



CHARLES HERBERT FLOWERS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT/STUDENT INFORMER



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Semester II

As your children prepare for the challenges and opportunities for the second semester, it is most important to keep in mind that they should begin with the end in mind. In that way, each child will maintain an academic focus and self-discipline. They must also study each night and complete homework assignments. We ask that you emphasize in your homes that academic success is their only option! Research continues to reveal that the involvement of parents in their children's education is the key that opens door to success.

During this semester attendance to school and all classes is extremely important. Students must attend classes to receive direct instruction, in order to be prepared for the subjects they will take next year. Remember that our high enrollment prevents students from retaking classes they fail this year. Now is the time for them to be engaged in learning to avoid having to go to summer school to take classes that are now free.

Throughout this semester we ask that you check your child's progress and attendance in Schoolman. If you can not access this data, please contact Mrs. McDonald, Parent Liaison, at the school.

HSA

In April, all senior who have not passed High School Assessments will be tested for the last time. Although many of these students have completed projects and have earned a combined score of 1602, they must retake the assessments they have failed, in order to receive a diploma. Seniors who transferred to Flowers from another school other than a Maryland high school, and have passed algebra, biology and English 10, will be given a passing score for those assessments. They must, however, take the LSN course and assessment. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Crumb or your child's counselor.

Service Learning Hours

All seniors must perform 36 hours of community service and submit forms to Mrs. Reed. If your children have not performed the required service and submitted forms to Mrs. Reid, I strongly recommend that they do so as soon as possible. All requirements must be met for participation in any senior activity.

High School Assessments

In order to be successful, students must prepare for the assessments. In May, ninth graders will take the algebra assessment, tenth graders will take assessments in English 10, biology and LSN. If 10th or 11th graders have not passed assessments they took in prior years, they will be retested on those assessments in May. If you have questions, please contact your child's counselor or Mrs. Leah Batts, Testing Coordinator.

To assist your child, we highly recommend that you access the prototype assessments on the MSDE website at the following addresses:

[http://www.msde.state.md.us/hsaexam/
algebra.html](http://www.msde.state.md.us/hsaexam/algebra.html)

[http://www.msde.state.md.us/hsaexam/
english.html](http://www.msde.state.md.us/hsaexam/english.html)

[http://www.msde.state.md.us/hsaexam/
govern.html](http://www.msde.state.md.us/hsaexam/govern.html)

[http://www.msde.state.md.us/hsaexam/
biology.html](http://www.msde.state.md.us/hsaexam/biology.html)

There are also online courses for parents that can be accessed by visiting the MSDE web site @ <http://msde.mdk12online.org>. By visiting this site, you will be familiarized with the requirements for success for your child, and at the same time provide assistance and support.

If your children begin now to invest time in preparing for the assessments, they increase their chances for success in May.

Teacher Conferences

Teacher conferences must be scheduled through the Guidance Department. Due to our large enrollment, each counselor will conduct conferences on designated days from 4:05 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Each counselor will designate the day for her caseload. To ensure teacher presence, conferences must be scheduled in advance. Due to the high volume of requests, I strongly suggest a month's notice.

Monitoring Progress

Parents must accept responsibility for monitoring their child's progress. This activity should be conducted daily, so that you will know the degree to which your child is performing. Parents can not afford to wait until Progress Reports or report cards are issued, for often times, it is too late to take corrective actions.

When parents monitor their child's progress on a daily basis, they are provided the opportunity to acquire knowledge of their child's successes and academic deficiencies. If increased study does not improve performance, parents can then call their child's guidance counselor to schedule a conference with the teacher in the class in which your child is experiencing difficulty. If you wait until progress reports and report cards are issued, you will experience difficulty in scheduling a timely conference to address the problem. Each teacher has a caseload of at least one hundred and eighty students, and counselors' caseloads exceed two hundred. It is most important for parents to know their child's progress. Daily monitoring is essential to increased academic performance. We seek your involvement in your child's progress and future!

The Agenda Book

In September, every child was given an Agenda Book to use for recording assignments in every subject. This is a tool that parents can use to monitor their child's academic and behavioral progress is the Agenda Book. In order to do so, however, the child must be required to record all objectives, grades, and homework in all subjects each day. Parents must then review the Agenda Book, ask questions about assignments, and ascertain if increased study is required. If it is, then parents must ensure that their children study and complete all homework assignments.

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Electronic Devices

Electronic devices are prohibited! Despite this ban, some students continue to bring them to school. The state of Maryland bans the use of cell phones in school buildings; therefore, they must be kept in lockers. If retrieved cell phones or electronic devices are taken from students, parents must come to school to claim them.

Parental Involvement

According to the National Education Association, Parental Involvement is The Key to Student Success! In its view, parents must be actively involved in order to insure a child's success in school. Study after study has indicated that a child's educational experience is enhanced when a parental figure is involved.

Here are a few of the research findings into parental involvement:

- When parents are involved in their child's education at home, children do better in school.
- Children go farther in school when their parents are involved in school.
- A home environment that supports learning is more important to student success than income, education level or cultural background.
- The sooner the parental involvement starts, the more powerful the effects.
- Some of the results of parental involvement include student achievement, reduced absenteeism and improved behavior.

Helping Your Child

What Can I Do at Home?

You can foster school success at home if you:

- Make sure your child arrives at school well-rested.
- Set a regular time and ensure a quiet place for your child to do homework.
- Ask your child what he or she has learned in school each day.
- Limit his or her television, computer and video game time.
- Praise and encourage your child.
- Celebrate your child's successes.

Time and Materials

Just because students are in high school does not guarantee they are all prepared to do high school work, especially long term projects, on their own. Help your children by having them keep an assignment calendar with dates for long-term projects as well as daily homework. Organization is key that helps to open doors to success.

MONITORING ON-LINE ACCESS AND CELLUAR PHONES

Too many of our children are spending too much time entering and retrieving information from electronic sources. Instead of engaging in study, they are reading, discussing and writing messages on Face Book and My Space. These activities contribute to the lack of progress many of our students are demonstrating at the present time. They know that they can not repeat classes that they fail, and yet they have no regard for their parents having to pay for them to go to summer school. It is not because they can not do the work, they simply do not spend the time doing so. As a result, they make excuse after excuse.

Unfortunately and unjustifiably so, many claim that their teachers do not help them understand the material or that the teacher do not like them. The truth of the matter is that teachers assign homework for students to become familiar with the concepts that are taught. When they do not complete assignments or study, they do not have the skills to perform the required tasks for success. It is most unfair for these students to impede the progress of students who do study. In order for students to keep pace with students who do study and do complete homework assignments, they must study. Learning concepts requires time, and all students must devote time to acquire the required and necessary skills for success.

As parents, we must monitor the activities in which our children engage after school. You play an important role in the success of your children. Monitoring their after-school activities will go a long way in preventing the academic failure many of our children experience. To assist you and your children, I am enclosing suggestions to improve their study habits for you to share with your children.

Eleven Successful Study Habits

Successful students have good study habits. They apply these habits to all of their classes. Read about each study habit. Work to develop any study habit you do not have.

Successful students:

1. **Try not to do too much studying at one time.** If you try to do too much studying at one time, you will tire and your studying will not be very effective. Space the work you have to do over shorter periods of time. Taking short breaks will restore your mental energy.

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3. **Plan specific times for studying.** Study time is any time you are doing something related to schoolwork. It can be completing assigned reading, working on a paper or project, or studying for a test. Schedule specific times throughout the week for your study time.

4. **Try to study at the same times each day.** Studying at the same times each day establishes a routine that becomes a regular part of your life, just like sleeping and eating. When a scheduled study time comes up during the day, you will be mentally prepared to begin studying.

5. **Set specific goals for their study times.** Goals will help you stay focused and monitor your progress. Simply sitting down to study has little value. You must be very clear about what you want to accomplish during your study times.

6. **Start studying when planned.** You may delay starting your studying because you don't like an assignment or think it is too hard. A delay in studying is called "procrastination." If you procrastinate for any reason, you will find it difficult to get everything done when you need to. You may rush to make up the time you wasted getting started, resulting in careless work and errors.

7. **Work on the assignment they find most difficult first.** Your most difficult assignment will require the most effort. Start with your most difficult assignment since this is when you have the most mental energy.

8. **Review their notes before beginning an assignment.** Reviewing your notes can help you make sure you are doing an assignment correctly. Also, your notes may include information that will help you complete an assignment.

9. **Tell their friends not to call them during their study times.** Two study problems can occur if your friends call you during your study times. First, your work is interrupted. It is not that easy to get back to what you were doing. Second, your friends may talk about things that will distract you from what you need to do. Here's a simple idea - turn off your cell phone during your study times.

10. **Call another student when they have difficulty with an assignment.** This is a case where "two heads may be better than one." Better to call about schoolwork than what is on My Space or Face Book.

11. **Review their schoolwork over the weekend.**

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

All electronic devices, e.g. CD players, electronic games, radios, tape recorders, etc., are prohibited. Cell phones must remain in lockers, book bags, purses, or pockets. They must never be in the view of adults or other students. Maryland law strictly prohibits the use of cell phones in public schools, and this law will be strictly enforced to the fullest extent of the law. If confiscated, a parent will be required to retrieve and sign for these items.

Since electronic devices are prohibited, we will not investigate theft or loss of any device. This equipment should remain at home.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

On the first day of school, students must have the following supplies:

1. A three-ring notebook with paper and dividers for eight subjects
2. A blue/black ballpoint pen
3. Sharpened pencils

Teachers will issue a course syllabus and supply list for their classes. The supply list may vary from the list above. Once received, please make sure that supplies are on hand at all times. Students should also have access to a computer and printer or typewriter at home.

FRIENDSHIP AND TRUST

Some students are too trusting and believe that persons with whom they associate are friends. Unfortunately this is not always the case. As a result, there are far too many incidents (thefts, revelation of secrets, lies told, etc.) that cause conflicts. Parents, we ask that you remind your children that you are their trusting friend, and to refrain from sharing locker combinations, revealing information they do not wish to disclose, lending money and other valuables, and allowing other children from riding in your cars. In addition, please tell your children to seek advice from you—not from another child. They should also be told that they should not break the law, violate school policy, or disobey your orders to have associates. They should refrain from hanging with those individuals—young ladies or young men. Parents please read the following with your child.

It Is Better To Be Alone, Than In The Wrong Company

Tell me who your best friends are, and I will tell you who you are. If you run with wolves, you will learn how to howl. But, if you associate with eagles, you will learn how to soar to great heights.

A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses. The simple but true fact of life is that you become like those with whom you closely associate for the good and the bad. The less you associate with some people, the more your life will improve.

Any time you tolerate mediocrity in others, it increases your mediocrity. An important attribute in successful people is their impatience with negative thinking and negative acting people. As you grow, your associates will change. Some of your friends will not want you to go on. They will want you to stay where they are.

Friends that don't help you climb will want you to crawl. Your friends will stretch your vision or choke your dream. Those that don't increase you will eventually decrease you.

Consider this:

- Never receive counsel from unproductive people.
- Never discuss your problems with someone incapable of contributing to the solution, because those who never succeed themselves are always first to tell you how.
- Not everyone has a right to speak into our life.
- You are certain to get the worst of the bargain when you exchange ideas with the wrong person.
- Don't follow anyone who's not going anywhere.
- With some people you spend an evening: with others you invest it.
- Be careful where you stop to inquire for directions along the road of life.

Wise is the person who strengthens his life with the right friendships!

RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPECT

Every child's behavior exhibited in public is perceived to be a portrait of the home. Although many parents teach and demand responsible and respectful behavior at home, some children fail to exhibit this behavior at school. In order for students to be successful, they must exhibit responsible and respectful behavior. The Prince George's County Public Schools *Student Code of Conduct* requires them to do so.

It is important to remember that when students enter high school, they create an academic, attendance and behavioral record for life. We ask parents to remind their children daily that the behavior they exhibit paints a picture of their home.

Charles Herbert Flowers High School Mandatory Dress Code

Representative parents, students and teachers adopted the student dress policy for Charles Herbert Flowers High School in 2004. It reflects standards held in common by our community and incorporates the Prince George's County Public Schools System-Wide

Dress Code for Students. This policy will be strictly enforced on the first day of school! (**Logo is optional however, ONLY Charles Herbert Flowers H.S. logos are permitted**).

- **Slacks:** Charcoal gray “dress” slacks
- **Skirts:** Solid color knee-length or longer charcoal gray skirts.
- **Shirts/Tops:** Long or short-sleeve **white** Polo or oxford.
- **Sweaters/Vests:** Cardigan and V-neck in **Hunter Green**.
- **Blazer:** **Hunter Green**. North Face and other jackets are prohibited,
- **Ties:** Solid black or gray.
- **Belts:** solid black, gray or brown.
- **Socks, Stockings and Tights:** Black, grey, hunter green and white.
- **Shoes:** (Shoes style includes tennis shoes and boots.) **Solid Black only. with Solid Black Shoelaces**
- **Head Coverings:** As is stated in the PGCPSS System-Wide Dress Code for Students, “Headaddresses can be worn indoors for religious or health reasons only.” Principal must approve.
Please note:
- All pants must be appropriately sized to eliminate any bagging or sagging. No visible labels or logos on any article of clothing .
- Shirts are to be tucked into the pants and skirts. A belt must be worn if belt loops are on the garment.
- Slacks and skirts are worn at the natural waist, and should be hemmed appropriately.

Prohibited Items (not to be worn):

- Shorts
- Stretch or form-fitting clothing chino style pants
- Baggy pants twill or khaki
- Jeans or denim
- Dickie work pants
- Cargo or painter pants
- Cargo shorts
- Hooded clothing
- Cropped shirts
- Slippers or flip-flops
- Capris
- Skorts

Exemptions

- New Students- Students **new** to Prince George’s County Public Schools (after Labor Day) will be allowed a grace period of five (5) school days to comply with the School Uniform Policy.
- Religious Beliefs- Parents or legal guardians who object to the policy based on religious beliefs must present to the building principal a signed letter explaining their belief. The parent or legal guardian and the building principal will meet to discuss the exemption.

Cooperation

To avoid conflicts and loss of instruction and personal time, we seek the cooperation of all parents and students. With cooperation, all of us can have an extremely pleasant and productive year!

