



**September 29, 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

**We are not accepting food deliveries for students during the school day.**



## **Congratulations to HMS Soccer Teams! Division Champs!-NEW**

So excited to announce that BOTH our girls and boys soccer teams are OFFICIALLY UNDEFEATED DIVISION CHAMPS!!!! We couldn't be more proud of our athletes and thankful for our amazing coaching staff!!!! Exciting times ahead with playoffs starting next week!!!



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 tim

### **Soccer Fest**

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

## **Free Student Flu Vaccines Available at Howard October 17, 2023-NEW**

It's that time of year again! On October 17, 2023, Health Hero will be on Howard's campus providing flu vaccines to any student with a signed consent form.

Please complete the Flu Vaccine Consent Form if you would like your child to participate in this vaccine clinic. All forms must be returned before 10/17/2023. To download a copy of the consent form click on this link: <https://beahealthhero.com/who-we-serve/parents/>

If you have questions please contact Jennifer McCabe-HMS Clinic Attendant. She can be reached via email at 95225@ocps.net or by phone at 407-245-1780, ext. 5092276.

## **Red Ribbon Week-10/23-31/2023-NEW**

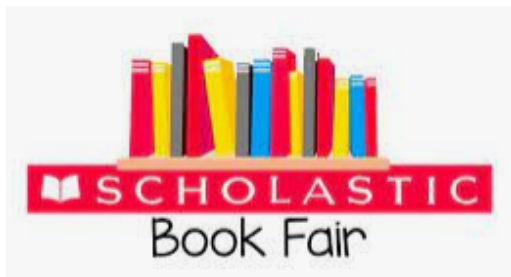


Red Ribbon Week inspires our kids to be brave. Red ribbon week takes place each year from October 23-October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Enrique "Kiki" Camarena was a Drug Enforcement Administration Agent who was tortured and killed in Mexico in 1985. In honor of Kiki's memory and his battle against illegal drugs, friends and neighbors began to wear red badges of satin. Parents then began to form coalitions using Camarena as their model while embracing his belief that one person can make a difference. These coalitions adopted the symbol of Camarena's memory, the Red Ribbon. Today, the Red Ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.

### **Red Ribbon Spirit Week Dress-Up Day:**

Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>: Rally in Red: Wear **RED**  
Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>: Dynamic Duo: Twin Day  
Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>: Fight Against Drugs: Super Hero Shirt Day  
Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>: Ranger Strong: Wear Howard Middle School Shirt



## **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR COMING SOON!-NEW**

November 10th!  
More information TBD

## **Thank You to Visiting Guest Artists-Opera Orlando-NEW**

Howard Middle choral, piano and theatre students received a special visit by the studio artists of Opera Orlando, a Howard Community Arts Partner In Education, who presented arias and ensembles that demonstrated their voice types and repertoire from their upcoming "All for Art" season. Our guest artists performed snippets of Opera Orlando's productions of "Tosca", "Frida and Lucia". This presentation gave our students a glimpse into what the life of a young professional singer looks like.

Thank you Mr. Penfield and Opera Orlando!





## Breakfast Card

The cafeteria began a new program for students on Monday 9/18/23. This program is designed to help ensure students “start their day right”. Students can pick up a card at the register during breakfast and receive a stamp each day (1 stamp per day) that they get breakfast from the cafeteria - don’t forget to ask for your stamp. We offer at least 1 hot option and 2 shelf stable options for breakfast daily. The card, with all 5 stamps, must be presented at lunch to receive a free cookie (we have a cookie bar available for students with certain allergies).

## Dance SnapRaise Fundraiser

We are kicking off our SnapRaise Fundraiser for the Dance program on Monday, September 18th. All dance students are highly encouraged to participate. Funds will cover the costs of numerous guest instructors for master classes, as well as cover the cost of costumes for recital and other program expenses. If you would like to support the Dance program, please speak with any Dance student you know to receive their direct link and help them reach their individual goals and earn prizes!



## Howard 2023-24 Yearbook Now on Sale

### 8th Grade Parents: LIMITED SPACE!

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**

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!



## **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. On Friday, October 13, 2023, students will 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>

## **HMS Upcoming Events**

- 10/02/2023: Battle of the Books Club Meeting, Media Center-8:45 a.m.
- 10/05/2023: 3rd Period Chorus Field Trip to Colonial H.S.
- 10/02-11/2023: Soccer Fest
- 10/10/2023: Chorus Fall Concert, 5:30 p.m.
- 10/11/2023: No Early Release Day
- 10/12/2023: Band Fall Concert, 5:30 p.m.
- 10/12/2023: NJHS Meeting, 8:45 a.m.
- 10/13/2023: Band/Orchestra Disney Field Trip
- 10/24/2023: Guitar Fall Concert
- 10/26/2023: Fall Dance, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

# Clubs & Organizations

## Several New Clubs Are Getting Started-NEW

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.

- Anime Club - first meeting Thursday, September 28th after school.
- Chess Club - first meeting Wednesday, October 11th before school.
- Jewelry Making Club - first meeting Monday, October 9th after school.
- Roots and Shoots - first meeting Monday, October 2nd after school.
- Video Editing Club started Tuesday, September 26th. This club is at capacity as space becomes available we will notify new students.
- Information on starting a new club is posted in Ranger Resources.



[Ranger Resources 2023-2024](#)

[Ranger Resources 2023-2024](#)

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



## Battle of the Book Club Meeting-NEW

Monday, October 2nd  
Media Center @8:45 am



## NJHS Meeting on Thursday, 10/12/2023 at 8:45 a.m.-NEW

NJHS members will meet for our September meeting on 10/12/23. 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.

## **HMS Student Council-NEW**

We are getting ready to order our new student council t-shirts.

**Please order by October 6, 2023.**

**Order Here:** <https://forms.gle/NhrJFgYWCozjoMeAA>

[Links to an external site.](#)

**Pay Here:** [SchoolPay - Checkout](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

Please make sure that you have filled out the order information on the Google Form either before after paying:

You can include your name on the back of your shirt for no additional cost.

- T-shirts: sizes XS – XL \$12
- T-shirts: sizes XXL – XXXL \$15
- Hoodies: sizes XS – XL \$17
- Hoodies: sizes XXL – XXXL \$20



## **HMS PTSA-NEW**

"The Fall Dance is around the corner! We are excited to bring back this popular event and would love your support in making it spectacular.

Party planning meeting will be held in the Media Center, on Thursday, October the 5th starting at 4:30pm. We hope to see you then!"

Christina Brossard-PTSA President

PTSA Fall Dance 10/26/2023

[https://ocps.samaritan.com/custom/503/opp\\_details/93858](https://ocps.samaritan.com/custom/503/opp_details/93858)

Sign up here to Volunteer



## **The Fund-NEW**



At our last meeting we discussed several concepts for raising funds. We will be initiating several over the next few weeks.

Our next Meeting will be November 16<sup>th</sup> and the time will be shared in the next Newsletter.



## Howard Intramurals

Intramurals have been reintroduced 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-metDRdKVC3Aml9E/edit?usp=sparing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uHh_az0y_J8c7Po_zhAR3qKXFRg-metDRdKVC3Aml9E/edit?usp=sparing)

For more information contact Coach Morales at [Zachary.Morales@ocps.net](mailto:Zachary.Morales@ocps.net)

## GSA

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:** Room 130



## Chess Club-Coming Soon!

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.

## 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](mailto:asasadmin@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](http://DramaticEducation.com) or [ArtsintheSchool.com](http://ArtsintheSchool.com) Click the link below to register your student. <https://campscui.active>.

## 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 have done 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](mailto: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 for 2022-23. 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 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](http://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](mailto:support@aktivite.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](mailto: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](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 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 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.

