



September 1, 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

HMS Clubs-NEW

For more information on Howard Middle student clubs, please check out the “Clubs & Organizations” section below.

News From The Guidance Department-NEW

Schedule changes are now complete. Guidance will not be accepting any more schedule change requests

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

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

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

Spirit Week September 1-September 8-NEW



September 1 - September 8

	<p>Friday 9/1 - Team College Colors - College Football Season kicks off this weekend! Wear colors to support your team!</p>
<p>Monday 9/4 - Labor Day - No School</p>	
	<p>Tuesday 9/5 - Decade Day -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th grade 60's • 7th grade 70's • 8th grade 80's
<p>Wednesday 9/6 - School Spirit Color Wars Day - 6th grade white, 7th grade blue, 8th grade red</p>	
	<p>Thursday 9/7 - Wear the Arts Day - (wear a concert t-shirt or a design from your favorite artist) </p>
<p>Friday 9/8 - Dress Your Best Day - Today is picture day! Dress your best for the yearbook photos.</p>	

Friday, September 8th Picture Day-NEW

Students will be taking pictures through their Science class. If any student needs another form please get one from the front office.



School Breakfast & Lunch Is FREE For All Students in 2023-24!-NEW



Heard the News?

all students
all meals
no charge

2023-24

 Orange County
Public Schools

fnsmeals.ocps.net

A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a white school uniform, is smiling and holding a white plate with a slice of orange and some green vegetables. The background is a soft-focus green and white.



¿Has oído la noticia?

todos los estudiantes
todas las comidas
sin costo

2023-24

 Orange County
Public Schools

fnsmeals.ocps.net

A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a white school uniform, is smiling and holding a white plate with a slice of orange and some green vegetables. The background is a soft-focus green and white.

The Howard Cafeteria Will Begin Selling Snacks at Lunch on 9/5/2023-NEW



A LA CARTE
Snacks

All snacks sold in the cafeteria meet the Smart Snacks standards. Including whole grain ingredients and are lower in sugar and sodium.

Easily pay for snacks using a School Pay account.

Available for purchase beginning 9/5/23

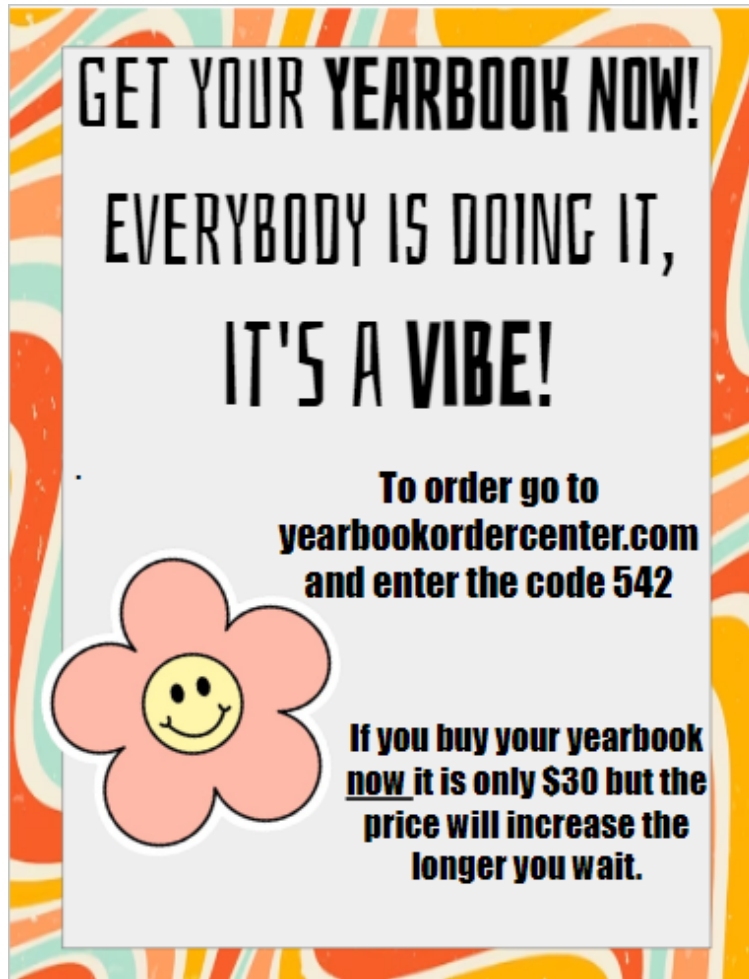
TASTY

lays **BAKED** 65% LESS FAT original

CHEEZ-IT baked snack crackers 12g **WHOLE GRAIN** per serving



Howard 2023-24 Yearbook Now on Sale-NEW



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 \$30 but the
price will increase the
longer you wait.**

8th Grade Parents: LIMITED SPACE!-NEW

It's that time to ORDER your 8th grade student yearbook pages!

- FULL Page: \$175
- ½ Page: \$90
- ¼ Page: \$50
- ⅛ Pge: \$25

Concert Attire-NEW

All Students in Band, Choir, Guitar, 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!



Ranger RTV Crew Application (morning announcements)-NEW

[Click Here to apply](#)

Any student interested in being on the morning announcements can fill out the google form. Please keep in mind this is a 0 period class. Students must be at school by 8:30 each morning. Students will need to be able to read/write scripts, work as a team, take direction from other students, create/modify their own packages to air, use studio equipment, and speak clearly on air. Mrs. Douglas will be interviewing students at the end of the week next week and will reach out to parents for those students who are chosen.

2023 Soccer Schedule-Updated-NEW

There will be a charge for entrance into all games. Adults will be charged \$5.00 and children \$2.00. The boys team will play first followed by the girls team in all contests. Wednesday games should begin by 5:00 p.m. and Monday games by 5:30 p.m. but IS dependent on transportation of teams and officials arrival time.

*August 30	Wednesday	Conway	Away	5:00- Rescheduled!
September 6	Wednesday	Rob. Clem	Away	5:00
September 11	Monday	BYE	BYE	Bye
September 13	Wednesday	Liberty	Away	5:00
September 18	Monday	Lake Como	Home	5:30
September 20	Blankner	Home		5:00
September 27	Wednesday	Pershing	Home	5:00

Soccer Fest

Round 1	Round 2	QF	SF	Finals
(M) Oct. 2	(W) Oct. 4	(M) Oct. 9	(W) Oct. 11	Week of October 16

Principal: Dr. McHale
Athletic Director: Mrs. Wallen
Boy's Coach: Coach Richards
Girl's Coach: Coach Ale & Coach Vincent
Please email questions/concerns to: Kimberly.Wallen@ocps.net

See the "Forms & Policies/Procedures" Section below for details on Sports Physicals

***Make up game for HMS vs. Conway is September 19 at Conway M.S.**



News from the Dean's Office



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.



Philharmonic Orchestra & Wind Ensemble Field Trip

Philharmonic Orchestra and Wind Ensemble students are headed to Disney for our annual, “Music in the Parks,” workshop and trip to Epcot. Students spend the morning working with a clinician learning about sight reading and having a high quality Disney music experience. Here is the schoolpay link for the event:

<https://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/20232024-Wind-Ensemble--Philharmonic-Orc/SepxBfO>

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 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.
- ★ **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 or ArtsintheSchool.com Click the link below to register your student. <https://campscui.active>.

Clubs & Organizations



2023-2024 Battle of The Books Informational Meeting-NEW

Battle of the Books informational meeting will be held September 11th at 9:00 a.m. in the Howard Media Center for all interested students.

For more information contact Ms. Douglas at Kelly.Hager@ocps.net

Howard Intramurals-NEW

Intramurals are being introduced here at Howard Middle school. Intramurals are organized sports before school from 8:00am-9:00am. We will begin with volleyball the 1st marking period. More information can be found in the link below!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uHh_az0y_J8c7Po_zhAR3qKXFRg-metDRdKVC3AmI9E/edit?usp=sharing

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

GSA-NEW

This student led group is for all who identify as or are supporters of LGBTQIA+ engagement, friendship, and advocacy. This is a space that is provided for students to be themselves and identify opportunities for

growth and advocacy on campus. Topics are developed and curated not only by students, but also on recommendations provided by the OCPS Student Services office.

Faculty Sponsor: John Payne-Rios

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

Location: 130

HMS Student Council-NEW

Student Council is open to all students at Howard Middle School. Our purpose is to represent the interests of the student body of Howard Middle School and to provide services that help improve the daily life of fellow students. Our goal is to keep the student body informed of relevant issues. Students should maintain a positive relationship with their peers, teachers, and all members of the Ranger Family. Elections for grade level representatives are held each Fall. Students must have a 2.0 GPA and teacher recommendations to run for office. Elections for officers are held in the spring for the upcoming school year. Students must have a 2.0 GPA, regular attendance at student council meetings and positive teacher recommendations to run for office.

Faculty Sponsor: Gretchen Stopyra (gretchen.stopyra@ocps.net)

Meeting Days and Times: 1st and 3rd Thursday before school from 8:45 - 9:15

Location: Room 232

NHSDA (National Honor Society for the Dance Arts)-NEW

Further information about NHSDA will be presented in all Dance classes in the first few weeks of school.

Faculty Sponsor: Alissa Coombs

Chess Club-Coming Soon!-NEW

Chess club is for the purpose of playing the board game of chess. When you play this game of strategy, it challenges your mind and helps you get better at it. It's a fun way to learn with others. It can develop your analytical skills and it's a great way to meet new people.

Jr. Thespians-NEW

Students interested in auditioning for Jr. Thespians will have a Virtual Interest Meeting on Friday, Sept. 8th at 6:00 p.m. The link to the meeting will be posted in Ranger Resources on the day of the meeting.

NJHS Meeting on Thursday, 9/14/2023 at 8:45 a.m.-NEW

NJHS members will meet for our September meeting on 9/14. This is not an interest meeting-only current members should attend. Please meet Mrs. Drisgill on the front steps of the school at 8:45 a.m.

Howard SAC Meeting, Sept. 6, 5:00 p.m.-NEW

The Howard M.S. School Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6 at 5:00 p.m. in the Howard Media Center.



PTSA- 1st General Membership Meeting for 2023-24 & Spirit StoreNEW

There will be a PTSA General Membership meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. To become a Howard PTSA member or purchase Howard Academy of Arts Spirit wear/swag please click on the following link.

[Howard PTSA Membership & Spirit Store Hub](#)

HMS Fund Fundraiser-NEW



Our Mission is to raise money and foster community relationships in support of Howard Middle School's unmet funding needs.

The Howard Middle School Academy of Arts Fund raises dollars to address unmet needs at OCPS's first all-magnet performing and visual arts school.

The Fund raises money that goes directly to Howard Middle School programs and teachers in the form of new instruments and instrument repairs, classroom materials and school improvements.

Howard MS Fund Fundraiser: WIN an Xbox, PS5 or Nintendo Switch (est. \$500 Value)

Enter the fundraiser for a chance to Win an Xbox Series X, PS5 or a Nintendo Switch.

Each ticket is a donation of: 1 for \$20.00 or 2 for \$30. All proceeds will go directly to the Howard MS Fund to support our students and teachers!! Go to the following link to make your donation:

<https://www.foundationforocps.org/p/697/howard-middle-school-fund>

Winner will be announced on *September 1, 2023.



Thank you to our Prize Sponsor – Lego Construction Co.



Forms & Procedures/Policies

Things students need to play sports this 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@aktivite.com for assistance.

Student must 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

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

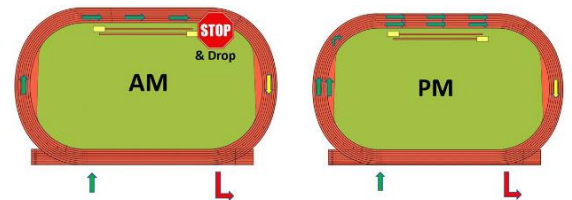
Parents, click [Here](#) to access the OCPS Parent Portal which will also give you access to Canvas Observer and Skyward. It is important to complete the following consents, waivers or release forms also found in the Parent Portal.

- 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>

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 the local 7-Eleven or other nearby businesses, as you run the risk of being trespassed by the Orlando Police. 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. 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.