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## **A Message from Admin**

Dear Hammond Families,

Happy October! In recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month, Ms. Plotkin and Ms Lasisi would like to take this time to educate our HES community on impacts of bullying, signs of bullying, and how the school counseling program is involved in the prevention of bullying.

Did you know....

...Students who are bullied report more physical symptoms, such as headaches or stomachaches, and mental health issues, such as depression or anxiety, than other students?

...Students who bully others can also be negatively affected by the behavior with higher rates of physical and emotional health issues?

...Bullying directly affects a student's ability to learn? Students who are bullied often do not want to go to school. They may find it difficult to concentrate, show a decline in grades, and lose self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-worth.

The School Counseling program is actively involved in bullying prevention through our classroom lessons, small group sessions, and individual check-ins. Topics and strategies that may be introduced by us that promote peaceful and productive social interactions and conflict resolution are (but not limited to):

- Conflict Resolution Strategies
- Development of cultural competence and acceptance of differences
- Intervention strategies for bystanders
- Effective communication skills
- Cultivating positive staff and student relationships
- Appropriate use of technology and social media

### **How can you identify a situation that is considered bullying?**

Conflict between students is inevitable, but it's not always easy to identify whether it is bullying or mean/rude behavior. Understanding the difference is essential so we know how to respond. Here are a few key points to consider when determining if something is bullying:

- Bullying - Repeated, harmful, and involves an unfair power match
- Mean - Hurt is intentional/purposeful but not part of a larger pattern or a mismatch
- Rude - Accidentally hurting another person's feelings

All of these behaviors require attention. Addressing mean/rude behavior early can help prevent a student from turning their behavior into a pattern of bullying.

If you are unsure if behaviors meet the criteria for bullying, please contact the counseling team or administration to consult.

If you believe your child is a victim of bullying, please report the behavior in accordance with HCPSS policies. Ms. Plotkin and Ms. Lasisi can offer a safe space for your student to visit for support if they believe they are the victims of bullying behavior.

Bullying can appear in many different forms. Below are a few examples.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Verbal bullying is saying or writing mean things.</b> Verbal bullying includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teasing</li> <li>• Name Calling</li> <li>• Inappropriate sexual comments</li> <li>• Taunting</li> <li>• Threatening to cause harm</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Social bullying, sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships.</b> Social bullying includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaving someone out on purpose</li> <li>• Telling other children not to be friends with someone</li> <li>• Spreading rumors about someone</li> <li>• Embarrassing someone in public</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Physical bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions.</b> Physical bullying includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hitting/kicking/pinching</li> <li>• Spitting</li> <li>• Tripping/pushing</li> <li>• Taking or breaking someone's things</li> <li>• Making mean or rude hand gestures.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most common places cyberbullying occurs are social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok, text messages, direct messaging, chat rooms, emails, and online gaming communities.</li> <li>• This includes sharing personal or private information about someone, causing embarrassment or humiliation.</li> <li>• At times, it can cross the line into unlawful or criminal behavior.</li> <li>• More information on Cyberbullying can be found on the <a href="#">Stopbullying</a> website.</li> </ul> |

### How is bullying reported in HCPSS?

1. When you believe bullying has taken place, you should report it through the Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, and Intimidation (BCHI) reporting form. Reporting can occur in one of three ways:
  - a. Complete a [BCHI online reporting form](#)
  - b. BCHI paper reporting form (available in the main office, staff workroom, school counseling office, media center, and health services office)
  - c. An oral report to a staff member
2. It is important to note that the policy states, "In the event the reporting party does not complete a BCHI Reporting Form, school administrators/supervisors will take the appropriate steps to address

and document the incident.” Therefore, if you or someone else makes an oral report, the administrator must document it (i.e., through a BCHI reporting form)

If at any time, you need support or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact your school counseling team (Ms. Plotkin & Ms. Lasisi) or your school administration (Mrs. Moraff & Mrs. Mapson).

**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.**

**Please join us on Thursday, October 16th for a PTA sponsored Trunk or Treat if you would like to participate in Halloween festivities and show off your costumes!**



Thank you for your partnership in ensuring a safe environment that promotes belonging for all students at HES.

Warmly,

*Heather Moraff, Principal*

Nykia Mapson, Assistant Principal

## 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.

## Picture Day is Coming! October 23, 2025

Pre-Order Portraits Online at [www.schoolpix.com](http://www.schoolpix.com) PRE-ORDER CODE: HESF25

Fall individual school portraits are taken for all students, whether you plan to purchase them or not, as they will be used in the yearbook at the end of the year. These portraits must be *pre-ordered*. If you prefer to send in cash or check, you may do so in the picture envelope that will be sent home today. This envelope will be presented to the photographer on picture day.

Make-up pictures will be taken for students who are absent on October 23, 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.



**SCHOOL PICTURES, INC.**

visit us @ [www.schoolpix.com](http://www.schoolpix.com)  
(you will need your school's pre-order keycode to place online orders)

**PACKAGE #1**  
  
**\$75**

**PACKAGE #4**  
  
**\$40**

**PACKAGE #2**  
  
**\$50**

**PACKAGE #5**  
  
**\$30**

**PACKAGE #3**  
  
**\$45**

**PACKAGE #6**  
  
**\$20**

**À LA CARTE OPTIONS** You may add these to any package or purchase them separately

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | <b>C</b> Downloadable Student Image (with copyright release) <b>\$25.00</b>                     | <b>J</b> 1.75 x 2.5 Wallets (16) <b>\$11.00</b> |
| <b>B</b> Border for Portraits (must purchase a portrait with this item) <b>\$5.00</b> | <b>E</b> 8 x 10 Portrait <b>\$16.00</b>   | <b>P</b> 10 x 13 Portrait <b>\$26.00</b>        |
| <b>F</b> 5 x 7 Portrait (1) <b>\$13.00</b>  | <b>R</b> Retouching of Facial Blemishes (must purchase a portrait with this item) <b>\$9.00</b> |   |
| <b>H</b> Magnets (2) <b>\$15.00</b>   |   |   |

Please visit us @ [www.schoolpix.com](http://www.schoolpix.com) for more options with a student online code to order a Second Chance Order after pictures are delivered to school.

**ALL PRICES INCLUDE RETAIL SALES TAX**

**PLEASE RETURN FORM ON PICTURE DAY**

**1 PLEASE ENTER THE REQUESTED INFORMATION:**

Student's First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ (Must include for option C Downloadable Student Image)

If your child wears glasses, please indicate your preference: GLASSES ON ☐ GLASSES OFF ☐

**2 PACKAGE SELECTION** (You may choose more than one package.)

| PACKAGES  | Qty | Price | Total |
|-----------|-----|-------|-------|
| PACKAGE 1 |     | \$75  |       |
| PACKAGE 2 |     | \$50  |       |
| PACKAGE 3 |     | \$45  |       |
| PACKAGE 4 |     | \$40  |       |
| PACKAGE 5 |     | \$30  |       |
| PACKAGE 6 |     | \$20  |       |

**3 À LA CARTE UPGRADES** (You may choose more than one upgrade.)

|   | Code | Qty | Price | Total |
|---|------|-----|-------|-------|
| Border for Portraits                        | B    |     | \$5   |       |
| Downloadable Student Image (with © release) | C    |     | \$25  |       |
| 8 x 10 Portrait                             | E    |     | \$16  |       |
| 5 x 7 Portrait (1)                          | F    |     | \$13  |       |
| Magnets (2)                                 | H    |     | \$15  |       |
| 1.75x2.5 Wallets (16)                       | J    |     | \$11  |       |
| 10 x 13 Portrait                            | P    |     | \$26  |       |
| Retouching                                  | R    |     | \$9   |       |

**4 PLEASE TOTAL YOUR ORDER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to: School Pictures, Inc.**

I HAVE PAID BY: ☐ CASH ☐ MONEY ORDER ☐ CHECK ☐ NEED CHANGE

Payment by check is your express authorization that it may be converted into a one time Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) from your account and all returned checks or EFT's may be represented electronically along with a separate EFT or demand draft for the maximum returned check fee by state law. Inquiries 800-450-0124 or [www.statecheckless.com](http://www.statecheckless.com). All prices include MD retail sales tax.

NOTE TO PHOTOGRAPHER \_\_\_\_\_

## Fall Fun Run

The annual Hammond ES Fall Fun Run is almost here! We need your help to have this amazing event run smoothly. The Fall Fun Run is on Tuesday, October 21st during your child's related arts hour block. Please review the available grade level slots below and click on the button to sign up. The rain date for the Fall Fun Run will be on Friday, October 24th.

[Fall Fun Run Volunteer Sign-up](#)

## Family Literacy Night

Save the Date! HES will be having a Family Literacy Night for all grades on Thursday, October 30. A flier with details will be sent home soon. We hope you can join us!

## No Crocs Allowed in PE

Just a reminder that per Howard County policy, crocs are not allowed to be worn for PE. Please make sure your child has the appropriate footwear on PE days. If you have any questions, please email [sserpico@hcpss.org](mailto:sserpico@hcpss.org).

## A Note from Music

**Congratulations** to Mackenzie Looney and Elizabeth Tomuts for being nominated and joining the Howard County Children's Chorus Cantus Chorus! This honors chorus is made up of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from around the county.

**Congratulations** to Rylee Katebini for auditioning and making it into the Howard County Children's Chorus Lyric Chorus! This auditioned honors chorus is made up of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from around the county. These three student musicians will represent Hammond Elementary School in weekly rehearsals throughout the year and in two concerts at Glenelg High School.

### Recorders for Grade 3

Big news for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade music students! As you know, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is the year we introduce recorders! This year, Howard County has purchased recorders for every 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student, so you will not be required to purchase your own. If you would like to purchase your own recorder, you may still do so. It may be a good idea to purchase one to keep at home so that one recorder can stay at school to be used during music class and one recorder can stay at home for practicing. Students will be required to bring their recorder to every music class once we begin. Your student's music teacher will let classes know when to begin bringing instruments to class. If you will be using a recorder provided by the school, your student will receive it during their music class. This will be your instrument to keep, so take good care of it!

If you have any questions, please email your music teacher.

[Mrs. Sanders larissa\\_sanders@hcpss.org](mailto:sanders@hcpss.org)

[Mr. Burrows reuben\\_burrows@hcpss.org](mailto:burrows@hcpss.org)

## A Note from Orchestra

**Congratulations** to violinist Joanna Luo (5th Grade) on her acceptance into the Elementary School Gifted and Talented Orchestra (ESGTO)! We look forward to celebrating her on Saturday, December 6 at the ESGTO Winter Concert at Centennial High School!

## Counselor's Corner

October is **National Bullying Prevention Month**, and at Hammond Elementary, we are dedicated to creating a safe and supportive environment for all students. Throughout the month, we'll engage students in meaningful activities and lessons that teach students on how to **Recognize, Report, and Refuse Bullying**. Together, we can empower our children to stand up for kindness, inclusion, and respect every day. Please see the link for more information and a list of upcoming activities.



## 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/>

## How to Report Student Absences

Please complete the [Absences Reporting Form](#) found on our [school website](#) to report your child's *full day* absence. (Early pick-ups and late arrivals will be entered on the forms at school; not on this online form.) This form will alert the school of your child's absence and will serve as an absence note for your child's return. You are not required to send a separate note after completing this form. If your child has been absent for five or more days due to illness, a doctor's note is appreciated.

You do not need to call the school to report an absence, simply use this form.

### ***Is your child arriving late to school? Your child must be in their classroom by 9:25am***

Tardiness should be a rare occurrence and avoided to the best of your ability. Let's work together to give your child the best start to their day possible. Please do your very best to have them in their classroom by 9:25. You may need to look at your morning routine if you are noticing a trend of being tardy. Perhaps set your alarm a few minutes earlier. We appreciate your attention to this very important issue.

**Late Arrival Procedure:** You will need to park and escort your child into the building. Parents must sign any tardy students in on the appropriate sheet. It is not necessary to call nor do you need to use the absence reporting forms. Simply come to school and sign them in. Children dropped off without a parent signing them in will be given an unexcused tardy.

## Happy National Hispanic History Month: September 15-October 15th

[Hispanic Heritage Month Newsletter](#)

## 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
- 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/mist)
- Thunder and lightning

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.



The flier is a colorful poster for the Good News Club. It features a large photo of a classroom with a teacher and students. A QR code is prominently displayed in the center. Text on the flier includes: "AFTER-SCHOOL GOOD NEWS CLUB", "IT'S FREE!", "I Am Loved!", "Everyone Has Value!", "Helps Me Do Right!", "GOOD NEWS CLUB® (GNC™) is an exciting, fun-filled weekly club for kids in which the Bible is clearly taught with songs, stories, games...", "WHO TEACHES THE CLUB? GNC teachers are specially trained Christians concerned for the well-being of your child. All club workers are screened as required by Child Evangelism Fellowship® Child Protection Policy to ensure your child's safety.", "Time: Every Monday, 3:55pm-5:30pm", "Location: Hammond ES (Rm 77 Art)", "Sponsor: Child Evangelism Fellowship", "Contact: Jennifer Rowell. jen1925cefmd@gmail.com", "To Register: Scan QR Code to Register", and a disclaimer at the bottom: "This is not an activity of the school or the school district."

**AFTER-SCHOOL  
GOOD NEWS CLUB®**

IT'S FREE!

I Am Loved!

Everyone Has Value!

Helps Me Do Right!

**GOOD NEWS CLUB® (GNC™)**  
is an exciting, fun-filled weekly club for kids in which the Bible is clearly taught with songs, stories, games...

**WHO TEACHES THE CLUB?**  
GNC teachers are specially trained Christians concerned for the well-being of your child. All club workers are screened as required by Child Evangelism Fellowship® Child Protection Policy to ensure your child's safety.

**Time:** Every Monday, 3:55pm-5:30pm  
**Location:** Hammond ES (Rm 77 Art)  
**Sponsor:** Child Evangelism Fellowship  
**Contact:** Jennifer Rowell. jen1925cefmd@gmail.com  
**To Register:** Scan QR Code to Register

-- only on full days of school -- Scan Here

**CEF**  
CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP®  
Since 1937 Preaching children worldwide!

The United States Constitution requires schools to respect the right of all external organizations to distribute flyers to students at school if the school permits any such organization to distribute flyers. Accordingly, the school cannot discriminate among groups wishing to distribute flyers at school and does not endorse the content of any flyer distributed at school. The school encourages parents to assist their children in making choices appropriate for them.

**This is not an activity of the school or the school district.**

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## Important Dates

- Thur. 10/16 - PTA Trunk or Treat
- Fri. 10/17 - Schools closed for Students
- Mon. 10/20 - Schools & Offices closed
- Tues. 10/21 - Fall Fun Run during Related Arts
- Thur. 10/23 - Individual School Pictures
- Thur. 10/30 - Family Literacy Night
- Fri. 10/31 - Schools close 3 hours early

- Mon. 11/10 - Wizards Basketball Game at Atholton High School
- Wed. 11/12 - Schools close 3 hours early
- 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
- Thur. & Fri - 11/27 & 11/28 Schools & offices closed