

October 21, 2023

Dear HPA families,

We want to take a moment to highlight a few acts of service in our school community. Our school's vision concludes by acknowledging our dedication to scholars' future lives of leadership and service, and our orientation to serving others starts early. This week, Ms. Guynn's 1st-grade class started collecting books for a 5th-grade classroom in Chicago that has a very limited classroom library. Books open worlds, tug at hearts, and inform minds. We are fortunate to have robust collections of books for our scholars, and Miss Guynn saw an opportunity to serve another classroom miles away. It is a true act of service that her scholars get to enjoy and learn what it means to help other kids. If you see Ms. Guynn, please give her a huge thank you!

Yesterday, families provided lunch for our teachers. Throughout the last month, so many of you, with coordination of the Parent Support Team have dedicated your time, effort, and more to show appreciation for our staff. From peppering the sidewalk with inspiring pictures and notes, to writing letters of gratitude, to bringing in breakfasts and lunches, to stocking the workroom with goodies, to volunteering for the fall festival, to sharing often-needed school supplies, you have shown a tremendous commitment to our school that tells HPA teachers and staff how much you care and are invested in our community. Your acts of service to our school are incredibly appreciated and help make HPA a special place to teach and learn. Thank you!

HCS Trunk-or-Treat on Sunday, 10/22

Again this year, HCS's National Honor Society will be hosting a trunk-or-treat event in the Fessler Parking lot at Herron High School (110 E. 16th St.). Check out [this information flier](#) for event details or sign up to sponsor a trunk.

First HPA Lockdown Drill Scheduled for Tuesday, 10/24

As previously noted, October's safety drill will be a lockdown drill. During the drill, teachers will pause instruction, move scholars to a safe place in their classroom, and ensure the room is secure. In the event of a non-drill lockdown, families will be notified via SwiftK12.

Standard Uniforms on Tuesday, 10/31

Scholars should wear standard uniforms to school on Halloween. We refrain from wearing costumes in order to ensure a focus on learning and to be inclusive to multiple belief systems represented in our school.

The Children's Museum Dismissal Staging Lot

Below are two brief updates relevant for families who use the carline to pick your child up at dismissal.

- Please ensure you are arriving at the staging area in The Children's Museum Bus Lot no earlier than 2:30 PM each day. The lot is an active area for field trip buses visiting the museum before that time.
- We've been notified to expect overflow parking in the bus lot next week due to the opening of the Halloween exhibit and coinciding fall breaks from area schools. We will work to ensure orderly staging next week, adjusting if needed as we did on Thursday.

Youth Tennis Lessons Available for Grade 4 & 5 Scholars

Herron High School tennis coaches are excited to offer this opportunity at Riverside Park Tennis Complex. Please see the [information flier](#). Contact Mary Ann Beale at mbeale@herronhighschool.org if you are interested.

Weekly COVID Update

To keep you informed of the number of COVID cases reported at school, each HCS school is providing a weekly report to our family community. Please see [here](#) the number of positive COVID cases reported this week at HPA.