 21. Trouble logging in? [View instructions on resetting passwords here](#). If you continue to have issues, please contact us and we are happy to help.

Have Questions about Homewood Center? Curious About Ways to Get Involved?

Homewood Center is excited to offer regular Community Check-In sessions during the 2024 - 2025 School Year. Join us at one of the two times below to learn about the upcoming year and exciting opportunities, even some paid ones, that families and caregivers are invited to be part of this year. [Check out the flyer here](#). Be Sure to RSVP HERE: <https://forms.gle/DeRAiCj9RmsJ22E4A>

Stay up to date in 2024-2025 with School news, Events and Student Progress

Download the HCPSS News and Events App, Parent Canvas App and Student Canvas App. Stay connected through [HCPSS Mobile Applications](#). You can also follow us on social media on Instagram [@hcpss_hc](#) and X [@hcpss_hc](#). Be sure that you are also receiving all the Homewood Center Community Announcements by signing up to receive news and texts here <https://www.hcpss.org/hcpss-news/>.



Suggested School Supplies

[A suggested school supply list can be found here](#). Thanks to community partners, and to keep costs down for our families, Homewood Center also has school supplies that will be made available.

Transportation

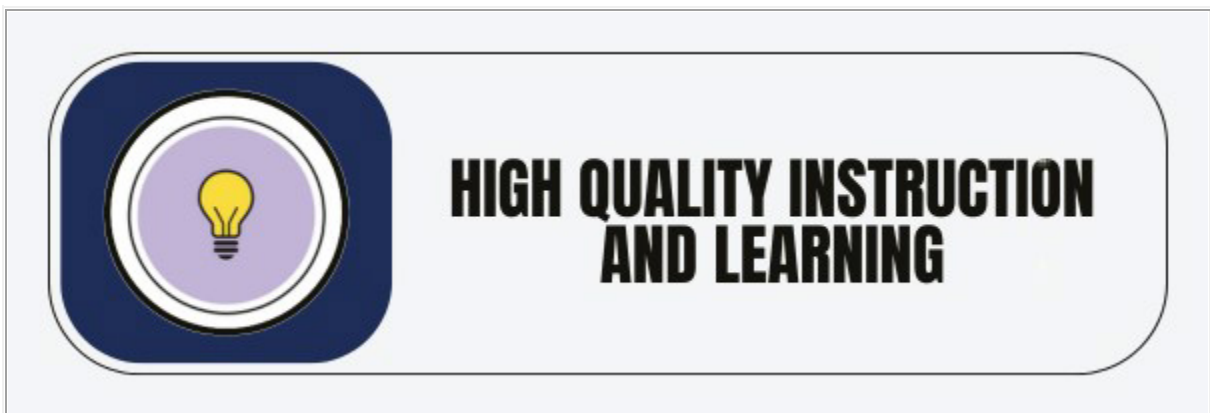
Bus information (numbers, pickup/drop off times) will be coming out soon. Families should hear directly from the Office of Transportation.

School Meals Information for 24-25 School Year

Homewood Center will be participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program called Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in the 24-25 school year. This means that all students attending Homewood Center are eligible to receive breakfast and lunch at no charge throughout the 24-25 school year, regardless of family or household income. The school breakfasts and lunches that we serve follow U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for healthy school meals.

Health Forms and Vaccination Clinics

Any medications required during school hours including prescription, “over-the-counter” (OTC) and homeopathic/herbal medications require a medication order signed by an approved health care provider and are subject to the HCPSS medication policy and procedure. A new medication order is required for every new school year dated on or after July 1. All students must have the required State of Maryland immunizations in order to attend school. Details on [immunization and health form requirements](#) can be found online. [Learn more about FREE Back to School Vaccination Clinics here.](#)



New Boys & Girls Club opening at HCC (FREE) Register by August 21st!!

[Boys and Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore](#) will be opening a Club here in Howard County. The Club will be located at Howard Community College. The age range for this club is 11-18 years old (middle and high school students). There are no eligibility requirements. The program is free- so it is first come, first serve! This Club's capacity for this school year is

45 students; the only requirement prior to opening is a mandatory parent orientation at the Community College at 5:30pm on August 21st. The deadline for registration will be August 21st to ensure all parents can attend the grand opening and orientation. [Click Here to find out to learn more.](#)

Visit the enrichment, employment, internship document for a list of student opportunities. [Click here.](#)



Changes in Cell Phone Policy for Gateway Middle School

As we prepare for the upcoming year, we want to inform you about an important change in our cell phone policy for the Gateway Middle School Program. To ensure a focused and productive learning environment, we will be implementing a NO CELL PHONE policy during class time. The research is clear, cell phone use for middle school aged students during the school day is detrimental to their learning. Cell phone use and social media access contribute to 70% of the stress our middle school students are experiencing.

To support our students' availability to learn during the school day, students will be required to place their phones in YONDR pouches at the beginning of each class. These pouches will allow students to keep their phones with them, but they will not be accessible during instructional time. We believe this policy will help minimize distractions and enhance the educational experience for all students. We will review this policy with our students at orientation and on the first day of school. We appreciate your support and cooperation in making this a successful transition.

Changes in Social Media and Gaming Access

Beginning July 1, [HCPSS will block access](#) to social media at all schools and most game

websites at middle and high schools only on the HCPSS instructional (student) network and on student Chromebooks. [Español](#) | [中文](#) | [한국어](#)

Connect with Us:



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Ellicott City, MD 21042



Phone

410-313-7081



Website

hc.hcpss.org

Howard County Public Schools would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Howard County Public Schools directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#).

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.