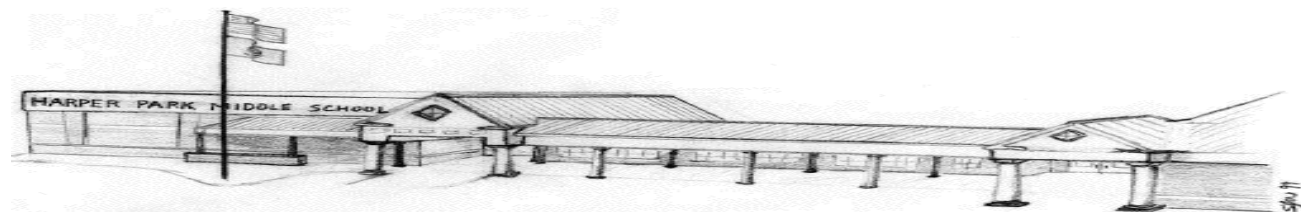


Harper Park Middle School

“A School to Watch”



HOME OF THE HURRICANES

Harper Park Middle
701 Potomac Station Dr.
Leesburg, VA 20176

School Hours 8:30-3:18

Main Office 571-252-2820

Attendance 571-252-2822

Clinic 571-252-2821

www.lcps.org/hpms

Have a great
summer!



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

By William S. Shipp

What an excellent year this has been at Harper Park! It has indeed been a great year and with the end of school upon us, we will bid farewell to our eighth grade class and to other students moving away. We wish everyone the very best!

The year certainly has been a success on many different levels. We had many students achieve great things both in and out of the classroom. We kicked the year off with our annual fundraiser, which was a tremendous success and culminated in November with a fantastic party for many students. In October we held our annual Variety Show which was a splendid success with many students showcasing their talents before a packed auditorium. In addition, each grade level held its own party, with the eighth grade having two parties – one at Ida Lee. Grade level teams also planned a variety of fun activities to get to know the students as well as exciting field trips. The sixth grade traveled to James Madison University to get a glimpse of post-secondary education. The seventh grade spent a day in Washington D.C. visiting the memorials, and the eighth grade traveled north to Pennsylvania for a day at Hershey Park. We hosted our fourth annual Carnival at the Park for all grade levels on May 30. Our music department held exceptional concerts in both the winter and spring. In March, we celebrated Cultural Diversity Month - this month was highlighted by Heritage Day and a potluck dinner with a variety of faire from around the globe. In April our drama club presented “*Hercules*” - which was superb! Students, parents and teachers dedicated many hours to ensure its success. And while all of these activities were occurring, our staff sponsored many wonderful after school activities and clubs for which our students stayed every day. Obviously, Harper Park has been an eventful place this year!

As busy as we were, much of what we were able to accomplish was due to the dedication of our parents. We could not have asked for a more supportive parent group. Many parents introduced great ideas for consideration and the number of hours parents volunteered was inspiring – it was thousands of hours! In addition, many thanks to the PTA for organizing events for the school and coordinating volunteers. We could not do all we do without your assistance and help. In May, the Teacher Appreciation Week was outstanding. The PTA's luncheon was wonderful! I also want to extend thanks to Nikki Holton for her wonderful leadership over the past several years. This is Ms. Holton's last year as PTA President and the Harper Park community has benefitted from her incredible efforts. Also we extend immense gratitude to the PTA officers for their remarkable service as well. For next year, I am pleased to announce that Ms. Kathleen Castro will be returning to Harper Park as PTA President – a position she served in several years ago, and we look forward to working with her once again!

Principal's letter cont..

SOL testing is complete and we once again administered all tests on-line this year. We want to offer many thanks to the students who have done their best on each and every test. Also, a tremendous thank you to the teachers and parents for helping to prepare our students for the tests. Many thanks to Mr. Keener, Assistant Principal, Mr. Walter, Dean, and the team of teachers and administrators who worked together to manage the testing – it is a significant undertaking.

Planning for the 2012-2013 school year is well underway. Students have selected courses for next year. Your student will be receiving a copy of the course choices they made for next year. Please review these choices and make any necessary changes by June 30, 2012. School supply lists have been given to students and are now posted on our website. If you are interested in ordering these supplies on-line, you may go to our website for information regarding our on-line school supply sales through Innisbrook. July 1 is the last day of sales for this.

We will continue to post any new school information on our website through the summer. Honor rolls and awards received by students at the 8th Grade Awards Assembly on May 31, will be posted. In addition, we will post the 2012-2013 bus schedules once we receive them from the Department of Transportation.

Next year we will continue our on-line newsletter. We will send the newsletter out electronically and it will continue to be accessible from our website. For those who may want a hard copy, please contact Ms. Debbie Wells at 571 252 2827.

This summer please remember to take time to read and work on math with your son/daughter. Two months of summer vacation is a long time and working with them during this time will help them be prepared for the transition back into school in August. School will begin on Monday, August 27. On August 9, an Open House is planned for new students to Harper Park from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. The building will be open for a self-guided tour. This opportunity is only for new students registering over the summer or sixth grade students and their parents who did not attend the Student/Parent Orientation in February. In addition, we will have a Meet and Greet for rising 6th graders on Thursday, August 23, from 1 – 3 PM. This will provide our rising sixth graders an opportunity to come to the school to practice opening lockers and locate their homeroom. We are looking forward to this, however please keep in mind this is only for the rising sixth graders.

Also, I want to offer much appreciation to the faculty and staff for a great year. Their commitment to the students and Harper Park community has a positive effect in many peoples lives everyday. The teachers and staff are truly dedicated and professional educators – it is a joy to work with them daily.

And lastly, my final note is one of farewell and thank you. Next year I will be moving to Woodgrove High School as Principal. I have been with Harper Park for twelve years serving as a Dean, Assistant Principal, and for the last seven years, its Principal. The years with this community have been truly wonderful. And as I prepare to bring to a close my chapter at Harper Park, I find it very befitting that on Sunday, June 10, I will be attending the Heritage High School graduation. I will watch with enormous pride as this group of seniors, many of whom were sixth graders at Harper Park when I became Principal, walk across the stage as well educated young men and women to receive their diplomas. I am so grateful for having had the opportunity to work with the students, parents and teachers of this school. I am very proud of the school Harper Park has become, and I have no doubt that Harper Park will continue to thrive and be a school where all of our students can be successful. May each of you have a safe and restful summer – I thank you, and I wish you all the very best.



From the Main Office

HPMS Contacts

Main Office

Principal.....William S. Shipp
 Asst. Principal.....Don Keener
 Asst. Principal.....Beth Robinson
 Main Office Secretary.....Sarah Fedak
 Main Office Secretary.....Teresa Burciaga
 Bookkeeper.....Susan Lang
 Parent Liaison.....Neldy Negron
 Nurse.....Terri Thomson

House A (8th grade)

Dean.....Meshelle Cary
 Counselor.....Cherie Krisa
 Attendance SecretaryLinda Young

House B (7th grade)

Dean.....Fitzroy Frew
 Counselor.....Zamarit Simpkins
 Secretary.....Debbie Wells

House C (6th grade)

Dean.....Mary Beth Woodford
 Counselor.....Leslie Kole
 Secretary.....Catherine Happersett

Attendance

Harper Park Middle School parents: we need your help! When your child is absent, please call the attendance line at 571-252-2822 to notify the school. For your convenience, this is a 24-hour answering machine. An absence will be unexcused if the school does not receive a note or a phone message from the parent or guardian.

Visitor, Volunteer, and Late Student Sign in Procedure

All visitors need to stop by the Main Office upon arrival. All visitors, volunteers, and late students will log into the computer located in the main office. A pass or name tag will automatically print out. While at HPMS, all people signing in will be required to wear a visitor's name tag. Students will take their late pass to their House Office and sign in there as well. **Please be prepared to show a valid ID.**

Early Dismissals

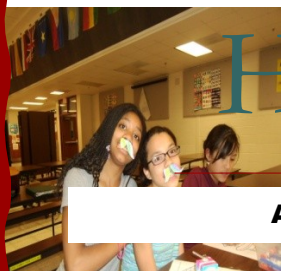
If at all possible, please send a note in with your child the morning of an appointment. The student's house secretary will write a pass to excuse the student at the appropriate time. This will alleviate the need to disrupt the classroom, and your child will be waiting in the front office when you arrive. If sending a note is not possible, please arrive 5 minutes early to assure a smooth pickup of your student.

School Work Requests

When students are absent, the parent or guardian should call the Absentee Line at 571-252-2822 and inform the school of the reason of absence and when they will return to school. When a student misses 3 or more days, the parent/guardian may request missed school work from their child's House Secretary by calling before 9:00 a.m. The missed class work from the teachers will be collected and available for pick up after 3:30 p.m. on that day. Please do not request class work on the Absentee Line.

Tardies

All students must be in their classroom by the 8:30 a.m. bell. Any student **arriving to class after the 8:30 a.m. bell** will be considered "tardy" and must sign in at the Main Office and receive a "tardy" pass. A parent/guardian should accompany his/her child to the office or send a note with the child when arriving late to school.



HP YAS Screamer

A publication by PRCS for the Parents of HPYAS students

Party, Community Service End Year

June 2012

While we just have a six-day YAS in June, we have jam packed it with lots of fun activities.

Friday June 1 is gardening day, so please send your student shorts, garden gloves and a trowel. We have donated leaf mulch and seeds to amend into the soil in the back gardens by the track. Don Keener, assistant principal, could not be happier!

Our end of the year party will be Tuesday, June 5 right after school ends. We will be doing all the planning the day before, making coverings for the tables

and creating goody bags for our graduating 8th graders. We have pizza and cake provided by YAS. If you decide to donate anything else, please bring it with you Monday when you pick up/. As always, your assistance is very much appreciated.

We finish up our scrapbook on Wednesday. We will have it out for you to see all week. The students did a great job with it.

Ms. Milla will chat with us on Thursday, the day before school ends, about being a college student. There are a lot of organizational issues

that many students don't realize, so this might be an eye-opener.

Our last day will be kick-back and play Wii and badminton. Please let us know during the week if your student will be riding the bus home that day so we can say goodbye on their last day with us.

It has been a pleasure serving you and enjoying your student!



Daily Schedule:

Arrival	3:30
Free Gym	3:30-4:00
Snack	4:00-4:10
Homework	4:00-4:30
Stations/Gym	4:30-5:45
Clean Up	5:45-6
End of Day	6:15

Please Remember:

Please make sure you are registered for September. We tend to fill in the summer, particularly with 6th graders, as parents realize the need for YAS next year!

A GREAT MAY!!!!

Our walking field trip to Moe's was a great success in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Many parents and siblings joined us at the eatery, and we had a good walk beforehand.

We introduced a new

game, Pay Day, to teach students about real world money, and Mark Davis presented Part Two of chocolate economics, a delicious educational treat. He promises to return with another economics

program next year.

We stuffed a box for Sgt. Gus Casis to send to him in Afghanistan, along with notes from the students. Thank you to all who contributed!



Contact Information

Supervisor:
Beth Lucas
Leader(s):
Milla Brewer
Andrew Sinden
Site Phone:
703.779-9771
Nextel:
571-233-2496
E-mail:
Beth.lucas@loudoun.gov



Information from the Virginia Department of Education May, 2012

What Parents & Students Should Know About the New Virginia Mathematics Standards of Learning

Virginia's new mathematics standards are a key component of a broader initiative to ensure that young Virginians are truly college and career ready when they graduate from high school. The mathematics standards and corresponding tests reflect the fact that today's students require more rigorous mathematical knowledge and skills to pursue higher education and to compete in a technologically sophisticated work force.

The Standards of Learning (SOL) for each subject identify the essential academic content for each grade level and course. The Virginia Board of Education revised the Mathematics SOL in 2009 to ensure that Virginia graduates will continue to compete successfully with their peers in other states and countries in the global economy.

The revision process drew upon the expertise of national organizations such as the College Board and ACT (publishers of the SAT and ACT college-admissions tests), college faculty and classroom teachers and mathematics specialists from Virginia school divisions.

The new mathematics standards also are equal in rigor and depth to the national model standards – known as the Common Core State Standards – that many states have adopted.

- More about the [SOLs and the Common Core State Standards](#)

How have the Mathematics SOL tests changed?

The new mathematics tests reflect the increased rigor of the new standards. While most of the questions on the new tests are in the familiar multiple-choice format, approximately 15 percent of the items (depending on the test) are new technology-enhanced items.

Technology-enhanced items allow students to apply what they have learned and use critical-thinking skills in ways not possible with traditional multiple-choice questions. The items mirror common classroom tasks and assignments.

For example, “drag and drop” items require students to sort, order, classify, or label to provide an answer. The “drag and drop” functionality also gives students the ability to create graphs from a given data set. “Hot spot” items require students to identify all possible correct answers from a given set or list, plot points on a grid, or highlight a specific feature in a diagram or figure. “Fill-in-the-blank” items require students to complete open-ended problems and type answers into the blanks.

Technology-enhanced items on the new tests in grades 6-8 and the Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II tests were field tested with students during the 2010-2011 school year. The technology-enhanced items on the tests in grades 3-5 are field-test items that will not impact students’ scores until the 2012-2013 school year.

How will the new Mathematics SOL tests impact students?

Instruction based on Virginia’s new mathematics standards will better prepare students for the challenges they will face in the next grade, during the first year of college and in the 21st-century work force and global economy.

Some students will find the new assessments challenging – as students have previously when the Board of Education strengthened academic standards. But past history suggests that student achievement on the tests will rise as school divisions further align their curricula and classroom instruction with the new standards and students become more comfortable with the format of the new tests. Lower pass rates at the beginning of this process are a sign that the state has raised the bar, not that students are learning less.

Students are allowed multiple retakes of end-of-course tests they need to pass in order to earn a diploma. And because of the advantages of the commonwealth’s nationally recognized online testing system, seniors will have several additional opportunities before the end of the school year to retake mathematics tests needed to earn verified credits for graduation.

Summer 2012 Activity Ideas For Your Teen

- A Class Act – Acting for Young People Summer Arts Camp (GMU):
<http://afyp.org/Camp/CampMain.html>
- Adventure Links Summer Camps (Northern VA): www.AdventureLinks.net
- Camp Horizons (Sleepover Camp - Harrisonburg, VA): www.CampHorizonsVA.com
- Champion Debate Camp (Fairfax): www.championdebate.com
- Concordia Language Villages (Minnesota):
<http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/newsite/about1.php>
- Cookology (Dulles Town Center): <http://cookologyonline.blogspot.com/2011/02/summer-cooking-camp-details.html>
- C3 Cyberclubs: http://www.c3cyberclub.com/summer_camp_2012.php
- Digital Media Academy: <http://www.digitalmediaacademy.org/>
- Duke University Youth Programs: <http://learnmore.duke.edu/youth/>
- Fairfax Collegiate Summer Programs (Northern VA): www.FairfaxCollegiate.com
- Ferrum College Summer Enrichment Camp(Sleepover Camp – Ferrum, VA):
<http://www2.ferrum.edu/fcsec/>
- Fitwize 4 Kids:
http://www.fitwize4kids.com/locations/ashburn/summer_camps_schedule.php
- Game Camp USA (Computer Camp – Fairfax, VA): www.gamecamp.com
- Global Youth Village(International Sleepover Camp - Bedford, VA):
<http://www.globalyouthvillage.org>
- Great Books (3 sites: Amherst, Stanford, William and Mary):
www.GreatBooksSummer.com
- iD Tech Camp (Computer Camp, various colleges): www.internalDrive.com
- Ida Lee Recreation Center: www.idalee.org
- Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth: <http://cty.jhu.edu>
- LCPS Extreme Journey Summer Camp (under “Announcements”): <http://www.lcps.org>
- LCPS LYCEUM (formerly Summer in the Arts - under “Fine Arts”):
<http://www.lcps.org/Page/78249>

Summer 2012 Activity Ideas For Your Teen

- LCPS Monroe Technology Center Summer Career Camp: www.lcps.org/mtc
- Learn by Doing (Yale University, Wellesley College, St. Mark's School): www.explo.org
- Loudoun County 4-H Camps: <http://loudoun4h.pbworks.com/w/page/19187805/Camps>
- Loudoun County Parks & Recreation: www.loudoun.gov/prcs/camps
- Loudoun County Public Libraries: www.LCPL.lib.va.us
- National Building Museum(DC): <http://www.nbm.org/families-kids/teens-young-adults/iwwl-program.html>
- Space Camp and Aviation Challenge (Alabama): www.spacecamp.com/
- Sportrock Rock Climbing Camp (Sterling): www.sportrock.com
- Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG), (grades K-12; various locations): <http://www.giftedstudy.org/>
- Thomas Jefferson HS Summer Technology Institute (Fairfax): www.tjhsst.edu
- Traveling Players Ensemble (MS and HS; travel through VA): www.travelingplayers.org
- Virginia Space Flight Academy: www.VaSpaceFlightAcademy.org
- West Virginia Wesleyan Summer Gifted Program: www.wvwc.edu/summergifted/
- William and Mary Summer Enrichment Program: <http://education.wm.edu/centers/cfge/precollegiate/sep/index.php>
- YMCA of Loudoun County: <http://www.ymcadc.org/branch/?bid=10>





Back-to-School shopping just got easier!

To help with your Back-To-School preparations for 2012-2013, Harper Park will be providing Back-To-School packs from Innisbrook to our rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. We hope this will be convenient for you and save you time, since the Back-To-School packs will be shipped to Harper Park. These are the supplies that our teachers have requested.

This opportunity is optional and it is a fundraiser for our school. All money raised will be used to support our students. For additional information, please contact Fitzroy Frew at fitzroy.frew@lcps.org or 571-252-2820.



Harper Park Middle School is offering
Innisbrook's Pre-packed School Supplies Sale...
NOW ONLINE May 7th – July 1st, 2012

**Order On-Line
From Home**



What's This Program About?

- This opportunity is optional and it is a fundraiser for our school.
- Time, convenience and the correct school supplies!!
- We recognize that everyone is busy these days and we hope you find this program to be time saving.
- Instead of spending your summer days combing through countless stores to find all of the items on your supply lists, just place your order through Innisbrook's online "SHIP TO SCHOOL" program. With this program you can do all the shopping from the comfort of your own air-conditioned home.
- Harper Park's supplies are available to you in one convenient package, plus they will be delivered to Harper Park and be ready for your child the first day of school.



6th Grade with Art = \$42.00**



7th Grade = \$31.00



7th Grade with Algebra I = \$33.00



7th Grade with Algebra/Art= \$36.00



7th Grade with Art = \$34.00



8th Grade = \$36.00



8th Grade with Algebra = \$39.00



8th Grade with Algebra/Art = \$42.00



8th Grade with Geometry = \$42.00



8th Grade with Art = \$39.00



8th Grade with Geometry/Art= \$45.00

** Sixth graders will have Art either 1st or 2nd semester

You only need to order one supply kit per student.

HOW TO ORDER:

- 1) Log on to www.ordermypack.com & enter our school **#109631**
- 2) Choose the appropriate grade pack (remember to choose **NEXT YEAR'S** grade level) and pay via credit card. **Order deadline is July 1st.**
- 3) The school supply packs will ship directly to Harper Park and be there the first day of school.
- 4) If you have any questions, please contact Innisbrook's Customer Service at 1-800-334-8461 - (M-F, 8:30 – 5:00pm EST) or Fitzroy Frew (7th Grade Dean) at 571-252-2820 or fitzroy.frew@lcps.org.

2012-2013 6th Grade Supply List

2 Binders-1 inch and 3 rings
Binder dividers- 2 packs w/ 5 each
1 Spiral Notebook- 8.5 x 11 (5 subjects, college ruled, minimum 200 pages and **plastic cover**)
1 Spiral Notebook- 8.5 x 11 (3 subjects, college ruled, minimum 200 pages and **plastic cover**)
2 Composition Books (black w/ marbled cover)
2 Packs Loose Leaf Paper – wide ruled, 200 pages
#2 Pencils
1 box colored pencils
Pens- 1 red and 2 black(not erasable)
Index Cards 3x5- 200 total
Pencil Pouch/Bag- 3 holes
3 Prong, 2-pocket folder
3 Highlighters- Each a different color
4oz glue bottle

2012-2013 7th Grade Supply List

2 Binders-1.5 inch and 3 rings
Binder dividers- 2 packs w/ 5 each
1 Spiral notebook- 8.5 x 11(5 subjects, college ruled and **plastic cover**, minimum 200 pages)
1 Spiral notebook- 8.5 x 11(3 subjects, college ruled and **plastic cover**, minimum 150 pages)
1 Composition Book (Black w/ marbled cover)
Loose Leaf Paper- College ruled, 200 pages
#2 Pencils
1 pack of gel pens
1 Highlighter
1 Red pen
Index Cards 3x5- 100 total
4oz glue bottle
3 Prong, 2-pocket folder

Algebra students

Graph paper (1 cm x 1 cm works best)

2012-2013 8th Grade Supply List

2 spiral notebooks, 5 subjects- 8.5 x 11 college ruled with pocket dividers/folders and **hard plastic covers**
2 Binders- 2 inch and 3 rings
Binder dividers- 2 packs w/ 5 each
1 Composition Book (Black w/ marbled cover)
Loose Leaf Paper- College Ruled, 200 pages
#2 Pencils
Pens- blue or black

Algebra 1 students

Graph paper (1 cm x 1 cm works best)

Geometry students

Colored pencils
Markers (8 count)

PREVENTING TICK-BORNE DISEASES IN VIRGINIA



Spring and summer bring warm temperatures, just right for walking in the woods and other outdoor activities. Warm weather also means that ticks become more active and this can increase the risk of a tick-borne disease. The tick-borne diseases that occur most often in Virginia are Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and ehrlichiosis.

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is caused by infection with a bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. The number of Lyme disease cases reported in Virginia has increased substantially in recent years.

The Tick

The blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), formerly known as the deer tick, is the only carrier of Lyme disease in the Eastern U.S. The blacklegged tick's name comes from it being the only tick in the Eastern U.S. that bites humans and has legs that are black (or dark chocolate brown) in color.

Lyme disease transmission to humans usually occurs during the late spring and early summer when young (nymph stage) ticks are active and feeding. Tick nymphs normally feed on

small and medium sized animals, but will also feed on people. These ticks typically become infected with the Lyme disease agent by feeding as larvae on certain rodent species.

In the fall, the nymphs become adults and infected nymphs become infected adults. Adult blacklegged ticks prefer to feed on deer. However, adult ticks will occasionally bite people on warm days of the fall and winter and can transmit Lyme disease at that time.

Transmission of Lyme disease by the nymph or adult ticks does not occur until the tick has been attached and feeding on a human or animal host for at least 36 hours.

The Symptoms

Between three days to several weeks after being bitten by an infected tick, 70-90% of people develop a circular or oval rash, called erythema migrans (or EM), at the site of the bite. To qualify as an EM, the rash must be at least two inches in diameter. That is because bites by some tick species can cause local inflammation and redness around the bite that could be mistaken for an EM. Unlike localized inflammation, an EM rash will increase in size and may become more than 12 inches across. As it enlarges, the area around the center of the rash clears, giving it a "bull's eye" appearance. The EM rash does not itch or hurt so if it is not seen, it may not be noticed. In addition to an EM rash, Lyme disease may cause headache, fever, muscle and joint aches, and a feeling of tiredness. If left untreated, Lyme disease may progress to affect the joints, nervous system, or heart several weeks to months after the tick bite. In a small percentage of infected people, late symptoms may occur months to years later and cause long-term nervous system problems or arthritis.



EM Rash

Unfortunately, blacklegged tick nymphs are small (about the size of a pinhead), difficult to see, and cause no itch or irritation at the site of the bite, so many people are not aware they have been bitten. If you have been in an area that might contain ticks and you experience any symptoms of Lyme disease, contact your doctor.

The Treatment

When Lyme disease is detected early, its effects can be mild and easily treated with antibiotics. In the late stages, Lyme disease can be treated successfully with antibiotics, but recovery may take considerably longer.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) is caused by infection with a bacterium called *Rickettsia rickettsii*. The disease is characterized by a sudden onset of symptoms and can be fatal if not treated. Nearly all cases occur in the spring and summer months.

The Tick

In Virginia, the American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*) is the species known to carry the agent of Rocky Mountain spotted fever. The tick needs to feed on a host/person for only about four hours to transmit the bacteria. Fortunately, less than 1% of American dog ticks carry the agent of RMSF.

The Symptoms

Symptoms of Rocky Mountain spotted fever begin 2-14 days after the tick bite, and may include fever, deep muscle pain, severe headache, chills, and upset stomach or vomiting. From the third to fifth day of illness a red, spotted rash may appear, beginning on the wrists and ankles. The rash spreads quickly to the palms of the hands and soles of the feet and then to the rest of the body. However, only about half of RMSF patients develop a rash.

The Treatment

Antibiotic treatment for RMSF is effective, and suspected RMSF should be treated as soon as possible based on symptoms and a history of tick exposure. The risk of death from RMSF increases by the fifth day of illness - but the rash often does not occur until that time. Therefore, do not wait for RMSF blood test results, or the appearance of a rash, before starting treatment. Treatment is important; almost one-third of those who do not get treated die from this disease.

Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis

Although several diseases can be caused by bacteria in the *Ehrlichia* and *Anaplasma* genera, the most common in Virginia are human monocytic ehrlichiosis (HME) and human granulocytic anaplasmosis (HGA). HME is transmitted only by the lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*) and most commonly by bites from adult ticks. Lone star ticks are very common and are responsible for the most tick bites to people in Virginia. HGA is transmitted only by the blacklegged tick (most commonly by bites from nymphal stage ticks). The bacteria causing HME or HGA will not be transmitted unless the infected tick has been attached and feeding for at least 24 hours.

The Symptoms

Symptoms for both HME and HGA can include fever, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, and general discomfort. Illness can be severe - up to 3% of patients may die if not treated.

The Treatment

HME and HGA respond rapidly to treatment with antibiotics. Treatment should be based on symptoms (including platelet and liver enzyme tests) and history of tick exposure. Treatment should not be delayed while waiting for ehrlichiosis- or anaplasmosis-specific serology results.

Other Diseases

Ticks can transmit other diseases, such as tularemia (rabbit fever) and babesiosis. Neither of these illnesses is common in Virginia. Tularemia is a bacterial disease that has a sudden onset of fever and chills. Typically, an ulcer develops at the site of the tick bite and surrounding lymph nodes become enlarged. Tularemia is a serious illness and untreated cases may be fatal. Tularemia is most commonly associated with the American dog tick, but may also be transmitted by the lone star tick.

Babesiosis is caused by a parasite that infects red blood cells.

The babesiosis agent is transmitted only by infected black

Spotted rash on arm and hand of RMSF patient.



legged ticks. Symptoms include fever, chills, muscle aches, fatigue, and jaundice. Fatalities may occur in immuno-compromised or splenectomized patients.

Prevention

Ticks do not jump or fly; they wait on the forest floor, leaf litter, or low vegetation and attach to the feet or shoes of people or legs of animals as they pass by. The ticks then crawl upward. The following steps can reduce your risk of tick-borne diseases:

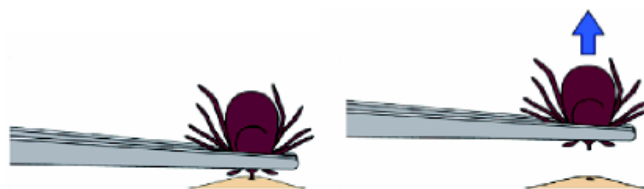
- Avoid potential tick habitats such as tall grass and vegetation in shaded areas, forests, and along forest edges.
- Walk in the center of mowed trails to avoid brushing against vegetation.
- Keep grass cut and underbrush thinned in yards. If pesticides are used for tick control, follow directions carefully or hire a professional to apply the pesticide.
- Eliminate wood piles and objects that provide cover and nesting sites for small rodents around your property.
- Wear light-colored clothing so that ticks are easier to see and remove.
- Tuck pant legs into socks and boots, tuck shirts into pants, and wear long-sleeved shirts buttoned at the wrist.
- Conduct tick checks on yourself and your children every four to six hours while in tick habitat.
- Apply tick repellent to areas of the body and clothing that may come in contact with grass and brush. Repellents include those containing up to 50% DEET for adults or less than 30% for children. An aerosol repellent/insecticide containing 0.5% permethrin may be applied to shoes, socks, and other clothing, but should not be used on skin. Follow directions carefully and do not overuse. Some tick repellents can cause toxic or allergic reactions.
- Ask your veterinarian to recommend tick control methods for your pets. Animals can get Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and ehrlichiosis, but they do not transmit these diseases to humans.

Tick Removal

Because ticks do not transmit disease until they have been attached to the host for several hours or several days, it is very

important to remove ticks as soon as they are found. The following is the best way to remove a tick:

- Grasp the tick with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and gently, but firmly, pull it straight out. Avoid any twisting or jerking motion that may break off the mouth parts in the skin. Mouth parts left in the wound may cause irritation or infection similar to a reaction from a splinter.
- If tweezers are not available, protect your fingers with gloves, tissue, or a paper towel; do not touch the tick with bare fingers. Do not squeeze or rupture the tick's swollen abdomen. This may cause an infectious agent to contaminate the bite site and cause disease.
- After the tick has been removed, wash hands with soap and water. Apply a topical antiseptic to the bite site.
- You can dispose of the tick by drowning it in alcohol or flushing it down a drain or toilet. However, it may be useful to save the tick in alcohol for several weeks and have it identified by an expert in case you become ill. Knowing what kind of tick bit you might help your doctor diagnose the illness..
- Tick removal using nail polish, petroleum jelly, alcohol or a hot match is not safe. These methods could cause the tick to regurgitate an infectious agent into the site of the bite.



www.vdh.virginia.gov

April 2010

Message from your 8th Grade Dean

Farewell to the Class of 2016

As knowledge increases, wonder deepens. – Charles Morgan

It has been a wonderful journey over the past three years with the class of 2016. Just recently we have completed multiple memory making events: Hurricane Mile, field trip to Hershey Park, school carnival, school picnic lunch, yearbook signing, and a wonderful awards ceremony. I cannot describe the joy I receive from recognizing our students and watching them grow into the young men and women who will one day be the lead voices for our country.

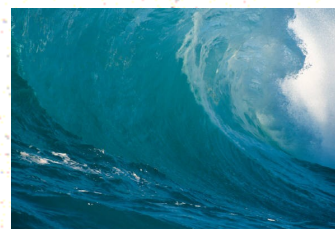
Congratulations to each student and their family for a successful completion of middle school at Harper Park. As you transition into high school I hope you remember the lessons taught by your teachers and administrators. Not just the academic lessons but the life lessons that are woven into the daily conversations held between students and adults. Remember to be kind, caring, helpful, patient, creative, understanding, tolerant, forgiving, truthful, trustworthy, diligent, open-minded and most of all confident in your true self. You are a part of this family and will forever be a Harper Park Hurricane.

Enjoy your summer and all the best you each one of you as you continue to increase your knowledge and dig deeper to find the answers you seek. Ask question and don't stop until you get an answer that leads you to more knowledge. To the class of 2016, I salute you.

Mrs. M.H. Cary, Dean for the HPMS class of 2016

Teams Jet Stream, Cyclone and Tsunami

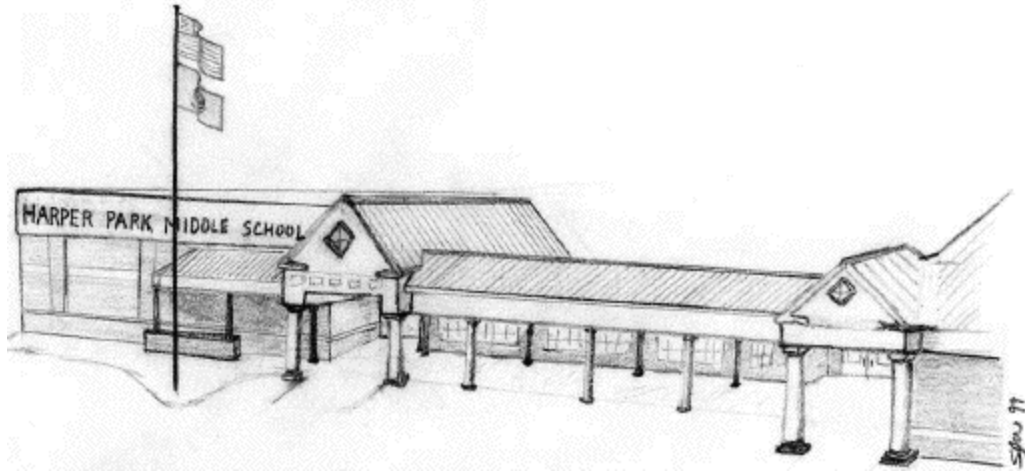
Jet Stream



Harper Park Middle School

701 Potomac Station Dr.

Leesburg, VA 20176



Future Dates To Remember

June 8	Last day of school/end of grading period
11-12	Teacher Work Days
13	Report Cards Mailed
25-July 27	Middle School Summer School at Tuscarora High School
25-August 2	High School Summer School at Tuscarora High School
August 27	First Day of School

Check the Loudoun County Public Schools Website for the latest information about meetings, school closings, etc. at www.lcps.org with a link to HPMS' website @ www.lcps.org/hpms

Persons who, due to a disability, need assistance to be able to participate meaningfully in any school meeting, should contact Mr. Shipp at the school (571-252-2820), at least five working days prior to the meeting.

LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS