



PUMA BLAST



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6TH

We are very excited to begin our voyage together on Tuesday, Sept. 8th at 8:30 AM!

Your child should log into their Advisory teacher's class link by 8:30 AM. Connecting virtually with your child's teacher is the first step for learning in 20-21. I will share a HELP link via School Messenger on Tuesday, Sept. 8th with all SPMS families to help support any student who is not able to log in. Please use this link as a resource only if your child cannot log in on Tuesday morning. Our team will respond via email or phone to help your Puma access their learning for the day. We will prioritize all responses so we can assist with connectivity issues.

Please refer to our [Orientation Resources](#) for more helpful resources.

Henrico County central technology is asking that students at some point in the near future access the wireless network at any Henrico County Public Schools using their laptops to process needed updates.

[Here are the directions for this update process.](#) A student can complete this process at any time by sitting outside any Henrico County Public School in the parking lot.

These updates are not required for students to complete in order to access online learning in Schoology and Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, September 8th.

VIRTUAL LEARNING ATTENDANCE

During virtual learning, students will be considered present upon submission of a completed warm up assignment for each class. Parents will be notified electronically during each instructional block if their child is not learning synchronously with their teacher.

If a student will be absent from school, a parent should call the school at 360-0800 by 8:30 A.M. to report the absence with our attendance secretary, Jami Estes: jlestes@henrico.k12.va.us

To help families better understand the tools and technologies behind virtual learning, HCPS has created a series of prerecorded videos that will help get you from login to learning!

The prerecorded videos are available now, by going to [this new playlist on HCPS' YouTube channel](#).

If you'd like to skip to a particular topic, the videos are also linked here:

- [Resources for Virtual Learning](#)
- [PowerSchool, Part 1: Creating your Parent Account](#)
- [PowerSchool, Part 2: Features of PowerSchool \(device login info, schedules, grades\)](#)
- [Devices: iPads, Chromebooks and laptops](#)
- [Clever and Schoology \(plus, creating your Schoology parent account\)](#)
- [Microsoft Teams](#)

Note: These sessions are specifically designed for families and students who are using PowerSchool, Schoology, Microsoft Teams and HCPS-issued devices for the very first time.

[Click Here](#) for the HCPS Day 1/ Day 2 Calendar

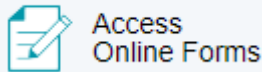
School Forms Available Now!

Yes, even in a virtual environment, our school still must collect a few forms!

RYCOR Online Forms enables all HCPS families to submit school forms using a secure online website accessed through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Just click the “Access Online Forms” icon in the PowerSchool Parent Portal sidebar menu.

Step 1: Log into your parent PowerSchool account (if you do not have an account, see directions below to create one).

Step 2: On the left click on “access online forms”



SCHOOL FEES 20-21

Here’s some good news: Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, HCPS is waiving the laptop fee (\$25), the science fee (\$5) and the P.E. fee (\$4)!

Some other classes may still require a fee. Online School Payments (OSP) allows families of middle- and high-schoolers to pay school fees electronically. Also note that there is a 4% fee to pay with a credit card, which pays for the vendor’s costs. If you prefer to pay by check, please mail a check to Short Pump Middle School with a copy of the obligation list from the online payment system highlighting the fees being paid.

[Click here](#) to open OSP

If you haven’t used Online School Payments before, you’ll need to set up an account.

[Click here for a video](#) to access more information about OSP and how to set up an account.

What's the secret to successful virtual learning?

Make sure you have a PowerSchool AND Schoology Account!
Accounts can be set up TODAY!



Account Setup Steps

1. Set up your PowerSchool account. PowerSchool allows parent to access schedules and gradebooks throughout the school year.

- [Click here](#) for directions to create a brand new powerschool account.
- Have another student to add to your powerschool account? [Click here](#) for directions to link students to an existing powerschool account.

2. Set up your Schoology account.

Why do I need a Schoology Account?

- Schoology is the HCPS learning management system.
- Families may set up accounts in Schoology in order to see classroom agendas, assignments, and homework calendars that are assigned to their student.
- All teachers will have a uniform schoology folder and training will be forthcoming.
- Parents can log in: <https://app.schoology.com/login>
- Never been in Schoology? Follow [these directions](#) to create an account.
Questions? Contact Carolyn Hennessy at cnhennessy@henrico.k12.va.us

What will Schoology look like at SPMS for the 20-21 school year?

We heard your concerns from the spring! We have customized SPMS Schoology pages to be uniform to make it easier for students and parents to navigate all their courses.

[Watch this video](#) to see the Schoology format for ALL classes at SPMS for the 20-21 school year.

SPMS Student Expectations for Virtual Learning



Select one background for class

Selecting one of the provided backgrounds for the entire class block keeps the focus on learning! One option allows you to block out whatever is happening in the background at home.



Use mute mode unless you are talking

Keeping your microphone muted allows your teacher and classmates to be heard clearly when they are speaking.



Camera on at all times

Leaving your camera on allows your teacher to connect with you, keep an eye out for confusion, and helps you to stay connected with everyone in class.



Log in at beginning of class

Following your teacher's expectations for logging on and off allows them to promptly begin their instruction and ensures you don't miss out any part of your school experience!



Follow HCPS Code of Student Conduct dress code

Following the HCPS Code of Student Conduct allows you and everyone in your class to bring their best every day!



No eating during virtual class

There are opportunities to enjoy a snack between each of your classes, as well as during the 30-minute lunch break. Water bottles during class are okay!



Use the "raise your hand" feature

Raising your hand lets your teacher know if you'd like to leave class for a moment, ask a question, or share your thoughts!



Icon on Teams should be first & last name

Seeing first and last names allows you to get to know your classmates and connect with everyone. Practice using names when speaking with others!

HCPS Middle School Virtual Schedule

8:30 – 9:05

Advisory

9:05 – 9:10

Transition/Break

9:10 – 10:25

Period 1/5

10:25 – 10:35

Transition/ Break

10:35 – 11:50

Period 2/6

11:50 – 12:20

Lunch

12:20 – 1:35

Period 3/7

1:35 – 1:45

Transition/ Break

1:45 – 3:00

Period 4/8

3:00 – 3:15

Instructional Support



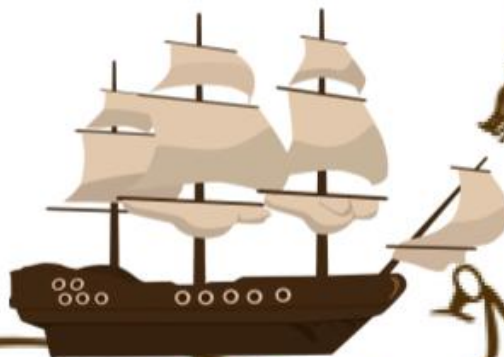
SHORT PUMP MIDDLE SCHOOL

VIRTUAL LEARNING VOYAGE 2020-2021

Ahoy, SPMS Families! Before we set sail learning in uncharted waters this September, we wanted to offer some supply suggestions. Please know that these items are not required, but we feel they would be beneficial in supporting our Pumas' voyage into virtual learning.

Suggested Supply List

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Pens (black/blue/red) | Folders for each class |
| Pencils | 3-ring binder (for each class or per day) |
| Handheld pencil sharpener | Small whiteboard |
| Scissors | Earbuds for academic tasks |
| Index Cards | Highlighters (at least 2 colors) |
| Colored Pencils/Markers | Glue Sticks |
| White Computer paper | 1 single subject notebook (for all classes) |
| 12-inch ruler | 1 composition notebook |
| 4 function calculator | Loose-leaf paper |
| Headphones (for laptop use) | Dry erase markers |
| Pencil Pouch | Personal Hand sanitizer |
| 1 pack of 5 dividers | Tissues |



Please note that after schedules are released, individual teachers may have additional supply requests. These supplies will also be optional.



As we Learn in Uncharted Waters, your student's Advisory Class will serve as an "Anchor Group" to your family for all things Short Pump Middle School!

*Periodically, you will be contacted by your child's "Advisory Captain" to share important information, do a quick check-in, and provide answers to your questions!
We are here to help your family navigate the 20-21 school year!*

*If you have questions about Anchor Groups, please contact
Ms. Gena Jones at gsjones@henrico.k12.va.us*

IF YOUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED

If you have relocated within our SPMS community and need to submit a change of address, you will need **all of the following documents:**

- Copy of deed, lease, or contract of your new residence
- Copy of your photo ID
- Copy of a utility bill for the new address.

Please send these 3 documents to our registrar, Mrs. Martin, at sjmartin@henrico.k12.va.us

SAVE THE DATE!

- First Day of School
Tuesday 9/8
- Student Holiday Yom Kippur
Monday 9/28
- Student Holiday Election Day
Tuesday 11/3
- Student Holiday Diwali
Friday 11/13
- Thanksgiving Holiday
Wednesday 11/25 – Friday 11/27
- Winter Break
Monday 12/21 – Friday 1/1

[Click here for the 2020 -2021
Day 1/ Day 2 Calendar](#)