



PTA NEWSLETTER

HMS PTA Website: www.hammondmiddlepta.org

HMS PTA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HammondMiddlePTA/>

New Design!

FREE EVENT: *Screenagers* film April 25th 6:30 HMS

Upcoming Events

April 11

PTA Meeting, 6:30PM

Spring Break!

4/15-4/22

April 24

Restaurant Night: 11am-9pm
[Shake Shack](#)

April 25

Screenagers Movie, 6:30pm

April 26

[Color Run Ticket](#) Deadline

Free Event: *Screenagers* film at HMS! April 25th 6:30pm

Come watch *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age* in the HMS gym.

Learn more about the film [here!](#)

[RSVP here](#), space is limited!

This is a free event, sponsored by our Horizon Foundation Grant.



Give Mom a Perfect Gift for the Family Participate in the HMS Spring Color Run

Start celebrating Mother's Day early by participating in a fun family fitness event and creating a colorful memory at HMS Spring Color Fun Run!

May 11, 2019 (9:00 AM – 11:30 AM) at Hammond Middle School.

Buy Tickets by April 26th to save money & enter for a chance to win a gift card. Your early registration will help us immensely in our planning efforts.

- Online registration & ticket purchase will SOON become available on HMS PTA [website](#)
- To print the registration form and send to school with your payment, please click [here](#). (*Note: Paper registration form can be sent to homeroom teachers*)

What is a Color Run?

A Color Run is a 5K/1mile fun run/walk event that celebrates the end of each mile, as well as the end of the race, with a dousing of colored corn starch. The corn starch is 100% food grade and will wash off. Each participant is asked to wear a white shirt to the race, which will get colored from the corn starch. At the end of the race, all the participants gather together to create a rainbow of color. Please contact contact Mary Coleman at 1stVP@hammondmiddlepta.org or Anna Beavan at 2ndVP@hammondmiddlepta.org with any questions.

FREE EVENT: *Angst* screening and discussion. [RSVP HERE](#).



March PTA Meeting at a Glance

Dr. Dale's Updates: 8th grade celebration has a tentative date of Friday June 21 (1/2 day), still need to confirm HS location for the ceremony; a social worker and behavior therapist has started servicing students at HES and HMS; PARCC testing coming in May.

PTA Board Updates: Board members researching information and cost for a marquee; Free events from the Horizon Foundation Grant this month; Restaurant night at Shake Shack this month; Staff Appreciation Week coming in May.

Nominating Committee in search of new members for the 2019-2020 school year! Contact [Tara Terry](#) for more info!

Please consider one of the following positions:

- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Membership Committee Chair
- Adopt- A- Staff Committee Chair
- Staff Appreciation Committee Co-chair
- Shopping Benefits Chair
- Box Tops Chair
- Student Directory Chair
- Fall Fling Committee Chair
- Color Run Committee Chair
- Spirit Wear Co-Chair

PTACHC News from April's Meeting

- Presentation from **Bright Minds** by Lisa Terry (See attachment). Bright minds is a Public School Education Foundation (not-for-profit). On 5/7 at Long Reach HS, they are hosting a night of honor to award 20 teachers, out of over 250 nominees, that have gone above and beyond, as well as a principal and teacher of the year. Tickets are \$15
- Proposed **Dress Code Changes**: Click [here](#).

In the Community

Suicide Prevention, QPR TRAINING

April 13 from 11am-1pm

May 1 from 9am-11am

Question. Persuade. Refer
Training

In collaboration with Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Horizon Foundation is offering **FREE TRAINING** for the community on how to identify key warning signs of suicide, how to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide, how to get help for someone in crisis. Register [HERE!](#)

ANGST Film and Discussion Tues. April 9th & Wednesday April 10th

A film and discussion about what anxiety looks like in children and teens. Film begins at 6:30 at the following locations. [RSVP HERE](#).

Glenelg High April 9th

Mt. Hebron High April 10th

This is a FREE event! Parents are encouraged to bring middle school and high school students to view this film. Discussion panel following the film with experts and teens.

- **Regarding APFO in the State Assembly** – PTA members were asked to **call Maggie Mackintosh (Chair of appropriations committee) at 410-841-3407**, and ask her to move HB1409 for a vote. This bill will allow Counties to adjust (upwards) the amount of fees / taxes charged to developers when they build residential units.
- In July of 2019, **the school calendars** in control of counties, overriding a veto by Governor Hogan. Likely no impact to 2020 school year calendar.
- **County Bill CB172019** – regarding lengthening time available to redress **APFO** deficiencies for a school – PTACHC passed a motion in support of this bill.
- **CB492019** – regarding **the purchase of land for HS#13**, the current contract on the table would allow the developer 500 adjacent acres which would be outside the rules of APFO and other regulations. PTACHC passed a motion in support of the land purchase, but against allowing those 500 acres to be developed outside of existing regulations.
- PTACHC passed a motion to support the County Council introducing legislation that would require **red light cameras on every school bus in Howard County**. There is a major problem currently with motorists not obeying the stop signs that the buses are equipped with.
- **Dr. Marirano, HCPSS Superintendent main points** include:
 - The focus of the School System is to be **responsive to the community**
 - There are **59,000 students and 12,000 school system employees**
 - The budget was determined with input from the community
 - The **Health Care deficit** had reached \$50Million, and is now down to \$37Million. Plan is to reduce this to zero in the coming years.
 - 85% of the **budget** is spent on paying employees like teachers, and teachers are a priority of his.
 - **Mental illness** is a serious concern, and the budget pays for more school counselors and psychologists.
 - Including classrooms provided by portables, **all schools in HCPSS are below 110% capacity**
 - Deferred maintenance of the **county's aging schools** (Roofs, HVAC etc) is a growing problem and capital budget shortfalls will be an ongoing issue. He encouraged community members to reach out to the County Exec and County Council to voice concerns around keeping our schools great places for students to learn.
 - He seemed very sure that **redistricting would need to happen**, this will likely be a big topic of discussion in the coming months.
 - They are still considering adjustments to **school start times** (later start for HS)



Spring is in the air!

Cool mornings & evenings, arm days in the sunshine.

Show your school spirit by wearing HMS spirit wear. There is a limited selection of long and short sleeve t-shirts among other items. If you are interested in what is available check out the inventory and contact Christina Alvarez spiritwear@hammondmiddlepta.org