



Lime Kiln Middle School

Leopard's Tale

October 1, 2020

A Message from Administration

Dear Lime Kiln Families,

It really is a great feeling to have our students back in school, wrapped in a routine that we all can appreciate. School brings a semblance of normalcy and our students are settling in and mastering the routines. Thank you for your supporting voice, actions, and patience. We call that Teamwork!

In our visits to classrooms, we saw that students are engaged, asking questions, making comments, and aptly multi-tasking as the digital natives they are. Staff members have created very welcoming environments and are using instructional resources that really pull students into the lessons. It is truly amazing how resilient and adaptable students and staff are. Their participation in virtual learning/instruction demonstrates the importance of being life-long learners.

As we get ready to move into the month of October, we wanted to take this opportunity to highlight our PTA and remind you to submit your membership forms. By joining the PTA, you ensure that your voice is heard on a national level. Please join today.

As you read through the remainder of this newsletter, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Dr. Genée Varlack and Mrs. Carol Ketterman

LKMS Important Dates and News

Mark your Calendars!

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|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| October 7 | 9:00 AM- MAP Testing (Reading) |
| October 14 | 9:00 AM MAP Testing (Math) |

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|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| October 16 | 3 Hour Early Dismissal - Professional Work Day |
| November 3 | Election Day – Schools and Offices Closed |
| November 6 | 3 Hour Early Dismissal - Professional Work Day |
| November 16-20 | American Education Week |

View our full [calendar](#) for LKMS News

MAP Testing

As a reminder, HCPSS middle schools are administering the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP®) assessment to provide information on student instructional skill levels and to help schools and teachers measure where your student is starting the year academically. Please make sure your student gets a good night's rest, eats breakfast, and is ready to do his/her best on each testing day.

All students will take the Math test, **except**:

- Students in High School Math courses (Algebra and Geometry), including 6th graders taking Algebra
- Students in the IRC Program

All students will take the Reading test, **except**:

- Students in English 8 GT students
- Students in the IRC program

Students will use their Leopard Pride Homeroom Google Meet code to test on Wednesday, October 7th and Wednesday, October 14th

- MAP Reading assessment- Wednesday, October 7th at 9:00-11:00 a.m.*
- MAP Math assessment- Wednesday, October 14th at 9:00-11:00 a.m.*

**If your student is unable to attend the 9:00 a.m. session(s), s/he should attend at 1:00 p.m. on October 7th for Reading or at 1:00 p.m. on October 14th for Math.*

Please remind your student that s/he needs to access Canvas to complete a brief module entitled "*Middle School MAP Device Preparation*" no later than **Friday, Oct. 2nd**.

Media Center Updates

Mrs. Garnto and Mrs. Cuesta will be holding Technology Support office hours on Wednesdays, 9:00am-10:00am. The Meeting Code is **lkms-techsupport-Wed**. Additional HCPSS virtual technology supports can also be located on our [HCPSS](#) page. If your student is still experiencing technology trouble, please complete our LKMS Technology [Survey](#) and a member of our Leopard Technology Team will reach out to our students. Stay tuned for more information about our new "**Library Curbside Book Checkout Service**" that will begin the week of September 29!

LKMS Attendance Reporting Procedures

Absence Reporting School ****NEW**** Email: LKMSabsence@hcpss.org.

- This mailbox will be monitored during school hours for the purpose of receiving absence notes from home; parents providing physician's notes, late arrival, and early dismissal notes.
- The school must receive a **note from the parent or physician** explaining the absence/tardiness of a student within two school days of the student's return or the absence/tardiness will be unlawful/unexcused. *Students are not permitted to submit absence notes.*
- NOTE: Parents are automatically opted into receiving email notifications when students are marked absent or tardy, however, you may opt-out when you complete the Family File. If you would like to opt-out, you may edit the Family File through [HCPSS Connect](#). Please refer to Policy 9010 to review policies and procedures for excused and unexcused absences. <https://www.hcpss.org/policies/9000/9010-attendance/>.

Discretionary Absences: Absences for discretionary days require principal approval to be excused ([form](#) attached). Please refer to Policy 9010 Implementation Section III.K.3, <https://policy.hcpss.org/9000/9010/implementation/>.

Religious Observance: For absences in observance of a religious holiday, please complete the attached [form](#). Refer to Policy 3000 <https://policy.hcpss.org/3000/3000/>.

If you need further assistance, you may email our School Counseling Secretary, Rhonda Hill, rhonda_hill@hcpss.org.

PTA News

Being Virtual Does Not Stop the PTA!!! We are excited to plan activities for staff and students this year. We need your financial help to make it happen. **Visit www.lkmspta.membershiptoolkit.com and become a member today.** Thanks so much for your support!

Help Shape 2020-2021 School Year! The LKMS PTA is looking for your input to help shape the 2020-2021 school year! We want to know the types of events and activities that you and your kids want the PTA to focus on this year so we use our resources effectively and make this the best year we can! **We hope you will take a moment to fill out this [brief survey](#) so we can start planning out our year!**

The PTA Needs You! The PTA cannot function without volunteers! We need our parents to pitch in, even if it is just on a limited basis. Tell us how much time that you can help and what you are interested in and we will adapt it to our needs. **Please consider volunteering by completing this brief [volunteer form](#).** Thank you.

Link Your Rewards! You can contribute to Lime Kiln, just by shopping! All you have to do is link your rewards memberships with Lime Kiln Middle School and we receive a percentage of your purchases. Keep in mind that you have to re-link your accounts each year!

- [Link your Amazon account](#) - Select Lime Kiln Middle School PTA as the charity
- [Link your Harris Teeter VIC Card](#)
- [Link your Safeway eScrip Program](#)
- [Link to Box Tops for Education](#)

Order Your Lime Kiln Spirit Wear Online: Our LKMS PTA is pleased to offer online spirit wear sales for the 2020/21 school year. Lime Kiln Spirit Wear is available through our online store (www.limekilnspritwear.com) with over 100 items and 12 designs from which to choose. **FREE shipping is available 9/18/20 through 10/5/20.** All orders are processed as received and shipped directly to your home or designated shipping address. The LKMS spirit wear online store will be active throughout the school year. Express your school spirit and support your LKMS PTA!

HCPSS News and Information

The Council of Elders (TCOE) and HCPSS Workshops

TCOE and HCPSS have partnered to sponsor a parent workshop series. There will be a total of four workshops offered and each session will be held virtually. The flyer is [attached](#) and can be shared with families in your school community.

HCASC Officer Team for 2020-21

Congratulations to the students listed below who will serve as this year's officers for the Howard County Association of Student Councils!

- President: Chris Lidard, Centennial High School
- Vice President: Josh Drasin, Long Reach High School
- Corresponding Secretary: Dhriti Vadlakonda, River Hill High School
- Second Vice President: Laila James, Wilde Lake Middle School

Free Student Meals

The [food services program during the first semester](#) of the 2020-2021 school year will through Friday from 8-9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at all schools except Burleigh Meals are free for all students through December.

Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMS) Program:

View our Food and Nutrition Services webpage for information and a new application for the [Free and Reduced Meals program](#) for the 2020-2021 school year.

Community News and Programs

The **Community News and Programs** webpage contains brief announcements of upcoming events and announcements from community and non-profit organizations. Please visit [Community News and Programs](#) on the HCPSS website for all announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

Connect with Us:



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