



Justin FitzGerald, Principal  
Trish Lannon, Assistant Principal

**Friday, April 9th**

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

<b>April 12</b>	<b>School Spirit Day - Tye Dye Day!</b>
April 13	Virtual PTA Meeting at 6:30pm <a href="https://meet.google.com/emf-cajz-zwy">https://meet.google.com/emf-cajz-zwy</a>
April 14	End of 3rd Quarter/Schools Close 3-Hours Early
April 22	Q3 Report Cards Ready to View in HCPSS Connect
<b>April 30</b>	<b>School Spirit Day - College Day</b> (wear any items with college or school names)
<b>May 4</b>	<b>School Spirit Day - Star Wars Day</b> "May the 4th Be With You!"
May 10	Cohort A/Group E School Pictures
May 12	Virtual Students School Pictures
May 14	Cohort B/Group E School Pictures
<b>May 14</b>	<b>School Spirit Day - Crazy Hat Day</b>

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:** Greetings, Guilford! I trust everyone had a fun and restful Spring Break. Now that we are back, we are in the home stretch for the 2020-2021 school year. At Guilford, we prefer to make the days count, rather than counting down the days. With that said, it doesn't hurt mentioning that there are only 45 school days left until we reach the finish line on June 15th.

You may not realize it, but it is Assistant Principal Appreciation Week! Here at Guilford, we are fortunate to have the most amazing, extraordinary, hard-working Assistant Principal in all of Maryland....TRISH LANNON!!!! Mrs. Lannon is quite simply THE BEST!!! I cannot thank her enough for her tireless efforts to help support our students, staff, and families. From the bottom of all of our Guilford hearts, THANK YOU MRS. LANNON!!!!

Just a friendly reminder that the next PTA Board Meeting is this coming Tuesday, April 13th at 6:30pm. We hope to see you then. If there is anything you need, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Lannon or myself. Have a great weekend!

Justin FitzGerald, Proud Guilford Principal

# HOT OFF THE PRESSES

**CHANGE OF CLOTHES:** It is a great idea to pack a full change of clothes in a ziplock baggie for your child and keep it in their backpack. This way, if they have an accident at school, we have clean/dry clothing that they can change into. We will then put the wet clothing in the bag and send them home to be washed. Thanks.

**RAMADAN:** Ramadan begins the evening of April 12th this year. Any students who are fasting and attending school in-person may request an alternative activity, such as reading a book, during their lunch period. It will be held away from the cafeteria. Please email our school counselor, Mrs. Clarke (michelle\_clarke@hcpss.org) if you would like your child to have an alternative activity while fasting.

**FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** The Catholic Community of Ascension and St. Augustine has partnered with Lancaster Foods, and we have received a grant from the US Department of Agriculture to distribute boxes of food that contain 30.5 pounds of fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy, and meat. The boxes will be distributed on Saturdays in April beginning at 10:00 am and ending at noon, or earlier if the food is gone. The distribution will take place at Ducketts Lane Elementary School, 6501 Ducketts Lane, Elkridge, MD 21075, on the following dates:

- Saturday, April 10, 2021
- Saturday, April 17, 2021
- Saturday, April 24, 2021

Each vehicle or walker will be eligible to receive two boxes of food, and all participants must wear a face mask during pickup. There are no income or documentation restrictions. We have requested over 2,000 boxes of food, but once the food is gone it is gone. You are welcome to come each week that the program is available to receive food.

Questions? Please contact ccastafooddistribution4@gmail.com.

**SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION:** Online enrollment requests for currently enrolled HCPSS students opened on Monday, March 15 at 6pm for the following programs:

- BSAP Summer Institute (Entering Grades K-9)
- Gifted and Talented Summer Institutes for Talent Development (Entering Grades 1-8)
- STARTALK Chinese Language Summer Camp (Grades 3-8)

More information can be found here:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2021/03/2021-summer-programs-registration-to-open-march-15/>

*\*NOTE: Invitations for eligible HCPSS students for Academic Intervention and Extended School Year Special Education programs will come directly from the school or special education team.*

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:** 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. More information can be found by going here: <https://www.hcpss.org/enroll/kindergarten/>

**PRE-K REGISTRATION:** Pre-K Registration begins the week of March 15, 2021. Children must be 4 years old by September 1, 2021 and families must meet eligibility requirements. [PreK registration information.](#)

The [Prekindergarten Family and Community Resources](#) page also contains resources for families and providers for children currently in their prekindergarten year.

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## **WORTH REPEATING**

**ABSENCE NOTES:** Please send all emails about student absences to [GESAbsence@hcpss.org](mailto:GESAbsence@hcpss.org). Please include:

1. student's first and last name
2. grade
3. homeroom teacher
4. dates of absence
5. specific reason for absence. (Ex: sick, doctor appt, etc)

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND SO HAVE RUNNY NOSES, SNIFFLING, & RED, IRRITATED EYES:** Per the CDC, if a student has a runny nose/nasal congestion, a sore throat or a new onset cough due to the nasal drainage, your child will be sent home with symptoms of a COVID like illness.

If your child has seasonal allergies and suffers from these symptoms, the health room will need a doctor's note that states that the condition is related to their history of seasonal allergies and the student is not contagious and may remain in school. Please feel free to call the Health Room for any questions you may have with this. Thank you for being proactive in helping us keep all students and staff well.

**SCHOOL GROUNDS & ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY:** With the return of hybrid in-person instruction, our school has students and staff between the hours of 8:50am - 4:20pm Monday - Friday. Visitors are **not permitted** to use school grounds during these hours.

Additionally, per [HCPSS Policy](#), animals in schools or offices, whether leashed or not, present safety, environmental, and liability issues. Students and staff may be exposed to potential physical hazards, such as bites, and/or allergy-related health problems. As a result, **animals are prohibited** within Howard County Public School (HCPSS) buildings.

Animals are also prohibited on school system property during arrival, dismissal, recess, and other HCPSS-sponsored outdoor activities. Please spread the word in the community for the safety and security of our students and staff, visitors and animals are not permitted on school grounds during the school day.

**SHOES FOR PHYS ED:** Just a reminder that all students attending school in person will need to wear tennis shoes or sneakers to fully participate in Physical Education. In addition, the only jewelry the county permits students to wear during in-person P.E. are stud earrings and fitness trackers. Thank you!

**WATER BOTTLES FOR PE:** Please remember to have your student pack a water bottle for school, especially on P.E. days. The water fountains are not available for students to drink directly from. Thank you!

**HEALTH ROOM INFORMATION:** Please make sure you take some time to read all the information that the health room sent out concerning the return to hybrid. You can read their info [HERE](#).

**TECHNOLOGY HELP:** During virtual learning, all sorts of things can come up. We are here to help you! Please use [THIS GOOGLE FORM](#) whenever you need help with your Chromebook, Canvas, Google Meet, your Family File, etc. Mr. Incavido or Mrs. Tarash will then respond to your request for help.

**STUDENTS EXPERIENCING INTERNET DIFFICULTIES:** The county has prepared a [FAQ Document](#) that was developed to help students and parents/guardians understand the process for when they are experiencing internet or power outages that are preventing them from engaging in virtual instruction. Please refer to it when you have any issues.

**CHROMEBOOK CARE WEBPAGE:** Please be aware of a new webpage for students, [Chromebook Care](#), which includes tips on caring for and transporting Chromebooks, as well as student mobile technology duties, obligations, and additional resources.

**FIXING CHROMEBOOK AND LEXIA ISSUES:** We are fielding a lot of emails about Lexia and Chromebook issues, so we need your help! Please follow the directions below to clean out their cookies and cache. You can also look at [THESE GOOGLE SLIDES](#) if it makes it easier. Thanks!

1. Click on the 3 dot menu in the upper right corner of Chrome.
2. Go down to 'More Tools' and over to 'Clear Browsing Data.'
3. Change the time frame to 'all time.'
4. Click the blue 'Clear Data' button.
5. Restart Google Chrome

**NEW HCPSS COMMUNITY NEWS & PROGRAMS SITE:** In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [Community News and Programs](#) website makes it easy for families to find educational and recreational resources, events and after-school programs beyond the school day by non-profit organizations.

Community organizations requesting their announcements be shared in school newsletters should visit [community-programs.hcpss.org](http://community-programs.hcpss.org) for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss.org).

**TITLE 1 INFORMATION:** Guilford Elementary School is a Title I School-wide Program school. Title I is a federally funded program designed to close achievement gaps and ensure all children have an opportunity to access a high-quality education by providing funding for supplemental academic services and supports.

A Family-School Compact & Plan is an agreement between families, students, and teachers that is jointly developed and distributed to all families. It explains how families, students, and teachers will work as a team to make sure all students meet with success and get the support they need to achieve grade level goals. The Guilford Elementary School Family School Compact and Calendar of Events can be found here <http://ges.hcpss.org/sites/default/files/ges-title-i-compact-calendar.pdf> for English; <http://ges.hcpss.org/sites/default/files/ges-title-i-compact-calendar-spa.pdf> for Spanish and on the Guilford Elementary School Title I can be found here <http://ges.hcpss.org/about/title-i-program>.

If you have any questions, please ask your child's teacher at your upcoming parent teacher conference. If you have any input or feedback, please contact Donna Bethune Brown at [donna\\_bethune-brown@hcpss.org](mailto:donna_bethune-brown@hcpss.org).

**HCPSS COVID-19 DASHBOARD:** [The HCPSS COVID-19 Dashboard](#) now includes a link to the Board of Education Health Metrics as well as three weeks of Howard County 7 day average positivity rates and 7-day average confirmed cases per 100,000 people.

