



October 23, 2025

- A Message from Admin
- Bullying Prevention Spirit Week
- Family Literacy Night
- Young Authors' Contest
- Picture Day Orders still Accepted
- Fall Fun Run
- ZUM Bus Card Updates
- Healthroom Highlights
- HC Drug Free
- Outdoor Recess and Weather Conditions
- Wizards Basketball Game
- Bookmark the School's Website
- Before & After School Classes
- Important Dates

A Message from Admin

Dear HES Community,

It's hard to believe that we are already nearing the end of the first quarter! This school year is off to such a strong start, and we are so proud of the progress and growth our students have already shown. Their enthusiasm for learning and the support they receive at home are truly making a difference.

The **first quarter officially ends on October 31st**, and by **November 10th, families will be able to view report cards on Synergy**. Staying connected to your child's school experience is so important. When home and school work together, our students benefit the most. We truly value this partnership and the impact it has on each child's success.

As a change from previous years, families will also receive a hard copy of their child's report card. These will be sent home in Thursday folders following the Synergy viewing date. We encourage you to review the SBIR (Standards-Based Instruction and Reporting) information included [here](#), so that you have a clear understanding of how students are graded.

Finally, please mark your calendars! The **scheduling window for parent-teacher conferences opens on November 7th at 8 am**. The **scheduling window will close to parents on November 20th at 4 pm**. Conferences are a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress and goals for the year, and we look forward to meeting with you! More detailed information on how to access the conference schedules and sign up for a conference will be shared in the coming days. If your child is in grades 3-5, you will also receive individual information from your child's teacher on how to navigate scheduling a conference with our new departmentalization model.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support. Together, we're building a strong foundation for every Hammond Tiger's success!

Warmly,

Heather Moraff, Principal

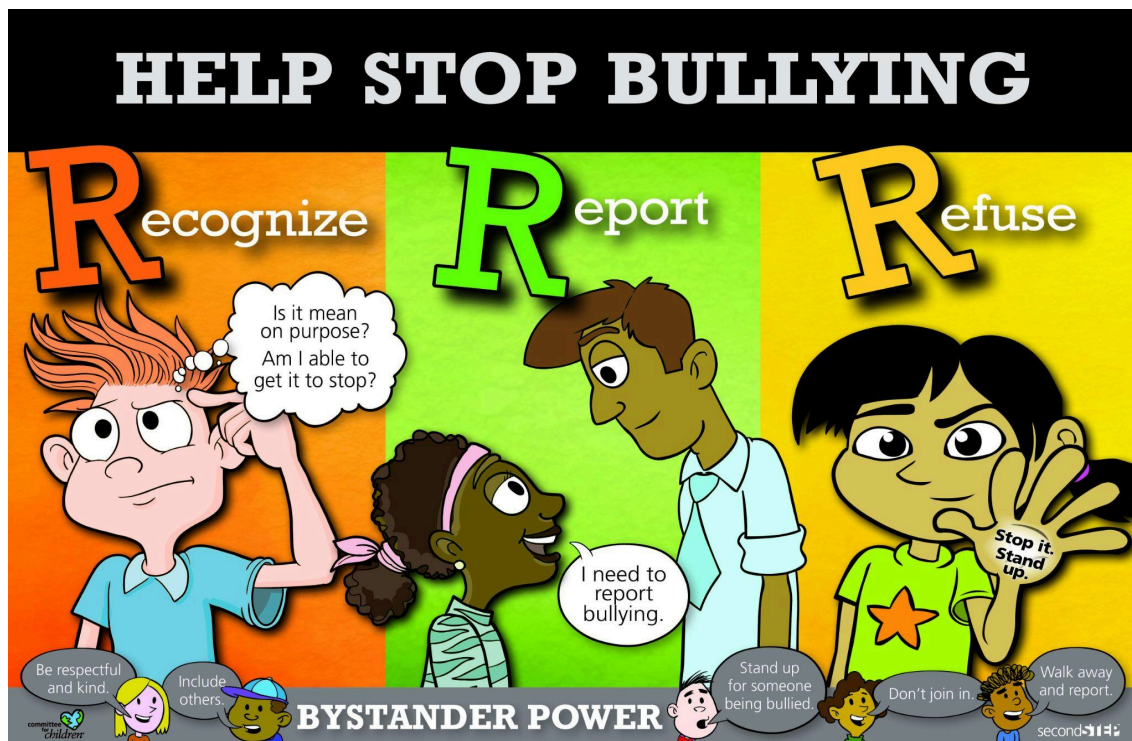
Nykia Mapson, Assistant Principal

Bullying Prevention and Awareness Spirit Week Oct. 27-31.

This month, Ms. Plotkin and Mrs. Lasisi visited classrooms to talk about bullying prevention using the 3 R's from our *Second Step* program — Recognize, Report, and Refuse. Students learned how to identify bullying, how to safely stand up for themselves or others, and how to report concerns to a trusted adult.

We encourage parents to ask their children about the 3 R's and to discuss the difference between being mean and bullying. These conversations help reinforce what students are learning at school and support our goal of creating a caring, respectful community where everyone feels safe and included.

In honor of Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week, students can participate in the following Spirit Week. Please note, students should not wear costumes on Halloween. There are no in school activities related to Halloween and we do not recognize it as a celebration during school hours.



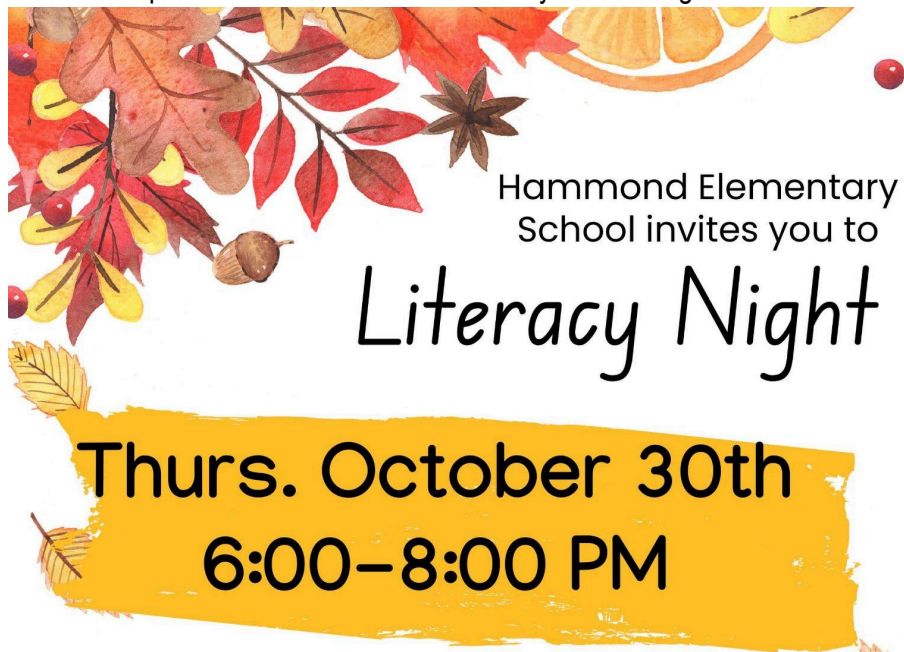
[Help Stop Bullying flier](#)

Family Literacy Night is October 30!

We are excited for our Family Literacy Night on Thursday, October 30, 2025! We invite you to join us for a night of fun and targeted sessions, games, and takeaways!

[Literacy Night Information and RSVP](#)

- Sessions for Primary (K-2nd grade) are geared towards parents and guardians.
 - There will be teacher-led activities for K-2 students in a separate area during the parent sessions.
- Sessions for Intermediate (3rd-5th grade) are joint sessions for parents/guardians and students.
- Childcare will be provided for children who are not yet school age.



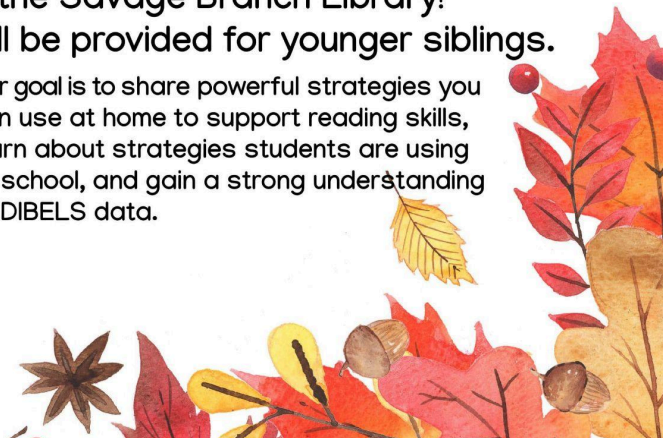
We invite you to join us to for a night of fun and learning, games, and takeaways! There will be a visit from the Savage Branch Library!

Childcare will be provided for younger siblings.

Use the QR code or link to sign up for the sessions you would like to attend.
<https://rb.gy/6zzjj6>



Our goal is to share powerful strategies you can use at home to support reading skills, learn about strategies students are using at school, and gain a strong understanding of DIBELS data.



Young Authors' Contest

Hammond Elementary School, in partnership with the [Howard County Literacy Association](#), is thrilled to offer the HCLA Young Authors' Contest for students in 1st grade through 5th grade. To enter, students can submit an original short story or poem via email or Google Drive to lydia_williams@hcpss.org or turn in a hard copy to their teacher.

The deadline for submissions is December 15th, 2025.

Please see the attached Young Author's Contest Guidelines for more information about the rules and guidelines for this contest.

HES winners will be selected by school-based staff and then entered into the Howard County-level contest.

[25-26 Young Author's Contest Guidelines](#)

Picture Day Orders Still Accepted

Fall individual school portraits were taken for all students today, Thursday, October 23. If you would like pictures they must be *pre-ordered*. If you prefer to send in cash or check, you may do so in the picture envelope that was sent home previously. Picture order envelopes will be accepted until Monday morning. Online ordering will be open through Tuesday. Pre-Order Portraits Online at www.schoolpix.com

PRE-ORDER CODE: HESF25

Make-up pictures will be taken for students who were absent today, or for those students who would like a re-take. Make-up pictures will happen **at a later date that is *yet to be announced***. It will occur some time after the original photos have been delivered to families.

Fall Fun Run

The PE team would like to thank all the adults who came to the Fall Fun on Tuesday to volunteer or cheer. Your support added to the success of the day and made it fun for the children.

ZUM Bus Card Updates

Effective October 22, 2025, identified bus-riders at Hammond Elementary School will be able to use their bus cards to check-in and check-out on the bus. Kindergarten students will receive their card by October 13, 2025.

Parents/guardians will have access to their student's ridership information via the Zum app, which many families already use for bus pickup/drop off information. The Zum app is available for free download on the Apple Store and Google Play. Additional details on [downloading and using the Zum app](#) are available online.

While the use of an identification card for student bus riders is not required, it does assist us in providing safe and efficient bus transportation. With student safety at the forefront of everything we do, the use of the student bus card will:

- Ensure students on the bus are quickly identified in an emergency situation
- Allow parents to track when students enter and exit a school bus
- Assist if a student is reported lost
- Identify if an unauthorized rider tries to board a school bus

[Additional information](#), including answers to frequently asked questions about the student bus cards, can be found online.

If your student loses their card, please complete this [form](#) or contact the front office at 410-880-5890. **No eligible student will be denied bus service if they lose or forget their card.**

Healthroom Highlights

No Vaccination Clinics

Due to extenuating circumstances, HCPSS will not offer in-school seasonal flu or COVID vaccination clinics this year. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their child's pediatrician for vaccination information, or consider accessing vaccinations from local pharmacies, urgent care centers, retail stores, etc. Additionally, the [Howard County Health Department will offer free flu shots](#) at various community events this fall.

HC Drug Free

Parenting Classes: Free! On Zoom and open to parents, guardians and grandparents residing in HoCo or with school-age children/grandchildren residing in HoCo. Evidence-based, interactive prevention program that provides families with the skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will use drugs and alcohol or engage in other dangerous behaviors. The curriculum was written for families with children 9-14 years old, but it is appropriate for K-12 families. Class dates: November 11, 13, 18, 20 and December 2 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. on Zoom. Visit [HC DrugFree's website](#) for more information and register at

Drive-Thru Medication Disposal: Saturday, October 25 in the Wilde Lake Village Center Parking Lot near the Swim Center from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Safely dispose of prescription and over-the-counter medication, vitamins, pet meds, vape devices, inhalers, and more. Unlike previous events, we will not collect sharps (needles, syringes and EpiPens).

Free Newsletter: Stay up to date with HC DrugFree's free events offering Community Service Hours to HoCo students, resources, and a variety of substance use and behavioral health information! Sign up for HC DrugFree's free digital newsletter: <https://hcdrugfree.org/enews-signup/>

Outdoor Recess and Weather Conditions

Cold weather has arrived!!! We wanted to remind you that students will still be going outside for recess each day. Please make sure you send your child to school with warm clothes. All clothing needs to be labeled with your child's name. Below you will find the HCPSS criteria we consider when having outdoor activities.

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

Generally, it is assumed that students will be outside for recess, 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 is less than 95.

Save the Date! HES Staff vs. Wizards Basketball Game



Save this date! On **Monday, November 10th at 6:30pm** the Wizards basketball team is playing against a Hammond staff team! This event will raise funds for our school! It will be held at Atholton High School. Stay tuned for more details about tickets. We would love to partner with your local business as a sponsor for this amazing event! Contact Committee Chair, Melissa Zawadzki, at melissazed@gmail.com for more information.

Before & After School Classes

Howard County Recreation & Parks - Fall 2025 These classes provide fun, structured, educational, and enriching activities for students on site at Hammond ES, benefitting both the child(ren) and parents! Families can register for before/after school classes offered at Hammond ES by HCRP: [Hammond ES Registration Page](#).

Good News Club

[Good News Club flier](#) Begins Monday, October 13.

Bookmark the [School's Website](#)

This is a valuable tool for up-to-date information, calendars and absence reporting. Check this resource before calling the school as you may find the answers to your questions.

Important Dates

- Mon. 10/27 - Fri. 10/31 Bullying Prevention Spirit Week
- Thu. 10/30 - Family Literacy Night
- Fri. 10/31 - Schools close 3 hours early, end of Quarter 1
- Fri. 11/7 - Scheduling opens for Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Mon. 11/10 - Report Cards available online in [Connect](#)
- Mon. 11/10 - Wizards Basketball Game at Atholton High School
- Tue. 11/11 - Veterans Day Celebration (information to come)
- Wed. 11/12 - Schools close 3 hours early
- Thu. 11/20 - Window closes for scheduling Parent-Teacher Conferences at 4pm
- Mon. & Tue. - 11/24 & 25-Schools close 3 hours early
- Mon. & Tue. - 11/24 & 25- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Wed. 11/26 - Schools closed for students
- Thu. & Fri - 11/27 & 11/28 Schools & offices closed