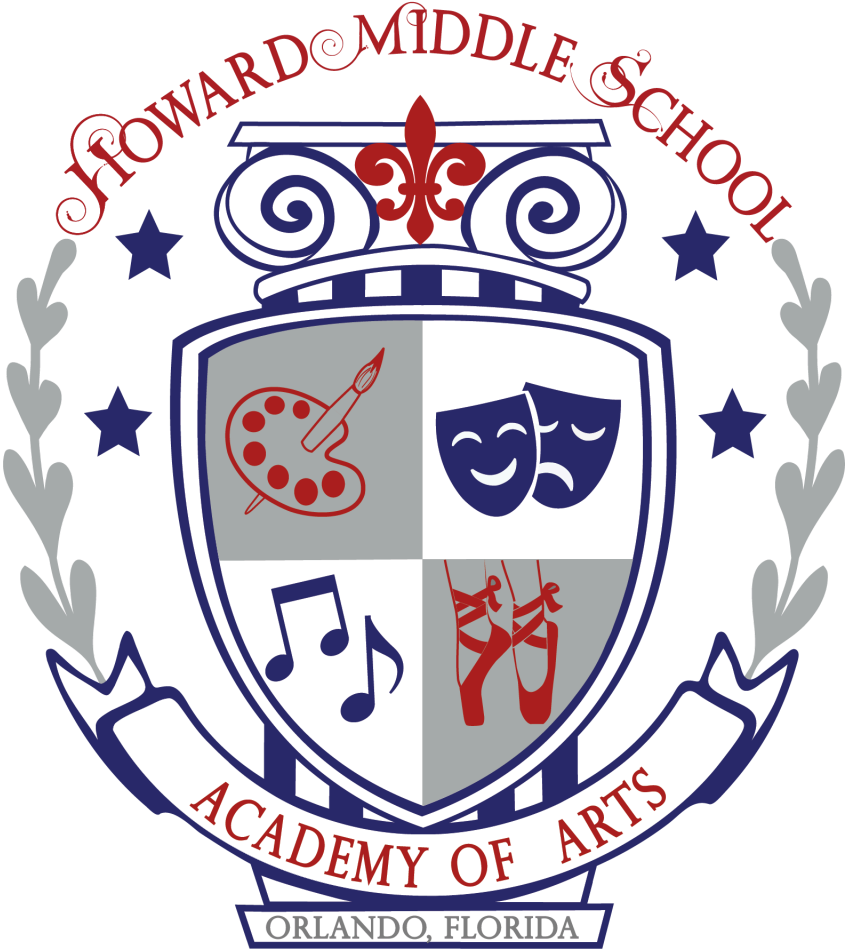


Howard Middle School Academy of Arts

Student Magnet Handbook



2023-2024

Updated 09/13/2023

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Message from the Principal

Dear Howard Families,

I am truly excited to be part of the Howard Family. Already in my short time here, I have seen creativity, enthusiasm and pure joy amongst our students and faculty. Although my own artistic abilities are still a work in progress, I continue to find inspiration and support from all the exceptional artists here at HMS.

As we emerge from the challenges of the last few years, I know that we will find hope in the culture already established. We will continue to build a school that is inclusive and a safe space for all. My goal is for every child to feel valued and respected, while given the space to grow as an artist and citizen.

With the new year comes even more opportunities. As I promised when I arrived a year ago, Piano is back. We have also added Debate, Photography and Musical Theatre classes. Finally, we will be the first middle school in Orange County to offer classes in E-Gaming!

I hope to see everyone at all the great events that Howard Middle School supports. Encourage your child to seek new opportunities and experiences. Finally, support them as they discover themselves here at Howard Middle School Academy of Arts.

I wish everyone a Rangeriffic year!

Dr. W. John McHale, Principal

Student Support Team

Every staff member here at Howard has the same goal, and that is to make sure that we are here to help make your middle school experience the very best we can. We know it isn't always easy, and we want you to know we are here to help if you need it, whether it is with academics, dealing with stress, feeling overwhelmed, having conflicts with friends, or anything else, we have a whole team of people here at Howard to help! If you are in crisis, please remain with your teacher and have them contact Mrs. Aftab your SAFE Coordinator or Mrs. Staten your Middle School Social Worker. If we are not available please contact your guidance counselors; for 6th grade Ms. Calvar, 7th grade Ms. Bugar, 8th grade Ms. Elder. If you have an IEP/504 concern, please contact Mrs. Wolfe your 504/Staffing Specialist. To request a meeting with a member of the student support team, please email us directly.

SAFE Coordinator- Ms. Aftab: 220D, Email: Shazia.Aftab@ocps.net

Social Worker- Ms. Staten:220, Email: Olivia.Staten@ocps.net

Our SAFE Coordinator is available to help in the event of a crisis or if you need additional support for any social and emotional needs.

6th Grade Guidance Counselor - Ms. Calvar: 107 C, Email: Christina.Calvar2@ocps.net

7th Grade Guidance Counselor - Ms. Bugar: 107 B, Email: Dawn.Bugar@ocps.net

8th Grade Guidance Counselor - Ms. Elder : 107 D, Email: Elisa.Elder@ocps.net

Staffing Specialist - Ms. Wolfe: 120, Email: Roasalinde.Wolfe@ocps.net

Our guidance counselors are located downstairs in the guidance suite. Your counselors can assist you with any academic, scheduling, or social and emotions needs.

Student Support Deans/PASS/Title IX Coordinator- Ms. Lee, Mr. Miranda and Mr. Tejada: 226C

Magnet/Visual and Performing Arts

Magnet Overview

The Howard Middle School Academy of Arts is a public magnet school dedicated to offering students a deep immersion in the arts and a rigorous academic program. Howard is a haven for students who love music, dance, theatre and art. The school provides a safe atmosphere for creative-minded students and provides numerous opportunities to perform or showcase student work each year. All students who attend Howard apply through the OCPS office of School Choice at www.schoolchoice.ocps.net.

Admissions Requirements

- Signed Magnet Contract for Enrollment
- Excellent conduct and citizenship

Program Requirements

- Magnet students are expected to receive a 2.0 or higher GPA and no failing grades on each report card.
- Magnet students will maintain excellent citizenship and behavior.
- Magnet students will participate in competitions, festivals, and/or exhibitions
- Magnet students are expected to enroll in at least two Arts Courses each year, and progress within at least one area of focus

VPA Courses

For a full list and description of Howard courses please see the [HMS Course Catalog](#)

Course Progression

2023-2024 HMS Arts Course Progression-Magnet Students

VISUAL ARTS				
	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	8 th Grade Capstone
1 st Required Elective (Choose One)	Beginning 2D Art	Intermediate 2D Art or Beginning 3D Art or Creative Photo 1	Beginning 2D Art Intermediate 2D Art Advanced 2D Art Beginning 3D Art Intermediate 3D Art Creative Photo 2	Reflection Essay
2 nd Required Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any Arts elective	Choose from any Arts elective	Choose from any Arts electives	
3 rd Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	

DIGITAL ARTS				
	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	8 th Grade Capstone
1 st Required Elective (Choose One)	Beginning Digital Art	Intermediate Digital Art	Advanced Digital Art	Reflection Essay
2 nd Required Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any Arts Elective	Choose from any arts elective	Choose from any arts elective	
3 rd Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	

DANCE				
	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	8 th Grade Capstone
1 st Required Elective (Choose One)	Beginning Dance Foundations	Intermediate Dance Technique	Advanced Dance Ensemble	Reflection Essay
2 nd Required Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any arts elective	Choose from any arts elective	Choose from any arts elective	
3 rd Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	

CHORUS				
	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	8 th Grade Capstone
1 st Required Elective (Choose One)	Beginning Treble/Chorus Beginning Tenor/Bass Chorus	Intermediate Ranger Chorus Intermediate Tenor/Bass Chorus	Advanced Ranger Chorus Advanced Tenor/Bass Chorus	Reflection Essay
2 nd Required Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any arts elective	Choose from any arts elective	Choose from any arts elective	
3 rd Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	

BAND				
	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	8 th Grade Capstone
1 st Required Elective (Choose One)	Beginning Band	Intermediate Concert Band	Advanced Wind Ensemble	Reflection Essay
2 nd Required Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any arts elective	Can be another band or their choice pending audition	Can be another band or their choice pending audition	
3 rd Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	

ORCHESTRA				
	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	8 th Grade Capstone
1 st Required Elective (Choose One)	Beginning Orchestra	Intermediate Concert Orchestra	Advanced Ranger Orchestra	Reflection Essay
2 nd Required Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any arts elective	Choose from any arts elective	Choose from any arts elective	
3 rd Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	

THEATRE				
	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	8 th Grade Capstone
1 st Required Elective (Choose One)	Beginning Theater	Intermediate Theater Beginning Musical Theatre Beginning Technical Theatre	Advanced Theatre / Advanced Theatre & Career Planning Intermediate Musical Theatre Intermediate Technical Theatre	Reflection Essay
2 nd Required Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	
3 rd Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	

PIANO				
	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	8 th Grade Capstone
1 st Required Elective (Choose One)	Beginning Piano	Intermediate Piano	Advanced Piano	Reflection Essay
2 nd Required Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any arts elective	Choose from any arts elective	Choose from any arts elective	
3 rd Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	

GUITAR				
	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	8 th Grade Capstone
1 st Required Elective (Choose One)	Beginning Guitar	Intermediate Concert Guitar	Advanced Chamber Guitar	Reflection Essay
2 nd Required Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any arts elective	Choose from any arts elective	Choose from any arts elective	
3 rd Elective (Choose One)	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	Choose from any elective	

Magnet Contract

Upon acceptance to Howard Middle School Academy of Arts, students and parents are required to sign an agreement of understanding (Magnet Contract) indicating certain academic, attendance, and behavioral requirements of the magnet program. Students who fail to meet the standards set forth by the magnet program will be placed on probation for one grading period for academic or program violations. For behavioral violations, the probationary period will last through the end of the semester or school year, whichever comes first. A student on probation may not be permitted to participate in any extra-curricular activities or functions (i.e. dance, school sponsored after school events, clubs, athletics, etc.) during the probation period. The probationary form will be completed and signed by all applicable parties. If the violation is corrected during the specified time period, the probation will no longer apply. If there is insufficient improvement at the conclusion of the probation period, the student may be exited from the Howard magnet program and may be required to return to his/her/their zoned school at the end of the first semester, or the end of the school year, whichever occurs first. Under extenuating circumstances immediate dismissal is at the discretion of administration. The Magnet Contract can be found at the end of this document in the Resources section for reference.

Magnet Probation Process

Upon acceptance to the Howard magnet program, students and parents are required to sign a Magnet Contract indicating certain academic, attendance, and behavioral requirements of the magnet program. Students who fail to meet the academic and program standards set forth by the magnet program will be placed on probation for one grading period for academic or program violations. For behavioral violations, the probationary period will last through the end of the semester or school year, whichever comes first. A student on probation may not be permitted to participate in any extra-curricular activities or functions (i.e. dance, school sponsored after school events, clubs, athletics, etc.) during the probation period. The probationary form will be completed and signed by all applicable parties. If the violation is corrected during the specified time period, the probation will no longer apply. If there is insufficient improvement at the conclusion of the probation period, the student may be exited from the Howard magnet program and may be required to return to his/her zoned school at the end of the first semester, or the end of the school year, whichever occurs first.

As written in the Howard Academy of Arts Magnet Contract, Howard magnet students must receive a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher and have no failing grades on each report card.

Probation Process

1. Students are placed on probation if they fall under any **one** of the following:
 - a. Lower than a 2.0 GPA
 - b. Have one or more failing grades on the Report Card
 - c. One Level 3 Discipline Referral*
 - d. 10 unexcused absences in a 90 day period
2. Students placed on Probation:
 - a. May be removed from all extracurricular activities (dances, clubs, musicals, sports, etc.)
 - b. Considered for dismissal at the end of the semester or school year, whichever comes first, if the issue is not resolved.
3. Students are removed from Academic Probation when the next report card GPA is above a 2.0 and has no failing grades..
* Two level 3 discipline referrals may result in dismissal
One level 4 discipline referral may result in dismissal

Academic Resources

- Canvas provides information for assignments that have been completed and turned in as well as show which assignments are missing.
- Inform Teachers/ Staff that help is needed. Students should let their teacher know if they feel overwhelmed with a subject and need extra help understanding the material. Students are also encouraged to speak to Guidance Counselors, and/or the SAFE Coordinator regarding any area of school in which they are struggling. Howard teachers and staff want each student to succeed and often have resources that can help achieve success.

Magnet Advisory Board

The Howard School Advisory Committee (SAC) serves as the “Magnet Advisory Board.” Because Howard is a Whole School Magnet, SAC advises administration and the leadership team on magnet related topics. The administration presents annual student and parent survey results to SAC for review and to seek advice on continual improvement.

Visual and Performing Arts Season Calendar-2023-2024

Chorus Fall Concert 10/10, 5:30pm
Band Fall Concert 10/12, 5:00 p.m.
Orchestra Fall Concert 10/19, 5:00 p.m.
Guitar Fall Concert 10/24, 5:30 p.m.
Jr. Thespian Showcase 11/10, 6:00 p.m.
Visual Arts Exhibit at Maitland Art Festival 11/10-12
PRISM Concert 11/13, 6:00 p.m.
OCPS District Magnet Fair, mid November 2023
Carols On The Courtyard 12/1, 4:00 p.m.
Dance Student Choreography Performance 12/5, 6:00 p.m.
Orchestra Winter Concert 12/7, 5:00 p.m.
Piano Recital 12/12, 5:00 p.m.
Guitar Concert 12/14, 5:30 p.m.
Chorus Winter Concert 12/19, 5:30 p.m.
Band Winter Concert 12/21, 5:00 p.m.
Visual Arts Exhibit at Central Florida Fairgrounds 02/29-3/10
Beginning Orchestra Recitals 03/11-14,2024, 6th & 7th Periods
Visual Arts Exhibit at Winter Park Art Festival 03/15-17
Dance Spring Recital 04/9, 6:00 p.m.
Illuminations Art Show - TBD, April 2024
Band Spring Concert 04/16, 5:00 p.m.
Orchestra Concert 04/18, 5:00 p.m.
Spring Musical 04/25-27, 7:00 p.m.
Piano Recital 04/30, 5:00 p.m.
Guitar Concert 05/02, 5:30 p.m.
Chorus Spring Concert 05/07, 5:30 p.m.

Student Information

Athletics

At this time it is expected that we will have competitive soccer, basketball, volleyball, and track and field. Updates will be provided about try-outs in the Howard Beat (our digital newsletter) that all students can access through Canvas. Physical forms, positive behavior, and a GPA above a 2.0 are required.

Student of The Month!

Each month a different department nominates students to be recognized with a Student of the Month celebration.

Students nominated for Howard's Student of the Month recognition program exhibit the following characteristics---good citizenship, academic excellence and demonstrate appropriate school behavior.

Students nominated for Howard's Most Improved Student of the Month recognition program have shown growth and improvement throughout the month in any of the following areas---academics, attendance, or behavior.

End of Year Principal Honor Roll, Assistant Principal Honor Roll and Dean's Honor Roll

Honor Roll at the end of the year is determined by averaging Quarters 1,2,3. This is because at the end of the year Quarter 4 grades are not yet determined.

- Principal's Honor Roll 4.0 GPA
- Assistant Principal's Honor Roll 3.5 – 3.99 GPA
- Dean's Honor Roll 3.0 – 3.49 GPA
- Students that have had a 4.0 GPA through 6th,7th, and three quarters of 8th will receive a special trophy from the principal.

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival

- All students not participating in morning rehearsals and/or activities will enter the rec court gates and then move to their designated morning holding areas.
 - 6th grade students will enter the building using the rec court doors and enter into their designated holding area.
 - 7th & 8th grade students will enter the building using the rec court doors and enter their designated holding areas.
 - Students eating breakfast will enter the building using the rec court doors and eat in the back cafeteria before going to their grade level designated holding area.
- Students that have morning rehearsals or before school activities will enter the building and check in with Mrs. Seigny (front desk clerk).

Dismissal

- Students will exit the building using two exits (Front Entrance and Rec Court doors). Students reporting to the All-Stars program will be directed to the 140 hallway.
 - Dismissal will be completed via intercom by calling zones.
 - **Zone 1**- 1st floor of Building 1: Rooms 100, 105, 106, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 130, 132, 134.
 - **Zone 2**- 2nd floor of Building 1: Rooms 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 230, 232, 234
 - **Zone 3**- 1st and 2nd floor of Building 2: Rooms 140, 141, 142, 143, 145, 148, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250

Attendance, Absences, and Being Tardy

Students are expected to be on time **to school** and on time **to all classes**. If you are late you will receive a tardy notification in skyward. If you are absent, please submit a signed notice from parents to the attendance clerk in order for this to become an excused absence. Tardy sweeps will begin during the third week of school. Students will be using their temporary identification cards until the new cards are received. They will be used during lunch time and they will also be students' admission into school sporting events.

Before/After School Care

- **All Stars** is a before and after school program run by the City of Orlando. Students involved in the All Stars program must report to the cafeteria for check-in immediately upon dismissal after school and are not permitted to leave campus.
- **Dramatic Education and YMCA** will meet at the program designated area and will be escorted by staff members.

Behavioral Expectations/ Code of Conduct/Title IX

https://www.ocps.net/departments/public_relations/publications/code_of_student_conduct_and_parent_guide

OCPS and HMS do not discriminate on the basis of sex in education programs and activities according to Title IX. Questions regarding Title IX, or reports of discrimination can be directed to our Title IX Coordinator, Mr. Tejada, (Julio.Tejada@ocps.net).

Cafeteria Rules and Procedures - ALL LUNCHES

Students must adhere to rules and procedures at all times.

General Rules

- Stay seated at all times, unless giving permission to move or use the restroom.
- Keep hands and feet off of other students, their plates, food, and belongings.
- Speak in a normal speaking voice. No yelling or screaming.
- Students must dispose of all trash in designated containers.
- All food and drink must be kept in the cafeteria.
- Sharing food is not permitted.

Clubs

There are so many ways to get involved at Howard! Every year our clubs and activities are a bit different, and get announced during the first few weeks of school. We also post clubs and updates weekly in our digital newsletter, The Howard Beat, which will also get published to your Ranger Resources on Canvas.

[Howard Clubs 2023-2024](#)

Dress Code

The dress and grooming of OCPS students shall contribute to the health and safety of the individual, promote a positive educational environment, and not disrupt the educational activities and processes of the school. **These standards of dress and grooming apply to all students in the public schools of Orange County.**

- Clothes shall be worn as they are designed.

- Clothing must cover the body from one armpit across to the other armpit and down to approximately mid-thigh. Tops must have straps. Undergarments must not be viewable. Rips, holes, or tears in clothing must be below mid-thigh.

- Shoes shall be worn at all times and should be safe for the school environment.

- Headgear shall not be worn on campus during the school day, unless the headgear is approved by the principal.

- See-through, revealing, or mesh garments must not be worn without appropriate coverage underneath that meet the minimum requirements of this dress code.

- Gang paraphernalia, garments and/or jewelry, tattoos, or other insignias, which display or suggest sexual, vulgar, drug, alcohol, or tobacco related wording/graphics or may tend to provoke violence or disruption in school, shall not be worn.

- Clothing must not state, imply, or depict hate speech or imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected class.

Any student who violates this dress policy will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in Sections IV and V of the Code, Section 1006.07(2)(d), Florida Statutes, and below:

1. For a first offense, a student shall be given a verbal warning and the school may call the student's parent/guardian.

2. For the second offense, a student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period of time not to exceed 5 days and the school may meet with the student's parent/guardian.

3. For a third or subsequent offense, a student shall receive an in-school suspension pursuant to Section 1003.01(5), Florida Statutes, for a period not to exceed 3 days, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed 30 days, and the school may call the student's parent/guardian.

Cell Phone Policy

A student may possess a cell phone on Board property, on school transportation and at school activities, provided that during school hours, the cell phone is silenced and concealed. Pursuant to Section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, "a student may not use a wireless communications device during instructional time, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. **A teacher shall designate an area for wireless communications devices during instructional time.**" For purposes of this section, the designated area will be in the student's backpack or purse, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. Violations of the cell phone policy will be handled in accordance with the Code and may result in confiscation of said device. If the cell phone is used in a criminal act (such as sexting as outlined in Florida Statutes and the Code), the cell phone will be provided to law enforcement and the student may face criminal penalties.

The use of wireless communication devices is always prohibited during the school day (from the first morning bell to dismissal) unless expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes.

Wireless communication devices include but are not limited to, cell

phones and/or auxiliary/ancillary devices such as watches and ear buds. Students may not receive discipline if they use their cellphone and/or ancillary device(s) to monitor a health condition that is documented through medical records provided to the school including, but not limited to, an IEP, a Section 504 Plan or a Health Plan. **At no time shall OCPS be responsible for theft, loss or damage to cell phones or other electronic devices brought onto its property.**

These standards apply to all students in the public schools of Orange County.

Student Identification Badges

Students should have their identification cards with them each day (once available), and it is suggested that students wear them on a lanyard. The first student I.D. will be free. The replacement cost for student I.D.'s will be \$5.00.

Media Center

Ms. Douglas is our Media Specialist and she will be working with language arts teachers to arrange for student visits to the Media Center for book check out. After the first month of school we will also be allowing up to ten students at a time visit the media center after eating their lunch.

Digital Laptops/Assistance

Students are responsible for keeping track of and caring for their device and any device accessories (charger and case). To guide students in approximately caring for their device, students are annually asked to view a device care [video](#). In general, students should:

- Keep food and drinks away from the device
- Make sure the device is charged daily for school use
- DO NOT put stickers on the device
- Carry the device with both hands when moving it around the classroom
- Carry the device in a padded backpack and always set the bag down gently on desks, tables or the floor.
- Use a neoprene sleeve to protect the laptop. If it becomes damaged and another device needs to be issued you may not receive the same kind of laptop as a loaner. This means if you've purchased a device-specific protective shell it may no longer fit another device.
- Return the device to the school at the end of the school year, during inventory periods, when damaged, and/or upon withdrawal.
- Language for computer cases Device cases are mandatory for all students.

Device Fee Structure

When a device or accessory is damaged, an incident fee is assessed. The chart below details the device fee structure. Should a non-warranty repair be completed, the incident fee will be applied to the cost of the repair. However, if the repair falls under warranty and there is no cost to repair, the incident fee will be refunded.

Incident	1st Incident	2nd Incident	3rd (and forward) Incident
Student/Parent/Guardian Responsibility for the repair/replacement cost	\$25	\$50	Depreciated value. * *See table below.

The fee structure now accounts for a four-year depreciation schedule of the device (each year ends June 30). The chart below details the depreciation schedule.

Years from Purchase	1	2	3	4
Repair/Replacement Cost	\$550	\$400	\$250	\$100

The device begins depreciating once it's in use. Devices depreciate along a normal schedule, depending upon the features of the device, the expected life cycle, and normal wear and tear. Normal wear and tear related to the full replacement value—hence the new depreciation schedule above for instances that rise to a third incident. These are the new replacement values based on depreciation.

Accessory Fee Structure

The chart below details the accessory fee structure, which is now itemized based on accessory type (charger or protective case). The new protective cases for devices in grades 6-12 are considered accessories.

Incident	1st Incident	2nd Incident	3rd (and forward) Incident
Student/Parent/Guardian/Responsibility	\$10	\$15	\$25

OCPS Parent Portal

If you are currently experiencing issues with registering for an OCPS Parent Portal account or are having an issue with an OCPS Parent Portal app (i.e. Skyward Family access, Canvas parent), then please complete the form below and submit. It will then get forwarded to the registrar and she will review your child's Skyward account and email you when the error is resolved.

Once the form is submitted, please allow a week for the process to be completed. In the meantime, log into your child's account to view their assignments and grades.

https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/70b745b937a1406b8bb770d7a911e8c1?utm_source=smartsheet

Parent Consent Forms

Parents, click [Here](#) to access the OCPS Parent Portal which will also give you access to Canvas Observer and Skyward. It is important to complete the following consents, waivers or release forms also found in the Parent Portal.

- 2024 Health Services Consent Form
- 2024 Library Access Form
- 2024 Model Release Form- Consent, Waiver, and Release
- 2024 Public Notice of Parent Rights – Student Records
- 2024 Student Technology Acceptable & Responsible Use Agreement
- Medicaid Release Consent

To access these forms on the OCPS Parent Portal you will need to login or click on “setup” to create an account. Once you login to Parent Portal click on Skyward, then click on “Online Forms” at the top of the list on the left side of the page to access the forms. <https://parents.classlink.com/ocps>
<https://parents.classlink.com/ocps>

Communications Methods

Ranger Resources Canvas Tile

On the student Canvas dashboard, there is a Canvas tile called Ranger Resources 2021-2022. In this course, students will find all important school information and other resources. There are constant updates on the front page and frequent posted announcements. Please check this Canvas course regularly.

Howard Beat

Weekly newsletter sent via parent email and also posted on Canvas Ranger Resources and HMS website.

Orange Connect

General information, emergency information

Launchpad

Web browser startup window where all district supported sites and apps can be accessed

Talking Points

TalkingPoints is a two-way multilingual family engagement platform that allows school administrators, instructional staff and other key staff to send messages to parents/guardians who receive them in their home languages as text messages or through the parent mobile application. Parents/guardians can reply to the message they receive in their home languages, because TalkingPoints will translate it into English for staff. TalkingPoints supports over 145 languages, including the primary languages in OCPS. Please view the introductory video, infographic, and one-pager for more information.

[Click here to sign up for Talking Points](#)

Teacher Emails

Email to individual teachers with questions about specific classes or assignments

Howard Social Media

- Howard Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Howard.Middle.School/>
- Howard PTSA Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hmsptsa/>
- HMS Fund Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hmsfoundation/>
- Howard Twitter: @HowardMiddleSch
- Howard Website: <https://howardms.ocps.net/>

Make-up work for Excused Absences

- OCPS policy - one day per number of days of excused absence + one additional day. (Ex. student is absent for two days, the student has three days to make up for the missing work.)

Late/Missing Work

Be sure to check your Skyward regularly for missing work and assignments. We encourage you to use a planner to help stay organized. Students are expected to complete all work assigned. Talk with your teachers if you find that you are not able to complete any assignment and turn it in on time. Each of your teachers has specific instructions for turning in late work. We want all students to always get the best grade possible and to show their best effort.

Checking Grades on Skyward- Progress Reports and Report Cards

Students can check their grades in Canvas and Skyward. Keep in mind that Canvas is a place where assignments are stored but Skyward is where all of your final grades are located. When logged into your Skyward account, on the left hand side there is a toolbar with various links to student information. Select the link called “Gradebook” and from there it will show each class and grade. Click the blue number to see a list of assignments and grades. For more detailed information, check out the Ranger Resources 2023-2024 Canvas tile.

Resources

OCPS Calendar

Orange County Public Schools 2023-2024 School Calendar

Day(s) of Week	Date(s)	Event
Wednesday-Wednesday	August 2-9	Pre-Planning August 7-Professional Development Day
Thursday	August 10	First Day of School
Monday	September 4	Labor Day Holiday
Friday	October 13	End of First Marking Period
Monday	October 16	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Tuesday	October 17	Begin Second Marking Period
Friday	October 27	Teacher Professional Day Student Holiday/Teacher Non-Workday
Monday-Friday	November 20-24	Thanksgiving Break
Friday	December 22	End of Second Marking Period
Monday-Friday Two Weeks	December 25-January 5	Winter Break
Monday	January 8	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Tuesday	January 9	Begin Third Marking Period Begin Second Semester
Monday	January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Schools and District Offices Closed
Monday	February 19	Presidents' Day/Teacher Non-Work Day Schools Closed/District Offices Open
Thursday	March 14	End of Third Marking Period
Friday	March 15	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Monday-Friday	March 18-22	Spring Break Schools Closed/District Offices Open
Monday	March 25	Begin Fourth Marking Period
Friday	May 24	End of Fourth Marking Period Last Day of School
Monday	May 27	Memorial Day Holiday Schools and District Offices Closed
Tuesday-Wednesday	May 28-29	Post Planning

Bad Weather Days Calendar

**Orange County Public Schools
2023-2024 Prioritized Severe Weather Make-Up Days**

Priority	Date	Current Use
1	October 27, 2023	Professional Day/Student Holiday
2	November 20, 2023	Monday of Thanksgiving Break
3	November 21, 2023	Tuesday of Thanksgiving Break
4	November 22, 2023	Wednesday of Thanksgiving Break
5	February 19, 2024	Presidents' Day
6	March 22, 2024	Friday of Spring Break
7	March 21, 2024	Thursday of Spring Break
8	March 20, 2024	Wednesday of Spring Break
9	March 19, 2024	Tuesday of Spring Break
10	March 18, 2024	Monday of Spring Break

2023-2024 Bell Schedule

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
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9:25-9:30 Transition

9:30 -9:34 Announcements

1st	9:30-10:22	1st	9:30-10:22	1st	9:30-10:22
2nd	10:26-11:14	2nd	10:26-11:14	2nd	10:26-11:14
Lunch A	11:14-11:44	3rd	11:18-12:06	3rd	11:18-12:06
3rd	11:48-12:36	LUNCH B	12:06-12:36	4th	12:10 - 12:58
4th	12:40-1:28	4th	12:40-1:28	LUNCH C	12:58 – 1:28
5th	1:32-2:20	5th	1:32-2:20	5th	1:32 - 2:20
6th	2:24-3:12	6th	2:24-3:12	6th	2:24 - 3:12
7th	3:16-4:04	7th	3:16-4:04	7th	3:16 - 4:04

WEDNESDAY

9:30- 2:54

1st	9:30-10:12	1st	9:30-10:12	1st	9:30-10:12
2nd	10:16 - 10:54	2nd	10:16 - 10:54	2nd	10:16 - 10:54
Lunch A	10:54 – 11:24	3rd	10:58 – 11:36	3rd	10:58 – 11:36
3rd	11:28 – 12:06	Lunch B	11:36 – 12:06	4th	11:40 – 12:18
4th	12:10 – 12:48	4th	12:10 – 12:48	Lunch C	12:18 – 12:48
5th	12:52 - 1:30	5th	12:52 - 1:30	5th	12:52 - 1:30
6th	1:34 - 2:12	6th	1:34 - 2:12	6th	1:34 - 2:12
7th	2:16 - 2:54	7th	2:16 - 2:54	7th	2:16 - 2:54

Magnet Contract

Student Name: _____ 23-24 GRADE LEVEL: _____



HOWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY OF ARTS Magnet Contract

(To be completed for admission to the Howard Academy of Arts)

Howard Middle School Academy of Arts is a safe and enthusiastic community of learners where every student reaches their intellectual, social and creative potential. With the support and guidance of parents, staff and community members, Howard students will build a foundation to successfully participate as members of society in the 21st century.

In order to maintain the educational environment that will be the foundation for success, students and parents who choose the Howard Middle School Academy of Arts Magnet Program will be required to adhere to the following:

- Students must maintain a 2.0 or higher quarterly GPA and have no failing grades.
- Students must demonstrate appropriate behavior and follow the OCPS Student Code of Conduct with exemplary behavior. Receiving a Level 3 or 4 referral will result in probation and/or dismissal. Two Level 3 referrals may result in dismissal. One Level 4 referral may result in dismissal.
- Students must maintain an ability to accommodate magnet course requirements in their schedule.
- Students must meet OCPS attendance requirements.
- Students will participate in required exhibits, performances, competitions, or auditions including MPA, All County, State Art Assessment, etc. Students will abide by teacher expectations for after school practice requirements.
- Students will enroll in at least two Arts Courses each year and maintain a progression in at least one area. Any deviation from these requirements must be approved by the Principal, Assistant Principal, or Magnet Coordinator.
- Students will maintain a portfolio of work (digital or physical).
- Students must maintain all other "specific requirements" outlined in the Magnet Handbook.
- All 8th grade students will complete a capstone project.

Upon acceptance to Howard Middle School Academy of Arts, students and parents are required to sign an agreement of understanding (Magnet Contract) indicating certain academic, program, attendance, and behavioral requirements of the magnet program. Students who fail to meet the academic and program standards set forth by the magnet program will be placed on probation for one grading period for academic or program violations. For behavioral violations, the probationary period will last through the end of the semester or school year, whichever comes first. The probationary form will be completed and signed by all applicable parties. If the violation is corrected during the specified time period, the probation will no longer apply. If there is insufficient improvement at the conclusion of the probation period, the student may be exited from the Howard magnet program and may be required to return to his/her/their zoned school at the end of the first semester, or the end of the school year, whichever occurs first. Under extenuating circumstances immediate dismissal is at the discretion of administration.

A student on probation may not be permitted to participate in any extra-curricular activities or functions (i.e. dances, school sponsored after school events, clubs, athletics, etc.)

I have read and understand my responsibilities as a Howard Middle School Academy of Arts Magnet Program student and parent.

Student signature: To be acknowledged via HMS Contract Google Form
Date: Google Form Submission Date will be used

Parent/Guardian signature: To be acknowledged via HMS Contract Google Form
Date: Google Form Submission Date will be used

Updated Feb. 10, 2023