

**WELCOME TO**  
**SECOND GRADE**  
**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**



# **THE SECOND GRADE TEAM**

- Meaggan Aiosa, ITL
- Aubrey Adams, Teacher
- Maggie Berry, Teacher
- Meagan Routhier, Teacher
- Susan White, Teacher
- Kristie Sochacki, Special Educator
- Rebecca Bouey, Special Educator
- Carly Burgess, Special Educator
- Dawn Garvey, Paraeducator



# HCPSS Student Code of Conduct

We view the student code of conduct as a team effort.  
There are responsibilities for staff, students, families and  
our community. Let's all do our part to make this year safe  
and successful for all!



# Receiving Emails and Texts



Utilizing contact information submitted through the Family File, parents and guardians automatically receive emails from HCPSS and our school.

To comply with FCC & wireless carrier requirements, parents/guardians must opt in one time to receiving text message alerts. To opt in or confirm sign up, text the word “YES” to 67587 from the mobile number on file in HCPSS Connect Family File.

**Unsubscribing to either an HCPSS or school email, will remove you from receiving all email messaging—including emergency notifications!**

Please call the front office if you believe you are not receiving emails and/or text messages.

# 2025-2026 Student Meals

**Students whose families do not qualify for free or reduced priced lunch will be required to pay full price.**



## DAILY MEAL PRICES

### Student Breakfast

Breakfast – \$2.00

Reduced Price Breakfast –  
\$0.00

Free Breakfast – \$0.00

### Student Lunch

Elementary School Lunch  
– \$2.80

Middle/High School Lunch  
– \$3.30

Reduced Price Lunch –  
\$0.00

Free Lunch – \$0.00

# Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMs)

**Step 1:** Visit [www.hcpss.org/farms/](http://www.hcpss.org/farms/)

**Step 2:** Click “Apply Online” to begin the online application process

## How to Apply

Please submit only one application per household. Families that need computer or language assistance to apply online, please contact your child's school.

View the [federal income eligibility guidelines](#).

## Online

APPLY ONLINE

(ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES AVAILABLE)

- After the online application has been submitted and reviewed, eligibility notifications will be sent via email/mail.

HCPSS WEBSITE

The screenshot shows the 'MY SCHOOL Apps' website for the Howard County Public School System. A dark blue banner at the top right contains the word 'APPLICATION' in white. Below the banner is a navigation bar with tabs: 'Getting Started' (highlighted in teal), 'Household Information', 'Students', 'Children (Non-Student)', and 'Signer's Information'. The main content area is titled 'Getting Started' and lists the requirements for the application process. At the bottom, there is a teal button labeled 'BEGIN ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS'.

**MY SCHOOL Apps**

Howard County Public School System

Getting Started | Household Information | Students | Children (Non-Student) | Signer's Information

### Getting Started

**What you will need to provide during the application process:**

- The name and **current** income of every member of your household
- The school and grade of every student in your household
- Your electronic signature
- (Optional) A valid email address or phone number for district communication about the status of the application.

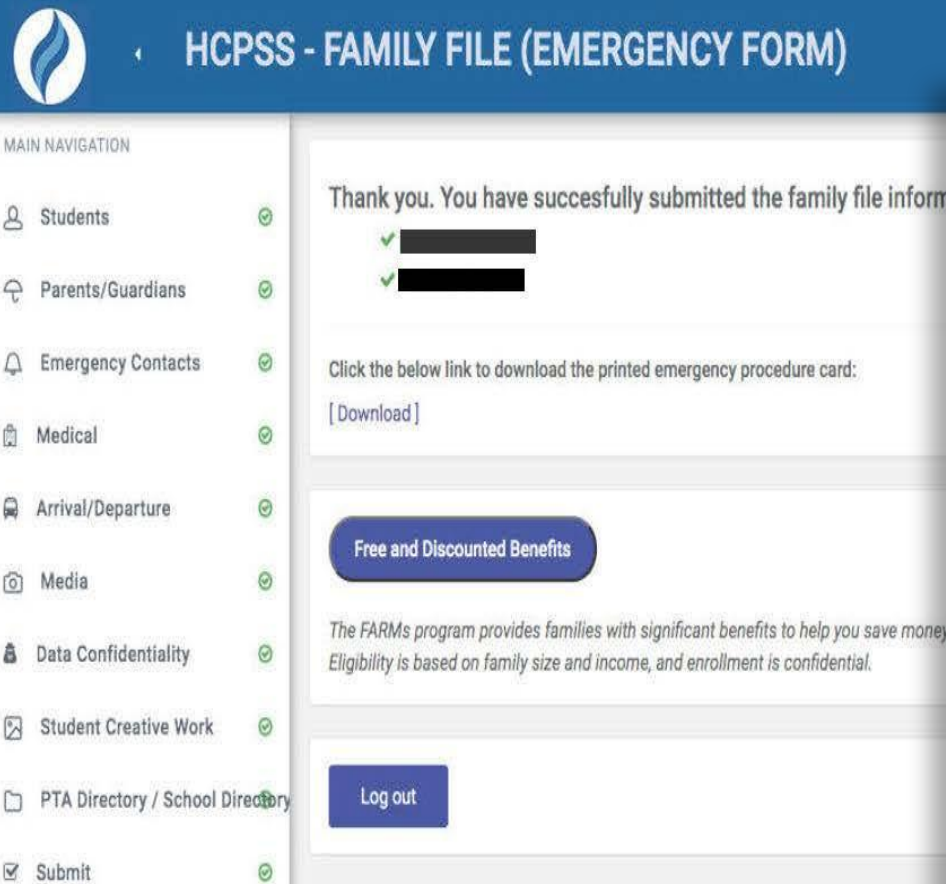
If you are ready to get started, click the button below to begin the online application process.

**BEGIN ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS**

APPLICATION

# Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMs)

Qualifying families can receive free or reduced-cost:



The screenshot shows a web interface for the HCPSS Family File (Emergency Form). The header is blue with the HCPSS logo and the title 'HCPSS - FAMILY FILE (EMERGENCY FORM)'. On the left is a 'MAIN NAVIGATION' sidebar with icons and labels for: Students, Parents/Guardians, Emergency Contacts, Medical, Arrival/Departure, Media, Data Confidentiality, Student Creative Work, PTA Directory / School Directory, and Submit. Each item has a green checkmark. The main content area has a white background and displays a confirmation message: 'Thank you. You have successfully submitted the family file information.' Below this, there are two redacted lines of text, each preceded by a green checkmark. Further down, it says 'Click the below link to download the printed emergency procedure card:' followed by a '[Download]' link. A blue button labeled 'Free and Discounted Benefits' is prominent. Below the button, a paragraph states: 'The FARMs program provides families with significant benefits to help you save money. Eligibility is based on family size and income, and enrollment is confidential.' At the bottom of the main content area is a blue 'Log out' button.

- School meals
- Health insurance
- Howard Community College tuition
- SAT, ACT and AP exam fees
- Camps, sports, child care
- Many other benefits



# Student Personal Device Use

- Personal devices may not be seen, heard, or be a distraction.
  - Smart watches may be worn during the student day.
  - Staff discretion is used on field trips.
  - School administrators may authorize use of a personal device in rare instances (mainly emergencies).
  - Personal laptops may be used for instructional activities in high school with teacher permission.
- 
- **1<sup>st</sup> violation:** Device is confiscated. Student picks up at end of the day.
  - **All other violations:** Device is confiscated. Parent/guardian must pick up.
  - Personal devices for assistive technology may be used as defined in an **IEP/504/Health Plan.**



**You've got this!**  
**Thank you for  
silencing and putting  
away your phone.**

Student personal devices must be away and silenced  
at all times during the student day.



# Be Involved

## Community Advisory Council



## Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee



# *Meet the School Counselors*



Mrs. Tamara  
Braxton-Chee  
k

RES: Monday  
(every other),  
Wednesday  
and Friday

Grades: 3, 5

[tamara\\_braxton-cheek@hcpss.org](mailto:tamara_braxton-cheek@hcpss.org)



Mrs. Kelly Clark

RES: Each day

Grades: K, 1, 2, 4

[kelly\\_h\\_clark@hcpss.org](mailto:kelly_h_clark@hcpss.org)

*We teach classroom lessons, offer small group counseling as well as short term individual sessions.*

# Mental Health – School-Based Supports

School Counselor: Kelly Clark (FT)  
& Tamara Braxton-Cheek (PT)

School Psychologist: Kaitlyn Stone (FT)  
Samantha Nichols (PT)

Pupil Personnel Worker: Lucy Hollis

Social Worker: Amy Kelly

More information:

[www.hcpss.org/supports/mental-health-wellness](http://www.hcpss.org/supports/mental-health-wellness)

# Elementary Language Arts

The Elementary Language Arts Program is designed to provide every student in grade 2 with opportunities to become successful communicators, to read comprehensively, write effectively, speak meaningfully, and listen critically.

The core of Language Arts program is based on current research that children develop language skills by using them in authentic contexts in an atmosphere where students are constantly immersed in language and print. The program uses a student-centered, integrated instructional approach to ensure that learners become thinking, probing users of language.

The program includes:

- Being A Reader Small Group and class instruction
- Being A Writer
- Heggerty

# READING INSTRUCTION

Learning to read is a developmental process that begins even before children enter school. Students proceed at different rates, therefore creating a range of reading abilities in every classroom.

To meet the needs of all readers, the Being a Reader program offers a strategic mix of whole-class and small-group instruction.



# BEING A READER

*Being a Reader* provides a full year of research-based whole-class and small-group reading instruction for grades K–2.

Students will receive direct instruction in:

- Foundational Skills
  - Phonemic Awareness
  - Phonics
  - Syllabication
  - Encoding
- Fluency
- High-Frequency Words
- Comprehension



We all aspire to provide our students with the strategies and skills they need to learn in order to read well and to love reading. We want students to approach reading with motivation and confidence, to deeply comprehend text, and to grow as readers, thinkers and caring and collaborative citizens

# **SPEAKING AND LISTENING**

- Collaborative conversations
- Follow rules for discussion
- Build on others ideas
- Ask for clarification and further explanation
- Recount and describe key ideas
- Ask questions to deepen understanding
- Tell a story/recount an event with details, an audible voice and coherent sentences
- Use complete sentences
- Create audio recordings and visual presentations







# WRITING INSTRUCTION

## “BEING A WRITER”



Being a Writer is a program designed to help students build their writing skills.

- The students hear and discuss examples of good writing and write narrative, opinion, and informational pieces.
- They informally draft, revise, and publish their writing while learning the basic skills they need to communicate in writing.
- The program also helps the class become a community of writers in which everyone feels welcome.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Building Our Writing Community	Telling More Fiction	Non-Fiction Letter Writing	Poems Opinion Writing

# **WRITING INSTRUCTION**

Ongoing throughout the year students will also participate in:

## **Writing About Reading:**

- Writing in response to reading, read alouds and shared reading.
- Students write analyses of literary texts and focus on narrative elements such as character, setting, and plot.
- Students explore opinions and practice writing their own opinions about texts.

**Guided Writing during Reading Group**

**Work on Writing during Independent Rotations**

**Routine writing (creative writing, journal writing, etc.)**

**Writing in Content Areas (Health, Science & Social Studies)**

# HANDWRITING

Students will have guided and independent practice using appropriate sitting posture, paper, and pencil position.

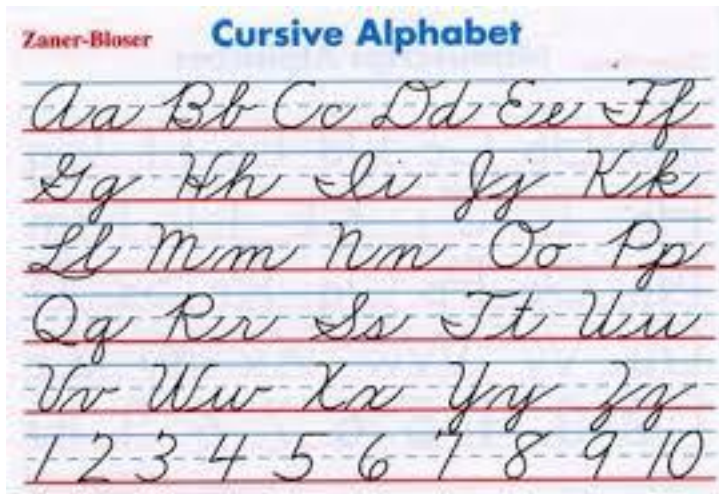
The year begins with instruction and review of Zaner Bloser manuscript letters.



As soon as all manuscript letters are reviewed, instruction shifts to to Zaner Bloser cursive letters.

Class writing continues in manuscript all year.

Please discourage students from attempting cursive until properly instructed.



# HEGGERTY

Phonemic awareness is the missing piece for so many readers.

This explicit instruction provides a foundation for students to anchor their reading and writing skills during phonics instruction.

Heggerty provides all students with the necessary foundation in phonological and phonemic awareness with a daily focus on 8 phonemic awareness skills including Rhyme, Phoneme Isolation, Blending, Segmenting, and Manipulation.

# Visit the Family and Community Resource Page in Canvas to Support Reading and Writing at Home

## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES OVERVIEW

RELATED ARTS

MATHEMATICS

LANGUAGE ARTS

SCIENCE

SOCIAL STUDIES

HEALTH

Overview

What Your Child Will Learn

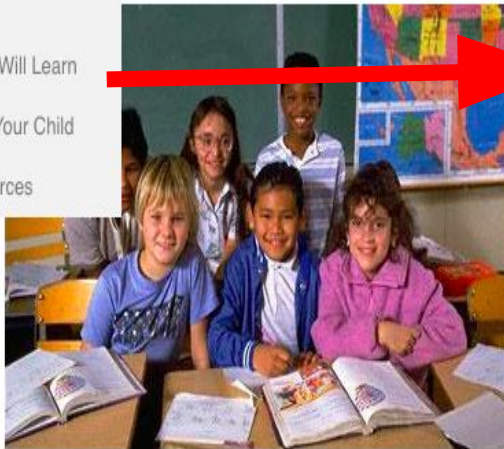
How to Support Your Child

Additional Resources

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is nationally recognized as a leader in teaching and learning. Our rigorous instruction program engages students in learning relevant, real-world classroom experiences.

HCPSS curriculum is written by Howard County teachers and is designed to provide students a thorough grounding in essential knowledge and skills that will give them a leading edge in tomorrow's global environment. Our curriculum challenges students to think strategically, solve problems, innovate, collaborate, communicate effectively, and achieve goals.

The HCPSS curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. These standards for literacy and mathematics education resulted from a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The Standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce. [Additional information about the Common Core](#)



LANGUAGE ARTS

SCIENCE

Overview

What Your Child Will Learn

How to Support Your Child

Additional Resources

Click to find out what your child will learn in Language Arts this year, how to support your child at home, and for additional online resources.

# Grade 2 Family and Community Pages

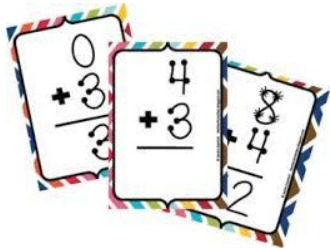
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<https://hcpss.instructure.com/courses/34428>

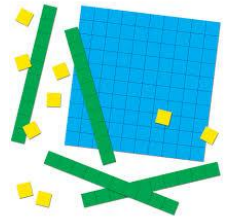




# MAJOR MATH CONCEPTS FOR SECOND GRADE



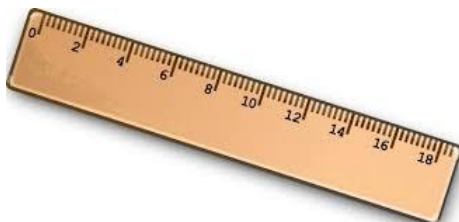
- Number Concepts
- Numbers and Operations



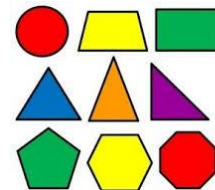
- Time
- Money



- Measurement and Data



- Geometry





# RIGOR IN MATH

The Standards for Mathematical Practice describe the behaviors of MATHEMATICALLY PROFICIENT STUDENTS

Practice #1- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

Practice #2- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

Practice #3- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

Practice #4- Model with mathematics.

Practice #5- Use appropriate tools strategically.

Practice #6- Attend to precision.

Practice #7- Look for and make use of structure.

Practice #8- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

# **BASIC FACTS**

Students will be reviewing and learning new strategies for understanding basic facts. By the end of the school year, second graders should know from memory all sums of two one-digit numbers.

Please help your child practice his/her facts at home daily through the use of flash cards, games and web-based programs. Basic Facts practice will be your child's focus of math homework this year.

# Science

The Howard County Elementary Science Curriculum for PreK through fifth grade is consistent with and in full support of the **Next Generation Science Standards** and **Maryland College and Career Ready Standards**. It reflects the intellectual rigor of scientific inquiry as well as the attitudes and social values conducive to preparing a scientific literate populace to meet the 21st Century. Effective student-centered science embodies an approach to learning that engages students physically and mentally in an inquiry-based laboratory program.

Each quarter of science instruction includes a unit based upon one or more core ideas in:

- Properties of Matter
- Earth's Features
- Earth's Changing Landscape
- Relationships Within Habitats.



# **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Quarter 1:  
Demonstrating Democracy

Quarter 2:  
Connecting Our World

Quarter 3:  
Consumer Choices

Quarter 4:  
Change Over Time



# HeALTH

**Quarter 1:**  
Social Emotional

**Quarter 2:**  
Violence Prevention

**Quarter 3:**  
Safety & Injury  
Prevention

**Quarter 4:**  
Personal Health &  
Disease Prevention



# What Do Grades Look Like?

**M**

## **MEETS EXPECTATIONS**

- Consistently demonstrates understanding and skill with content described in the academic standards
- May make minor errors

**P**

## **MAKING PROGRESS**

- Demonstrates some understanding and skill with content described in the the academic standards
- Performance is inconsistent

**L**

## **LIMITED OR NO PROGRESS**

- Demonstrates little to no understanding or skill with content described in the academic standards
- Significant errors

# HOMework

Homework will begin in October.

## READING:

Read independently or be read to for 10-15 minutes each night. Students should record their reading on the monthly reading log. Parents should initial daily. Please return at the end of the month.

## MATH:

Students will receive a two-sided practice sheet sent home on Mondays to be returned by Friday. The practice sheet will reflect current standards being taught in the classroom or a review of previously taught material.

Practice basic facts nightly. This may be done with the fact cards that will be sent home or online. Please record time on the monthly math log. Parents should initial *daily*.

In addition, unfinished work may also be sent home to be completed at home and returned the next day.



# Measures of Academic Progress ~MAP~

We are using the MAP Assessments in Reading and Mathematics.

Students will be assessed in the fall, winter, and spring.

2nd Grade Fall Testing: Dates are posted on the 2nd grade Canvas page.



# VACATIONS

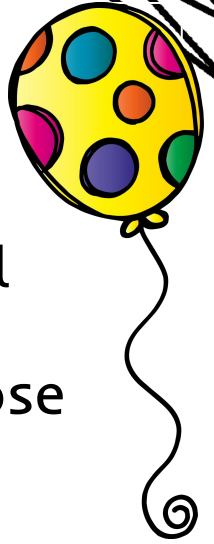
While we understand and appreciate the value of extended family time, please understand that when students miss school due to family trips and vacations, we will supply the missed work ***after*** they return for them to complete at home.

Please make sure to submit an Absence Approval Request form before your trip.

If emailing absences to the homeroom teacher, please CC Carol McQuaid on the email.



# BIRTHDAYS



We do not have birthday parties in school. Students will have his/her name announced on the morning announcements and go down to the front office to choose a special birthday pencil.

Additionally, students will make each other birthday cards during independent work time.

Birthday invitations can be handed out in school if the child is inviting the entire class. We or your child cannot hand out individual invitations for specific students.

We highly recommend parents to share their information in Home Connect so their contact information is shared in the school directory.

# THANK YOU!

Thank you for partnering  
with us this year! It is an  
important year of  
solidifying the foundation  
of your child's education.

