

Hammond Elementary School



Tiger Tales

February 3, 2022



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Hammond families,

Our return from Winter Break has remained busy. Report cards were visible to parents on Monday through the Family File and we look forward to "seeing" our families next week for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Have you signed up for a Parent-Teacher conference with your child's math teacher? Conferences will be held February 10 & 11 but the last day to sign up for conferences is tomorrow, Friday, February 4. For step-by-step instructions on how to sign up, please refer to this [flier](#). If you are in need of further assistance, please contact Lisa Castaneda (Lisa_Castaneda@hcpss.org) or call the front office.

We are excitedly preparing for some upcoming events. Tonight we hope you can join us for a Virtual Parent Night at 6:30 pm to learn strategies to support your children as they manage peer conflict. To join, click <http://meet.google.com/uxg-cdqz-iyj>. This event is being hosted by our School Counselors, Mrs. Kennedy and Ms. Plotkin.

Next Thursday, February 10th, our students and families are encouraged to log on to <https://meet.google.com/kzq-qcmj-jnx> at 6:30 pm to join me for a read aloud of my favorite Valentine's Day Story. Over the next several weeks, up until Spring Break, we hope to offer additional virtual events to connect with our community.

Lastly, we are encouraging all of our students to join us for Kindness Week, to be celebrated Monday, February 14th - Friday, February 18th. We will begin sharing this information with students next week. Please refer to this [flier](#) for more information.

Best wishes,

Ms. Ciarapica

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

From the Health Room:

Has your child had one or both of their Covid vaccines? Regardless of vaccination status, we are asking that all families complete the [HES Vaccination Status Form for Students](#) to collect this information for each of our students. To support the proposed return of contact tracing, please complete the form for each child attending HES by Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 or is a close contact to a positive case, please email the following information to the Health Room staff (Melissa_Rozgonyi@hcpss.org) and Front Office (Lisa_Castaneda@hcpss.org) regarding your child's absence:

Positive Test:

- Date the symptoms began (if any)
- Vaccination status & date of last vaccination
- Type of Covid test taken (PCR or rapid) **and date**

Close Contact to a Positive Individual if not Vaccinated:

- Date of exposure (if close contact)
- Vaccination status & date of last vaccination
- If your child is a household close contact - can the positive family member be completely isolated from the child?
- Has your child had a confirmed positive Covid-19 test within the last 90 days

Updated Covid Mitigation Link:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2022/01/updated-covid-mitigation-efforts-in-hcpss-schools-jan-3-2022/>

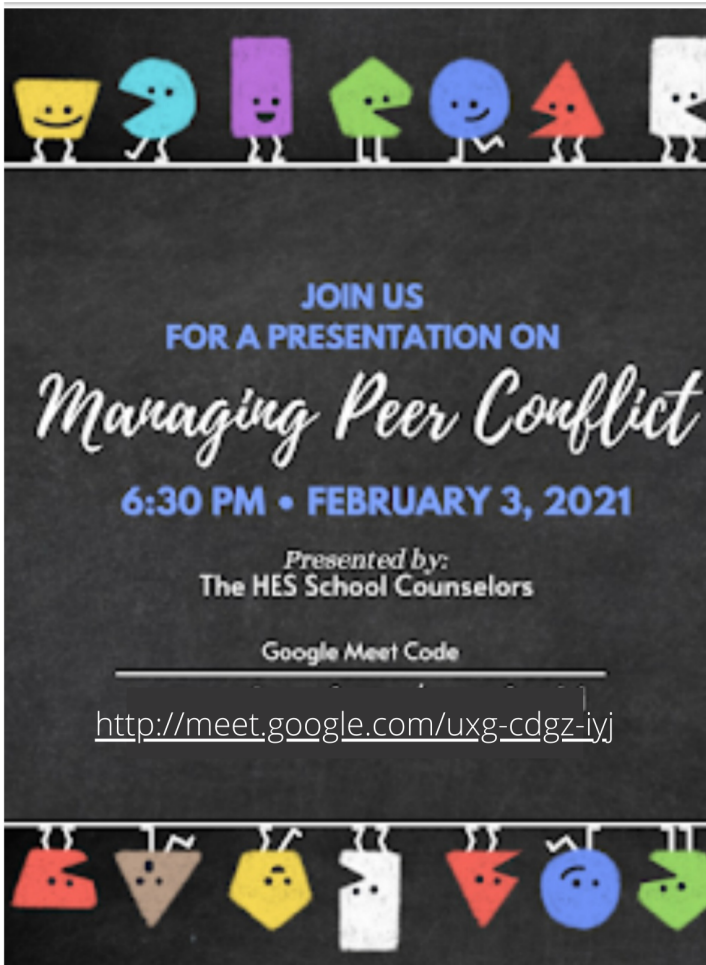
Cognitive Abilities Test and Gifted & Talented Placement

For full information click on this [link](#).

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Managing Peer Conflict

The return to in-person learning has brought forth new opportunities to learn important strategies for our students, including how to navigate peer conflict. Parents are encouraged to join our School Counselors, Mrs. Kennedy & Ms. Plotkin, as they share information about what is taught to students in school, how to best support your child from home, and how to differentiate between typical peer conflict and instances of bullying. To join, [click here](#).



Random Acts of Kindness Week

What is Random Acts of Kindness Week?

Random Acts of Kindness Week takes place for one week each year. It's a week dedicated to kindness and taking that extra, conscious step to brighten somebody's day. This year, Kindness Week will be celebrated February 14th - 18th. Although we are always teaching our students how to be kind, we will be specifically focusing on ways to show Kindness to others and ourselves during this special week!



February Parent Conferences

Parent-Teacher Virtual Conferences February 10th & 11th

Due to the limited number of available time slots, please schedule a conference if you have a concern or question in the area of Math.

Scheduling opens in Synergy ParentVue on Friday, January 28th and closes on Friday, February 4th.

Click [here](#) for directions to schedule a conference. If you need assistance scheduling, please contact Lisa Castaneda (Lisa_Castaneda@hcpss.org) or call 410-880-5890.

Media Center Contest

MASL (Maryland Association for School Librarians) is holding an "I Love My School Library" Contest. The winning Student will receive a \$100 gift card to Amazon. The winning Librarian will receive a \$50 gift card to Amazon and a free membership to MASL for 1 year. [Read](#) more about the contest and how to submit your entry.

Orchestra Announcement

February 17 will be the Beginning Orchestra Winter Concert start time is 6:30pm (6:15pm report time) and the Beginning Band Winter Concert start time is 7:15pm (7:00pm report time).

Lost and Found

Have you been searching for missing jackets, water bottles, hats, gloves, etc? We have had these unclaimed items on display in the hallways hoping students will identify their items. Thanks to a wonderful parent, Mrs. Otero, we now have photos to share with families. Please, please take a moment to look through the [photos](#). You may not even realize something has been missing. We highly recommend labeling any garments and personal items that come to school with your children!

HES is Still Hiring!

Temporary Employee (TE)

Description: These individuals provide close adult support to some of our special education students, under the supervision of Hammond staff.

For this special education position, interested candidates would apply through an outside agency that staffs these positions in our schools.

- The position is for 6.5 hour day (6 hours paid with an unpaid ½ hour lunch) from Monday through Friday from 9:00-3:30.
- Contact [R. Tencher](#) and apply through [Social Service Consultants](#)
- The pay rate for this position is \$13.

If you are interested in this position or have any questions, please contact Mrs. Mapson at nykia_mapson@hcpss.org or 410-880-5890 as soon as possible.

Recess/Lunch Monitor Position

Description: These individuals supervise students at recess and outdoor/indoor lunch, under the supervision of Hammond staff.

- Begins as soon as possible
- We prefer 5 days (Monday through Friday) but can discuss part time options
- The hours are 10:45am - 2:15pm
- The pay rate for this position is \$12.50.

[Recess Lunch Monitor Application Link](#) - Please note that this is a long process through HCPSS Human Resources, so please submit your application as soon as possible and contact Mrs. Mapson, Assistant Principal, at nykia_mapson@hcpss.org or 410-880-5890, to let her know you are interested.

Please feel free to share these employment opportunities with friends, family, and neighbors.

2022 Summer Programs

The 2022 Summer Programs Preview, which contains descriptions of HCPSS' four summer programs and enrollment information, is available to view and download from the Summer Programs web page <https://www.hcpss.org/summer-programs/>

Online enrollment requests for currently enrolled HCPSS students will open February 1 at 6:00 p.m. for the following programs:

- BSAP Summer Institute (Entering Grades K-9)
- Gifted and Talented Summer Institutes for Talent Development (Entering Grades 1-8)

NOTE: Invitations for eligible HCPSS students for Academic Intervention and Extended School Year Special Education programs will come directly from the school or special education team during Spring 2022.

Please contact the individual program offices with additional questions.

- BSAP Summer Institute (SummerInstitute@hcpss.org)
- G/T Summer Institutes for Talent Development (GTSummer@hcpss.org)

Outdoor Recess, Outdoor Eating & Cold Weather

We will continue to offer outdoor lunch as weather and staff coverage permit. Please have a conversation with your child about where you would like them to eat. If your child is eating outside, please make sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather (coat and hat) each day. If you choose to have your child eat inside, all students have an assigned seat.

The decision to go outside or stay inside for recess, outdoor eating, physical education, or any other outdoor activity is the decision of the administrator at individual schools and based on the following criteria:

- Temperature and humidity
- Wind chill
- Heat index and air quality
- Age of students
- Length of time outdoors
- Adequacy of the children's clothing
- Condition of the playground
- Falling precipitation (more than a sprinkle or mist)
- Thunder and lightning

Generally, it is assumed that students will be outside for recess, outdoor eating, physical education, or any other outdoor activity **when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit** or the heat index reading is less than 95. Please be sure children are dressed appropriately for the weather.

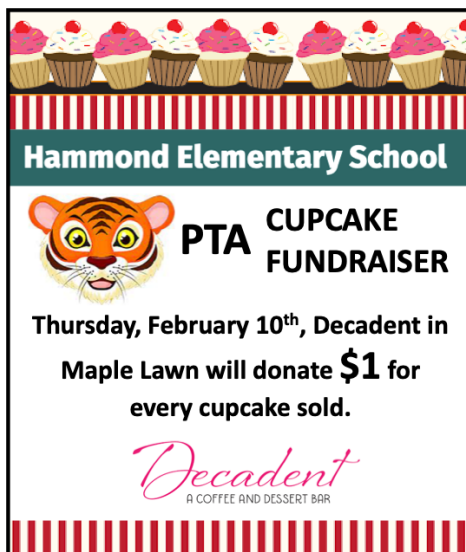
PTA NEWS

General Meeting Dates

- 3/8: PTA Meeting, 7pm (TBD Zoom or in-person)
- 5/10: PTA Meeting: Elections, 7pm (TBD Zoom or in-person)
- 6/7: PTA Meeting, 7pm (TBD Zoom or in-person)

Next Restaurant Night

- 2/10: Decadent Coffee and Dessert Bar in Maple Lawn



Upcoming PTA Events

- 4/22: Outdoor Movie Night
- 5/7: Spring Carnival, 3-6pm

Membership

Thank you to everyone who has already joined the PTA! If you haven't yet, please consider doing so--we would love to have all of our families join the PTA this year. Please be aware that even if you were a member last year, you will need to renew your membership for the 2021-2022 school year. The PTA relies on money received through membership fees and fundraisers to provide the many programs and events for our students and families throughout the year, and we can't do any of it without YOU! You can register via our MemberHub site <https://hes-pta.new.memberhub.store/store>. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Kathleen Denny, VP of Membership at membership@hespta.org.

HES Monthly Groupies

Now that the "Band is Back Together" at HES, we are looking for some families (or "groupies" if you will) that would like to celebrate the staff each month. Once a month we are hoping to show our support by bringing the staff a token of our appreciation. Examples include, but are not limited to, school supplies, special treats (pre-packaged or store bought), school-appropriate beverages, etc. If you are interested, please visit the sign-up link [here](#). Please feel free to join in with a neighbor as groupies can consist of multiple families.

Support the PTA while you shop!

- **Harris Teeter:** Link your VIC card online each Fall at www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education
- **AmazonSmile:** Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and select Hammond Elementary PTA as your charity

IMPORTANT DATES

February 3	Virtual Parent Presentation: Managing Peer Conflict @ 6:30 pm , see above
February 4	Last Day to schedule Parent-Teacher Conferences for Math
February 10	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early for Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 10	HES Evening Get Togethers: Read Aloud: Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch 6:30 pm with Ms. Ciarapica https://meet.google.com/kzq-qcmj-jnx
February 11	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early for Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 15	HES Evening Get Togethers - Family GoNoodle with Mrs Frere

6:30pm <http://meet.google.com/rjj-scyd-nea>

- February 16 Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
- February 17 Winter Concert for Beginning Band & Orchestra Students (**new date**)
- February 21 Schools will be open!!!
- February 23 HES Evening Get Togethers - more info to come!
- February 25 "I Love My School Library" contest entries due
- March 3 HES Evening Get Togethers - Family Boot Camp 6:30pm with Mrs Serpico
- March 8 HES Evening Get Togethers - more info to come!
- March 16 Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
- March 24 HES Evening Get Togethers - more info to come!
- March 29 HES Evening Get Togethers - Family GoNoodle with Mrs. Frere
6:30 pm <http://meet.google.com/gcg-tayf-siw>
- April 1 End of 3rd Quarter - Schools close 3 hours early
- April 6 HES Evening Get Togethers - more info to come!
- April 11-18 Spring Break - Schools Closed
- April 27 Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
- May 3 Schools Closed for Students - Professional Learning Day for Staff
- May 18 Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
- May 30 Schools & Offices Closed - Memorial Day

** denotes newly added Early dismissal days

You may link here to access the [HCPSS Calendar for the 2021 - 2022 School Year](#).

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transportation

Changes in afternoon transportation should be submitted to your child's teacher in writing (note or email). For changes that occur after 12 pm, please call our front office team (410-880-5890) to communicate the change and they will provide the information to your child's homeroom teacher. Please communicate all changes no later than 2:45 each day to ensure they are communicated to your child prior to dismissal.

[Bus Numbers & Routes](#)

[Car Loop Dashboard Cards](#)

Are You Moving?

If your family is moving out of the Hammond Elementary district or even just down the street, we still need to know! Please contact the Front Office at 410-880-5890 if you are changing your address over the summer.

Health and Safety Precautions

Please complete a [COVID-19 Self-Screening](#) with your child every morning.

Scheduled volunteers should also complete a [COVID-19 Self-Screening](#) prior to entering the building.

For more information about [COVID-19 Health & Safety](#) please visit www.hcpss.org.

Chromebook Care Webpage

There is a new webpage for students, [Chromebook Care](#), which includes tips on caring for and transporting Chromebooks, as well as student mobile technology support and additional resources.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Sensory-Friendly Sundays

Sensory-Friendly Sundays at Robinson Nature Center:

Join Robinson Nature Center, Therapeutic Recreation, and Park Ranger staff in enjoying outdoor, self-paced activities designed for families with kids, teens, and adults with sensory-processing differences, autism spectrum disorder, or developmental disabilities. Activities include sensory bins and pathways, scavenger hunts, and crafts or games. The center opens early, allowing visitors to enjoy a calm environment. Sensory alert maps, quiet areas, and sensory backpacks, which include headphones and various fidgets, are available. Be sure to preregister to receive additional information prior to the event. Please see the [Sensory-Friendly Sundays flyer](#) for further information.

