

THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM  
10910 Clarksville Pike  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Circular No. 08  
Series 2021-2022

September 23, 2021

Division of Operations

Balloons

To: All Staff

From: Scott W. Washington  
Chief Operating Officer

**Balloon launches and other activities that result in the release of helium-filled balloons into the atmosphere are prohibited in the HCPSS.**

The negative environmental impact of the release of helium-filled balloons and similar materials has been well documented, and the release of balloons also creates litter. As an educational system, it is incumbent upon us to respond to these concerns by eliminating activities that adversely affect the environment or ecological balance of our world. Balloon launches and other activities that result in the release of helium-filled balloons into the atmosphere are prohibited in the HCPSS.

The presentation of non-latex, helium-filled balloons, and balloon bouquets as well as their use as decorations inside the building is permitted. Please be mindful that the recipient or sponsor assumes full responsibility for the disposal of the balloons after the activity.

Please communicate this information to the PTA President and parents in your school community so that they can assist us in our efforts.

SWW/PvG/vw