



**August 4, 2023**

**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**

### **Meet the Teacher is Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Meet the teacher for all Howard Middle School students will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. Students can pick up a copy of their schedule and will have the opportunity to visit their classes and meet their teachers. Information will also be available about sports and after-care opportunities.

### **First Day of School is Thursday, August 10th!**



## **Requests for Changes in Student Schedules**

Guidance Counselors are working diligently to make sure that every student has a complete schedule before the first day of school. Schedule change request forms will be available during Meet the Teacher on August 8. The form will outline possible reasons for schedule changes, as well as a list of any open electives. Forms will also be available in first period classes during the first week of school. Please submit only one request form per student.

Thanks from the Guidance Team.

## **Howard Middle Guidance Team:**

**6th Grade Guidance Counselor:** Christina Calvar  
Email: [Christina.Calvar2@ocps.net](mailto:Christina.Calvar2@ocps.net)

**7th Grade Guidance Counselor:** Dawn Bugar  
Email: [Dawn.Bugar@ocps.net](mailto:Dawn.Bugar@ocps.net)

**8th Grade Guidance Counselor:** Elisa Elder  
Email: [Elisa.Elder@ocps.net](mailto:Elisa.Elder@ocps.net)

## **Student Device Checkout**

Please contact Mrs. Kelly Douglas, [kelly.hager@ocps.net](mailto:kelly.hager@ocps.net), to set up a time for pick-up. We will be available on Wednesday, August 9, 8:30-4:00 by Appointment ONLY.

## **Device Issues**

All students should fill out a tech request online through their Launchpad.

Mr. Eion will call students down to the Media Center for Tech Time during 1<sup>st</sup> period or 5<sup>th</sup> period.

## **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.

**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 [asadmin@orlando.gov](mailto:asadmin@orlando.gov) or visit their website at [www.orlandoasas.org](http://www.orlandoasas.org). For online registration, go to [www.orlandoasas.org](http://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](mailto:jsagala@cfymca.org).

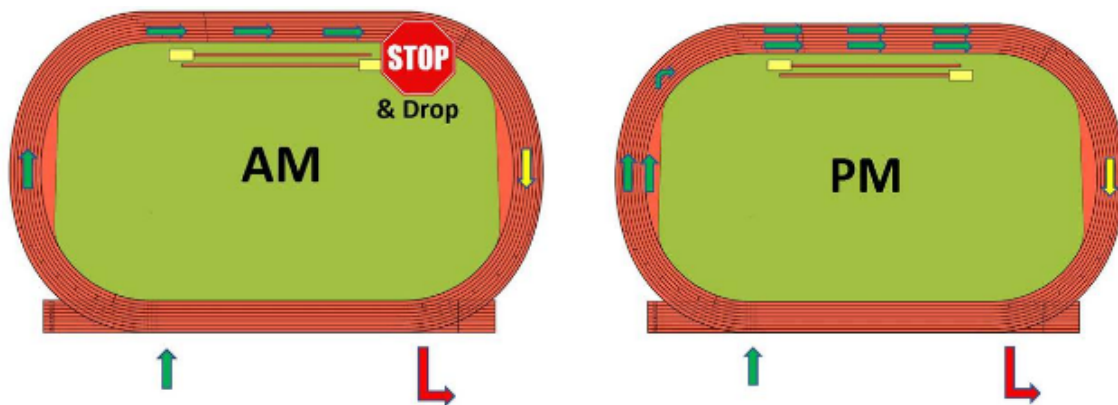
**Dramatic Education** is an educational arts company with over seventeen years of academic arts programming. The program is available on days school is in session on the school's campus, Monday-Friday, from Dismissal - 6:00 p.m. For more information, go to [DramaticEducation.com](https://DramaticEducation.com) or [ArtsintheSchool.com](https://ArtsintheSchool.com) Click the link below to register your student. <https://campscui.active>.

## **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. We appreciate your patience and willingness to follow our procedures for our students' safety.

After school, all students must exit through the front doors, and car riders then cross the street to the track. Staff members assist students crossing the street and finding their cars. Also present is a School Resource Officer (SRO) and a Crossing Guard to help students safely across Robinson. 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.



## **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>

## Immunization Requirements for 7th Grade

The state of Florida requires all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade to have the TDAP vaccination prior to starting school in August.

Please submit TDAP vaccination records to our registrar, Caprice Mackemer, by email, [Caprice.Mackemer@OCPS.net](mailto:Caprice.Mackemer@OCPS.net) or drop them off at our front office. Our front office is open 8am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

[www.ocps.net](http://www.ocps.net)




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### FREE IMMUNIZATIONS FOR FLORIDA'S KIDS

As a friendly reminder, the Florida Department of Health in Orange County (DOH-Orange) encourages parents and guardians to prepare their children now for the upcoming school year by getting their student's immunizations prior to the first day of school.

In partnership with Orange County Public Schools (OCPS), DOH-Orange is hosting free immunization events in the coming weeks. See the schedule of the immunization events below.

For more information, call 407-723-5004 or visit [Orange.FloridaHealth.gov](http://Orange.FloridaHealth.gov).

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|---|---|
| <p><b>Prince of Peace Lutheran Church</b></p> <p>Back-to-School Vaccines for School-Aged Children<br/>         July 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.<br/>         1515 S. Semoran Blvd.<br/>         Orlando, FL 32807</p> | <p><b>DOH-Orange &amp; OCPS Back-to-School Events</b></p> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Ocoee Middle School</b><br/>             August 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.<br/>             300 S. Bluford Ave.<br/>             Ocoee, FL 34761</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Walker Middle School</b><br/>             August 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.<br/>             150 Amidon Ln.<br/>             Orlando, FL 32809</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Southwest Middle School</b><br/>             August 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.<br/>             6450 Dr. Phillips Blvd.<br/>             Orlando, FL 32819</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Bridgewater Middle School</b><br/>             August 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.<br/>             5600 Tiny Rd.<br/>             Winter Garden, FL 34787</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Odyssey Middle School</b><br/>             August 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.<br/>             9290 Lee Vista Blvd. Orlando, FL 32829</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Robinswood Middle School</b><br/>             August 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.<br/>             6305 Balboa Dr.<br/>             Orlando, FL 32818</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Piedmont Lakes Middle School</b><br/>             August 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.<br/>             2601 Lakeville Rd. Apopka, FL 32703</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>South Creek Middle School</b><br/>             August 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.<br/>             3801 E Wetherbee Rd.<br/>             Orlando, FL 32824</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Corner Lake Middle School</b><br/>             August 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.<br/>             1700 Chuluota Rd. Orlando, FL 32820</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>OCPS Academic Center for Excellence</b><br/>             August 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.<br/>             701 W Livingston St.<br/>             Orlando, FL 32805</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Horizon West Middle School</b><br/>             August 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.<br/>             8200 Tattant Blvd.<br/>             Windermere, FL 34786</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Roberto Clemente Middle School</b><br/>             August 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.<br/>             6000 Roberto Clemente Rd.<br/>             Orlando, FL 32807</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>College Park Middle School</b><br/>             August 5, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.<br/>             1201 Maury Rd. Orlando, FL 32804</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Discovery Middle School</b><br/>             August 12, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.<br/>             601 Woodbury Rd.<br/>             Orlando, FL 32828</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Westridge Middle School</b><br/>             August 5, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.<br/>             3800 W. Oakridge Rd.<br/>             Orlando, FL 32809</p> </div> </div> |
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**Know Before You Go to the Immunization Events:**

- Bring student's current shot record
- Bring child's birth certificate, passport, or other government-issued ID
- One parent or guardian per child
- Parent or guardian must bring a valid ID
- Child must be present for 680 Forms
- No college vaccines



## Things students need to play sports this school year:

1. A sports physical packet: [Physical packets](#)
  - a. The entire packet MUST be complete in order to be eligible for tryouts (ECG is NOT required for middle school)
  - b. Physical forms are good for a year from the date that the doctor signed them
2. Have and maintain at least 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](mailto:Kimberly.Wallen@ocps.net)

## Soccer Team Tryouts

For any student interested in trying out for the Howard boys or girls soccer team, a Soccer information meeting will be held in the Gymnasium on Friday, August 11th right after dismissal.

- Boys tryouts will be held on August 14, 15 and 17 after school
- Girls tryouts will be held on August 14, 15 and 16 after school

Practices, as of now, are scheduled for everyday after school.

Each student must present a completed OCPS Sports Physical in order to try out.

## Howard Skate Night-Friday, August 18, 6-8:00 p.m.



The Howard Chorus is hosting a skate night fundraiser, and all Howard students and families are invited! Join us at Astro Skate on Friday, August 18, from 6-8pm! Admission for all students and adults who wish to skate is \$10, and adults who do not wish to skate are free of charge.

You do not have to be in Chorus to join us for this event. A portion of all ticket sales will be donated to the Chorus. We hope to see you there!

Please contact Mr. Penfield at [aaron.penfield@ocps.net](mailto:aaron.penfield@ocps.net) with any questions.



**The Silver Spurs chapter of the National Junior Honor Society welcomes the 2023-24 members:**

Congratulations to these exceptional students!

|          |                  |           |                 |
|----------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Payton   | Adams            | Isabelle  | Izquierdo       |
| Jackson  | Ayoung Chee      | Jada      | Jackson         |
| Austin   | Barnes           | Arielle   | Kanuck          |
| Jack     | Bayer            | Moriah    | Lee             |
| Jonah    | Bloom            | Roselynn  | Lockshin        |
| Selene   | Bogart           | Peter     | Loflin          |
| Samuel   | Bollinger        | Melissa   | Lopez Jaramillo |
| Ellie    | Bratton          | Elias     | Lopez Torres    |
| Ian      | Briceno Heller   | Jaylee    | Maldonado       |
| McKinzie | Brown            | Felipe    | Martins         |
| Sofia    | Bryan Rago       | William   | McCully         |
| Lillian  | Callahan         | Lilly     | Pace            |
| Isabel   | Carrasquero Pena | Mallory   | Panos           |
| Helena   | Carter           | Elizabeth | Parrish         |
| Samuel   | Collins          | Julianna  | Pavone          |
| Caleb    | Cullen           | Rylee     | Porter          |
| Dawson   | Daley            | Keira     | Price           |
| Elijah   | DeLoach          | Danae     | Prince          |
| Caroline | DeMarco          | Hailey    | Prince-Cust     |
| Armandha | Dorce            | Tilly     | Raij            |
| Aubrey   | Dourte           | Emma      | Reyes           |
| Tracey   | Dunn             | London    | Rhodes          |
| Ryleigh  | Dykes-McLean     | Emily     | Ridgeway        |
| Sofia    | Edouard          | Isaiah    | Rivera          |
| Tollan   | Encinias         | Emma      | Rodrigues       |
| Lana     | Filomeno         | Matias    | Romanach        |
| Anilyse  | Fuentes          | Stevi     | Rose            |
| Brooks   | Gilbert          | Wyatt     | Ruegner         |
| Caiden   | Gosa             | Alaya     | Rutland         |
| Henry    | Grieger          | Janie     | Simonds         |
| Elouise  | Gund             | Dylan     | Tenney          |
| Alexia   | Handy            | Kamryn    | Turner          |
| Lawrence | Harley Jr        | Melissa   | Ulrich          |
| Delaney  | Harmon           | Anne      | Vanos           |
| Juliet   | Harrison         | Ella      | Votapka         |
| Marion   | Haynes III       | Beckett   | Young           |
| Payton   | Hoffman          | Valentina | Zuluaga         |
| Arriana  | Hylton           |           |                 |



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.

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