



October 13, 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

BOOK FAIR NOVEMBER 13th-17th-NEW

Use this link to set up your students e-wallet!

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/content/fairs/hub/ewallet.html>



Free Student Flu Vaccines Available at Howard October 17, 2023

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 on or 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.



Report Cards for Quarter 1- Will be Available in Family Access as of October 26, 2023-NEW

Report Cards for Quarter 1 will be available to view in Family Access through Skyward Parents on October 26, 2023. Parents, login through the Parent Portal to Access Skyward Parents.

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

Boys Soccer Is Going To The Finals!-NEW



Congratulations to the Boys Soccer Team and their coach Mrs. Richards for making it to the Finals! Next Wednesday, 10/18/23 at 5:30 p.m., they will play Lake Nona MS at West Orange H.S.

2nd Quarter SPORTS - Volleyball-NEW

Girls' Coach: **Coach Link**

Boys' Coach: **Coach Douglas**

We are very excited for the volleyball season to begin!

Girls and boys tryouts began this past Wednesday
Final cuts will be made on October 17th! Teams will be posted by the gym doors on October 18th.



Scheduled Games:

There will be a charge to get into all games. Adults \$5 and children \$2.

The boys play first followed by the girls in all contests. Wednesday games should start by 5:00 and Monday games by 5:30 but IS dependent on transportation of teams and arrival of officials.

October 25	Wednesday	Conway	Away
October 30	Monday	Rob. Clem	Away
November 1	Wednesday	BYE	BYE
November 6	Monday	Liberty	Away
November 8	Wednesday	Lake Como	Home
November 13	Monday	Blankner	Home
November 15	Wednesday	Pershing	Home

Volleyball Fest				
Round 1	Round 2	OF	SF	Finals
(W) 11/29	(M) 12/4	(W) 12/6	(M) 12/11	(W) 12/13



ATTENTION ALL VETERANS! **NEW**

We will be having a Breakfast Celebration to honor military service personnel (past or present) of students and staff members at Howard MS. The celebration will be on **Friday, November 10th at 8:15 am** in the HMS Media Center. If you or a family member are or have been a member of the U.S. military, please complete and submit this form.

PLEASE RSVP No Later than Friday, November 3rd.

If you have any questions, please email Crystal Rich at crystal.rich@ocps.net and/or Kimberly Wallen at kimberly.wallen@ocps.net. Thank you!

<https://forms.gle/xkiKkCs3tkgDDb9Z8>

Starbucks Fundraiser- **NEW**

The National Honor Society for Dance Arts is hosting a fundraiser with our local Starbucks. Visit the Thorton Park location and order the "Howard Fall Frappuccino" - Pumpkin, caramel and caramel crunch. A portion of each one sold will be collected to give to a local non-profit dance organization, bringing dance to at risk and underserved students in Orlando.

A promotional poster for a Starbucks fundraiser. The background is a warm, orange-toned image of autumn leaves. At the top, the words "STARBUCKS FUNDRAISER" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, the text reads: "The 'Howard Fall Frappuccino' (Pumpkin Carmel Crunch Frappuccino) will be sold at the Thorton Park Starbucks!". Underneath, it says "You can purchase this drink until 10/31/23". The next line is "Hosted by NHSDA". The final paragraph states: "A portion of each drink sold will be donated to a non-profit dance organization to provide quality dance education to at risk and underserved students in Orlando".

An advertisement for the Howard 2023-2024 Yearbook. The background is a blue sky with white clouds. A white airplane is flying from the bottom left towards the top right. The tail of the plane has "HMS 23-24" written on it. The text "H.M.S." is written on the side of the fuselage. The main text of the ad is: "Get Your Yearbook Now for \$30 Before It Flies off the Shelves!". At the bottom, it says "Order It Now At Yearbookordercenter.com Use Code 542". In the bottom left corner, there is a small logo that says "Flying YBK".

Howard 2023-2024 Yearbook- **NEW**

On Sale ONLY **\$30** until October 27th Price will go up!
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 Page: \$25

appropriate school dress code.

***Please make sure that clothing in all photos is in**



Red Ribbon Week-10/23-31/2023

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

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

Teen Safety Matters Classroom Presentation-NEW

Teen Safety Matters is a comprehensive, evidence-informed prevention education program for middle school students in grades 6-8.

The program educates and empowers teens and all relevant adults with information and strategies to prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to cyberbullying, digital abuse and safety, digital self-awareness, digital self-management, and digital citizenship.

The classroom lessons will be conducted by the guidance team on the following days:

November 6th: All 6th grade science classes

November 7th: All 7th grade science classes

November 9th: All 8th grade science classes

Dance Master Class Series-NEW

Thank you Tiffany Frison Shockley of Vivid Eye Artistic Productions for kicking off our Master Class Series for Dance classes this year! Miss Tiffany worked with all of Mrs. Coombs' and Ms. Hudson's classes, teaching West African movement. Classes had live percussion provided by Fitzroy Harris. Students had a great time exploring this high energy movement.



VIVID
EYE Artistic

Dance Troupe Happenings-NEW



HMS Dance Troupe has been working with Patrick Ingram from Orlando Ballet learning an eight and a half minute piece of Afro Fusion choreography. They will be participating in the Orlando Ballet RISE Symposium on October 21st and 22nd amongst numerous OCPS and central Florida high schools. The dancers will participate in a variety of master classes including: Ballet, Modern, Afro Fusion, Character and Bollywood. After two days of master classes, they will perform the piece they have been learning with Patrick Ingram in a show composed of all participating schools.

On October 23rd, Dance Troupe members will head back to Orlando Ballet to audition for OCPS All County. Good luck everyone!

Thank You Valencia College Dance Company For Visiting HMS, 10/13/2023-NEW

On Friday, October 13th, the Valencia College Dance company came to Howard to share their Lecture Demonstration of the History of Dance. The company performed a series of dances in styles from the development of Ballet, to the Charleston, Lindy Hop, Tap, Rock n Roll, Disco, Jazz, HipHop, and Modern and more. Lesley Brasseux Rogers, Artistic Director, talked through the development of each style and the qualities that made the styles unique. Students were given an opportunity to ask the company members questions about Dance at the collegiate level and pathways to lead there. Mrs. Coombs and Ms. Hudson are thankful for this opportunity for the dance students to see live performance on the HMS campus, as well as, further their understanding and knowledge of our art form.

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!



All County Orchestra 2023-24-NEW

Congratulations to the following students who were selected for All County Orchestra this year. This is a highly competitive experience and students worked hard to prepare for this audition.

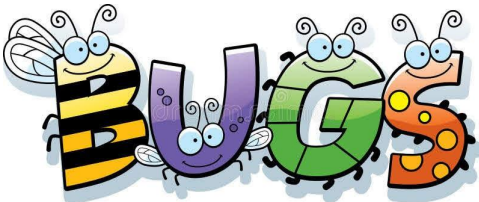
Spencer Brown, cello
Olivia Chen, cello
Sam Collins, violin
Anna Coulombe, bass
Layla Fanaian, cello
Elouise Gund, viola
Vivian Lannin, viola
Sophia Richards, violin 1
Eliza Salazar-Bohorquez, violin 1
Janie Simonds, violin 2
Tyler Vascik, violin 2
Isabelle Velasquez, violin 1



3D Arts-Bugs, Bugs-NEW

Students in 3D Art have been creating bugs! Check it Out!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vqoLRTNduGufxCvJ9>



Bugs Bugs

21 new items added to shared album

photos.app.goo.gl



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!

HMS Upcoming Events

- 10/16/2023: Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
- 10/19/2023: Fall Orchestra Concert, 5:00 p.m.
- 10/24/2023: Guitar Fall Concert
- 10/26/2023: Fall Dance, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- 10/27/2023: Teacher PD/Student Holiday
- 11/01/2023: School Picture Retakes

Clubs & Organizations

Several New Clubs Are Getting Started

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](#)

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HMS Student Council

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



PTSA Fall Dance 10/26/2023

https://ocps.samaritan.com/custom/503/opp_details/93858

Sign up here to Volunteer



The Fund-NEW

On behalf of the Howard Fund, we want to thank everyone that donated funds for the raffle. As a result, we could contribute to providing additional resources for Mr. Yuhasz to offer additional Robotic Sessions to students in upcoming grading periods. We are very thankful to all Howard staff who provide our children with rich and vibrant learning experiences.

We will have another fundraising opportunity that we will announce shortly – please stay tuned.



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-metDRdKVC3AmI9E/edit?usp=s_haring

For more information contact Coach Morales at 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

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 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>.

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.

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/>

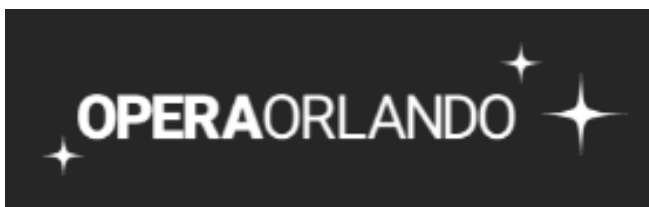


Orlando Ballet

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, 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.

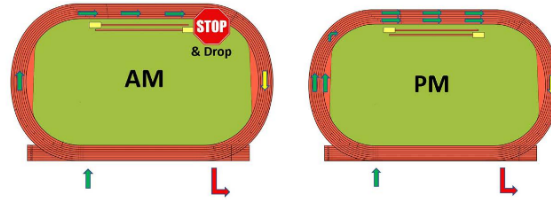
Arrival and Dismissal (Car Loop)

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 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.



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.