

Greetings parents and students,

The 8th grade students will continue taking the ITBS (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills) on Monday, October 2, 2017 and Wednesday, October 4, 2017. The ITBS are a series of standardized tests that are used to measure specific skills to help determine student growth and achievement and to help teachers make informed decisions regarding instruction. Students are taking the test over a period of three days in their respective homerooms on A-days (during the morning). Any necessary make-ups will be administered during B-days on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 and Thursday, October 5, 2017. I have included an attachment that breaks down the sections and allotted administration time for each subject area included on the test. The total amount of time for all subject areas is 295 minutes or 4 hours and 55 minutes. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Assistant Principal Darrie Nowell who is our Testing Coordinator at dnowell@hapevillecharter.org.

The students at the main campus (6th and 7th grade) will begin benchmark assessments on Monday, October 2, 2017. Benchmarks are customized assessments that have been created to help gauge students' progress on the standards that have been taught. Benchmarks are utilized for diagnostic testing and remediation of specific standards.

Please make plans to attend our Curriculum Night which is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2017 from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM at the main campus and the Eighth Grade Academy.

Parents, remember that the school day ends at 3:10 PM. If your child is not attending an after school tutorial, then you need to pick him/her up promptly from either the main campus or the Eighth Grade Academy.

We have begun utilizing a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) proactive approach to help continue promoting a positive culture within our school. Students are able to earn tickets (Hornet Honey) for positive behaviors such as being in full uniform with their shirts tucked in, being prepared for class, being kind to others, being model students, being a peer tutor, walking on the correct side of the hallway, and so forth. The students will be able to redeem their hornet honey for rewards such as mechanical pencils, full or partial dress downs, fruit snacks, chips, and candy on designated days from the school store!

Please make sure to utilize the online instructional resources that our school has available. I have included some information about three of them below (Edmentum, myON, IXL).

Edmentum (Study Island) is a K-12 learning program with state-specific, grade level academic standards in math, ELA, science, and social studies. It features interactive lessons, activities, and games that help keep students engaged. Students have access at school as well as at home! Students, please see your teachers for your usernames and passwords.
(<http://www.studyisland.com/login>)

Our school is continuing its second year utilizing an exciting new literacy program called **myON** reader to help promote reading and provide every student unlimited access to over 5,000 enhanced digital books with reading supports. myON will be utilized in the reading and language arts classes where students can be able to read for approximately 20 minutes during the class period. myON reader is the first-of-its-kind personalized literacy environment that integrates student ability with technology to match their reading level with their preferred choice of books into a comprehensive online reading program. Embedded assessments will help teachers and students monitor their reading achievement. As parents, you can share in the learning and excitement with your child through his/her personal dashboard. The dashboard will illustrate how many books they have opened and read, as well as their reading growth. Hapeville Charter Middle School became one of myON's spotlight schools on their website during the second semester of the 2016-2017 school year. From August 2016 - April 2017, 442 HCMS students from grades 6-8 read a total of 22,658 books and logged 7,770 hours of reading on the program! Our average Lexile growth for 6th grade was 152, 139 for 7th grade, and 101 for 8th grade. I would love for us to exceed these levels for this 2017-2018 school year. **The goal for the month of October is for each grade level to increase their Lexile measure by 20 points for a full dress down!**

We are very excited to offer myON reader again this school year to promote reading and give students the opportunity to have their own virtual backpack of books from which to choose. **myON reader is available at school, home, libraries, and anywhere with Internet access—and on mobile devices—for online and offline reading. Each student's username and password is their full lunch number (see attachment).**

In addition to utilizing myON reader throughout our school, we are excited to give our families the opportunity to spend time with their children in an engaging, fun reading environment to build reading stamina and fluency and simply to have fun reading

together. For more information on myON reader and links to videos and reference materials, please visit www.myON.com. **Some benefits of reading in general includes being exposed to new vocabulary and helping to stimulate and develop curiosity & imagination.**

Our school is continuing its use of IXL this year (<https://www.ixl.com/signin/hapevillechart>). "IXL is a comprehensive, standards-aligned practice program offering unlimited problems in thousands of skills across all four core subjects - math, language arts, science, and social studies! One of the best things about IXL is that you may use it from school and from home!" Students, if you do not know your username and password, please ask your teacher or myself.

Please see the excerpt below and attachment regarding the Future Foundation:

Future Foundation is an afterschool program that models the "second family approach" to empower youth with enriching educational experiences to create successful outcomes. Future Foundation is driven by a dedicated team of talented staff that strives to help students rise above life's challenges and grow into adults who will shape the world.

To learn more about the program and get your student enrolled, please call [\(404\) 766-0510](tel:4047660510) or visit the office at 1892 Washington Rd., East Point, GA 30344. you can also visit our website at www.future-foundation.com

Thank you,
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