

Hammond Elementary School



Tiger Tales

February 4, 2021



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings Hammond Families,

As we are nearing the end of another busy week, let me thank you again for your ongoing support of your children, our staff, and school. I apologize that this week was riddled with communications as we have tried to limit them when possible. The combination of upcoming report cards, scheduling conferences, and asking families to complete the Instructional Preference survey has caused more reminders than usual. As of this afternoon, we have received completed surveys for about 400 students. We are waiting for over 200 additional surveys to be completed. The deadline for completion is tomorrow afternoon at 4:00. Having all surveys completed by the deadline is essential to our ability to plan next steps for each of our hybrid cohorts, including our ability to offer students 1 or 2 days of in-person instruction. We appreciate your assistance with this process.

Though we were not able to provide our students and staff their much beloved snow day(s) this week, we hope everyone was able to find time to go outside and enjoy the landscape. As I sit at my desk, prepare my message to families, and look out onto a mostly empty parking lot, I am reminded how much I miss reminding students to stay on the sidewalk and out of the snow before entering the building. It's those little things that serve as constant reminders of what I'll simply describe as the "good old days."

Take care and stay safe,

Ms. Ciarapica

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Decision On Instructional Preferences For Remainder of 2020-2021 School Year

HCPSS will begin a phased-in transition to a hybrid instructional model beginning March 1. **By Friday, February 5**, parents/guardians must make a decision to send their child to school for 1-2 days per week and receive virtual instruction the remainder of the week, or to have their child remain fully virtual for the remainder of the school year. [Click here](#) for more information.

To prepare for this transition, HCPSS requests that parents/guardians complete a two-question survey by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 5** with your decision. See directions below for accessing this form.

To complete the form:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#)
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select “In-Person Commitment” from the middle of the page
4. Complete the questions in the form for each child and select “Save”

Quarter 2 Report Cards

Your child's Quarter 2 Report Card will be accessible via [HCPSS Connect](#) on Friday, February 5 at 4:00 p.m.

Parents/guardians may view/download report cards by taking the following steps:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#) using your parent email and password
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select Report Cards from the middle
4. Select the report card you wish to access

Parent Teacher Conferences

As a reminder, Parent Teacher Conferences for this winter are planned for Wednesday, February 10 and Thursday, February 11. We will be offering Google Meet conferences for Math classes only in February. Conferences for 4th Grade GT Math will not be held, since they were held in the Fall.

The Conference Scheduling Window is open through **Friday, February 5**. Log on to HCPSS Connect at www.hcpss.org/connect to access Synergy Conference Management. You can then choose your desired conference time from the teacher's availability. [Click here for directions to schedule your conference.](#)

HES Virtual Spirit Day

Let's all stay connected by having a little fun from afar. Students and staff are invited to participate in Spirit Day on Friday, February 5-**Favorite Character Day!** Dress up as or wear your Favorite Character (Superhero, Sports Figure, Cartoon, Someone You Admire and/or Famous Person). Click the link to view future [Spirit Days for 2021](#).

MAP Assessment Winter Administration Grades 1-5

On Wednesday, February 10 students in grades 1-5 will take the Measured Academic Progress (MAP) assessment for Math. The data from the MAP assessment will help schools and teachers measure

your student's academic progress. The MAP test does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly. To learn more about the MAP assessment, please visit:

<https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/>

The math test will be offered on February 10 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. If your child is unable to attend, makeup testing will be offered during asynchronous learning times. Teachers have shared Google Meet information for your child's testing group.

Asynchronous Assignments on February 10

- February 10 is a half day for students and MAP administration, therefore, students will not be assigned asynchronous work on February 10.

If you have any questions, please contact Nykia Mapson at Nykia_Mapson@hcpss.org.

Update Your Family File

HCPSS uses Family File for parents/guardians to provide emergency information. As we prepare for Hybrid Instruction, please be sure your Family File is up-to-date by logging in to [HCPSS Connect](#) and selecting the Family File tab and then clicking on Family File.

Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to provide or update the following information:

- Student information
- Parent/guardian contact
- Emergency contacts
- Medical information
- Arrival/dismissal procedures
- Media release (photo approval)
- Data confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA directory

Changes of address may not be made through Family File. If you have recently moved, please contact your child's school as soon as possible.

Young Author's Contest Winner

Let's celebrate! HES has a Howard County Young Authors' Contest winner. Congratulations to Caleb King, from Mrs. Lisle's class, for writing the winning 1st Grade Short Story entry, *Moon Rock*! We wish him luck as his entry advances to the state level competition!

Music News: Quaver Notes

Hey Hammond Tigers! Need a QuaverNotes code? The February code is **VDAY2021** and you get 200 QuaverNotes!

There is a new way to enter QuaverNotes codes!

For students:

- Go to QuaverMusic.com
- Click ENTER A CODE on the Student Dashboard.
- Enter the code and click OK.

Boom-Chicka-Boom! You now have QuaverNotes.

PVMS Virtual Music Information Night

Please put February 10 at 7:00 p.m. on your calendar for any families who would like information about the PVMS music programs. We welcome all parents and students - those who already have children enrolled in band, orchestra, or chorus OR want to find out about the programs in order to enroll for the first time! The Google Meet code is **pvmsmusic**.

To join the Google Meet:

1. Log into hcpss.me using your student's HCPSS username/password.
2. Select Google Meet from the menu.
3. Choose "join a meeting."
4. Enter the Meet using the assigned code at the time indicated above.

Counselor Corner

Many families are concerned about the possible long-lasting effects of the social isolation we have faced during this pandemic. Reading this [article](#) helped me feel better, and I'm hoping it may help you as well.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 5	Spirit Day-Favorite Character Day!
February 5	Report cards issued
February 10	MAP Math Test (Students in Grades 1-5)
February 10-11	Parent Teacher Conferences, Schools Close 3 Hours Early for ES Students
February 12	Schools Closed for Students, Professional Work Day
February 15	Schools and Offices Closed, Presidents' Day

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEL Opportunity

Your child's Homeroom class will have one optional weekly opportunity to participate in an activity to get to know one another. Some examples of activities are Show and Tell, Would You Rather?, Dance Parties, Read Alouds and many more other opportunities. The activities will be occurring during the Family Additional Asynchronous Support Time for each specific grade level. Homeroom teachers will post information regarding these virtual gatherings in their Canvas Monday Morning Weekly Outline Announcements. We hope that many students can participate in these optional opportunities to get to know one another!

Grade Level Lunch Bunches: Chat and Chew

HES invites our students to attend optional [Lunch Bunches](#). View the schedule below and join in on your grade's special day! Log in using the code **HES-LUNCH**.

Kindergarten: Mondays 11:20 - 11:50

First Grade: Mondays 12:00 - 12:30

Second Grade: Tuesdays 11:20 - 11:50

Third Grade: Tuesdays 12:00 - 12:30

Fourth Grade: Thursdays 11:20 - 11:50

Fifth Grade: Thursdays 12:00 - 12:30

Media Center News: Contactless Circulation at HES

Contact Circulation is now available at HES! Use the form below to request resources from your media center. The media team works to fill your orders each Wednesday. Book bags are placed outside our front doors on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please return any media books that are currently checked out when you collect your bag. Book bags will be organized on carts by grade level and alphabetical order by last name. There will be a cart clearly labeled for the return of any books that are currently checked out. **Returned books will quarantine for seven days before they are checked in.**

Use this link to fill your request: [Hammond Elementary Contactless Checkout](#)

If you have any questions about this program, please reach out to:

[Mrs. Davis](#), Library Media Specialist or [Mrs. Talaii](#), Media Paraeducator

2020-2021 Inclement Weather Protocols

For the 2020-2021 school year, while in virtual, small groups or hybrid instructional models, HCPSS will transition to fully virtual instruction during inclement weather days. [View the four possible inclement weather decisions.](#)

Tips for Rebooting Your Chromebook

Having issues with your Chromebook? [Click here](#) for directions to correct or repair unexpected Chromebook system behavior. Begin with the quick Refresh Procedure. If the issue continues, complete the Reset Procedure.

Ms. Freitag, School Psychologist Office Hours

Ms. Freitag, School Psychologist, will offer Office Hours on Mondays from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Please use the code **hes-schoolpsych** to join in to ask a quick question or share a concern. As always, Ms. Freitag is available to set up a Google meet at any time by reaching out via email at angela_freitag@hcpss.org.

Mrs. Kennedy, School Counselor

Mrs. Kennedy, our School Counselor, is available to support students and families when adjusting to our virtual learning environment. Please do not hesitate to contact her for additional assistance (mkennedy@hcpss.org). Check out her [Canvas page](#) here.

PTA NEWS

PTA Meeting February 8

The HES PTA will hold a virtual meeting on Monday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m. An agenda will be available for review prior to the meeting on the PTA website hespta.org. If you have any questions, contact Leigh String at president@hespta.org.

Membership

If you have not done so already, please consider joining our PTA. PTAs support improvements through advocacy and play an important role in fundraising for curriculum based programs and social events. The HES PTA is a tremendous asset to our school community and needs your support. Visit hespta.org for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please find the [link](#) to the Howard County Public School System's Community News and Programs page.

Hammond Elementary School

At-A-Glance Resource Sheet

Stay Updated:

- Access hes.hcpss.org for Tiger Tales News, our staff directory, calendar dates & more!
- Access www.hcpss.org for HCPSS information & resources
- Read “Tiger Tales” newsletters and Family Communications
- Listen to HCPSS BOE meetings
- Complete your Family File at www.hcpss.org/connect

Save the Dates:

HCPSS School System Calendar List of Dates:
<https://www.hcpss.org/f/news/calendars/datesonly202021.pdf>

School Office: Due to COVID-19, our school building is only open to HCPSS staff, those registered through Columbia Association child care, and mail and delivery workers.

School Virtual Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.

School Phone Number: Our office number is **410-880-5890**, but please note that you may need to leave a message during school hours. If it is an emergency and your call is not answered during school hours, please email either Ms. Ciarapica, Principal at Lisa_Ciarapica@hcpss.org or Mrs. Mapson, Assistant Principal at Nykia_Mapson@hcpss.org.

School Address: 8110 Aladdin Drive, Laurel, MD 20723

School EFax Number: 443-973-5552

To report a school absence: While parents/guardians can continue to email their child’s teacher for absences, we are encouraging parents to use this [GoogleForm for absence reporting](https://www.hes.hcpss.org) available at www.hes.hcpss.org. We hope this makes reporting absences more convenient and efficient for you!

If there is a health issue that you would like the teacher and health office to know about, please email your child’s teacher and our school nurse, [Mrs. Rozgonyi](mailto:Mrs.Rozgonyi). Please email [Ms. Bajwa](mailto:Ms.Bajwa) with any doctor notes for student absences.

<p>Need Grab-and-Go Meal Services?</p> <p>Grab-and-Go meals will be served at HES Monday through Friday from 8:00–9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.</p> <p>Meals can be picked up in the rear of the building, at the doors of our kitchen. When entering the main parking lot, please drive down the access road to the right of Hammond Middle School. Meals will be provided at no cost to all students for the remainder of the school year.</p>	<p>Need Support or Health Services?</p> <p>School Counselor: Mrs. Kennedy Margaret_Kennedy@hcpss.org</p> <p>School Psychologist: Mrs. Downin Laurie_Downin@hcpss.org</p> <p>School Nurse: Mrs. Rozgonyi Melissa_Rozgonyi@hcpss.org</p> <p>Pupil Personnel Worker: Monique Finch Monique_Finch@hcpss.org</p>
<p>Need How-to Tech information?</p> <p>https://hcpss.me/join-chromebook-to-wifi/ for directions to connect your Chromebook to your home WiFi</p> <p>https://hcpss.me/account-self-service/ if you forgot your username and password</p> <p>https://hcpss.instructure.com/courses/77796 for common self-help resources</p> <p>If after reviewing these resources, your family continues to need support, please complete the Student and Family Technology Support Request Form.</p>	<p>Need Language Assistance?</p> <p>Espanol: 410-313-1591</p> <p>Korean: 410-313-1592</p> <p>Chinese: 410-313-5920</p> <p>Chin: 410-313-5968</p> <p>Call and leave a message with your name, contact information and question. A liaison will return your call.</p>
<p>Want to get involved?</p> <p>Visit https://www.hespta.org/ and follow instructions on how to join or renew membership. You can also email membership@hespta.org with additional questions.</p>	<p>Hammond Elementary Fun Facts</p> <p>Mascot: Tuffy the Tiger</p> <p>Colors: Green and Yellow</p> <p>Age: HES is 49 years old this year!</p>

