



November 10, 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 Student Exhibit-Maitland Art Festival, Nov. 10-12-NEW

One of Florida's finest juried art shows, the 47th Annual Maitland Rotary Art Festival "Art Under the Stars," is held at Lake Lily Park in Maitland, one of the most affluent suburbs of Orlando, Florida.

The 47th Maitland Rotary Art Festival titled, "Art Under the Stars",

opening on Friday evening, November 10th through Sunday, November 12th.

Howard Middle Art Department is showcasing our Howard Talents from all our art classes:

2D, Graphics, photography and 3D!

All students art at the Civic Center Building

**47th Annual MAITLAND ROTARY
Art FESTIVAL**
NOVEMBER 10 - 12, 2023 | LAKE LILY PARK | MAITLAND, FLORIDA

BOOK FAIR NOVEMBER 13th-17th

Help is needed for our Book Fair starting on November 10th!
Please sign up to help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AAFA922ABFDC34-45452756-howards>



Use the link below to set up your students e-wallet!

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

Middle Grade Mayhem-NEW

Middle-grade author meet and greet. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to meet many renowned authors. 😊

A blue poster titled "MIDDLE GRADE MAYHEM" in yellow. It features a grid of book covers including "spy school", "INVISIBLE", "THE WANDERERS", "CITY SPIES", "THE WINDS", "A Work in Progress", "FLUNKED", "Area 51", "LIARS SOCIETY", "ROVERS", "Fresh Summer", and "HOPE WING". Below the books, it says "13 of your Favorite Authors Together in 1 Place". At the bottom, it lists "Lake Buena Vista High School Auditorium", "Wed, November 15th @7:15", and "Free to the Public". There is a QR code and a "Wilton's Block Bookstore" logo.

Height, Weight & Scoliosis Screening-6th Grade Students Only

Height, weight and scoliosis screening for 6th grade students will take place on November 28, 2023.

Howard PRISM Concert-November 13

We are proud to announce our second Howard Middle School Academy of Arts Prism Concert!


Join us on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. for a very special event featuring performances from HMS Orchestra, Band, Dance, Theatre, Chorus, Piano and Guitar departments, and featuring an exhibit of our visual arts student work. Come celebrate what makes HMS truly unique!

Tickets are available at www.teachtix.com/hms/prism-concert-2023

Tickets are \$15 each and directly benefit our HMS arts departments.



Spirit Night At Anthony's-Thornton Park on Monday, Nov. 13, 4-9:00 p.m.-**NEW**

 **PRISM
CONCERT**
Spirit Night
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH
FROM 4PM -9PM

YOUR PARAGRAPH TEXT
EST. 1999
ANTHONY'S
THORNTON PARK
PIZZERIA & RESTAURANT

100 N SUMMERLIN AVE

Mention Howard for a 10% discount
& 10% will benefit the HMS PTSA!

“Fund” Fundraiser



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.

Support the Howard Middle School Fund with a \$10 Donation and Receive over \$50 in Pizza Discounts

(Over \$50 in FREE Papa Johns Pizza and Products with each card)



Each Fundraiser Card is provided with a donation of \$10.

All proceeds will go directly to the Howard MS Fund to support our students and teachers!! Go to the following link or Scan the QR Code to order your cards and make your donation:

As a reminder we are offering a Donut party to the first period class that sells the most Papa John's Discount cards. The event will continue through November.

<https://form.jotform.com/232698308826165>

Thank you to our Fundraiser Partner – Papa Johns

Available Papa Johns Locations:

7354 Curry Ford Rd Orlando, FL 32822	407-275-7272
5898 S. Orange Blossom Trl , Orlando FL 32839	407-859-7272
1501 N. Mills Ave , Orlando FL 32803	407-895-7272
4014 13th St , St Cloud FL 34769	407-957-7272
11775 E. Colonial Dr , Orlando FL 32817	407-273-7272
1675 N. Avalon Park Blvd Orlando, FL 32828	407-781-4888
675 North Orlando Ave , Maitland FL 32751	407-644-7272
182 Slate Rd 434 W , Longwood FL 32750	407-331-7272
7501 East Colonial Dr , Orlando FL 32807	407-380-7272
5808 Red Bug Rd , Winter Springs FL 32708	407-695-7272
1016 Lockwood Blvd Suite 120, Oviedo, FL 32765	407-366-7272
1740 Semoran Blvd , Winter Park FL 32792	407-671-7778
4300 W. Lake Mary Blvd , Lake Mary FL 32746	407-829-7272
1244 Providence Blvd , Deltona FL 32725	386-574-7171
332 W. Lake Mary Blvd , Sanford FL 32773	407-328-7272
2625 Enterprise Rd, Suite 400 , Orange City FL 32763	386-775-8282
5645 S.R. 46 Sanford, FL 32771	321-233-0102



Dance Field Trip-NEW



Our dance classes have the opportunity to attend a field trip to see Dr Phillips High School's "Insiders Dance Experience". The DPHS Dance magnet will be performing excerpts of their Winter Wonderland concert. The field trip will take place on Friday, December 1st from 10am-1:30pm. We are in need of many chaperones for this opportunity. If you are interested in chaperoning, please be sure to complete the ADDitions volunteer application, attach yourself to Howard Middle School, and select "Dance - Insiders Dance Experience Field Trip". Please see the field trip forms brought home by dance students. Contact Samantha.Hudson@ocps.net or Alissa.Coombs@ocps.net with any questions.

NJHS Food Drive

HMS NJHS and Zimmerman Kiser Sutcliffe's 9th Annual Food Drive.

Provide food for families during the holidays.

Bring non-perishable and canned food items to your 1st period classes.

The class that collects the most gets a donut party and food drive trophy.

All donations go to Second Harvest Food Bank!

No glass or perishable items.



 publicdomainvectors.org

Toy Drive-NEW

In an effort to support families in need this holiday season, NHSDA is collecting toys to donate to One Heart for Women and Children. You can turn in new (or like new) **unwrapped** toys in the bins in the **Front Office, Media Center** or either **Dance classroom**. The last day to bring in toys is December 8th.



Howard Students Selected for FMEA All-State Honor Choirs!-NEW

I am thrilled to announce that the following NINE students have been selected to the FMEA All-State Honor Choirs! These students were selected through a rigorous testing process that included three tests: musicianship (music theory), sight-singing, and a vocal quality audition. Please help me congratulate the following students who will attend this event in Tampa this January!

FMEA All-State Middle School Mixed Chorus:

Anthony King
Isaiah Rivera
Benen Salmons
Tyler Vascik

FMEA All-State Middle School Treble Chorus:

Sienna Lemieux
Grace Muldoon
Lucy Perez
Isa Powell
Cat Willey

Additionally, earlier this year the following ELEVEN students were selected to a Florida ACDA All-State Honor Choir! Not only were these students competing with their middle-school peers, they were up against high school freshmen!

FLACDA Grades 6-9 Treble Chorus

Aubrey Dourte
Alana Filion
Mikaella Macias
Genevieve Medina
Emily Miller
Cat Willey

FLACDA Grades 6-9 Tenor/Bass Chorus

Mason Gilyard
Declan Morris
Isaiah Rivera
Benen Salmons
Tyler Vascik

Combined, we have filled TWENTY spots in four statewide honor choirs this year! This is a testament to these students' ability and versatility that they have been selected to different choirs with different audition processes, scoring rubrics, and judging panels.

Congratulations! HMS All County Dancers-NEW

The Howard Dance troupe participated in the OCPS All County auditions. One hundred students from ten different OCPS middle school programs auditioned. The selected ensemble will comprise only twenty-two students. Ms. Hudson and Mrs. Coombs are proud to share that we will have SEVEN students represent Howard in this year's All County Dance performance.

Congratulations:

Lillian Callahan
Mikaela De La Rosa
Mason Grantz
Ava Green
Julianna Pavone
Kaylan Wellington
Antonio Williams



Dance Master Class Series-NEW

Dance classes have had the pleasure of exploring two more different styles of dance through our Master Class Series.

The first was HipHop with Chris Lupis, aka Casper. Casper has choreographed for: the Orlando Magic Dance Squad, Tyra Banks, Nike, Walt Disney World and Movie Park, a Germany based theme park. He teaches at various studios, and tours with Intrigue Dance Intensive as Show Director, Emcee and HipHop master teacher. The students had a blast breaking it down in this fun, energetic and high intensity style.

The second of our recent master classes was Flamenco with Briana Small of Flamenco Del Sol. Briana has been dancing Flamenco for 15 years. She is a company member and instructor at Flamenco Del Sol in Orlando. Flamenco is a rhythmical style of dance originating in Spain. Students learned a variety of Flamenco vocabulary, a brief history, and foundational steps of one of fifty-two rhythms of this traditional Spanish Dance.



High School Magnet Application Now Open for 2024-2025 School Year

The electronic application for the high school magnet lottery opened November 1, 2023 and will close on February 15, 2024. The application is available at www.schoolchoice.ocps.net.

On the same page, you will also find a virtual magnet fair where you can click on each school for more information about their programs.

Howard 2023-2024 Yearbook

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 ● 1/2 Page: \$90 ● 1/4 Page: \$50 ● 1/8 Page: \$25

***Please make sure that clothing in all photos is in school dress code.**



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

- 11/10-12 Student Visual Arts exhibit @ Maitland Art Festival
- 11/13 PRISM Concert-6 p.m., Howard PAC
- 11/15 Volleyball vs. Pershing @ Home
- 11/20-24 Thanksgiving Break
- 11/29 Volleyball Fest-Round 1

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.

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



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



Roots & Shoots-NEW

The next meeting for Roots and Shoots club will be after school on Monday, November 27, 2023 until 5:00 p.m.

Roots and Shoots, Howard's Jane Goodall Environment club, meets every other Monday.

Battle of the Books Meetings-NEW

We will meet in the Media Center at 8:45 on
Monday, November 13th
Monday, December 4th

When we return from Holiday Break we will start meeting EVERY Monday. The competition team will be chosen by the end of January!



NHSDA Meeting- 11/28/23-NEW

NHSDA will meet on **Tuesday, November 28th** at 9:00am in Mrs. Coombs room



Howard Intramurals



Intramurals is a before school activity where a limited number of students play organized sports on Wednesday mornings from 8-9:00 a.m. Basketball is the current sport now being played.

Sign-ups will open every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and close Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. OR whenever 30 students have signed up, whichever comes first.

Each Monday, the list of students permitted to participate that Wednesday morning will be posted throughout the campus hallways and beside the entrance to the gym.

Wednesday morning, students who have signed up may arrive at the front of the gym starting at 7:45 a.m.

How sign-ups work:

1. Students login to Canvas and go to "Ranger Resources"
2. Select the "Intramurals" tab
3. Press the link for the google form, complete and submit

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

GSA

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



Howard GSA T-Shirt Sales

Howard GSA is selling T-Shirts! They come in the following colors: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet.

Purchase through School Pay.

Please email questions to Mr.Payne-Rios at John.PayneRios@ocps.net.

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 do to help make Howard such an amazing school! If you would like to become a Partner in Education with Howard please email janet.ramsey@ocps.net.

Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra Partnership

Once again we are proud to announce Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra is partnering with Howard to provide a series of Master Classes for our Orchestra and Band students. Each class will focus on a specific symphonic instrument.

More information about the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra including performance schedules, visit: <https://orlandophil.org/>



Orlando Ballet

Orlando Ballet is partnering with the Howard Dance program providing master class instruction as well as opportunities to visit the Orlando Ballet and experience working with professional dance artists. Thank you Orlando Ballet for supporting our dance students!



Jon Lehrer Dance Company

Howard's Dance program is happy to announce that once again they are partnering with the Jon Lehrer Dance Studio. For many years now Jon Lehrer and his dance company have provided master class instruction to HMS Dance students. Thank you Jon Lehrer and company!



Opera Orlando

Opera Orlando is once again partnering with Howard Middle Academy of Arts Chorus program to provide students with Master class instruction and the opportunity to experience Opera performances. Thank you Opera Orlando!

Downtown Baptist Orlando

Downtown Baptist Orlando is Howard's Faith Based Partner In Education. Downtown Baptist donates school supplies, sponsors an Angel Tree for students each holiday and showers our staff with appreciation by providing staff lunches throughout the year.

Thank you so much for your support of our students and school! <https://dbo.church/>



Forms & Procedures/Policies



Things students need to play sports during the 2023-24 school year

Athletics procedures have changed this year when it comes to sports physicals, as parents/legal guardians must now register students in the Aktivate Portal.

Instructions for creating an account and registering students for the sports activity is below:

CREATE A PARENT/GUARDIAN ACCOUNT:

- On www.aktivate.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/Aktivate 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.

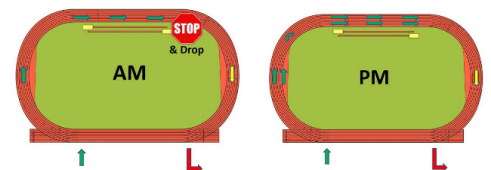
The use of wireless communication devices is always prohibited during the school day (from the first morning bell to dismissal) unless expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. Wireless communication devices include but are not limited to, cell

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.