



# The Road to Kindergarten

*The Office of Early Childhood Programs  
Howard County Public School System*



Information brought to you by the  
*Howard County*  
*Transition to Kindergarten Workgroup*

- Educational consultants
- HCPSS Office of Early Childhood Programs
- HCPSS Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers
- HC Office of Children & Families
- HC Library System
- HC Head Start
- HC Office of Children and Families
- HC Family Child Care Association
- The Judy Center at Cradlerock
- Variety of community-based, private child care/preschool programs



# Topics



- ▣ School Readiness
- ▣ HCPSS Kindergarten Program
- ▣ Registration/Transition Information



# Our workgroup believes...





**All families want  
what is best for their  
children.**



As a child's first teacher, parents and families play a significant role in education, beginning at birth and beyond.



Going to  
kindergarten is a  
developmental  
milestone.



**The transition to  
kindergarten is not a  
one-time event.**



**Not all children have  
the same readiness  
for kindergarten.**



**Schools must be  
ready for children  
and families.**



Kindergarten is an  
important step  
towards success in  
college, career, and  
life upon graduation  
from high school.



# Welcome to the Class of 2034

*HCPSS is here to support your family during your child's educational journey.*

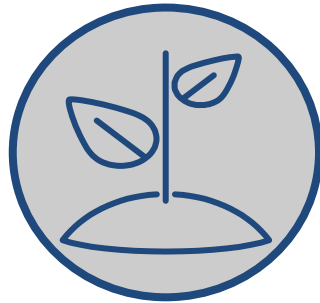
The following is county-level information that is relevant for all 42 elementary schools.

Once you register, you'll learn specific information about your child's school and eventually, their teacher.





# What does “Ready for School” Mean?





# “Ready for School” means...

**R**eal-life experience

**E**arly vocabulary and literacy exposure

**A**reas of competence and strengths

**D**evelopmentally appropriate activities

**Y**oung, curious minds



# “Ready for School” means...

## Real-life experience

- ▣ Take advantage of places in the area to visit!
  - *The Howard County Library, hiking trails, zoos, farmer’s markets, aquarium, and more.*
- ▣ These experiences will give your child something to draw upon and relate to during lessons in kindergarten and make the learning more meaningful.
- ▣ Children have plenty of opportunity to share “background knowledge” - that is, what they already know or have experienced related to a topic.
- ▣ Sparks curiosity for new learning



# “Ready for School” means...

## Early vocabulary and literacy exposure

- ▣ Back and forth conversation, combined with quality words, supports brain development and helps sets the stage for readiness.
- ▣ Use authentic vocabulary related to those real-life experiences.
  - *When you visit the grocery store, explain you are buying “golden delicious apples”. Discuss what golden and delicious mean. Can you think of or find other things that are golden or delicious? What other words mean the same thing?*
- ▣ You lap is the best app! Read real books and give your child a chance to turn the pages, predict what will happen, discuss the story, etc. Point out simple words in the text. Select books and subject-matter of high interest to your child.



# “Ready for School” means...

## Areas of competence and strengths

- ▣ Growth does not happen as a straight, upward arrow. It is better to visualize growth as an upward spiral.
- ▣ Remember there will be areas of strength and areas of need, and those are unique to every child. Teachers use this approach to support learning and move each child forward along their own unique developmental path.



# “Ready for School” means...

## Developmentally appropriate activities

- ▣ Workbooks and flashcards are not needed to support readiness. Instead, capitalize on your child’s interest and their everyday world.
  - Use magnetic letters to spell their name. Practice the names and sounds of the letters in their name. Spell the names of family members and friends. Find other things in the house that start with the same letter as their name.
  - Play with the sounds in words. Change the first letter to a new letter. What is the new word?
  - Count the number of steps it takes to get from the car to the front door, the front door to their room. How many rungs on the ladder at the park?
  - And more!



# “Ready for School” means...

## Young, curious minds

- ▣ It's ok to ask questions!
- ▣ Demonstrate asking questions about things you are curious about. Say things like, “I wonder...”. Read books about the things you wonder, visit related places, practice using new words you learn, etc.



**“Ready for School”** means...

*Children don't have to come to school knowing everything. It means they have skills that make them ready to access new learning.*



# Support Readiness

Find resources and additional links on our website!

- [Kindergarten Family & Community Resources](#)
- [Early Childhood Beginnings](#)



## Family and Community Resources

These resources have been created to provide parents with support in English / Language Arts instruction.

- Pre-Kindergarten
- Kindergarten
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5

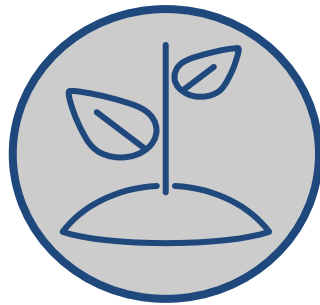
## Curriculum for Grades K-12

[Curriculum for Grades K-12](#)



# HCPSS

## Kindergarten Program





# Our Vision

**The Office of Early Childhood Programs strives to ensure that instruction at the kindergarten level:**

- ▣ prepares students for success as lifelong learners by developing the academic, social and emotional knowledge, strategies, and skills needed to participate responsibly in a diverse and changing world;
- ▣ utilizes a child-centered approach to ensure that each child develops a love of learning;
- ▣ nurtures a positive school experience where all students contribute as members of the classroom community; and,
- ▣ supports an individualized approach so each student successfully acquires, demonstrates, and applies the skills and knowledge of the curriculum.







# Every day in kindergarten...

- ▣ Developmentally Appropriate Practices
- ▣ Expressive Language Opportunities
- ▣ Social / Emotional / Behavioral Skill Development
- ▣ Interdisciplinary Instruction





# **Developmentally Appropriate Practices**

- ▣ Hands-on learning
- ▣ Mix of learning preferences: auditory, kinesthetic, visual, etc.
- ▣ Manipulatives (magnetic letters, dice, counters, etc.)
- ▣ Learning occurs in age-appropriate chunks of time.





# Expressive Language Opportunities

- ▣ Ability to communicate using language
  - Learning to ask for help
  - Asking questions
  - Back and forth conversation
  - Staying on topic in a conversation
  - Expressing an opinion
  - Etc.





# Social Emotional Skill Development

- ▣ Skills for life
  - Turn-taking
  - Working memory
  - Ability to control attention
  - Putting off favorite activities to prioritize important tasks
  - Friendship skills
  - And more!





# Interdisciplinary Instruction

- ▣ Apply subjects and learning across the day
  - Listen to a read aloud about counting in math
  - Write an alphabet book about healthy habits in health
  - Use the Engineering Design Process to create structures in block center during play time
  - Etc.





# What Might a Day in Kindergarten Look Like?

## **SAMPLE SCHEDULE**

Arrival / Morning Work

Opening / Morning Meeting or Circle

Language Arts

Science / Social Studies / Health

Recess & Lunch

Quiet Time / Take Ten

Mathematics

Related Arts

Student-Selected Activities



A photograph of two young children in a classroom setting. In the foreground, a child with dark hair is seen from the back, sitting on a green chair. In the background, another child with blonde hair tied in pigtails is also sitting on a green chair, with one arm raised towards a window. The text "Arrival / Morning Work" is overlaid in a large, bold, black serif font.

# Arrival / Morning Work





## **Arrival / Morning Work**

- ▣ Children arrive by car, bus, or as a walker
- ▣ Enter with other students
- ▣ Learn to participate in arrival routines (e.g., unpack, gather materials) with independence





# Opening / Morning Meeting





# Opening / Morning Meeting

- ▣ Build classroom community
- ▣ Talk about the day to come
- ▣ Share stories, songs, updates, etc.



A photograph of a female teacher with long blonde hair, wearing a white shirt, leaning over a wooden table in a classroom. She is smiling and gesturing with her right hand, pointing upwards. Three young students are seated at the table, facing away from the camera. The student on the left is wearing an orange shirt and has their right hand raised. The student in the middle is wearing a red shirt. The student on the right is wearing a light green shirt and is holding a white marker. On the table are several blue plastic storage bins and some papers. The background shows a blue wall with various educational posters, including one of a whale and one of a triangle. The text "Language Arts" is overlaid in a large, black, serif font across the center of the image.

# Language Arts





# Language Arts

- ▣ Daily
- ▣ Mix of whole group (lessons with the entire class together), small group, and independent opportunities
- ▣ Children work in small groups on lessons targeted to meet their needs.
- ▣ Reading, writing, foundational skills, and more!





# Science Social Studies Health



# Science Social Studies Health

- ▣ 30-45 minutes, depending on the unit
- ▣ Specific unit of study for each subject area.
- ▣ Learn more at the [Kindergarten Family & Community Resources](#) site.





A photograph of two young children at a playground. They are both wearing purple long-sleeved shirts and are hanging from a red horizontal bar. The child on the right is a girl with dark hair, wearing a yellow skirt and striped leggings, and she is smiling at the camera. The child on the left is seen from the back, wearing a pink backpack. In the background, there is a red slide and other playground equipment. The entire image is framed by a thin white border.

# Lunch & Recess





## **Lunch & Recess**

- ▣ 30 minutes each
- ▣ Can bring lunch or buy
- ▣ Staff members support children with making choices, opening containers, purchasing, etc.
- ▣ Go outside for recess as much as possible, so send children to school in weather-appropriate clothing
- ▣ Practice opening containers with your child.



A photograph of several young children in a classroom. In the foreground, a boy with dark hair and a white shirt under a grey jacket looks off to the side with his hand raised. Behind him, a girl in a blue beanie and another boy in a blue shirt are also looking in the same direction. To the left, another boy in a blue shirt with 'AWESOME' printed on it stands looking forward. The background is filled with classroom supplies and other children, creating a busy but focused atmosphere. The text 'Quiet Time / Take Ten' is centered over the image in a large, bold, black serif font.

# Quiet Time / Take Ten



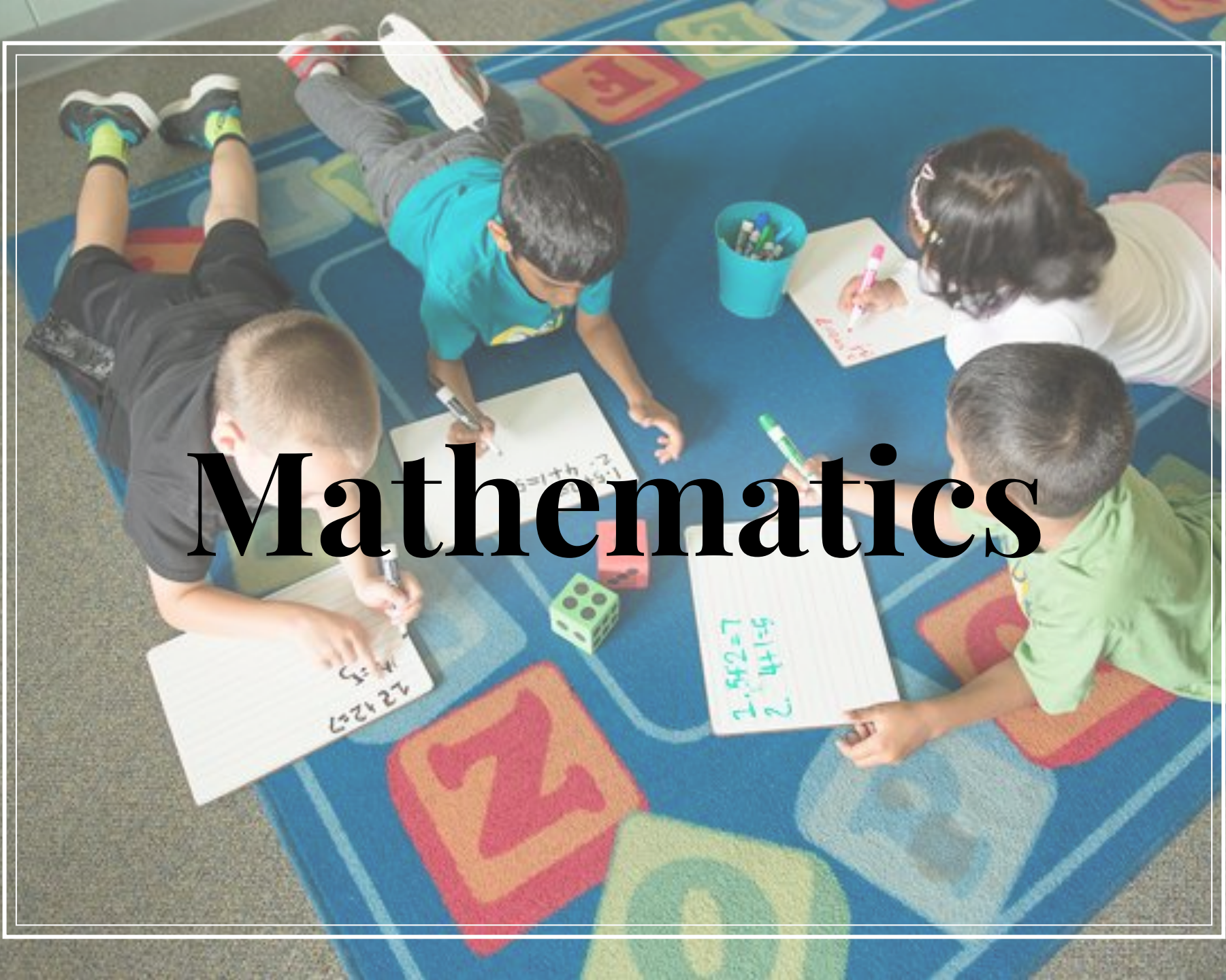


## Quiet Time / Take Ten

- ▣ Quiet Time is not nap, but a chance to calm after high energy moments.
  - *It is important for children to have down time and an opportunity to rest their brains.*
- ▣ Take Ten is movement, usually set to music. Includes dancing, songs, etc.



# Mathematics







# Mathematics

- ▣ Daily
- ▣ Mix of whole group (lessons with the entire class together), small group, partners, and independent opportunities
- ▣ Children work in small groups on lessons targeted to meet their needs.
- ▣ Lots of games and hands-on materials like dice, dominoes, animal-shaped counters, etc.



A young boy with dark hair, wearing a white shirt, is focused on painting a white paper boat. He is using a blue paintbrush to apply blue paint to the side of the boat. The background is a warm, yellowish-brown wall. The text "Related Arts" is overlaid in a large, bold, black serif font on the left side of the image.

# Related Arts

- ▣ Art
- ▣ Music
- ▣ Physical Education
- ▣ Library Media
- ▣ Technology





## **Related Arts**

- ▣ Daily
- ▣ Range from 30-60 minutes, depending on the subject
- ▣ Go to other classrooms (Art Room, Gym, etc.),
- ▣ Have different teachers for each



A photograph of two young children in a classroom, dressed as firefighters. They are wearing red helmets and yellow jackets with red reflective stripes. The child on the left is holding a large orange octagonal sign that says "SLOW" in black capital letters. They are standing on a colorful rug with numbers and bee patterns. In the background, other children are sitting on the floor, and there are tables and chairs in the room.

# Student-Selected Activities





# Student-Selected Activities

- ▣ Daily
- ▣ 30-40 minutes
- ▣ Time to play, make choices, bring learning to life
- ▣ May include blocks, painting, dramatic play, science table, etc.



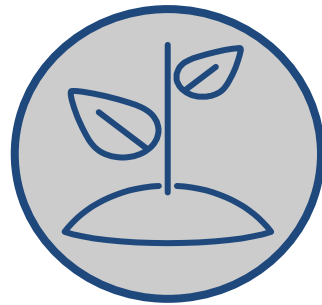


# **Kindergarten Instruction = Differentiated Instruction**

*Designed to meet each child's academic needs in each subject, moving them forward through individualized instruction and activities.*



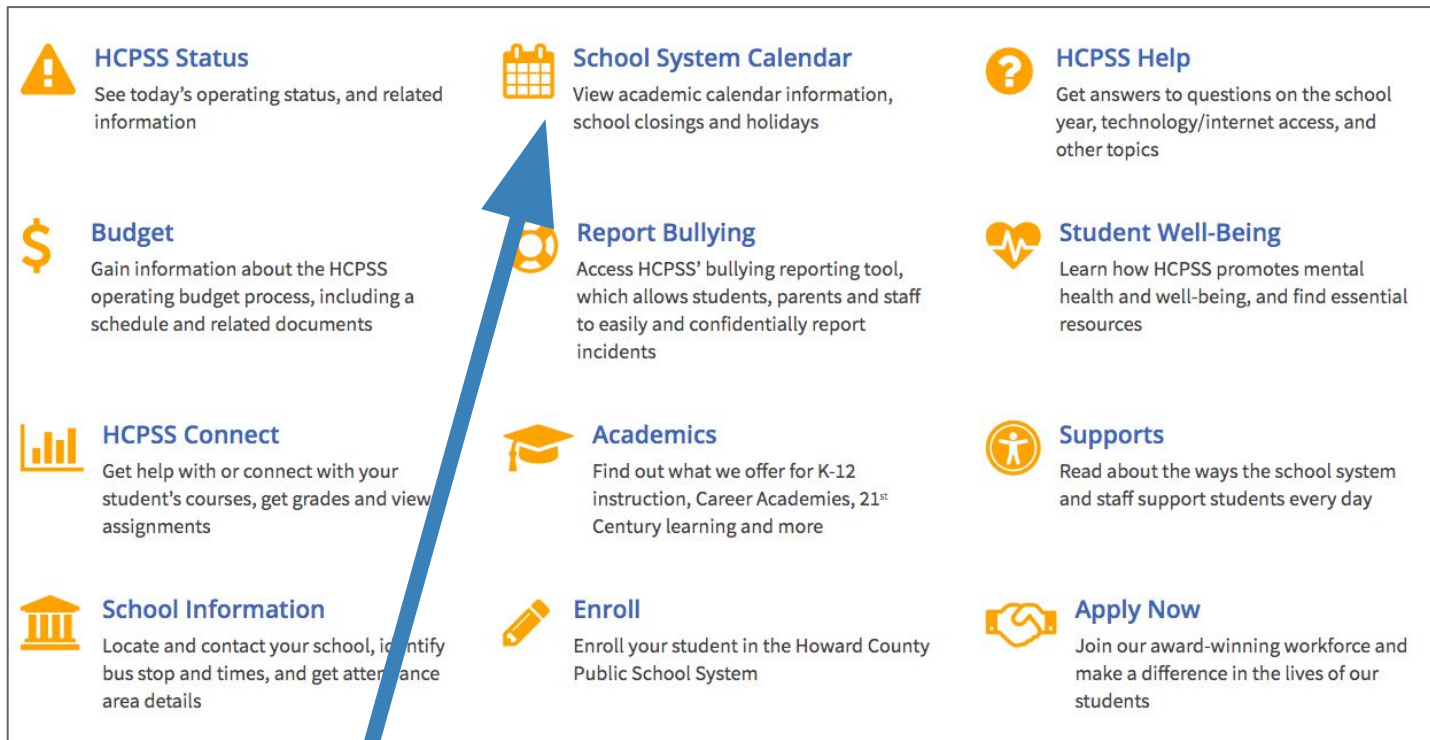
# Registration/Transition Information





# [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org)

## Homepage



- Check out the **School System Calendar** for early dismissals, closures, etc. so you can plan ahead!
- Next year's calendar is already posted.

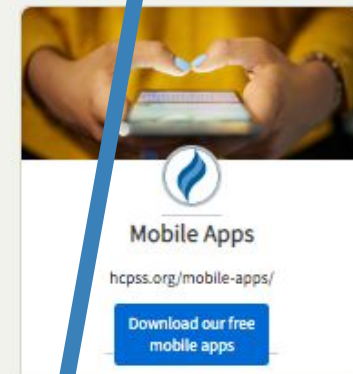
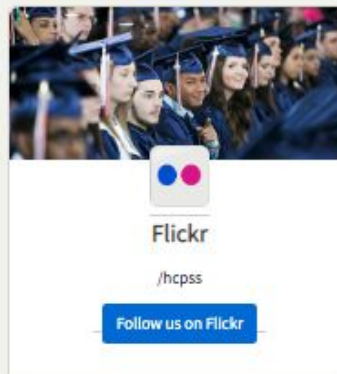


<https://www.hcpss.org/hcpss-news/>

- ▣ Parents/guardians of enrolled HCPSS students DO NOT need to sign up for, or manage an HCPSS News account.
- ▣ If your oldest/only child is starting school in the fall, you will be automatically signed up for HCPSS News messages in early August from HCPSS and the school your child will be attending.
- ▣ Community members or any non-HCPSS parent must sign up to receive email and/or text messages from the district and/or specific schools



## FOLLOW US – WE'RE SOCIAL!



- Follow HCPSS on various social media platforms.





## School Information

Locate and contact your school,  
identify bus stop and times, and get  
attendance information.

## School Locator

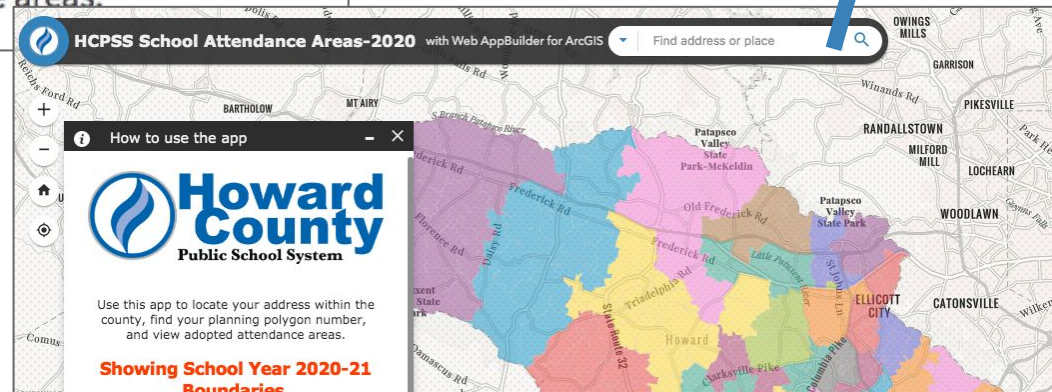
Use our online map application to locate  
your address within the county, find your  
planning polygon number, and view  
adopted attendance areas.

## School Year 2020-21 Assignments

Hollifield Station ES  
Patapsco MS  
Mt Hebron HS

## School Year 2021-22 Assignments

Hollifield Station ES  
Patapsco MS  
Mt Hebron HS



- Find your assigned school using School Information from the homepage. Look for **School Locator**.
- Children attend the school to which they are assigned.
- Bus service provided if you live more than one-mile from school.



## SCHOOLS

Our online school directory

### SCHOOL LISTINGS AND CONTACTS

#### [School Directory](#)

Browse and list all HCPSS schools. Quickly access each school's phone number, building address, website, school opening and closing times, and school profiles.

#### [School Locator](#)

Use our online map application to locate your address within the county, find your planning polygon number, and view adopted attendance areas.

#### [School Transportation](#)

Find a link to our bus stop locator, and learn more about transportation safety and emergency closing information.

#### [Community Superintendents](#)

Browse the list of Community Superintendents and their assigned schools.

#### [Board Member Cluster Assignments](#)

Individual Board members are assigned to specific schools visit, attend special events, and become additional points of contact for each school community.

#### [School Planning](#)

Get more information about projected student enrollment, school boundary studies, attendance area adjustments, and our annual feasibility study.

- Once you use **School Locator** to find your school, use the **School Directory** to learn more!
- Access the **School Directory** from the main page using **School Information** OR from the **Schools** option in the navigation bar.



- ▣ You can view school profiles, find contact information, etc.
- ▣ Note school times are unique to each school - this is important to know so you can arrange before and after-care, if needed.



### Atholton Elementary

410-313-6853

 [Web Site](#)

6700 Seneca Drive, Columbia, MD 21046

Principal – Shawna Holmen

9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

[View School Details](#)



### Bellows Spring Elementary

410-313-5057

 [Web Site](#)

8125 Old Stockbridge Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Principal – Carol Hahn

9:25 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.

[View School Details](#)



### Bollman Bridge Elementary

410-880-5920

 [Web Site](#)

8200 Savage-Guilford Road, Savage, MD 20763

Principal – Rhonda Inskeep

8:35 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.

[View School Details](#)



### YOUR CHILD'S DAILY ACTIVITIES



#### Food Services

We serve more than 4 million high-quality meals per year. View menus, daily prices, and how to pay for meals.



#### Transportation

Provides safe, reliable, and efficient transportation to and from school for enrolled students living beyond a one-mile walking distance from elementary and middle schools and a one and one-half mile walking distance from high schools.



#### Before and After Care

Get the contact information for the agencies that support before and after school care for your child's school.

[YOU](#) [ABOUT](#) [SCHOOLS](#) [ACADEMICS](#) [SUPPORTS](#) [NEWS](#) [Q](#)[ilities](#) [Bus Stop FAQs](#) [Safety](#) [Delays](#) [Contact](#)

## Our Bus Services

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) provides safe, reliable, and efficient transportation to and from school for enrolled students living beyond a one-mile walking distance from elementary and middle schools and a one and one-half mile walking distance from high schools.



- Find out **Transportation** information via **Supports** in the navigation bar.
- On the first day, we recommend sending your child to school the way they will travel every day. Plenty of adults will help guide them and they get to experience the “newness” - and excitement, nerves, anticipation - with their classmates.



**YOUR CHILD'S DAILY ACTIVITIES****Food Services**

We serve more than 4 million high-quality meals per year. View menus, daily prices, and how to pay for meals.

**Transportation**

Provides safe, reliable transportation to students living beyond a certain distance from school.

**Food Services**[Menus](#) [Meal Prices](#) [Our Commitment to Quality](#) [Free and Reduced Meals](#)

# We serve more than 4 million high-quality meals per year

**What's on the menu?**

HCPSS students and their families can now view menus and nutrition and allergen information for meals served in all HCPSS schools through Nutrislice, a website and free smartphone app.

 **VIEW MENUS**

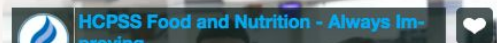
Download the Nutrislice app for  iOS or  Android.

**Paying for meals**

Parents may prepay for student meals by setting up an online account at [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com). There is a \$2.49 processing fee for each transaction. Each transaction can be up to \$120.00 in total.

**CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT**

OR

**LOG-IN TO EXISTING ACCOUNT**

- Find **Food Services** information via **Supports** in the navigation bar.
- Information includes nutrition, pricing, online payment, etc.



**YOUR CHILD'S DAILY ACTIVITIES****Agencies That Serve Howard County Public Schools**

Below is the contact information for the 2 agencies that serve Howard County public schools. The elementary and middle schools that are aligned with these programs, are listed after the agency.

**Columbia Association**

Before and After School Care – School Age Services

- Phone: 410-715-3164
- Email: [SAS@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:SAS@ColumbiaAssociation.org) or [visit their website](#)

**Howard County Recreation and Parks**

Before and After School (for elementary children)

- Phone: 410-313-7275
- [Visit their website](#)

**Before and After Care**

Get the contact information for the agencies that support before and after school care for your child's school.

- ▣ Find **Before and After Care** information via **Supports** in the navigation bar.
- ▣ If you need before and/or after care, **sign up early** (check with agencies for specific dates) - *programs fill up quickly!*



## K-12 INSTRUCTION

### [Career and Technology Education](#)

Allows students to explore a variety of technology concepts from computer science to engineering, and includes advanced-level coursework to prepare students for in-demand careers.

### [English/Language Arts](#)

We maintain a student-centered, integrated instructional approach to ensure that learners become proficient and probing users of language.

### [Fine Arts](#)

### [Gifted & Talented](#)

The G/T Program seeks to recognize and develop talents in advanced-level learners through differentiated instruction, programs and activities, and parent education on the topic of advanced-learners.

### [Health Education](#)

Provides a setting in which teachers, parents, and community members partner to help students focus on prevention concepts and to develop skills in a safe and supportive environment.

## Family and Community Resources

These resources have been created to provide parents with support in English / Language Arts instruction.

- [Pre-Kindergarten](#)
- [Kindergarten](#)
- [Grade 1](#)
- [Grade 2](#)
- [Grade 3](#)
- [Grade 4](#)
- [Grade 5](#)

## Curriculum for Grades K-12

[Curriculum for Grades K-12](#)

- ▣ Find information about academics, look for resources, etc.



# ACADEMICS

Building a rigorous and strong academic education

## ≡ JUMP TO...

### [K-12 Instruction](#)

Academic subject matters

### [Career Academies](#)

Prepare for specific career areas

### [21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning](#)

Hands-on digital learning experiences

### [JumpStart](#)

Earn College Credit

### [High-Quality Materials and Meaningful Assessments](#)

Testing and homework guidelines

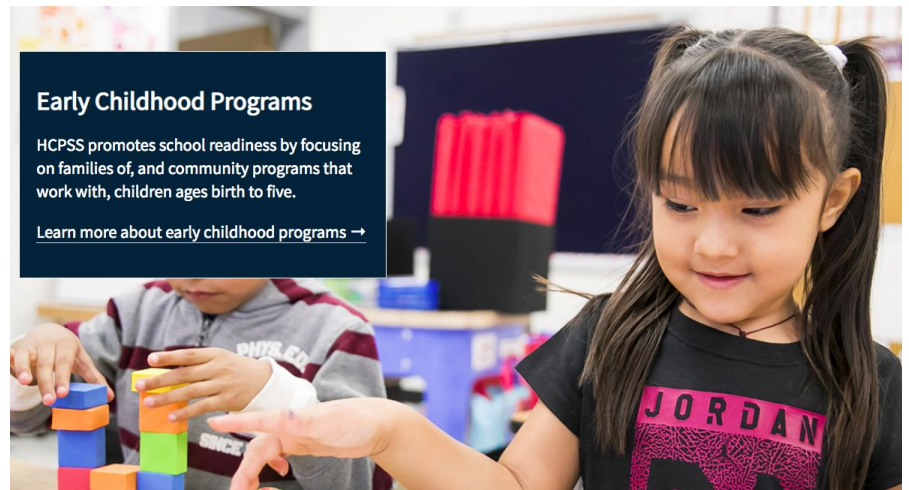
### [Early Childhood Programs](#)

Supporting children ages birth to five

### Early Childhood Programs

HCPSS promotes school readiness by focusing on families of, and community programs that work with, children ages birth to five.

[Learn more about early childhood programs →](#)



- Visit **Early Childhood Programs** for Birth to Five information, including kindergarten readiness and more!



# Early Childhood Programs

HCPSS provides high quality early childhood education that is rigorous yet developmentally appropriate. HCPSS also supports and promotes school readiness by focusing on families of, and community programs that work with, children ages birth to five.

## Early Learning Resources (Birth-5)

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. There are many things a parent or caregiver can do, starting at birth, to help their child. There are numerous resources available to support families as they create everyday learning opportunities for children, which will ultimately ensure that the children are prepared to succeed in school and later life.

View resources, quick facts and figures, and educational opportunities for:

[Students Birth to Age 3](#)

[Students Ages 3-5](#)

[View guidelines for Pre-kindergarten \(RECC and Pre-K programs\) Late Opening/Early Dismissals](#)

Have a child from ages birth-5? Learn more about our [Launch into Learning initiative](#) →

### Pre-kindergarten

HCPSS Pre-kindergarten programming includes a range of supports based on either economic or developmental needs.

- Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) – Our special education preschool programs serve children three and four years of age who have a disability or developmental delay. [Learn more about HCPSS Early Intervention Programs and Services](#) →
- Pre-K – Child must be four years old on or before September 1st. The Maryland State Department of Education requires that the Pre-K program be made available first to students who meet first priority

### Kindergarten

Children must be 5 years old by September 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. Every child who is 5 years old by September 1 must be enrolled in a kindergarten program or have an approved waiver.

[Find out more about preparing and registering for kindergarten](#) →

- Find out more about readiness, what you can do the year before kindergarten, registration, and more.



## Overview

Registration kickoff for the 2021-2022 school year begins March 8, 2021. Children must be 5 years old by September 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. Every child who is 5 years old by September 1 must be enrolled in a kindergarten program this fall or have an approved waiver. HCPSS kindergarten is a full day program.

← [Start the enrollment process](#)

Kindergarten teachers are prepared for children to enter school with varying abilities, strengths and needs. Each child is taught at his/her appropriate level through differentiated instruction. Learn more about [what your child will learn in kindergarten](#).

## The Year before Kindergarten

Prior to kindergarten there are many things parents can do to support their child's transition to school. From making sure appropriate documentation is gathered, to playing and reading with and listening to their child, the year before Kindergarten is a great opportunity to develop school readiness!



- For students who are the right age but parents feel aren't ready and want to wait, there is an option for a waiver.
- You can access **Enrollment** information here, from the homepage, or Supports.



**HCPSS Status**

See today's operating status, and related information

**School System Calendar**

View academic calendar information, school closings and holidays

**HCPSS Help**

Get answers to questions on the school year, technology/internet access, and other topics

**Budget**

Gain information about the HCPSS operating budget process, including a schedule and related documents

**Report Bullying**

Access HCPSS' bullying reporting which allows students, parents a to easily and confidentially report incidents

**Student Well-Being****HCPSS Connect**

Get help with or connect with your student's courses, get grades and view assignments

**Academics**

Find out what we offer for K-12 instruction, Career Academies, Century learning and more

**School Information**

Locate and contact your school, identify bus stop and times, and get attendance area details

**Enroll**

Enroll your student in the Howard Public School System

**SUPPORTS**

Working to support your child and their needs throughout the school year

**JUMP TO...****Your Child's Daily Activities**

Food services, transportation, before and after care

**Special Education**

Supporting all students to receive a free appropriate public education

**Health & Safety**

Health, mental health, and safety

**Enroll Your Child**

Register your child for school online

**Black Student Achievement Program**

Closing achievement gaps for African American students

**Working Together to Support Your Child**

- You can access **Enrollment** information from the Homepage, Early Childhood Programs, or Supports.



- The early admission application process is designed for students born within a designated window.
- Those seeking school enrollment one year early can find application information here.



## Step 1 – Assess Eligibility and Needs

### New Students

Students who have never attended a HCPSS school must be registered by their custodial parent (biological, adoptive, legal guardian).

### New Kindergarten Students

Children must be 5 years old by September 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. Every child who is 5 years old by September 1 must be enrolled in a kindergarten program this fall or have an [approved waiver](#).

[More information about registering a Kindergarten student →](#)

Note: Is your child assigned to Hanover Hills Elementary School for the 2018-2019 school year? If so, please follow the instructions using your [2017-18 assigned school](#).

### New Pre-Kindergarten Students

HCPSS offers a half-day prekindergarten program. Students must be four years old by September 1, 2018 to be considered for enrollment.

Unlike enrollment for K-12, parents must apply for admission to pre-kindergarten. [Learn more →](#)

### Seeking Early Admission?

[Find out more and see if your child qualifies →](#)

## Step 2 – Find Your School

Parents must live in the attendance area of the school where they plan to enroll their student. Use our School Locator tool to find and verify your school and attendance area.



[Verify your child's school attendance area](#)



### Step 3 – Gather Documentation

Having all your documentation prepared in advance of registration will keep the process moving quickly.

#### Student Identification Documentation

- Student's evidence of birth (birth certificate, passport/visa, physician's certificate, baptismal or church certification, hospital certificate, parent/s affidavit or birth registration.)
- Proof of parental relationship, custody, or guardianship. If applicable, bring legal proof of custody (court order).
- Any additional paperwork that may be necessary due to special living arrangements or circumstances.

#### Academic Documentation

- Student's most recent grade report, transcript, report card from last school attended at time of withdrawal.
- Documentation of Special Education (IEP), 504, Psychological Report, or related services.

#### Parent Identification Documentation

- Parent picture ID: driver's license, passport, MVA identification or other legal form of photographic identification.
- Signed original, current lease or deed with your address, valid dates, signatures.
- Current utility bill with name and address (non-cellular telephone, gas and electric, cable bill issued in the last 45 days.)

#### Health Documentation

- Student's current proof of immunizations signed by physician. [Learn more about the immunizations required for enrollment →](#)

Students who have never attended a Howard County public school have certain health documents to submit with their enrollment paperwork. [Learn more about these forms and find additional forms for diabetic students, students with allergies, and student medications](#)

- Required documentation for registration is listed here.
- Specific, updated information related to health documentation (immunizations, medication, allergies, etc.) can be found at the link.



## BEGIN ONLINE REGISTRATION

Online Registration is now open to enroll new HCPSS K-12 students for the 2020-2021 school year.

[Guide to Online Registration for New Students](#)

### Grades 1-12

If you would like to register your child for the 2020-2021 school year, please complete the online registration by clicking on "Begin Online Registration." While completing the online registration form, you can also upload the required documents. Your child's school will contact you to schedule a virtual meeting (e.g., online Google Meet) to complete the registration process. During this virtual meeting, you will be asked to verify parental relationship and submit any additional required documentation.

### Kindergarten

If you would like to register for kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year, please complete the online registration by clicking on "Begin Online Registration". While completing the online registration form, you can also upload the required documents. Your child's school will contact you to schedule a virtual meeting to complete the registration process. During this virtual meeting, you will be asked to verify parental relationship and submit any additional required documentation.

[Specifics on 2020-2021 Kindergarten Registration](#)

**Note:** Parents/guardians without access to a computer should contact their child's school for assistance in completing the registration form.

### Prekindergarten

[Specifics on 2020-2021 Pre-K Application](#)

### Step 5 – Finalize Registration and Meet Your New School

After beginning the registration process online, your child's school will contact you to schedule a virtual meeting to complete the registration process.



[Find your school's contact information](#)

- After gathering the required documents, begin the online registration process.
  - *Parents/guardians without access to a computer should call their child's designated school for more information.*
- Finalize registration with your assigned school. This final step confirms area residency, guardianship of the child and ensures that the registration process is completed correctly.



# Kindergarten Registration Begins

## March 8–12, 2021

You will need:

- ▣ Picture I.D. (driver's license, passport, MVA identification or other legal form of photographic identification.)
- ▣ Current lease or deed (to show address, valid dates, signatures)
- ▣ Current utility bill with name and address
- ▣ Child's evidence of birth (birth certificate, passport/visa, physician's certificate, baptismal or church certification, hospital certificate, parent/s affidavit or birth registration)
- ▣ Child's current proof of immunizations
- ▣ Proof of custody, if applicable



# Kindergarten Registration Begins

## March 8–12, 2021

- ▣ Language support is available at the International Student Registration Center.
- ▣ Children already enrolled in a HCPSS school as a prekindergarten student DO NOT need to re-enroll for kindergarten. Parents will receive information from child's current school and records will be transferred.
- ▣ If you are buying, building or leasing a home in another attendance area than where you live, contact the office that handles out-of-district requests at 410-313-6997.
- ▣ For any questions regarding residency, multiple family living arrangements, homeless students, or custody/guardianship issues, please contact the Office of Pupil Personnel at 410-313-6646 or 410-313-6822.



# Kindergarten Registration Begins

## March 8-12, 2021

- ▣ If you cannot register March 8-12, that's ok, but you are encouraged to register early to receive information about upcoming kindergarten transition events, etc.





# Events At YOUR School May Include

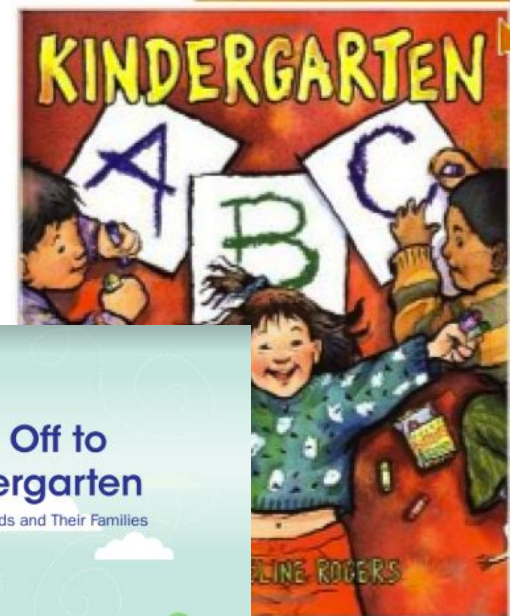
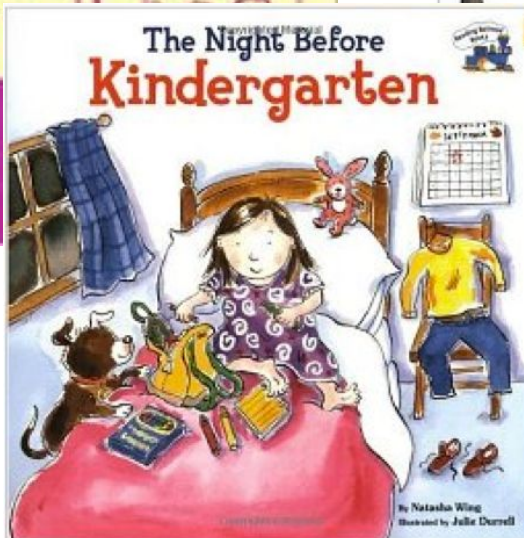
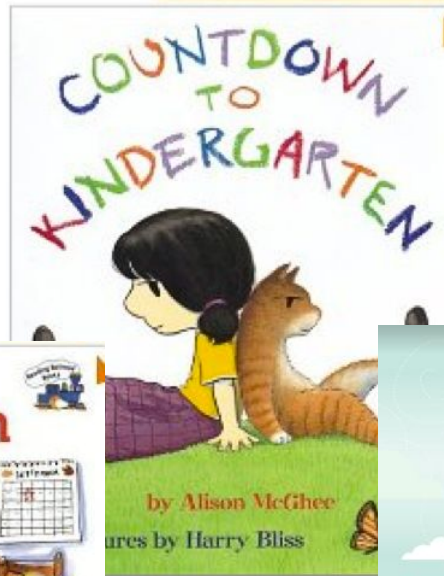
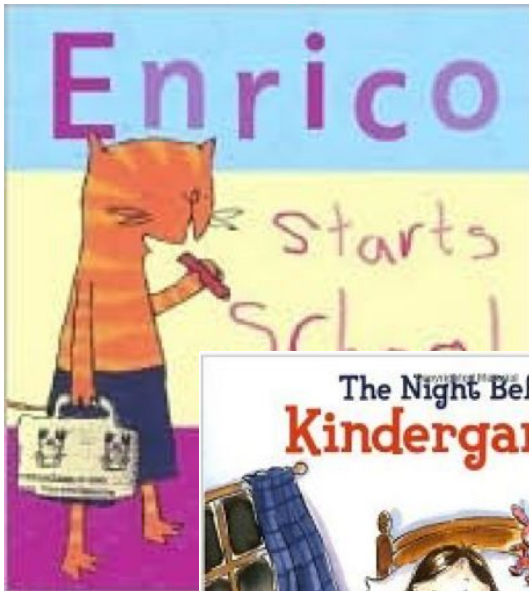
## **Sample of School Events for Parents and/or Children\***

- ▣ Visitation / Tours
- ▣ Parent Information Session
- ▣ Spring Picnic
- ▣ Summer Playdates
- ▣ Orientation
- ▣ Back-to-School Night

*\*Not all events listed occur at every school. Information about events specific to your child's school will be shared when you register.*



# Read Stories About School With Your Child!





# Advice for Kindergarten Parents

- ▣ Become involved in your school - find ways to volunteer, join the PTA, go to school events!
- ▣ Sign up for email or text alerts!
- ▣ Get to know other parents!
- ▣ Never be afraid to ask questions!
- ▣ Know that it's *normal* to feel a wide range of emotions!
- ▣ Share your excitement and curiosity with your child...but not your anxiety!



Have a great next stop in  
**KINDERGARTEN!**





Any Questions?

Please call the  
Office of Early Childhood Programs  
410-313-5693