



March 22, 2024

Published 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](https://www.instagram.com/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

Deadline to Pre-Order Howard Middle School Yearbook!-March 29th!-NEW

This is the LAST week to Pre-order your Howard Middle School Yearbook! Pre-Orders end on March 29th!

Remember you can add your student's name/nickname or even a sweet saying for only \$6.00 as a digital imprint on the front cover!

Verification Of Residency Requirements for Current 8th Graders-**NEW**



Dr. W. John McHale
Principal

Howard Middle School

Orange County Public Schools

Michelle Browne
Assistant Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations on this educational milestone for your student. Transitioning to a new school is exciting and should be smooth and without any delays. In an effort to ensure all student's records are accurate and up to date, we are requiring parents to provide updated current proof of residence to your child's present school. This documentation should be provided to the school by close of business on April 15, 2024.

Failure to provide updated verification of residence will result in your child's withdrawal from OCPS and you risk your student not having a schedule for the start of the 2024 school year.

To verify your address you must provide the following:

- If you own a house: warranty deed, property taxes, closing contract, or homestead exemption card along with current utility bill, your ID with current address, and current mail.
- If you rent a house or apartment: provide the signed lease, your ID with your current address, recent utility bill, proof of rent payments, current mail, and renters insurance.
- If you live with someone who owns or rents the house: you must obtain a Verification of Residence from Student Enrollment Office. You will need to provide a minimum of the following documents:
 1. Your ID with current address
 2. Three items with your name and address dated within the last month, such as car registration, paystub, bank statement, insurance, phone bill, or current mail.
 3. In addition, you must provide the ID of the lessee or homeowner and a copy of the lease or proof of homeownership.

More documentation may be required depending on circumstances in a case-by-case situation.

You will need to schedule an appointment for the address verification at the Student Enrollment Office

6501 Magic Way Blvd 100B Orlando, FL 32809

Appointment link

<https://appointments.ocps.net>

The School Board of Orange County, Florida ("Board") shall establish residential attendance zones for each school. All students, unless otherwise provided by the Board, shall attend the school serving such student's residential attendance zone. For purposes of this policy, a student's residence is defined as the residence/domicile of the parent(s), legal guardian(s), legal custodian(s), or other such person as defined as a legal guardian of the student by any order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction of the State of Florida (collectively, "Guardian"). Any student residing in the Orange County Public Schools ("OCPS") district shall be assigned to a school for attendance by the Superintendent or designee.

"The Orange County Public School Board is an equal opportunity employer."

800 East Robinson Street, Orlando, Florida 32801-2080 ~~Telephone~~ (407) 245-1780 Fax (407)245-1785
www.howard.ocps.net

Attention Dance Families

The recital details information sheet was sent home with all Dance students on Wednesday. If you have not seen it, the document is available on your student's Dance Canvas course. Please read through this information as it includes: dates, schedules, dinner information, volunteer needs, ticket information, and costume, hair, shoes, and make-up needs.



HMSDANCE

We need HELP! With about 250 Dance students, we need a lot of help for Dress Rehearsal and Recital day (we promise you will be finished in time to watch the show). Please sign up [here!](#) Be sure to update your OCPS ADDitions account or sign up to become an [OCPS ADDitions Volunteer](#).

Tickets will go on sale on Tuesday, March 26th at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at [TeachTix.com/hms](https://teachtix.com/hms). Please be mindful of the large number of Dance students. The show WILL be recorded and every participant will receive a digital copy via an emailed link, for free, to be able to share with friends and extended family.

Howard Middle School presents our official eSports team! -NEW

They'll be going head-to-head with teams from around the country to get to the top in the gaming world! So, please join me in congratulating the following students, as they head into their MSEL 2024 Spring Major Season:

Brawlhalla:

Damari Thompson
Alaya Rutland
Isaac Felix
Alexander Garcia

Mario Kart Deluxe 8:

Philip Richardson
Gavin Sears
Nathaniel Joy
Gavin Huff
Scott Votapka
Izayah Lugo



Super Smash Brothers Ultimate:

Emmanuel Cortes
Benjamin Fuller
Divya Farmer
Destiny Brown
Matias Garcia
Trey Covington

Splatoon 3:

Leilani Betancourt
Trey Covington
Davis Cummings
Amaia Nunez
Sade Barbosa
Natalia Mejia

Practice days (8:30 AM in Coach Acosta's room):

Monday: Brawlhalla
Tuesday: Smash
Wednesday: Splatoon
Thursday: Mario Kart

Match Days/Times:

Super Smash: Mondays 5:15 PM
Splatoon 3: Tuesdays 5:30 PM
Mario Kart: Wednesdays 5:30 PM
Brawlhalla: Wednesdays 5:30 PM

Give us a follow at [@hms_gamingrangers](#) on instagram and keep up with our season's standings! Help to cheer us on, as we fight our way to eSports playoffs.

Important Orchestra Dates!

Tuesday, April 2 - Philharmonic Orchestra Sectionals after school, 4-5:30 pm

Saturday, April 13 - Solo Festival for Concert, Ranger, Philharmonic Students (Not for beginning orchestra)

Thursday, April 18 - All Students: Orchestra Concert @Howard MS, 5:00 pm, tickets required, wear concert dress

Tuesday, April 23 - Philharmonic to Edgewater HS for Collaboration concert with Orlando Philharmonic musicians, concert time TBD, wear concert clothes.



Dance Recital Reminder

As mentioned in the dance handbook that was given out at the beginning of the school year, we will have our end of the year dance recital on **Tuesday April 9th**. Dress rehearsal will be **Monday April 8th**. Please save these dates as this is a performance grade for all Dance students. Be sure to communicate/remind outside of school activity leaders that dance students must be in attendance for both rehearsal and the show and will not be at their regularly scheduled activities. Choreography and formations will begin this month.

Spring Piano Recital Date Change

The Spring Piano Recital was originally scheduled for Tuesday, April 30. **The new recital date is one week earlier - Tuesday, April 23**. Please update your calendars. Thank you!



HMS 3D Art Students, Selected For Central Florida Fair Student Art Exhibition

We are pleased to announce that a talented group of my art3D Howard Middle School students have been selected to participate in the esteemed Central Florida Fair student art exhibition, one of the largest shows of its kind in Central Florida. From Feb 29 - March 10, these talented individuals will have the chance to display their artwork alongside other top young artists from schools around the Central Florida region. Last year we won 5 awards in 3D!!!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/e5uRyHjTmzzUgFZa8>

<https://www.centralfloridafair.com/fair-schedule/>

Jesus Marin-Art3D
Howard Middle

Congrats to Our Cast and Ensemble of the “Addams Family Young@Part”.

Shows are scheduled for May 3 and 4 at 7pm, and May 5 at 2pm

Jonah Bloom, Gomez
Lila Beckler, Morticia
Sasha Bloom, Wednesday
Isaiah Rivera, Uncle Fester
Tyler Vascik, Pugsley
Parker Shanoff, Grandma
Malakhi Bastien, Lurch
Chaka Fisher, Mal Beineke
Stevi Rose, Alice Beineke
Wyatt Ruegner, Lucas Beineke
Miranda Jacobs, Ensemble
Larissa Lana, Ensemble
Spencer Brunetti, Ensemble
Mikaella Macias, Ensemble
Lorelei Hanbery, Ensemble
Sydney Judd, Ensemble
Kaylen McDuffie, Ensemble
Sienna Halperin, Ensemble
Jameson Fetherman, Ensemble
Liam Emerson Matney, Ensemble
Lucy Perez, Ensemble

Stella Gitles, Ensemble
Ivanna Epalza, Ensemble
Audrey Robertson, Ensemble
Aniyah Colon, Ensemble
Mosi Arthur, Ensemble
Peyton Parker, Ensemble
Camila Torres, Ensemble
Skyler Weston, Ensemble
Dakota Reyes, Ensemble
Elle Howell, Ensemble
Charlotte Morgan, Ensemble
Emily Miller, Ensemble
Kalina Race, Ensemble
Edisleya Uribe, Ensemble
Cecily Ferguson, Ensemble
Hailey Prince-Cust, Ensemble
Juliet Harrison, Ensemble
Calvin Sumner, Ensemble
Macallister Caracciolo, Ensemble
Anthony King, Ensemble

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS-DATES-NEW

Preliminary Battle Round: April 3, 2024 at 3:30 * we must place in the TOP 2

Final Battle Round: April 18, 2024 at 2:30 *SEE BELOW

Boone High School

Top 2 teams from each learning community advance to the final battle.

2:30-2:45 pm - Registration Opens (teams arrive)

3:00 pm - Welcome

3:25-4:50 pm - Battle Rounds

4:55 pm - Dinner

5:30 pm - Final Battle

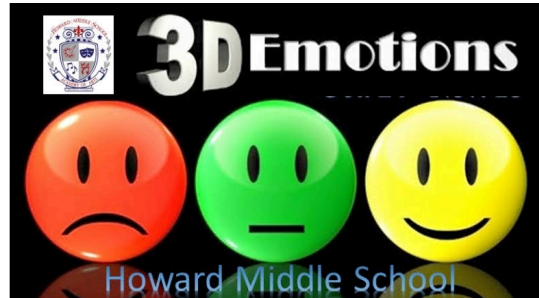
6:00 pm - Awards Ceremony

6:15 pm - Dismissal

3D Emotions - "Pour Out My Heart"

It is my 2nd year with my young middle school artists and they are amazingly unique and creative! After selecting the emotion (1 week in research) and 3 hard weeks of work, my young artists just created these awesome sculptures. In addition to understanding exactly what emotions to use, they studied them and went deep in their creations to expose these human emotions. Enjoy!!!!!!!

Jesus Marin ~ 3DArt Teacher

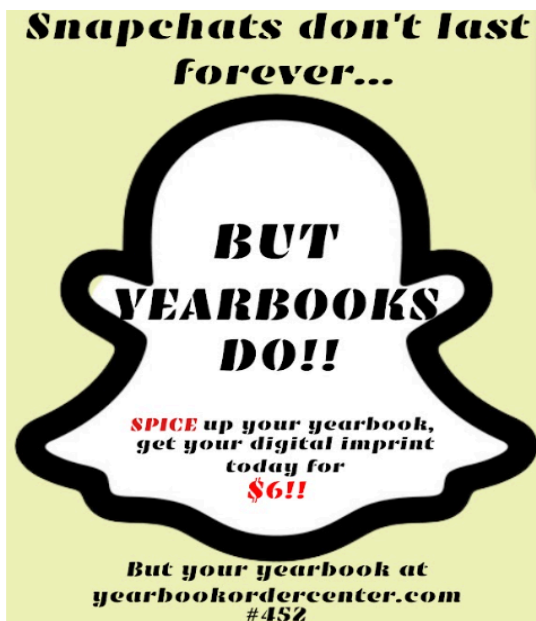


[Click here to view photos of 3D - "Pour Out My Heart" student artwork](#)

:Attention 8th Grade Families-**NEW**

If your student is accepted into a high school magnet program, please forward the email with the seat offer from OCPS School Choice Services to Caprice.Mackemer@ocps.net. She will process the postdated withdrawal form and email it to you for signing within 24-48 hours of receiving it.

Howard 2023-2024 Yearbook #542-**NEW Last Day to ORDER ONLINE March 31st**



Orlando After-School All-Stars Summer Camps 2024-NEW

The locations available for Orlando All-Stars Summer Camps are:

- Carver Middle School
- College Park Middle School
- Lake Nona Middle School
- Memorial Middle School
- Odyssey Middle School

Roots and Shoots Garden Donations!

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.



HMS Upcoming Events

- 3/18-22 Spring Break
- 3/25 Begin 4th Marking Period

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.

[Ranger Resources 2023-2024](#)

[Ranger Resources 2023-2024](#)

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



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

Jewelry Club Dates for the Remainder of the Year: **NEW**

March 11 and 25

April 8 and 22

May 6 and 20

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

Please join the Howard GSA every other Monday morning in Mr. Payne-Rios's room. This is a safe space where students can come to have conversations, talk about issues involving the LGBTQIA+ community, and learn about local Orlando groups who support this community..

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 after-school 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 Aivate 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.**

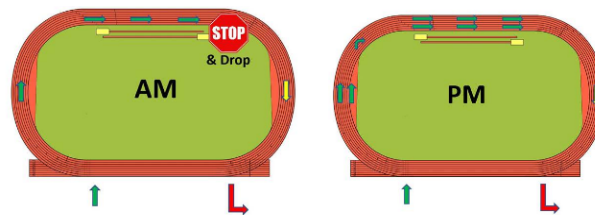
These standards apply to all students in the public schools of Orange County.

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 towed and 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.