

# Hampstead Hill Academy #047

Matthew Hornbeck, Principal  
Arleen Proto, Assistant Principal  
Mari Satterlee, Assistant Principal

500 South Linwood Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

(410) 396-9146 (tel)  
(410) 396-3637 (fax)

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*"Whether you think you can, or think you can't, you're right."*

- Henry Ford

*"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them."*

- Mark Twain

July 23, 2010

Dear Hampstead Hill Family,

Thank you for choosing to send your child to Hampstead Hill Academy (HHA), and welcome to the 2010-2011 school year! This promises to be a great year as we set high expectations for learning and leading. Our test scores are terrific, but learning and leading means much more than test scores. We want our academic programs to come alive for students. Our students will move beyond the mere acquisition of knowledge and skills to produce work that is unique and exciting; projects and papers that communicate, persuade and convince. Ultimately, we want HHA girls and boys to become the thinkers, innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders our city and nation require. This year's entering kindergarten students are the college class of 2027 – and we're glad to be an important part of their path.

Our school culture aims to be nurturing and consistent. As a Restorative Practices site, we build community in each classroom and promote good citizenship and respect. Most importantly, we are ready to motivate and engage your child in their learning. We know that helping students learn how to synthesize information, problem solve, think critically and organize their materials are essential, lifelong skills. Teachers are busy planning project fairs and enrichment activities to expand our curriculum. There will be many opportunities throughout the year to celebrate your child's progress.

Our students rocked the state test again this year. We are proud to report that HHA remains one of the highest performing schools in the state. The State released MSA scores this week and HHA met every achievement and attendance goal. 83% of our kids passed the MSA and all students outperformed the city average. In math, students in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades outperformed the **state** average. In reading, students in 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade outperformed the **state** average. One highlight was our 5<sup>th</sup> graders. 89.3% passed the reading portion of the MSA and an amazing 52% of those students scored in the "advanced" category. For detailed information on our test scores you can log on to <http://mdreportcard.org>. More telling is the significant academic growth over the course of the year on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). MAP offers pre and post test data in reading and math to help us measure student growth from the beginning to the end of the year. With MAP, we can see whether our programs added value to student learning.

We hope you are finding time to enjoy your summer – reading, spending time with family and friends, traveling and doing the things you like to do. Again, classroom assignments are not quite final and will be posted online ([www.hha47.org](http://www.hha47.org)) and at school on the afternoon of Thursday, August 26, 2010. Have a terrific rest of the summer.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hornbeck  
Principal

Mari Satterlee  
Assistant Principal

Arleen Proto  
Assistant Principal

### **Welcome to New Staff**

We have a number of talented new staff joining our ranks. We welcome Jennifer Wrate (Coordinator of Enrichment Intervention), Reza Mendoza (2<sup>nd</sup> grade), Mary Hoover (4<sup>th</sup> Grade math/science), Ned Bartlett (5<sup>th</sup> grade math/science), Raquela Susman (6<sup>th</sup> grade math/science), Andrew Chapin (6<sup>th</sup> grade English/History), Anthony Rollins (Restorative Practices), Becky Saxton (PreK Assistant Teacher), Catherine Waldt (K Assistant Teacher) and Lindsay Wyatt (K Assistant Teacher). A number of staff will return in new roles. In addition, we have a contract with Experience Corps to bring about 15 trained volunteers into our classrooms to assist with everything from editing written work to working on projects. Ms. Swann will be coordinating the Experience Corps members. When you see a new face, please make them feel welcome.

### **New Computer Lab Coming Online**

The old computer lab has been completely gutted. It is undergoing a complete renovation – new desks and chairs as well as state-of-the-art computers and printers. We're excited to have Margo Zozos serve in a new capacity as our Director of Media Services and Computer Teacher. Please make sure to stop by the new computer lab and check it out.

### **Meet Your Teacher!**

You and your child are cordially invited to our Hampstead Hill **"MEET YOUR TEACHER CELEBRATION!"** **Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m.** Come join us for an informal, get-acquainted morning with your child's new teacher(s). There will be two surprise, special guests (of the feathered variety) that morning as well. The Food for Life program will provide a reception. A parent or guardian should accompany children attending the occasion. There will be an opportunity to purchase HHA uniform shirts at a reasonable cost.

### **Kindergarten Homeroom Assignments**

Most kindergarten homeroom assignments will be made based on the brief assessment conducted over the summer. If your kindergarten child's homeroom is listed as TBD (to be determined), he or she needs to be tested. Kindergarteners who need to be placed in a homeroom should come to school Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1 p.m. You do not need an appointment for this special kindergarten testing.

### **PreK and 1-8 Homeroom Assignments**

Homeroom teacher and room number assignments for Prekindergarten and grades 1-8 will be posted at the school beginning Thursday, August 26, 2010. Please do not call the office to request this information. Homeroom assignments will be simultaneously posted on our website at [www.hha47.org](http://www.hha47.org). Based on an assessment of skills in the first weeks of the year, there may be a need to change a few homeroom assignments. If students are new, homeroom assignments will be temporary until properly placed.

### **Arrival and dismissal procedures**

**The 2010-2011 school year begins Monday, August 30, 2010 at 8:00 a.m.** Once school begins, we expect students to get back into a routine for learning - plenty of sleep on school nights, a good breakfast each morning, and coming to school on time ready to learn. Being on time means entering the building promptly at 8:00 a.m. Students will line up by numbered homeroom on the blacktop. Depending on the grade, your child should prepare to enter school each day by:

Grades PreK-4	lining up on the blacktop and entering through the stairwell entrance by main office.
Grades 5-8	gathering in front of the building, north of the ramp and entering through the Linwood Avenue entrance.

School will dismiss each day at 2:40 p.m. For safety's sake, teachers of our youngest children will walk their classes onto the playground for dismissal. Parents must wait until these students line up and check in with the teacher before leaving with their child. Be sure your child follows dismissal procedures outlined by his/her teacher. Please make certain your child knows where and when he/she will be picked up after school. If your child walks, he/she should go directly home at dismissal. Please note that unless there is an emergency, the office will not sign out students from 2:20 until 2:40. Parents arriving early for pickup should let their children finish the school day.

### **Uniform Policy**

HHA is a uniform school. ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR A COLLARED NAVY TOP WITH KHAKI BOTTOM. No other color of blue is acceptable, only navy blue. We sell high quality polo shirts embroidered with our logo for \$12 each. Students out of uniform will be asked to call home for a change of clothes. Please make sure your child is in uniform every day. Please see an administrator with concerns.

### **Supply list**

Supply lists for all grades are available at <http://www.hha47.org/parents/supply/>. Please clearly label all supplies, clothing, lunch boxes, etc. Please note that all book bags must fit inside a locker. Many of the rolling-style backpacks may not fit. Depending on the class, teachers may add to this supply list during the first days of school.

### **After school program**

Again this year, we are requesting that parents arrange for their children to be picked up at the end of the day, which is 2:40. The school is unable to supervise children who have been left after school dismisses. For the convenience of our families, HHA offers a great before and after school program for children in grades PreK-8. *Fitness, Fun, and Games* provides services for children from 6:30 until 8:00 a.m. and again from 2:40 until 6:30 p.m. This is a safe, quality program housed in our building and it is very affordable. Sliding scale support is available for students in PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade who receive ESOL services and are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Contact FFG Director Jen Caldwell at (410) 732-8778 for more information or to register your child.

### **Attendance is critical**

Students succeed when they attend school and are on time. All students who are absent receive a phone call home. Students who are signed out before 10:30 a.m. will be marked absent for the day. For those families that live outside of our zone, attendance is even more important because excessive absence, lateness, and signing your child out early will result in a transfer to your zoned school. The district will again this year monitor the attendance of your child. If there are too many days missed, you will receive a letter from City Schools asking you to attend a hearing. Hearing Officers have the authority to levy fines of up to \$50 per day. Again, attendance is required by law.

### **Playground Rules**

Our wonderful playground is available to the community whenever school is not in session. Please note that the playground is closed in the morning before school starts. Students supervised by a parent or adult family member may play on our playground after school. Only supervised children up to age 10 are allowed on the playground. Littering or misuse of the playground will result in the loss of playground privileges. Please let the office know if you see anyone misusing the playground. Our security cameras keep a watchful eye of the playground as well.

### **Breakfast and Lunch Program**

Those students that received a free or reduced lunch last year will remain in the same category through September 2010, when applications for the new year will be processed. Each family must return a new application each year. Reduced price for lunch is .40. All other students will pay \$2.25 for lunch. Breakfast will continue to be free for everyone and will begin August 30, 2010, at 7:40 a.m. Again, for safety reasons, all students having breakfast must enter the cafeteria using the Streeper Street entrance.

### **Monthly Newsletters**

Look for an important parent newsletter to be sent home with your child on the first day of school. It will contain useful information for you and your family. Newsletters are printed monthly and will be sent home the last school day of each month. Newsletters are available online, and they are translated into Spanish each month too.

**Please note these important dates on your calendar**

- Friday, August 27, 2010 – **Meet Your Teacher Day**, 9:00-11 a.m.
- Monday, August 30, 2010 – **First day of school**. School starts at 8:00 a.m.
- Monday, September 6, 2010 – **Labor Day, Schools Closed**
- Tuesday, September 14, 2010 – **Election Day, Schools Closed**
- Thursday, September 16, 2010 - **Back to School Night** from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, September 25, 2010 – **PTO Fall Funfest**
- Wed., November 17, 2010 – **Classroom celebration of student work** from 5:30-7:30 pm.
- Wed., February 2, 2011 – **Classroom celebration of student work** from 5:30-7:30 pm.
- March 7-11, 2011 – **Maryland School Assessment (MSA)** for grades 3-8.
- April 4-8, 2011 – **Stanford Achievement Test (SAT)** for grades one and two.

A complete calendar will be sent home in the first days of school. We have many clubs and activities that you will learn more about at the beginning of the school year as well.