Dear Atholton Community,

As part of our school system’s commitment to equity and inclusion, we continue to focus on building community and creating welcoming environments for all students. We want to ensure we are being equitable for our entire community and we are embracing HCPSS commitment to inclusivity.

While we recognize that Halloween activities held during the school day have been a long standing tradition in many Howard County schools and communities, the decision has been made to not hold Halloween activities during the virtual instructional day this school year. While Halloween is not part of the Howard County Public School System’s curriculum, the greater concern this year is that the virtual environment does not easily allow students to refrain from Halloween-related activities and still be engaged in school.

Instead, we will partner with our PTA to discuss next steps. We will send out future communication if we plan an event after the school day for the community.

We look forward to partnering with families and students on activities that are inclusive to all this school year. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shawna Holden