

Hello again everyone!

Thanks so much to everyone for an amazing Homecoming Week at HMS!! The participation in the dress-up days, the dance, the pep rally, and all other activities was truly amazing and we want to thank our fantastic students for their enthusiasm they displayed all week!

We want to give a special shout out to first Employee of the Month for the 18-19 school for Harpeth Middle School, Officer Todd Bell! Officer Bell, since joining us last spring as our School Resource Officer, has been an incredible addition to the HMS Family. Officer Bell works tirelessly every day to help maintain the safety of our campus while also exceling in his role of providing a caring, but authoritative presence across our building with our students. He is typically among the first to arrive at our school at 6:30am each morning and goes above and beyond his responsibilities in everything that he does for us. From the entire HMS Family, congratulations to Officer Bell and our sincere thank you for everything you've done for our school since arriving! Officer Bell will be honored at the upcoming September BOE Meeting!

Questions have been raised regarding our shift at HMS to a "Standards Based Grading Model." This is not only an HMS initiative, but rather a move being made across the Cheatham County School District and in countless school systems across the country. It is a shift that we are passionately undertaking here at HMS and one that many of our teachers have been training for over many years. As we slowly make the transition into this model, we have adopted (as step 1) what we are referring to as the "90/10" grading model at HMS for the year. The 90% portion of the grade includes assessment based activities such as quizzes, tests, major writing assignments, and summative projects and revolve around assignments that test a student's knowledge over material directly. The 10% portion of the grading model can include other assignments such as practice classwork, practice homework, and class participation. Oftentimes these assignments in the 10% category have accounted for a significantly larger portion of the grade, but the focus now is on making the grade count more in the area of assessment and grading students over their direct mastery of the subject matter.

This shift in mindset can require a significant adjustment on the part of students as extra credit is no more a part of the equation and the simple "completion" of assignments will not be a significant factor in the overall grade. Students will still be expected to complete homework and classwork just as they always have and refusal to do so may request in discipline consequences at the discretion of the teacher. The difference is that teachers will utilize these methods as more a method of practice and repetition in order to better prepare students for the assessments that will more directly measure their progress.

We are developing a more detailed information sheet regarding this transition and will have that out to all students to take home soon. We want to stress again that this is merely step 1 in Dr. Beck's 3 Year Plan to bring Full Standards Based Grading to the CCSD and you will see many of the other changes that we will move towards, as part of SBG, outlined in these materials.

Couple Things To Note:

\*Please note that some teachers have already transitioned to a 100/0 model in which their tests, quizzes, projects, etc. account for 100% of the grade, while homework and classwork are merely utilized as practice activities

\*Please note also that while grades may seem a little lower at first for students that are new to this model, the grade you are seeing reflects the true level of their mastery in regard to the academic standards. Students not satisfied with their grades will have many opportunities to bring their grades up through the consistent assessments that will be given throughout the year.

Other Reminders

Just a reminder that we will be dismissing early on Wednesday September 19th for an Afternoon Teacher Professional Development!

A reminder that if you haven't had the opportunity to pay the class fees for 2018-2019, you can visit [cheathamcountyschools.retrak.net](http://cheathamcountyschools.retrak.net) and click on the HMS Logo to pay. These fees are incredibly appreciated as they go directly to supporting our teachers in their classrooms with needed materials and supplies and digital subscriptions.

Just a reminder below regarding the Parent Information Night that is coming up in the HHS Theater for the Southern Cluster on Thursday September 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm! This will be hosted by Dr. Beck, other supervisors from the Central Office, and School Administrators

CHEATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS  
**PARENT  
INFORMATION  
NIGHTS**



**SOUTH CLUSTER**  
THURSDAY, SEPT. 13  
HARPETH HIGH SCHOOL

**CENTRAL CLUSTER**  
THURSDAY, SEPT. 20  
CHEATHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

**NORTH CLUSTER**  
THURSDAY, SEPT. 27  
SYCAMORE HIGH SCHOOL

**6:30-7:30 P.M.**  
**AT EACH LOCATION**

JOIN DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS  
DR. CATHY BECK, DISTRICT  
SUPERVISORS AND SCHOOL  
ADMINISTRATORS AS THEY  
DISCUSS NEW DISTRICT  
PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.



***Message from the Central Office Regarding New Charging Policy that Begins Tomorrow***

*The Cheatham County School District wants to inform our families about an important administrative procedure for meal charges.*

*As of today, our lunch charges are already significantly higher than we would expect.*

*The procedure states that students are allowed to charge up to \$10 for breakfast and lunch. No a la carte charges are allowed.*

*Beginning Sept. 4, a student will be given an alternative lunch if their charges exceed \$10 and will continue to receive an alternative lunch that is nutritionally sound until the balance of charges are paid.*

*We will ensure that every child eats every day, and we will make sure that accommodations are made for students with specific allergies.*

*Information about checking your students accounts, as well as making payments online is available on our website at [cheathamcountyschools.net](http://cheathamcountyschools.net) under the department of School Nutrition Services.*

**Other News From Around HMS**

**From Ms. Greece:** All students joining chorus must turn in a permission slip/contract. Students who signed up for chorus with Mrs. White in the gym still need to turn in a slip.

**From Ms. Buchanan:** There will be an 7th grade parent meeting on Tuesday, September 6th at 7 pm in the cafeteria for all those interested in attending the LBL trip. We will be giving out all trip information and forms as well as answering your questions and discussing the cost of the trip. It is important that a parent be in attendance if your child is planning on going.

**From Ms. Garrison:** Cheatham Achievers will begin on September 24th. We are still taking applications if you have not yet filled one out. Contact Rachel Garrison at [rachel.garrison@ccstn.org](mailto:rachel.garrison@ccstn.org).

**From Ms. Austin:** All art students need a composition book! All art journaling club members need a composition book/ journal.

**HMS Contacts:** This list below will grow as we get into the school year. While myself and Mr. Baker are more than happy to do what we can to answer all of your questions, oftentimes we end up forwarding and concerns straight to the individuals below. We encourage you to reach out to them directly and to, of course, contact the two of us at any time if we can do anything for you!

**HMS Contact List \*\*as of 9-3**

Cheatham Achievers: [Rachel.Garrison@ccstn.org](mailto:Rachel.Garrison@ccstn.org)

5<sup>th</sup> Grade General Questions: [Brittney.Burgess@ccstn.org](mailto:Brittney.Burgess@ccstn.org)

6<sup>th</sup> Grade General Questions: [Jennifer.Roberts@ccstn.org](mailto:Jennifer.Roberts@ccstn.org)

7<sup>th</sup> Grade General Questions: [Melanie.Buchanan@ccstn.org](mailto:Melanie.Buchanan@ccstn.org)

8<sup>th</sup> Grade General Questions: [allison.mueller@ccstn.org](mailto:allison.mueller@ccstn.org)

Related Arts General Questions: [Lindsay.Greece@ccstn.org](mailto:Lindsay.Greece@ccstn.org)

School Maintenance Concerns: [Adrian.Baker@ccstn.org](mailto:Adrian.Baker@ccstn.org)

Yearbook Questions: [Karley.Parker@ccstn.org](mailto:Karley.Parker@ccstn.org) or [Lisa.Willoughby@ccstn.org](mailto:Lisa.Willoughby@ccstn.org)

Cafeteria Questions: [Amber.Hrobak@ccstn.org](mailto:Amber.Hrobak@ccstn.org)

Athletics Questions: [Devin.Allen@ccstn.org](mailto:Devin.Allen@ccstn.org)

Counseling and Skyward Questions: [Maria.Bobo@ccstn.org](mailto:Maria.Bobo@ccstn.org) or [Brittain.West@ccstn.org](mailto:Brittain.West@ccstn.org)

Nurse/Medical Questions: [Casey.Ealy@ccstn.org](mailto:Casey.Ealy@ccstn.org)

Library Questions: [Karen.Carlton@ccstn.org](mailto:Karen.Carlton@ccstn.org)

Questions regarding 1/1 Computers in 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>: [Karen.Carlton@ccstn.org](mailto:Karen.Carlton@ccstn.org)

Attendance Questions: [Kathy.Miller@ccstn.org](mailto:Kathy.Miller@ccstn.org)

School Finance Questions: [Cindy.Wells@ccstn.org](mailto:Cindy.Wells@ccstn.org)

SRO Questions: [Todd.Bell@ccstn.org](mailto:Todd.Bell@ccstn.org)

Website Questions: [Dave.Parks@ccstn.org](mailto:Dave.Parks@ccstn.org)

Chrous Questions: [Lindsay.Greece@ccstn.org](mailto:Lindsay.Greece@ccstn.org)

Youth In Government/Model UN: [Dale.McCoy@ccstn.org](mailto:Dale.McCoy@ccstn.org) or [Karley.Parker@ccstn.org](mailto:Karley.Parker@ccstn.org)

Questions about Clubs: [Ryan.Philipp@ccstn.org](mailto:Ryan.Philipp@ccstn.org)

**Bully Reporting Link for 2018-2019:**

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qmF0dn9znEScCOpe\\_cPQu\\_hGD37XFLdBkepfx1wzBIIURFM2NkVBMTRUUVIOSjVDOFNXN0ZHMjcxMC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qmF0dn9znEScCOpe_cPQu_hGD37XFLdBkepfx1wzBIIURFM2NkVBMTRUUVIOSjVDOFNXN0ZHMjcxMC4u)

**Social Media and Contacts:** Don't forget to follow us on facebook at [facebook.com/HMSIndians](https://www.facebook.com/HMSIndians) and on Twitter [@HMSIndians](https://twitter.com/HMSIndians)!

The CCSD Safety Tip Line can be reached at [tip@ccstn.org](mailto:tip@ccstn.org)

The HMS Bullying/Safety Info Line can be reached at 615-829-6072 between 7:15 and 4 on school days.

A link to the 2018-2019 student handbook is attached to this email. Please review this handbook thoroughly with your students and let us know if you have any questions! If you would like to request a paper copy of the handbook, please just respond back to this email and I will get one sent home for you!

Thanks everyone! I hope you have an awesome week!

Ryan Philipp