

OPR Penguin Post Family Edition

January Newsletter

Message from Principal Wooden

Welcome to 2023! Happy New Year to all of our families! It is my WISH that 2023 is good to all of us. As we get this next half of the school year on our way, please make sure:

- Scholars are dressed appropriately for the weather
- Scholar's shoes are tied
- Scholars get plenty of rest in order to learn each and every day
- Scholars stay home if they are feeling ill
- Scholars spend time with you reviewing school expectations



These things will help us tremendously as we try our best to focus on teaching and learning.

As you know, during the winter months, we tend to have inclement weather. At times, the weather causes schools to close or require us to start later or leave earlier. Please be sure to watch the news to keep informed of the impact that inclement weather might have on schools.

During our first three snow days, students will participate in asynchronous (learning at your own pace) learning experiences. These learning experiences will require students to be engaged in reading, math, and unified arts (PE, art, media, or music).

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) approved the HCPS application to conduct asynchronous virtual instruction on up to 3 inclement weather days. HCPS staff are diligently working to prepare a "practice" of what this will look like. **That practice is scheduled for the evening of Monday, January 9, 2023.** Prekindergarten students will receive a bag of supplies when the bags are delivered. Students in kindergarten through grade 12 will bring their device home January 9, 2023; as part of their homework, they must log into their inclement weather tile, which will appear on Canvas, and send a confirmation message to the teacher. The HCPS curriculum office is creating the assignment that every single student will do that will be a quick confirmation that they were able to get in.

Please note, if there is a need to close HCPS for inclement weather **PRIOR** to January 9, 2023, we will **NOT** utilize virtual instruction. Following the practice on the evening of January 9, 2023, HCPS plans to conduct asynchronous virtual instruction on the first 3 closures for inclement weather.

Families can expect additional details to be available on hcps.org, including information about where to access asynchronous virtual instruction, what time it will be available, as well as a Parent Academy video with additional details. This will be available prior to the January 9, 2022, scheduled "practice."

As we plan for asynchronous days, we will be sure that time is provided for students and families to play in the snow. We do not want to take that experience away from our kiddos or families. Snow days are memorable days for kiddos and families.

Once again, Happy New Year! Thank you for all of your support!

Principal Wooden

Don't Forget to Check us out on Social Media



Upcoming Important Dates

- Friday, January 13- HAC Update
- Monday, January 16- No School; Martin Luther King Day
- Friday, January 27- Quarter 2 Ends and 3 Hour Early Dismissal for Students
- Monday, January 30- Quarter 3 Begins



Grade Level Updates

Pre-K

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday celebrating with family and friends. In January we will begin our Nutcracker unit and explore elements of story. In reading we identify the following letters: C, O, Q and J. In math we explore the number 5, rote count to 15, make combinations to 5 and count on from a given number.



Kindergarten

We are excited to welcome kindergarten scholars back for 2023! We know that this new year will be full of wishes. We are excited to kick off the new year with a week of school-wide bootcamp. This will help to center us on our school-wide expectations and classroom routines. This is truly the foundation to our academic learning. We appreciate your support in reinforcing Penguin PRIDE with your scholar.



Prepared

Respectful

Integrity

Determined

Engaged

We are OPR!

1st Grade

First grade is looking forward to a productive 2023! We are working hard to become proficient readers, writers and mathematicians! This month, we are moving into working with non-fiction text in reading and writing! In math, we are extending our understanding of how addition and subtraction are related together in Topic 5. First Grade will be hosting our Learn With Me family event on February 15th! Look for details coming soon in your child's Wednesday folder!



2nd Grade

Second graders are working on building reading stamina and identifying their facts to and from 20 (addition and subtraction) in a snap! You can help at home by timing your scholar for his/her reading homework and making sure your scholar is focused on reading the whole time and letting your scholar use First in Math at home on a computer or tablet!



3rd Grade



4th Grade

Happy New Year! Welcome Back Fourth Graders! We are so excited to continue teaching and watching our fourth grade scholars persevere as readers, writers, and mathematicians as we move into 2023. Each night have your scholar read for 20 minutes, as well as to practice multiplication and division facts. Have an amazing month and keep showing your PRIDE!



5th Grade

- Students just finished up the multiplication unit and will be moving into division. Please encourage your child to continue practicing their math facts at home to help them be successful in this upcoming unit.
- Planetarium field trips will begin this month
- Continue checking and signing your child's agenda each night for daily communication.



Special Education

Special Educators and support staff look forward to supporting your child during Penguin Boot Camp when we return for the New Year. Please reach out to a case manager if you have any questions or concerns as we enter 2023!

Special Areas- Primary

- **Music:** Students will be continuing to learn song structure and beginning to learn how to combine singing and playing instruments.
- **Media:** Students are beginning their research units.
- **Art:** For January we are going to be practicing routines and working with paint in the new year.
- **P.E.:** Introducing jump rope to prepare for Jump Rope for Heart coming in February.



Special Areas- Intermediate


Welcome to the NEW YEAR 2023!!! We hope you had a fun and restful break and holiday season. During the month of January in the Intermediate building for Special Areas, we will be joining the rest


of the school in participating in reviewing our school's PENGUIN PRIDE and boot camp. In each individual Special Area classes we will be focusing on: **Media**-digital citizenship, **Music**-time signatures and conducting/theme & variation/forms of music, **Physical Ed.**- throwing/catching skills, **Art**-mono-chromatic colors/figure drawing.





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