



March 29, 2024

Published 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](https://www.instagram.com/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.

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 3 Report Cards- Will Be Available in Family Access on April 2, 2024-NEW

Report Cards for Quarter 3 will be available to view in Family Access through Skyward Parents on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Parents, login through the Parent Portal to Access Skyward Parents.

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




B.E.S.T. Writing Test, April 2nd-NEW

Hello Rangers!

Spring testing is upon us! We will kick off Spring testing with BEST Writing on Tuesday, April 2nd. ALL students will be testing. Makeup testing will be for absentees only.

Updated Verification Of Residency Requirements for Current 8th Graders Deadline is 4/15!



Howard Middle School

Orange County Public Schools

Dr. W. John McHale, Principal | Michelle Brown, Assistant Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations on this educational milestone for your student. Transitioning to a new school is exciting and should be smooth and without any delays. In an effort to ensure all student's records are accurate and up to date, we are requiring parents to provide updated current proof of residence to your child's present school. This documentation should be provided to the school by close of business on April 15, 2024.

Failure to provide updated verification of residence will result in your child's withdrawal from OCPS and you risk your student not having a schedule for the start of the 2024 school year.

To verify your address you must provide the following:

- If you own a house: warranty deed, property taxes, closing contract, or homestead exemption card along with current utility bill, your ID with current address, and current mail.
- If you rent a house or apartment: provide the signed lease, your ID with your current address, recent utility bill, proof of rent payments, current mail, and renters insurance.
- If you live with someone who owns or rents the house: you must obtain a Verification of Residence from Student Enrollment Office. You will need to provide a minimum of the following documents:
 1. Your ID with current address
 2. Three items with your name and address dated within the last month, such as car registration, paystub, bank statement, insurance, phone bill, or current mail.
 3. In addition, you must provide the ID of the lessee or homeowner and a copy of the lease or proof of homeownership.

More documentation may be required depending on circumstances in a case-by-case situation.

You will need to schedule an appointment for the address verification at the Student Enrollment Office
6501 Magic Way Blvd 100B Orlando, FL 32809
Appointment link
<https://appointments.ocps.net>

The School Board of Orange County, Florida ("Board") shall establish residential attendance zones for each school. All students, unless otherwise provided by the Board, shall attend the school serving such student's residential attendance zone. For purposes of this policy, a student's residence is defined as the residence/domicile of the parent(s), legal guardian(s), legal custodian(s), or other such person as defined as a legal guardian of the student by any order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction of the State of Florida (collectively, "Guardian"). Any student residing in the Orange County Public Schools ("OCPS") district shall be assigned to a school for attendance by the Superintendent or designee.

"The Orange County Public School Board is an equal opportunity employer."
800 East Robinson Street, Orlando, Florida 32801-9999 Telephone (407) 248-1780 Fax (407) 248-1785
www.howard.ocps.net

Track and Field Schedule



HOWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL 2024 TRACK SCHEDULE



<https://gofan.co/event/1461884?schoolId=FL4097> 4/10/24 Lake Como

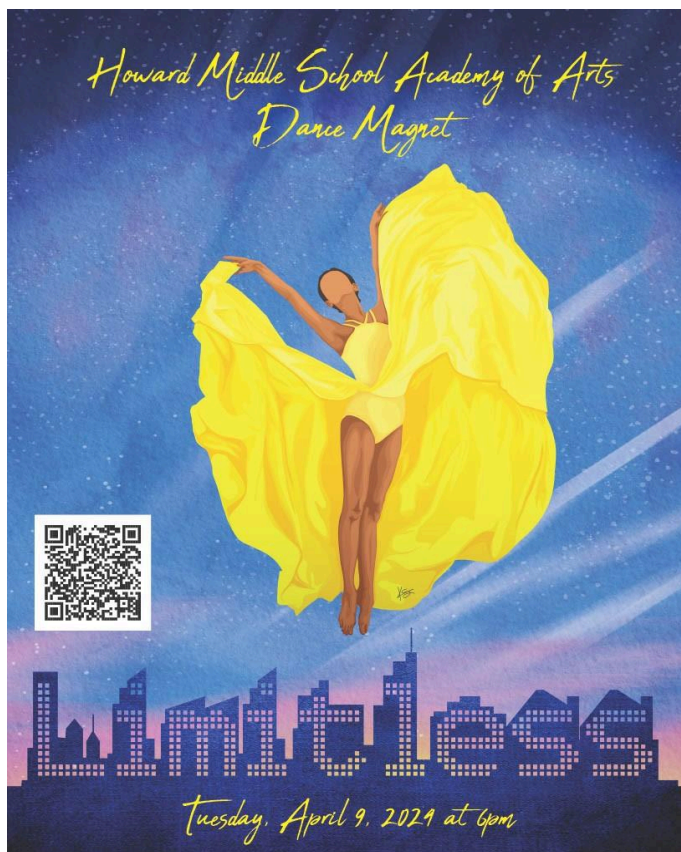
Battle Of The Books Competition-NEW

Our 1st competition battle will be **Wednesday, April 3rd** right after school in the Media Center! Please wish our team the best of luck as they have worked so hard!

Team Captain: Lincoln Harrell, Eliza Salazar-Bohorquez, Anna Coulumbe, Maddie Bradley, Faith Wallen, and alternate, Ginny Root



***This is a team photo of them learning what their 1st rounds will entail.**



Dance Recital, Tuesday, April 9, at 6:00pm-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.

The recital details information sheet is available on your student's Dance Canvas course. Please read through this information as it includes: dates, schedules, dinner information, volunteer needs, ticket information, and costume, hair, shoes, and make-up needs.

Tickets are almost SOLD OUT. They are \$5 and can be purchased at [TeachTix.com/hms](https://www.teachtix.com/hms). Please be mindful of the large number of Dance students. The show WILL be recorded and every participant will receive a free, digital copy via an emailed link that they can share with friends and extended family. Do not miss out on seeing your dancer perform by waiting too long to purchase tickets as they will likely sell out before April 9th.

We still need HELP! With about 250 Dance students, we need a lot of help for Dress Rehearsal and Recital day (we promise you will be finished in time to watch the show). Please sign up [here!](#)

Be sure to update your OCPS ADDitions account or signup to become an [OCPS ADDitions Volunteer](#).

"Illuminations" Art Exhibit, April 11th, 5:30-7:30pm-NEW

Don't miss out on the opportunity to attend the Art Department's largest Exhibition yet!

On **April 11th, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm**, we will be hosting **"Illuminations"** – a spectacular event featuring the incredible artwork of our Drawing, Painting, Computer Graphics, and Sculpture students. The event promises to be an unforgettable experience, showcasing the culmination of our students' hard work and dedication over the past year.

Jesus Marin
Taylor Heeg
Monica Lopez
Hannah Ussery
Tiffany Castro Porter



Spring Piano Recital Date Change - Tuesday April 23-NEW

The Spring Piano Recital was originally scheduled for Tuesday, April 30. **The new recital date is one week earlier - Tuesday, April 23.** Please update your calendars. Thank you!



Purchase Your Tickets For the Howard Choral Performance at the Orlando City Soccer Club, 4/27/24 @ 7:30pm-NEW



On Saturday, April 27 at 7:30pm, the Orlando City Soccer Club is playing against Toronto FC, and our Chorus will be performing the national anthem! We'd love to have your support and presence at the game. Below is a link to our Fevo event page where you can purchase tickets to the match!

We hope to see you there!

<https://offer.fevo.com/orlando-city-sc-vs-toronto-fc-aibdmzp-6028325?fevoUri=orlando-city-sc-vs-toronto-fc-aibdmzp-6028325%2F>

-Mr. Penfield & Mr. Lovelett

Howard Middle School Awards Ceremony, 6-8 pm in the Performing Arts Center-NEW

May 14th (6th grade)

May 15th (7th grade)

May 16th (8th grade)

There are 3 levels of awards:

Principal's Honor Award	4.0	GPA
Assistant Principal's Award	3.5 – 3.9	GPA
Dean's Award	3.0 – 3.4	GPA



Separate awards will be given to 8th graders who earned straight A's for all three years of middle school.

The grade point average (GPA) will be determined by the student's CUM GPA at the end of semester 1 in January, 2024.

Tickets will be limited to 2 per family. Depending on availability, extra tickets will be made available on the day of the event.

Congratulations to Shlok Sheth!-NEW

Please congratulate Shlok Sheth, for placing 2nd in the 7th grade division of the Florida State MathLeague Championship Contest.

Good luck Shlok, in the 2024 Math League Middle School National Championship!



3D & 2D Arts Winners!-NEW

Howard students earned a total of seven awards at the Winter Park Art Festival 2024, including four by Art 3D artists and three awards earned by Art 2D students. Congratulate Mr. Marin and Ms. Heeg for their guidance.

Art2D

3 Awards of Distinction

Art3D

2 Awards of Excellence

1 Award of Distinction

1 Honorable Mention

Congratulations to our young Artists for their amazing work!



3D Art Trash Talk

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/hCkWGbb6YzR7Si3DA>



Trash Talk~ Howard Middle

137 new items added to shared album

photos.app.goo.gl

3D Art Cellos & Guitars

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/phSyU7A5yb8muZK37Elements>



Cellos & Guitars * Rebirth * Howard Middle

15 new items · Album by Jesus
Marin

photos.app.goo.gl

Important Orchestra Dates!

Tuesday, April 2 - Philharmonic Orchestra Sectionals after school, 4-5:30 pm

Saturday, April 13 - Solo Festival for Concert, Ranger, Philharmonic Students (Not for beginning orchestra)

Thursday, April 18 - **All Students:** Orchestra Concert @Howard MS, 5:00 pm, tickets required, wear concert dress

Tuesday, April 23 - Philharmonic to Edgewater HS for Collaboration concert with Orlando Philharmonic musicians, concert time TBD, wear concert clothes

HMS Upcoming Events

- April 2 BEST Writing Test
- April 3 Track & Field Meet @ Pershing, 5:00pm
- April 9 Dance Spring Recital, 6:00pm
- April 10 Track & Field Meet @ Lake Como, 5:00pm
- April 11 Illuminations Art Exhibit, 5:30-7:30pm
- April 16 Band Spring Concert, 5:00pm
- April 18 Orchestra Spring Concert, 5:00pm
- April 23 Piano Spring Recital, 5:00pm
- April 23 Philharmonic & OPO Collaborative Concert @ Edgewater H.S., 5:30pm
- April 25 Guitar Spring Concert, 5:30pm

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!

Clubs & Organizatons

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.

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

This program is not sponsored by nor endorsed by the school board of Orange County, Florida. See Board Policy KHC and Policy KHB



[Ranger Resources 2023-2024](#)

[Ranger Resources 2023-2024](#)

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



Jewelry Club Dates for the Remainder of the Year

March 11 and 25

April 8 and 22

May 6 and 20

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

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 after-school 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



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

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.**

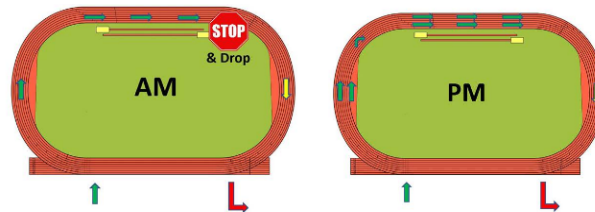
These standards apply to all students in the public schools of Orange County.

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 rigorous academics and an intense focus in the arts.