

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

Circular No. 22
Series 2014-2015

August 28, 2014

Chief Operating Officer

Balloons

To: All Staff

From: Camille Jones, Chief Operating Officer

Please be aware that for safety reasons, balloon launches and other activities that result in the release of helium-filled balloons into the atmosphere are prohibited in the HCPSS.

As you may already know, much research has been done on the negative environmental impact of the release of helium-filled balloons and similar materials. Studies clearly indicate that balloons have an exceedingly negative impact on wildlife in particular as well as the environment in general. As an educational system, it is incumbent upon us to respond to these concerns by eliminating activities which adversely affect the environment or ecological balance of our world.

The presentation of non-latex containing, 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 appropriate 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.

CJ/RAM/fhl