



**December 22, 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

### **Quarter 2 Progress Reports- Now Available in Family Access.**

Progress Reports for Quarter 2 are now available to view in Family Access through Skyward Parents. Parents, login through the Parent Portal to Access Skyward Parents.

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







## Howard Middle School Spelling Bee

Please fill out this google form in Ranger Resources to be included in the virtual Spelling Bee. (students must be on their school login to sign into this link)

<https://forms.gle/hWqKPrA3zqaSNdke8>

## Dance Troupe Spirit Night, Jan. 4th, 5-9p.m.

Are you making plans for Winter Break? Come out to Launch Entertainment on Thursday, January 4th from 5-9pm. Be sure to mention **“Howard Middle School”** when you purchase your entrance tickets and **25% of sales** will be donated to the HMS Dance Troupe to support their transportation to state Dance Assessments in St. Pete, FL. Join us for a night of family fun while supporting our school!



## Student Choreography Showcase

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the 3rd Annual Dance Student Choreography Showcase! Mrs. Coombs and Ms. Hudson are incredibly proud of all who created and performed.



## Congratulations to the Jr. Thespian Troupe 89214 for their stellar performances at District Festival Nov. 30-Dec. 2

All students received excellent or superior ratings, including 8 performance superiors, and 4 technical event superiors. Best in Show awards were presented to Dakota Reyes and Isaiah Rivera for their acting duet, as well as Mayte Cardona Raber for her stage management work with *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* Special honors also went to Miranda Jacobs for Best in Cast for the One Act *But We Don't*.



## Dance Master Class Series

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](http://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 ● ½ Page: \$90 ● ¼ Page: \$50 ● ⅛ 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

- 12/22 End of 2nd Marking Period
- 12/25-1/05 Winter Break
- 1/08 Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
- 1/09 Begin 3rd Marking Period
- 1/17 Report Card 2 Grades Published to Family Access

**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.



[Ranger Resources 2023-2024](#)

[Ranger Resources 2023-2024](#)

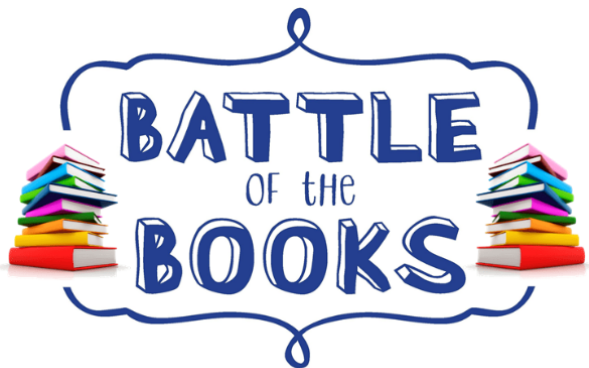
[K12 - Other - 2023 - 2024](#)



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

## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

All students interested in Battle of the Books competition will need to start meeting each Monday morning starting this Monday, December 11th, 2023. 6 members will be chosen in January to be on our school competition team! Keep reading those Sunshine State Books!



## 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](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



### **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](mailto:John.PayneRios@ocps.net).

## **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 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](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/>

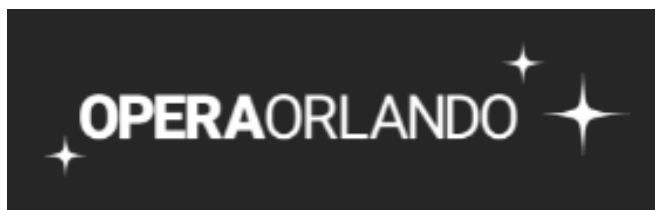


## Orlando Ballet

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. 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](http://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](mailto: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](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.

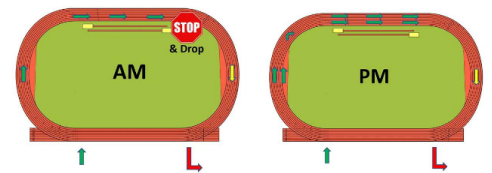
**The use of wireless communication devices is always prohibited during the school day (from the first morning bell to dismissal) unless expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. Wireless communication devices include but are not limited to, cell**

**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 nearby residences, 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.