



November 6, 2025

- A Message from Admin
- School Pictures and Re-Takes
- Report Cards
- Quarterly Award Winners
- Veterans Day Celebration
- FALL MAP Test Results Gr. 1-5
- CogAT Testing Grade 3
- Get Ready for a Poppin' Good Time
- HES Staff vs. Wizards Basketball Game
- American Education Week
- Young Authors Contest
- A Note from Orchestra and Band
- Healthroom Highlights
- HC Drug Free
- Outdoor Recess
- Before &
- Bookma
- Important Dates

A Message from Admin

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe that we have come to the end of the first marking period! We wanted to take a moment to celebrate all the successes and progress of your children. We are so proud of all our Tuffy Tigers! We also wanted to highlight the significance of partnership between parents and teachers. We encourage you to be involved in your child's education by attending parent-teacher conferences. At Hammond, we believe that when families and teachers work together, students are more likely to succeed academically and socially.

November 24th, 25th, and 26th are designated for Parent Teacher Conferences this year. We will be holding 20-minute conferences. All conferences will be held with your child's ELA teacher if **students are** in grades K-2. Below are the details about how they will be held based on the date of the conference:

~Monday, November 24th - All Conferences In-Person at HES (Any 5th grade conferences scheduled for 5 pm or later, will be held inside the building.)

~Tuesday, November 25th - All Conferences Virtual - link will be sent

~Wednesday, November 26th - All Conferences Virtual - link will be sent

If you choose a virtual conference, the Google Meet code will be sent to you with your confirmation email. Your child's ELA teacher will be sending out specifics about this Google Meet as well.

Please note, if your child is in a 4th grade Above and GT math class, we will hold 4th grade GT math conferences for the fall (current conference window) and 5th grade GT math conferences in the winter (February conference window). This means parents with 4th grade students who are in GT math class have the opportunity to sign up with the homeroom/ELA teacher, as well as, math teacher. Our GT resource teacher, Mrs. Meyer will be sending out more information through Canvas.

If your child is in grades 3-5, please read the Canvas message sent by your child's teacher for conference sign up directions. Due to departmentalization, we are sending out individualized messaging.

If your conference is virtual, once you enter the Google code or link, you will be put in a "holding space" until the teacher admits you. Because many conferences will be back-to-back, please only log on one minute before your designated time. If you have technology challenges, check email as your child's teacher will reach out to you that way. You can also call the school for assistance.

Beginning Friday, November 7th at 8:00am, you can log into [HCPSS Connect](#) to view and select from the time slots provided by the teacher for the conference. Step-by-step directions are below. If you do not have access to HCPSS Connect, please call the school for assistance at 410-880-5890.

Directions to Select a Conference Time:

- Login to hcpss.org/connect
- Select Conference from the left-side choices
- Select Parent Scheduled Conferences at the top right
- Select a time slot for your conference.

You will have access through Thursday, November 20th at 4:00pm to schedule your child's conference by logging into HCPSS Connect.

We look forward to conferencing with you about your child's successes and celebrating their progress!

Warmly,

Heather Moraff, Principal

Nykia Mapson, Assistant Principal

School Pictures and Re-Take Day

School Pictures were sent home today in the Thursday folders.

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. If your child missed the original picture day, or if you are not satisfied with your original photos, you may have photos taken on Wednesday, December 3. For re-takes students will need to bring the original entire photo package back and hand it to the photographer. *Retakes are scheduled for first thing in the morning, so do not be late to school.*

Please email your teacher to let them know your child is in need of a re-take on December 3.

Extra order envelopes are available in the front office.

Report Cards

Report cards will be available through Connect at 4:00pm on Monday, November 10.

Understanding Your Child's report card

Log in to HCPSS Connect Synergy using parent/guardian credentials

Select More Options from the left panel

Select Report Cards from the middle

Select the report card you wish to access

Understanding your child's Report Card

A [reference sheet](#) has been developed to support families in understanding the Elementary School Report Card

Quarterly Award Winners

We're proud to celebrate our Quarterly Award Winners for this past quarter! These students have shown outstanding effort, kindness, and responsibility—setting a wonderful example for others. Each student has also received 5 House Points for their House in recognition of their achievements.

[Congratulations](#) to all of our winners (below)—we're so proud of you!

	Tuffy's 3 Rs	Achievement	Respectful	Responsible	Ready to Learn
<i>Kindergarten</i>	Liam Shah	Isaiah Lainez-Herrera	Chase Breedlove	Kari Varble	Emma Eller
<i>1st Grade</i>	Aria Borrero	Hudson Young	Ever Wall	Everett Herman	Santana Thomas
<i>2nd Grade</i>	Jackie Harris	Blake White	Abby Tiscione	Kian Chapman	Nalani Quarles
<i>3rd Grade</i>	Anya Shah	Lucas DeLoizer	Nahom Yonas	Taaibah Wahidi	Oliver Jacobs
<i>4th Grade</i>	McKenna Griffin	Joseph Quirk	PT Twining	Toleman O'Keefe	Andrew Claudy
<i>5th Grade</i>	Claire Renzi	Abel Martinez Garcia	Peyton Glover	Joanna Pagan	Hadley Grillo

Veterans Day Celebration

HES is celebrating Veterans Day on Tuesday, November, 11, 2025. Information will be shared about Veterans Day on the morning announcements and students will have the opportunity to share with their classmates about the Veterans in their family. We are also welcoming our HES family Veterans to lunch with their student(s)! Special tables will be reserved for our honored guests and their student(s). Veterans are welcome to bring their lunch from home or purchase a school cafeteria lunch.

Please [RSVP here](#) by 12:00 p.m. on November 7th to join us for lunch. This will ensure that we have enough seating during each lunch shift. Due to space, we are asking that only our HES Veterans join us for lunch on this day.

30-Minute Lunch Shifts by Grade:

Kindergarten: 11:10

First: 1:10

Second: 1:40

Third: 12:40

Fourth: 11:40

Fifth: 12:10

FALL MAP Test Results Gr. 1-5

FALL MAP progress reports are available in ParentVue.

To access your student's scores, please see the directions below or linked [here](#).

Access previous test scores:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#)
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select Standardized Test Scores from the middle

Detailed PDF home reports are available in Synergy. To access home reports:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#)
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select Report Cards from the middle
4. Select the applicable report from the Student's MAP Reports section.

Please visit [HCPSS The Measures of Academic Progress page](#) for more information.

Grades 3 CogAT Testing

This year, the Howard County Public School System will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to all students in 3rd grade. The CogAT is a group-administered abilities test that measures students' reasoning abilities, which they develop through in-school and out-of-school experiences. It is not designed to test a student's academic achievement, but their potential.

The test is made of three batteries – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. Each battery takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The CogAT helps educators understand a student's cognitive strengths and weaknesses and assists with adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of each student.

All students in Grades 3 will participate in the testing. The CogAT will be administered on the following dates:

- Grade 3: December 1, 2, and 3

You do not need to do anything special to prepare your child for the CogAT assessment other than ensure that they have a good breakfast and a good night's rest the night before. We do ask that you avoid scheduling appointments on the day when your child will be assessed. Students who are absent on the day their grade takes the assessment will be afforded the opportunity for a make-up session on another date within the testing window.

The Gifted and Talented Education Program will use the data from the CogAT as one criterion for placement into fourth grade Gifted/Talented mathematics classes and middle school Gifted/Talented content classes.

🍿 **Get Ready for a Poppin' Good Time!** 🍿

We're only one day away from kicking off a **Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser** — a fun (and delicious!) way to support our 5th-grade students! Double Good popcorn is made to order — freshly popped, super tasty, and available in a variety of irresistible flavors. **Starting Friday, November 7th at noon**, use the QR code on the following flyer to order home delivery of these delicious treats. Order fast, this fundraiser only lasts for 5 days, ending on Tuesday, November 11th at noon. Help our 5th graders reach their field trip fundraising goals — all while enjoying an amazing snack!

POPcorn
FUNDRAISER
2025



Support our HES 5th Graders!

Check out all the flavors!

The funds received from this event will go towards our 5th grade spring field trip!

Ordering Window

Just scan the QR code or go to the URL! Orders can be placed from 12pm Friday, Nov. 7th through 12pm Tuesday, Nov. 11th. Orders will be shipped straight to your home!

[HTTPS://POPUP.DOUBLEGOOD.COM/S/9T6AKV09](https://popup.doublegood.com/s/9T6AKV09)



HES Staff vs. Wizards Basketball Game

On **Monday, November 10th at 6:30pm at Atholton High School**, the Wizards basketball team is playing against Hammond Elementary staff! This event will raise funds for our school!

- **Ticket purchase:** <https://pretix.eu/harlemwizards/columbiamd11-10-25-06-30pm/>
- **Volunteer sign-up:**
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080845AEA72EA7FF2-59300681-harlem#>
(Volunteers receive free admission to the game.)

American Education Week

American Education Week will be held the week of November 17 - 21. This is a time to honor public education and involves various activities, including opportunities for parents and guardians to visit classrooms and witness a typical school day. Specific events and guidelines, such as visiting hours and schedules, will vary by school.

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](#)

A Note from Orchestra and Band

Please save the date for our Orchestra and Band Winter Concert, which will take place on Tuesday, January 20, 2026! More information will be shared prior to Thanksgiving break.

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

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
- 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.

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

- Fri. 11/7 - Scheduling opens for Parent-Teacher Conferences (information above)
- 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 above)
- Wed. 11/12 - Schools close 3 hours early
- Mon 11/17- Fri 11/21 American Education Week (information to come)
- 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
- 12/3 School Picture Re-Take Day (see above)