

Celebrating 20 Years of A+ Partners in Education



In the fall of 2002, Howard County Public School System and Howard County Library System formed A+ Partners in Education to expand the educational opportunities and enhance the academic achievement of every Howard County student. It was one of the first systemwide school and public library partnerships in the nation.

We are proud to celebrate 20 years of collaboration. Together we have furthered students' academic success, enhanced their love of reading and learning, and forged a connection to libraries that will serve them their whole lives.

RIGHT FROM THE START

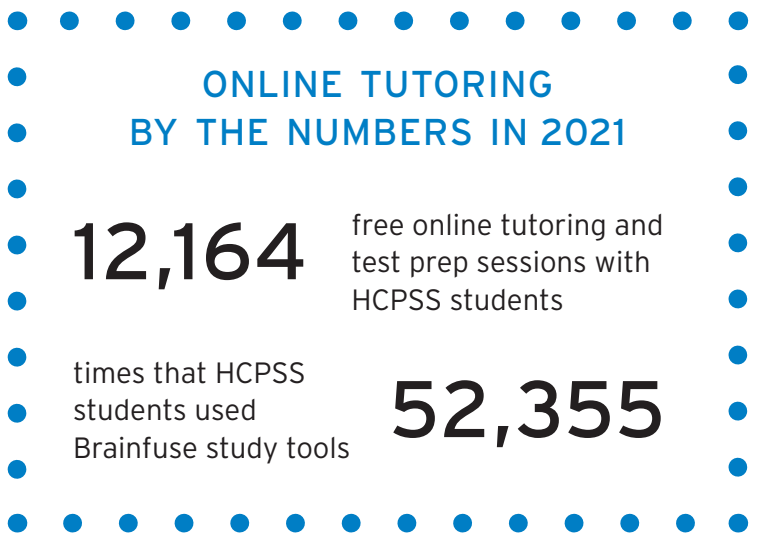
The library is integrated into students' experiences from the beginning of their academic career. Kindergarten, Here We Come prepares and inspires incoming kindergarteners and gives them a chance to tour a school bus. Then, every kindergarten class takes a field trip to the library for a class, a tour, and a friendly connection to this important family resource. We are proud to add another point of early connection: next year, the HCLS mobile unit will visit every HCPSS Pre-K to engage students and parents!

CONNECTING TO SERVE STUDENTS

Every school has a dedicated HCLS liaison, and our educators and staffs collaborate to offer hundreds of school-based HCLS classes and events that serve those school communities. This includes teaching students how to use library resources for History Day projects, collaborating on Literacy Nights, and teaching HCPSS staff about new library resources. We also collaborate on summer reading lists and promotion, to help all students read and continue to learn all summer. And so much more!

Our systems are connected, too. Did you know every HCPSS student has an account with the library system, built right into the student portal, hcpss.me? With one click, students can access all online library resources and reserve books at HCLS branches. In the last year, students borrowed 80,337 books, e-books, and other resources on A+ accounts.

A+ partners also jointly fund online tutoring via the Brainfuse program.



**HOWARD COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM**
Public Education for All



A+ MAKES LEARNING FUN

In Battle of the Books, students experience reading as dynamic, social, and exciting. Teams of fifth graders read 10-14 titles over a year and practice answering questions about each book in a competition with pun-ny teamwork, costumes, and a dance party! Affectionately referred to as BOB, the contest grew from one high school gym to six sites. This year, we celebrated with 1,234 students at Merriweather Post Pavilion.



SPELLING BEE BY THE NUMBERS

MORE THAN 7,000 students from 41 HCPSS schools participated last year alone.

1 Saketh Sundar, one of the Octo-champs of the National Spelling Bee and a four-time winner of the HCLS Spelling Bee

A DEDICATED TEAM

HCLS is deeply grateful to the leadership of HCPSS, library instructors, school-based educators, staff, parents, and volunteers who help us serve children through this partnership.

People with many different roles - from IT experts to event set up crews, media specialists to HCLS books selectors - consistently give extra effort in this partnership because they know how powerful it is to connect students and their families with the library. This partnership exists and succeeds because of the hard work and dedication of this A+ team, including many people whose contributions are often unseen and uncelebrated.

On the 20th anniversary of our partnership, we honor our team.

OUTREACH, EQUITY & IMPACT

We look ahead with energy and commitment. HCLS is dedicated to strategic, collaborative work, and additional outreach and engagement with schools to help every student and their family enjoy increased opportunity and academic success with library resources. Whether as a volunteer, school leader, or prospective sponsor, we welcome you to reach out and join us in this important work.



Here's to 20 more years!