

Atholton Community,

Welcome back, we hope everyone had a wonderful winter break. We have a busy month ahead of us with midterm exams and course recommendations for next year. Teachers will be making recommendations for students for the 2016-2017 school year between now and January 12th. Teachers and counselors will be meeting with students to discuss their courses. Students will receive their recommendation forms on January 14th in homeroom. All forms are to be turned in to their 3rd period teacher on January 25th. Students will not receive course catalogs this year, instead they may be located at <http://www.hcpss.org/f/academics/hs-catalog-2016-17.pdf>. Please contact your child's teacher or counselor if you have a question. On January 14th from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. we are planning to have an information night for our parents and students to review 2016-17 course offerings. Breakout sessions will include English, Math, Social Studies, Science, Related Arts, Technology and World Language. In addition we will have sessions on Naviance Training, AP test Registration, GT Research, Project Lead the Way, ARL programs, AHS Career Academics, AP Course Expectations, AP Course Information, and Freshman scheduling. Please join us!

As we think ahead, there will be several opportunities for seniors to speak or perform at the commencement ceremony. Any graduating senior is eligible to speak or perform and in order to be considered, the senior will audition in front of a panel of teachers. Auditions will be held on February 2, 2016 at 2:30 PM in the Choir room. Any senior who would like the opportunity to audition should sign up for a time slot on the bulletin board in the media center. Parents, a **diploma signature form** must be completed and signed by you, and returned to the student services office no later than January 22, 2016. Ms. Beneski, Student Services Secretary, must receive this form from all graduating seniors so we can be sure that all names are correctly spelled on diplomas. These forms can be found on our website at <http://ahs.hcpss.org/news/2015/12/graduation-news>

While we are on the topic of graduation, two additional changes have been made to our commencement ceremony procedures. Collaboratively the high schools decided to go with a single color gown for graduation and students will line up in alphabetical order to receive their diplomas. These changes will allow families to better predict when their student's name will be called and will facilitate the efficient distribution of diplomas. Seniors will be participating in an assembly on January 14th during homeroom and we are planning on having our senior class pick the color for our graduation gown this year. We will be presenting a few options with an accent trim color. The *League of Women's Voters* will also provide an opportunity for seniors to register to vote. Each senior is expected to bring (1) driver's license or last four digits of SSN; (2) a decision on voter affiliation--note MD has a closed primary election; and (3) a ball point pen to complete the application.

Seniors will also receive an order packet for graduation attire (cap and gown) and accessories from our Balfour representative Mr. Mahoney.

Information regarding senior activities is located on the homepage of the Atholton HS website at <http://ahs.hcpss.org/news/2015/12/graduation-2016> and will be updated regularly.

JoAnn C. Hutchens
Principal

New Information:

Midterm Mania

Ninth grade students will be experiencing midterm exams for the first time and may not know what to expect or how to prepare for them. Our ninth grade teachers are offering tutoring sessions after school from 2:15 – 3:00pm on January 12th, 13th, and 14th. Tuesday, January 12th will be English help in room C138. Wednesday, January 13th will be Social Studies help in room C131 and Spanish help in room C148. Thursday, January 14th will be math help in room A107 and Science help in room G207. If you have questions, please contact Lisa Daciek at Lisa_Daciek@hcpss.org.

High School Semester Examination Week

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 - Full day – Period 1 Exam followed by revised Bell Schedule. No extra curricular activities including practices, rehearsals, events, etc.

Wednesday, January 20, 2016 -Day 2 -Examinations – Periods 2 & 3

Schools close 3 hours early. No extra curricular activities except conditioning practices, which may begin at 2:45 p.m.

Thursday, January 21, 2016 -Day 3 - Examinations – Periods 4A & 4B

Schools close 3 hours early. No extra curricular activities except conditioning practices, which may begin at 2:45 p.m.

Friday, January 22, 2016 -Day 4 -Examinations – Periods 5 & 6

Schools close 3 hours early. All extra curricular activities resume at 2:45pm

Inclement Weather for Exams

1. If schools are CLOSED on Tuesday, January 19, the period 1 exam would need to be moved to Monday, January 25th.
2. If there is a delayed opening on January 19, it will most likely be a two-hour delay. Schools will open at 9:25 a.m. and close at 2:10 p.m. If there is a delayed opening on either January 21 or 22, schools will be closed as all schools are already scheduled to close three hours early on those days.
3. If there is a snow day on either January 20, 21 or 22, the exams scheduled for that day will be given on the next school day, with the remaining exams sliding to the following school day.
4. All extra curricular activities will resume on Friday, January 22, regardless of late opening or snow days.

Graduation information

Parents/students please use this link <http://ahs.hcpss.org/news/2015/12/graduation-news> to locate information regarding graduation.

Parent Conferences

Parent Conferences will take place on Thursday, February 4 from 4:00-7:30pm and Friday, February 5 from 11-2:30pm. Parents can register for conferences through Synergy beginning January 25 and the conference window closes on February 2, 2016. Parents can log into HCPSS Connect to view and select from the time slots provided by the teacher for the conference. There are limited slots for Parent/Teacher Conferences in February. Please only make an appointment if you have a concern/question with your student's performance. If you have a concern or question throughout the school year, the staff is available for conferences anytime.

Are you considering a career in Engineering or Computer Science? Come to a special meeting of the **AHS Student Women Engineers (SWE) on Monday, January 11th 2:15-3:15 in Room E171!!** Women engineering students from UMCP and UMBC will be talking about their internship and work experiences in their chosen engineering specialties. Pizza will be served. Contact Jean_Fregeau@hcpss.org for more information.

Join us for the annual Pops Concert on Saturday Night at 7pm. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

January Fruit orders are due by Friday, January 8. You can order on-line at www.atholtonmusic.org. This is the only month that delicious Tangelos are offered, please order TODAY!

Orioles Fundraiser Information Night is Monday, January 11 at 7pm in the Music Room. This is the largest fundraiser for the Music Boosters and we need LOTS of volunteers to make it work. For more information please contact Dave Littman at lippyd@comcast.net or Kelly Meissner at ahsmusicpresident@gmail.com.

HCASC invites all middle and high school students interested in leadership with a purpose to participate in our unique student-run monthly meetings the second

Wednesday of every month to:

- learn leadership skills and best practices
- discuss current events impacting students in HCPSS

-explore ways to make a difference in their schools and communities
-have fun!

Come see what 100 student leaders, athletes, and artists, who meet each month already know- HCASC is for students who want to get involved and work together to make their schools and HCPSS as strong as it can be.

Next meeting Wednesday 1/13 7-8:30 at the Homewood School 10914 MD-108, Ellicott City, MD 21042. For more information contact cindy_drummond@hcpss.org

Greg's Driving School 2016 Dates

Please contact Greg's Driving School for more information or to register: <http://www.gregsdrivingschool.net/> or call 301-829-7387. Cost is \$365.

Classes 2016 During the School Year (2:45 pm - 6:00 pm)

January 25, 2016 - February 9, 2016 (Mon - Fri) - No class Fri, Feb 5 or Mon, Feb 8 (schools closed)

February 22, 2016 - March 4, 2016 (Mon - Fri)

March 7, 2016 - March 18, 2016 (Mon - Fri)

April 18, 2016 - May 18, 2016 (Mon/Wed)

April 19, 2016 - May 24, 2016 (Tue/Thu) - No class Tue, April 26

Tentative Summer Schedule (9:00 am - 12:15 pm)

June 20, 2016 - July 1, 2016 (Mon - Fri)

July 5, 2016 - July 18, 2016 (Mon - Fri)

July 19, 2016 - August 1, 2016 (Mon - Fri)

The Answer SAT/ACT Test Prep

has classes for both the New SAT and ACT. To register, please visit:

<http://theanswerclass.com/> or call 410-997-3006.

Redesigned SAT (choose the two-day class that works best for your family's schedule):

M/W Jan. 11 & 13, 2016, or

T/Th Feb. 23 & 25, 2016, or

T/Th April 12 & 14, 2016, or

M/W May 2 & 4, 2016

ACT Prep Dates (choose the two-day class that works best for your family's schedule):

Tu/Th March 22 & 24, 2016

Tu/Th May 24 & 26, 2016

Kaplan SAT/ACT Test Prep

Interested in proven, score-raising strategies and a longer session taught by expert teachers? Kaplan Test preparation is now enrolling students for winter and spring 2016

sessions. Six 3-hour sessions plus four (4) proctored in-class practice tests with easy-to-read score reports are being offered. All classes are held at Atholton High School. Check out this website for more information and even more events at Atholton: <http://www.kaplanatschool.com/kas.aspx>

SAT - Visit www.kaptest.com/enroll/SAT/21044 to enroll.

Winter Session Dates:

Jan 30, 2016: 9am - 1:30pm

Feb 2, 2016: 6-9pm

Feb 4, 2016: 6-9pm

Feb 9, 2016: 6-9pm

Feb 11, 2016: 6-9pm

Feb 20, 2016: 9am - 1pm

Feb 23, 2016: 6-9pm

March 1, 2016: 6-9pm

Spring Session Dates:

Apr 30, 2016: 9am - 1:30pm

May 2, 2016: 6-9pm

May 4, 2016: 6-9pm

May 11, 2016: 6-9pm

May 18, 2016: 6-9pm

May 21, 2016: 9am - 1pm

May 23, 2016: 6-9pm

Jun 1, 2016: 6-9pm

ACT-Visit <http://www.kaptest.com/act/enroll?zip=21044> to enroll and for more information.

Spring Session Dates:

Apr 30, 2016: 9am - 1:30pm

May 2, 2016: 6-9pm

May 4, 2016: 6-9pm

May 11, 2016: 6-9pm

May 18, 2016: 6-9pm

May 21, 2016: 9am - 1pm

May 23, 2016: 6-9pm

Jun 1, 2016: 6-9pm

HC Drug Free Beach Week Presentation

Mark your calendars! The PTSA is planning to host a program March 22, 2016 on "Beach Week" in the auditorium for all of Howard County families. More details to follow. Atholton is also participating in a program to get wine gift bags from the MVA and take fliers out to liquor stores in Howard County to reinforce our "Be a Parent, Not a Friend... don't make alcohol available to teens" campaign between now and February.

Student Directories

It took longer than we thought but the Directory will be out soon! Thank you for your patience as we get it printed and distributed to the families of Atholton High School.

Link Your Target Red Card

Earn money for our school! Link Atholton High School to *Target's Take Charge of Education Program*. Target is ending the program in May so please do it today! Copy and paste this link into your browser and follow the prompts when it asks to *Sign Me Up*. Visit www.target.com/tcoe and enter your school name or school ID to view and designate your current school. Questions, please contact Maureen Bentz at thebentzs@verizon.net.

Staff Appreciation

The PTSA Staff Appreciation Committee would like to extend a big "thank you" to all of the wonderful AHS families who made donations in support of the Staff Holiday Lunch on December 17: **Bader, Bagley, Bathras, Bendel, Bickel, Bracy/Nagy, Camassar, Ciccone, Clark, Colvin, Crone, Davidson, DeGrazia, Farnan, Farokhrooz, Fishkind, Florenzo, Gelbaugh, Glaros, Glenn, Hamet, Holt, Izenberg, Jackson, James, Kelly, Kelly, Kuk, Kumar, Lasher, Littmann, Lowe, Marshall, McAlduff, McAuliffe, Morris, Nguyen, Pazulski, Peraza, Perlin, Pilevsky, Qualls, Richardson, Rogofsky, Rose, Rowe, Roylo, Rubenhold, Saunders, Saula, Schwartz, Shroff, Sioma, Slaughter, Smith, Snow, Spiegel, Stegall, Stevens, Thibeault, Totaro, Uttamsingh/Gidwani, Wei, Wolfert, Wonodi, Xuan, and Yost**. Thanks to your contributions, the staff enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Panera! We would also like to thank **Sue Clemens** for helping to organize the lunch and **Sue, Sanju Purwar**, and **Deb Breeden** for helping with the set up and distribution of the lunches. We couldn't have done it without you! And last but not least, thank you to our wonderful PTSA Treasurer, **Lena Grant**, who was a huge support in tracking and acknowledging the donations. Based on the feedback we received, all of your contributions helped us brighten the staff members' holidays!

Food on the 15th offers volunteer opportunities for students of all ages, as long as they are supervised by their parent or guardian. We collect, sort and deliver free non-perishable groceries directly to low-income Howard County senior citizens.

To learn more about what we do, visit our website at www.foodonthe15th.org/ and click on the link to the video by Voice of America that explains about our program. It was translated into multiple languages and shown around the world.

To learn about our volunteer opportunities, Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Food-on-the-15th-189244471120065/>

We are always looking for students and groups to do food drives for us. We can be reached at foodonthe15th@gmail.com

Our next delivery is Saturday, January 16 at 1:00 p.m. in Ellicott City. E-mail us if you'd like to volunteer.

Previous News:

Academic Programs Night - On January 14th from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. we are planning to have an information night for our parents and students to review 2016-17 course offerings. Breakout sessions will include English, Math, Social Studies, Science, Related Arts, Technology, and World Language. In addition we will have sessions on Naviance Training, AP test Registration, GT Research, Project Lead the Way, ARL programs, AHS Career Academics, AP Course Expectations, AP Course Information, and Freshman scheduling.

Boosters:

Next Athletics Boosters Meeting Date is Monday Feb 1 @ 7pm in the Senior Cafeteria.

Atholton Night at Coho Grill

Atholton Athletic Boosters is proud to kick off the new Coho Grill Fundraiser with Atholton Night on January 22nd! Head on in for an early dinner with the family before cheering on the Raiders or join us after the basketball game for dinner, drinks, and appetizers in the bar or restaurant. To show their team spirit and support, Coho Gill will donate 10% of every check to the Atholton Athletic Boosters whenever you show this letter!

This amazing fundraiser is good on kickoff and any other time you visit Coho Grill and show them this letter! Coho Grill is the official gathering place after every Atholton home game and we can't wait to celebrate and spread our team spirit! We will plan another special AHS Happy Hour for parents, coaches and faculty soon.

NEW Email Newsletter SIGN UP

Signup to have the latest AHS Sports News and Highlights automatically emailed directly to you. Simply text the word RAIDERNATION with your email address to the number 22828

Membership Contest

Free Pizza Party to the winter sports team with the most boosters members. This fun and friendly competition is designed to encourage players and families to join AHS Athletic Boosters- the organization that supports ALL the athletic teams at Atholton. The winning team will be announced on Friday January 29th at 5 pm. Stats are being computed now. Please stay tuned for the first stats to be announced later this week. In the meantime, do your part by joining Boosters now. It's easy to signup online at <http://www.atholtonboosters.org/athletics/boosters/membership> and click on Boosters Membership.

Important Dates to Remember:

January 14	Academic Programs Night	Auditorium- 6:30pm
January 18	Martin Luther King's Birthday Schools Closed	
January 19	Mid-Terms Begin - 1 st period	
January 19	PTSA meeting	Media - 7:00 pm
January 20 - 22 - 3 hr early dismissal	Mid- Terms	
January 22	Athletic Boosters Fundraiser Raiders Night	Coho Grill
January 25	Course Recommendations for 2016-2017 school year are due to 3 rd period teachers	
January 26	Student of the Month Celebration	Cafeteria 6 th period
February 1	Reports Cards are issued	
February 2	Senior Auditions for Graduation performances	
February 4	Honor Roll Celebration	Cafeteria - 5 th and 6 th period
February 5	Schools closed for students	
February 8	Professional Learning Day - Schools closed	
February 15	Presidents Day - Schools closed	

GO RAIDERS!