



January 19, 2024

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 Report Cards- Now Available in Family Access.

Report Cards 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>



2024-25 School Year Course Registration for Current Howard Students-NEW

On January 29 and February 1, 2024 currently enrolled Howard students will be completing the Course Registration for the 2024-2025 school year through their Social Studies classes. School Counselors will meet with current 6th and 7th graders to explain the course selection process during their Social Studies class on the following dates:

- January 29, 2024 - Current 7th Graders/Rising 8th
- February 1, 2024 - Current 6th Graders/Rising 7th

Students will receive a Course Request form which must be signed by a parent/legal guardian and returned to their Social Studies teacher by February 9, 2024.



OCPS Top Talent 2024 is Accepting Application Jan. 22-Feb. 23-NEW

ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TOP TALENT
A Foundation for Orange County Public Schools Event

LIVE 2024

Casting Call: Student Stars

Singers, Dancers, Musicians and More!

Accepting Applications Jan 22 – Feb 23 | Complete Top Talent Application at: FoundationforOCPS.org

Follow us on: @foundationforocps.org @Fnd4OCPS

ORLANDO REGIONAL REALTOR ASSOCIATION

23-24 Boys & Girls Basketball Schedule-**NEW**



HOWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL 2024 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE



There WILL be a charge to get into all games. Adults \$5 & children \$2. The boys play first followed by the girls in all contests. Start time IS dependent on transportation of teams and arrival of officials.

January 22	Monday	Conway	Away	5:00
January 24	Wednesday	Rob Cle.	Away	5:00
January 29	Monday	BYE	BYE	BYE
January 31	Wednesday	Liberty	Away	5:00
February 5	Monday	Lake Como	Home	5:00
February 7	Wednesday	Blankner	Home	5:00
February 12	Monday	Pershing	Home	5:00

Basketball Fest

Round 1	Round 2	QF	SF	Finals
(T) 2/20	(Thur) 2/22	(M) 2/26	(W) 2/28	Week of 3/4

PRINCIPAL: Dr. McHale

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Mrs. Wallen

BOY'S COACH: Coach Morales

Boy's Assistant Coach: Coach De La Vega

GIRL'S COACH: Coach Lockshin

Girl's Assistant Coach: Coach Wood

Please email questions/concerns to: Kimberly.wall@ocps.net

Howard 2023-2024 Yearbook-**NEW**

8th grade parents: NOW is the TIME to purchase your student ad for the yearbook! [Click here](#) to go to the Yearbook Order Center and buy yours TODAY. January 31st will be the LAST day to order your ad!

Full page \$175

½ page \$90


¼ page \$50

1/8 page \$25

GET YOUR YEARBOOK NOW!

**EVERYBODY IS DOING IT,
IT'S A VIBE!**

**To order go to
yearbookordercenter.com
and enter the code 542**








**If you buy your yearbook
now it is only \$40 but the
price will increase the
longer you wait.**

Literacy Week 2024-New



Howard Middle School Presents:
Literacy Week 2024

January 22nd to January 26th is Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

<p>Monday, January 22nd</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindness Begins <u>With</u> ME. Wear your favorite color and share your favorite story with a friend. • PSA Create your own public service announcement via Canvas Studio about the importance of reading and libraries and upload it to the HMS Media Center Canvas Discussion
<p>Tuesday, January 23rd</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Makes you Brighter-Wear neon! Read a non-fiction book from the media center or Sora
<p>Wednesday, January 24th</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twinning! We're WINNING! Dress like a friend! • Shelfie Day! Take a shelfie in the media center with your twin reading a book!
<p>Thursday, January 25th</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readers Represent! READ MY SHIRT • Wear a book, character, manga/anime, or other reading related shirt today!
<p>Friday, January 26th</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PJ DAY! Cozy up with a great book today! • Drop everything and read for the first 10 minutes! • Book Swap! From 8:30am to 9:25am, students, faculty, and staff members will be invited to participate in a book swap in the Library. Bring a gently used book to swap for a new-to-you book.
<p>Throughout the Week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door Decorating Contest Students (of a teacher's choosing) can decorate their teacher's classroom door to represent a celebration of literacy. Judging of the doors will take place Friday afternoon. The doors will be judged on their creativity, neatness/appearance, literacy components, and that they are student created. The winning class/group of students will be given a donut party to celebrate! • Beanstack Logging Don't forget to log your reading in Beanstack (this week and every week!)

University H.S. Open House-January 30, 2024, 6:00p.m.- **NEW**

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET OPEN HOUSE

Join us on
Tuesday Jan 30, 2024
at 6pm to learn more about
our Performing Arts and IB
Magnet Programs

QUESTIONS?

WANDA.ALVARADO@OCPS.NET

📞 407-482-8700

🌐 universityhs.ocps.net



University High School will be hosting an Open House on January 30th at 6pm to provide information about their two(2) award winning magnet programs. One course of study offered is the International Baccalaureate Program, a university preparatory program through which students can qualify for upwards of 30 college credits and the Bright Futures Scholarship. The second program is Performing Fine Arts offering tracks in band, orchestra, dance, chorus, guitar, piano and theatre. Students selecting this program graduate prepared for the audition process of university programs or artistic companies. Both programs are designed to ensure that students are ready to succeed after high school.

Questions: email Universityhs.ocps.net or call 407-482-8700.

Olympia H.S. Parent Meeting, 01/25/24, 6p.m.- **NEW**

Olympia High School is hosting a Parent Meeting for zoned rising 9th graders on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Olympia Auditorium.



Magnet Application Deadline for the 2024-2025 School Year- Midnight February 15

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.

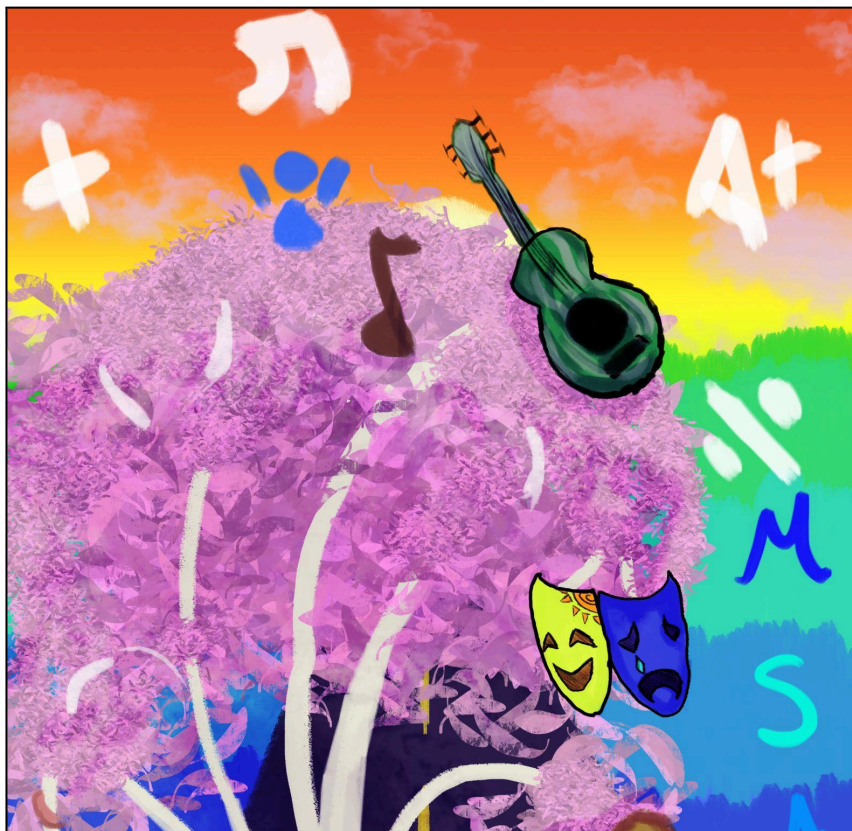
On the same page, you will also find a virtual magnet fair where you can click on each school for more information about their programs.

HMS Student Poster Design Chosen to Represent OCPS Middle Schools Entry in Magnet Schools of America Poster Contest -NEW

Please congratulate Hazel Lorenzo, 8th grade, for her poster design. It has been selected from all OCPS middle school magnet programs to represent OCPS's middle school entry for the Magnet Schools of America National Poster Contest! Hazel is a member of Ms. Ussery's Digital Art and Design 2 class.

Students were given the option to express/interpret one or all five of MSA's pillars which are: Diversity, Innovative Curriculum & Professional Development, Academic Excellence, High Quality Instructional Systems and Family & Community Partnerships. Entries are judged on adherence to pillars/themes, originality & organization as well as use of color and design.

MSA will select a first, second and third place winner for each level, elementary, middle and high school. Winners of each category will be announced in the next few months. The overall, top winning poster will be announced at the National Conference of Magnet Schools of America to be held, April 16-20, 2024 in New York City.



Congratulations to our 2024 Scripp's Spelling Bee WINNER: Shlok Sheth!-NEW

Scripp's Spelling Bee Competition was held on Wednesday, January 17th! Please applaud all 18 participants:

- 1 Shlok Sheth
- 2 Melissa Ulrich
- 3 Leilani Bentancourt
- 4 Lila Beckler
- 5 Kalina Race
- 6 Nick Holman
- 7 Emerson Hastings
- 8 Aleena Gaskins
- 9 Bennen Salmons
- 10 Wyatt Ruegner
- 11 Amanda Torres
- 12 Maddie Bradley
- 13 Deklan Jacobi
- 14 Calista Chan
- 15 Davis Cummings
- 16 Kady Walker
- 17 Sanaa Hazzard
- 18 Mosi Arthur



Howard Dance Troupe Participated in Celebration of Dance-NEW

On January 12th and 13th, Dance Troupe participated in Celebration of Dance at Dr Phillips High School. They performed among a variety of schools and dance studios in Friday's show, then participated in a series of master classes throughout the day on Saturday. We are very proud of their performance and how they represented our school.



Roots and Shoots Garden Donations!-NEW

Roots and Shoots is starting a garden in two of the courtyards at Howard Middle School and are looking for donations! Our club is in need of any plastic or ceramic planting pots, gardening tools, plant seedlings, soil, or anything else that you might have lying around the house that could help us start our garden! Any donations are greatly appreciated. They can be dropped off at the front office or students can bring them directly to Ms. Plate or Ms. Schoen. Thank you and Happy New Year from Roots and Shoots.



Thank you to Courtyard by Marriott Orlando Downtown- CFHLA Adopt-A-School Parnter-NEW

Partners in Action - Courtyard Orlando Downtown

Before the holiday break, [Courtyard by Marriott Orlando Downtown](#) had the pleasure of delivering breakfast to the hard-working teachers at their Adopt-A-School partner [Howard Middle School](#). The Breakfast was used as an opportunity to celebrate the school having a successful first half of the year, and to update the teachers on current and upcoming initiatives from the PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Student Association).



Thank you Courtyard by Marriott Orlando Downtown for your support of the CFHLA Adopt-A-School Program and for helping to make a positive

HMS Upcoming Events

- 1/22 HMS Basketball Game at Conway M.S., 5pm
- 1/23 Musical Cast & Crew Parent Meeting, 7pm
- 1/24 HMS Basketball game at Roberto Clemente M.S., 5pm
- 1/26 Boone H.S. Counselors at HMS for rising 9th course selection (zoned students only)
- 1/30 Guitar All-County
- 1/30 Magnet Open House at HMS for prospective students only
- 1/31 HMS Basketball at Liberty M.S., 5pm
- 2/6 Winter Park H.S. Counselors at HMS for rising 9th course selection (zoned students only)
- 2/9 6th Grade Field Trip to Jazz Performance at Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center
- 2/19 No School- Presidents Day
- 2/29-3/10 HMS Visual Arts Exhibit at the Central Florida Fairgrounds

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!

Clubs & Organizatons

HMS Clubs

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.

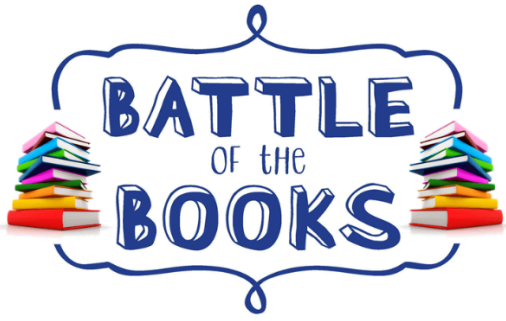


[Ranger Resources 2023-2024](#)

[Ranger Resources 2023-2024](#)

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





Battle of the Books-NEW

Meeting this MONDAY to choose the competition TEAM of 6! Please be in the media center at 8:45!

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.

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. ***Note: DramaticEd is NOT providing afterschool care for students at HMS.

- ★ **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.

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.**

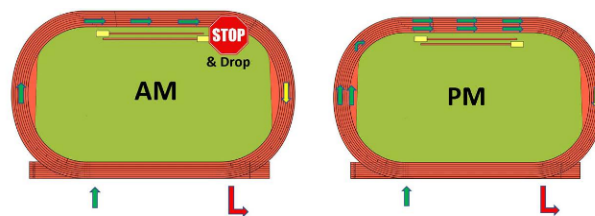
These standards apply to all students in the public schools of Orange County.

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 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.