



February 2, 2024

Published Friday evening bi-weekly

Check out and "Like" the Official Howard Facebook page to see posts on the many activities taking place at Howard. Bookmark the Howard Web Page to keep up to date on the school calendar and other important information. Follow us on Instagram!

Instagram: [hmsacaarts](#)



[Howard Web Page](#)



[Howard Facebook Page](#)



[HMS PTSA Facebook Group](#)



A message from our Principal, Dr. W. John McHale

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

Howard News and Updates

Quarter 2 Report Cards- Now Available in Family Access.

Report Cards for Quarter 2 are now available to view in Family Access through Skyward Parents. Parents, login through the Parent Portal to Access Skyward Parents.

<https://parents.classlink.com/ocps>



OCPS Top Talent 2024 is Accepting Application Jan. 22-Feb. 23



ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TOP TALENT
A Foundation for Orange County Public Schools Event

LIVE 2024

Casting Call: Student Stars

Singers, Dancers, Musicians and More!

Accepting Applications Jan 22 – Feb 23 | Complete Top Talent Application at: FoundationforOCPS.org

Follow us on:  @foundationforocps.org  @Fnd4OCPS



Dance Recital Reminder-NEW

As mentioned in the dance handbook that was given out at the beginning of the school year, we will have our end of the year dance recital on **Tuesday April 9th**. Dress rehearsal will be **Monday April 8th**. Please save these dates as this is a performance grade for all Dance students. Be sure to communicate/remind outside of school activity leaders that dance students must be in attendance for both rehearsal and the show and will not be at their regularly scheduled activities. Choreography and formations will begin this month.



Magnet Application Deadline for the 2024-2025 School Year- February 15, 2024

The electronic application for the high school magnet lottery opened November 1, 2023 and will close on February 15, 2024. The application is available at www.schoolchoice.ocps.net.

On the same page, you will also find a virtual magnet fair where you can click on each school for more information about their programs.

Congratulations HMS Dance Troupe!-NEW

Our Howard Dance Troupe just recently attended the OCPS Dance Performance Assessments. They were assessed in the following pre-set combinations: 5 Ballet, 3 Modern, 1 Jazz and 1 African. As well as, Movement Acquisition (learning a combination and executing it on the spot) and an Ensemble piece of choreography. We are happy to share that they have received straight SUPERIORS! It is a true testament to all their dedication and hard work!

Dance Troupe will be assessed at the state level Feb 2 & 3 in St. Petersburg, FL. There will also be an Honors Concert on Saturday, February 2nd with participating schools from across the state, as well as, master classes on Sunday.

Congratulations and Good Luck Dance Troupe Members:

Ava Green
Hailey Cage
Antonio Williams
Skyler Weston
Liana Jones
Julianna Pavone
Kaylan Wellington
Mason Grantz
Mila Nathan
Sophia Aspitia
Sophia Sanguine
Kyleah McCary
Morgan Marotta
Lillian Callahan
Mikaela De La Rosa



Howard 2023-2024 Yearbook

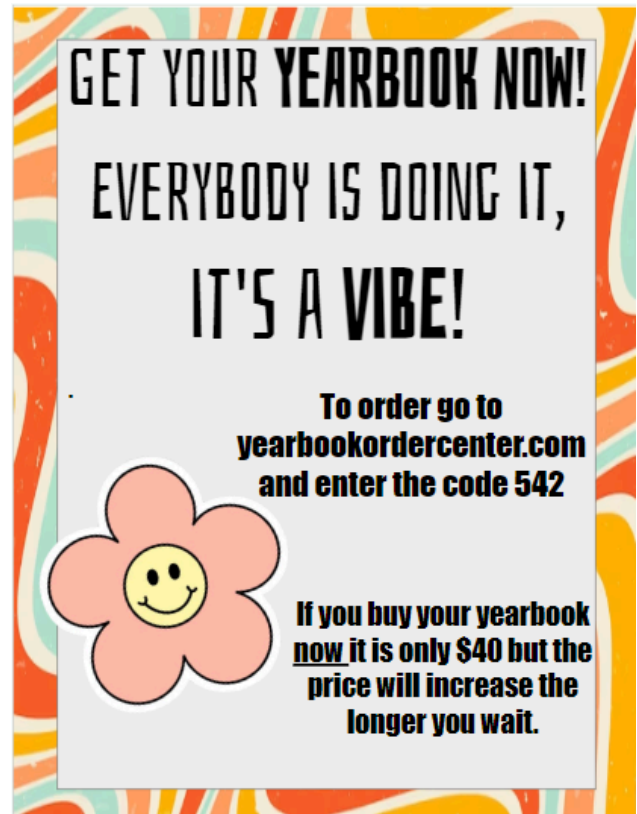
8th grade parents: NOW is the TIME to purchase your student ad for the yearbook! [Click here](#) to go to the Yearbook Order Center and buy yours TODAY. January 31st will be the LAST day to order your ad!

Full page \$175

½ page \$90

¼ page \$50

1/8 page \$25



GET YOUR YEARBOOK NOW!

**EVERYBODY IS DOING IT,
IT'S A VIBE!**

To order go to
yearbookordercenter.com
and enter the code **542**

If you buy your yearbook
now it is only **\$40** but the
price will increase the
longer you wait.

Roots and Shoots Garden Donations!

Roots and Shoots is starting a garden in two of the courtyards at Howard Middle School and are looking for donations! Our club is in need of any plastic or ceramic planting pots, gardening tools, plant seedlings, soil, or anything else that you might have lying around the house that could help us start our garden! Any donations are greatly appreciated. They can be dropped off at the front office or students can bring them directly to Ms. Plate or Ms. Schoen. Thank you and Happy New Year from Roots and Shoots.



Thank you to Courtyard by Marriott Orlando Downtown- CFHLA Adopt-A-School Parnter

Partners in Action - Courtyard Orlando Downtown

Before the holiday break, [Courtyard by Marriott Orlando Downtown](#) had the pleasure of delivering breakfast to the hard-working teachers at their Adopt-A-School partner [Howard Middle School](#). The Breakfast was used as an opportunity to celebrate the school having a successful first half of the year, and to update the teachers on current and upcoming initiatives from the PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Student Association).



Thank you Courtyard by Marriott Orlando Downtown for your support of the CFHLA Adopt-A-School Program and for helping to make a positive impact within our community during the holiday season!

HMS Upcoming Events

- 2/4 End of Marking Period for Progress Report 3
- 2/5-9 National School Counselor Week
- 2/6 Winter Park H.S. Counselors at HMS for rising 9th course selection (zoned students only)
- 2/7 School Crossing Guard Day
- 2/7 Olympia H.S. Counselors at HMS for rising 9th course selection (zoned students only)
- 2/9 6th Grade Field Trip to Jazz Performance at Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center
- 2/12 Colonial H.S. Counselors at HMS for rising 9th course selection (zoned students only)
- 2/15 Magnet Application Deadline for all OCPS Magnet programs
- 2/17 8th Grade Tailgate Party-HMS Track & Field, 11:00 am-3:00 pm
- 2/19 No School- Presidents Day
- 2/29-3/10 HMS Visual Arts Exhibit at the Central Florida Fairgrounds

Concert Attire



All Students in Band, Choir, Guitar, Piano and Orchestra wear Formal, Long Concert Black clothes for our concerts. Information was sent home in our handbooks. Order and shop now as concert season begins in October!

Clubs & organizations



HMS Clubs

Please visit Ranger Resources in Canvas for more information and sign up to attend. Some clubs have limited space so it is important to go to Ranger Resources to sign up.

[Ranger Resources 2023-2024](#)

[Ranger Resources 2023-2024](#)

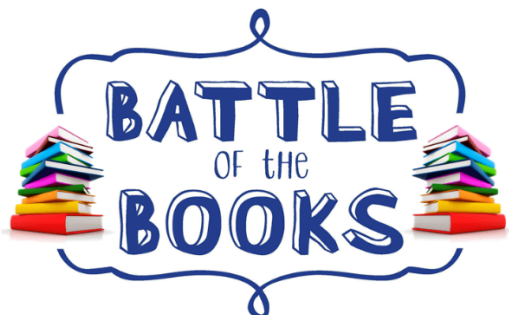
[K12 - Other - 2023 - 2024](#)



- Information on starting a new club is posted in Ranger Resources.

NHSDA Meeting-NEW

Tuesday February 6th @ 8:30am in room 250



Battle of the Books-NEW

Meeting this MONDAY to choose the competition TEAM of 6! Please be in the media center at 8:45!

Howard Intramurals

Intramurals is a before school activity where a limited number of students play organized sports on Wednesday mornings from 8-9:00 a.m. Basketball is the current sport now being played.

Sign-ups will open every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and close Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. OR whenever 30 students have signed up, whichever comes first.



Each Monday, the list of students permitted to participate that Wednesday morning will be posted throughout the campus hallways and beside the entrance to the gym.

Wednesday morning, students who have signed up may arrive at the front of the gym starting at 7:45 a.m.

How sign-ups work:

1. Students login to Canvas and go to "Ranger Resources"
2. Select the "Intramurals" tab
3. Press the link for the google form, complete and submit

For more information contact Coach Morales at Zachary.Morales@ocps.net

GSA-NEW

Please join the Howard GSA every other Monday morning in Mr. Payne-Rios's room. This is a safe space where students can come to have conversations, talk about issues involving the LGBTQIA+ community, and learn about local Orlando groups who support this community..

Faculty Sponsor: John Payne-Rios

Meeting Days and Times: Every other Monday before school at 8:45 (starting 8/14/23)



Location: Room 130



Howard GSA T-Shirt Sales

Howard GSA is selling T-Shirts! They come in the following colors: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet.

Purchase through School Pay.

Please email questions to Mr. Payne-Rios at John.PayneRios@ocps.net.

Before/After School Programs

Supervision for students occurs 30 minutes before the school day begins and 30 minutes after school ends. For students needing supervision before 9 am or after 4:30 pm, there are a few options available at Howard Middle School. ***Note: DramaticEd is NOT providing afterschool care for students at HMS.

- ★ **The City of Orlando All Stars**, will be providing before/after school care on Howard's campus. All Stars representatives will be available at Meet the Teacher. Space is limited. If you have questions or concerns please email asasadmin@orlando.gov or visit their website at www.orlandoasas.org. For online registration, go to www.orlandoasas.org, beginning in July 2023.
- ★ **The YMCA of Central Florida** is also an option for before/after school care. They are located off campus. at 433 N. Mills Ave. The cost is a YMCA membership, and options start at \$29/month. For more information and to register, contact the Youth Development Director, Jen Sagala at jsagala@cfymca.org.

Howard Supporters/Partners

Howard is lucky to have such generous community support. We would like to thank the following people, organizations, and businesses for all they do to help make Howard such an amazing school! If you would like to become a Partner in Education with Howard please email janet.ramsey@ocps.net.

Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra Partnership

Once again we are proud to announce Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra is partnering with Howard to provide a series of Master Classes for our Orchestra and Band students. Each class will focus on a specific symphonic instrument.

More information about the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra including performance schedules, visit: <https://orlandophil.org/>



Orlando Ballet

Orlando Ballet is partnering with the Howard Dance program providing master class instruction as well as opportunities to visit the Orlando Ballet and experience working with professional dance artists. Thank you Orlando Ballet for supporting our dance students!

Jon Lehrer Dance Company

Howard's Dance program is happy to announce that once again they are partnering with the Jon Lehrer Dance Studio. For many years now Jon Lehrer and his dance company have provided master class instruction to HMS Dance students. Thank you Jon Lehrer and company.



Opera Orlando

Opera Orlando is once again partnering with Howard Middle Academy of Arts Chorus program to provide students with Master class instruction and the opportunity to experience Opera performances. Thank you Opera Orlando!

Downtown Baptist Orlando

Downtown Baptist Orlando is Howard's Faith Based Partner In Education. Downtown Baptist donates school supplies, sponsors an Angel Tree for students each holiday and showers our staff with appreciation by providing staff lunches throughout the year.

Thank you so much for your support of our students and school! <https://dbo.church/>



Forms & Procedures/Policies



Things students need to play sports during the 2023-24 school year:

Athletics procedures have changed this year when it comes to sports physicals, as parents/legal guardians must now register students in the Aktivite Portal.

Instructions for creating an account and registering students for the sports activity is below:

CREATE A PARENT/GUARDIAN ACCOUNT:

On www.aktivite.com, click Login

Click Create an Account

* You only need ONE account, even if you have children in more than one high school and/or junior high

* Do not create another account if you have used Register My Athlete/Aktivite in the past

- ❑ Fill in your personal account information. You will be using the site as a Parent/Guardian.
- ❑ Click **Create Account**
- ❑ Shortly after creating your account, you will receive an **email with a 6-digit Verification Code**. Use this code to verify your account when prompted.

* **Do not close your current tab**. You will need to open your email in another tab and find the verification email in your email inbox (it may take a few minutes to appear, so be patient).

REGISTER YOUR STUDENT FOR AN ACTIVITY:

- ❑ Login with your email address and password
- ❑ Under the **Parents** header, click the button labeled **Click here to start/complete athlete registrations**
- ❑ Click **Start/Complete Registrations** under "What would you like to do?"
- ❑ Click the **New Registration +** button in the upper right hand corner
- ❑ Start by clicking the red **Select School** bar and follow the directions as they appear
- ❑ Continue following the steps presented in the red bars
- ❑ Once your registration is complete, you'll receive a confirmation email from us

Need Help? For a live chat, click the orange Help button on the lower left side of the screen or email support@aktivate.com for assistance.

Student must have and maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher (**NO** exceptions)

- a. For soccer and volleyball, students last year's semester GPA **MUST** be a 2.0
- b. For basketball and track, students first semester's GPA this school year must be a 2.0

If you have any questions or concerns please email:

Mrs. Kimberly Wallen
Howard Middle School Activities Coordinator
Kimberly.Wallen@ocps.net

Device Issues

At this time all students should have a device. Any student having a tech issue needs to fill out an online tech request form, found on their launchpad.

Mr. Eion will call students down to the Media Center for Tech Time throughout the day.

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>



OCPS Student 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.**



OCPS Cell Phone Policy for Students

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.**

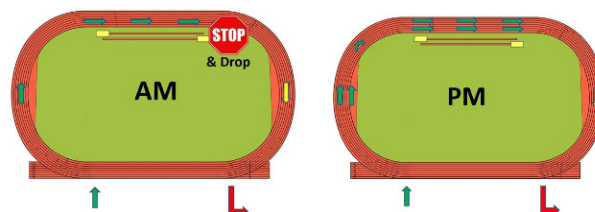
These standards apply to all students in the public schools of Orange County.

Arrival and Dismissal (Car Loop)

We use the track (across the street on Robinson) as our car loop. Cars must enter on the west side, closest to Summerlin, and then will exit on the other side. Students should arrive between 9:00am and 9:25am as there is no supervision available before 9:00 am.

Afternoons tend to be more hectic in the beginning than it will be once everyone learns the process. **Please do not park at nearby residences, the local 7-Eleven or other nearby businesses, as you run the risk of being towed and trespassed by the Orlando Police.** We appreciate your patience and willingness to follow our procedures for all students’ safety.

After school, all students must exit through the front doors, and car riders then cross the street to the track. We ask students to wait on the field until their car has pulled up closer to the front of the line, so as to help keep traffic moving. We appreciate everyone’s efforts at helping students to understand the importance of waiting for their car instead of loading in at the back of the line.



Howard Academy of Arts is a beacon for arts education in Central Florida and a home where creative minds thrive. We thank you for being a part of this innovative community where all students’ lives are made richer through a combination of