



**December 3, 2025**

- A Message from Admin
- New 3rd Grade Testing Dates
- House Color Day is Friday
- Inclusive Schools Week
- Gingerbread House Decorating Night
- Young Authors' Contest
- A Note from Music
- Healthroom
- Outdoor Recess
- Career Day
- Before & After School Classes
- Bookmark the School's Website
- Important Dates

## **A Message from Admin**

Dear Hammond Elementary Families,

As we wrap up the first quarter of the school year, we want to share how proud we are of our students. They have shown tremendous progress both academically and behaviorally, and we are grateful for the partnership that helps make this possible.

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting a positive and safe school environment, we recently reviewed our first-quarter discipline data and identified a few schoolwide goals. This week, all students watched a short video message from Mrs. Moraff and Mrs. Mapson. In the video, we revisited four important areas for improvement:

1. School bus expectations and reminders

2. Proper use of school bathrooms and the bike rack outside the building
3. Thinking before you speak, including avoiding any threatening statements
4. Using strategies and problem-solving instead of physical contact

These reminders help ensure that all students understand what it looks like to be safe, respectful, and responsible throughout the school day.

Students were also given a collaborative homework assignment to complete with a parent or guardian. Together, families are encouraged to review the Student version of the Code of Conduct, which explains each behavior expectation, what it means, and the discipline strategy that may be used at school. This Code of Conduct is a kid-friendly list of rules designed to help everyone learn and get along in a safe, kind environment. When rules are broken, there are consequences, not as punishment, but as opportunities to learn and make better choices in the future.

We ask that you please take a few minutes to read and discuss the Student Code of Conduct with your child. After reviewing, you may sign the form to show that the conversation took place. This homework is optional, but students who return the signed form will earn a House Coin for their House!

A paper copy of the Student Code of Conduct is coming home in today's Thursday Folder, and a digital copy is linked [here](#) for your convenience.

Thank you, families, for partnering with us in this important work. It is essential that parents and guardians remain informed about the expectations outlined in the [Howard County Public School System's Student Code of Conduct](#). Reviewing it in this developmentally appropriate way ensures that students understand what is expected of them at school and how we can work together to support their success.

Warmly,

*Ms. Moraff, Principal*

*Ms. Mapson, Assistant Principal*

## **New 3rd Grade Testing Dates**

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 3, 4, and 5.

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.

## House Color Day is this Friday!

Students and staff are encouraged to wear their house colors to show team spirit and help their house earn points. Every student wearing their house color will earn 1 point for their house. Let's fill the halls with Courage (orange), Curiosity (purple), Friendship (green), Unity (blue), and Kindness (red)!



# Inclusive Schools Week - December 8 - 12

[Inclusive Schools Week flier](#)

**HAMMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

# INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS

## week

Monday December 8th - Friday December 12th

### CHILDREN FIRST

*"Building a Stronger Tomorrow"*

**MONDAY**  
What's new? What is something new we can learn about YOU? Wear something that represents a hobby or something you love!

**TUESDAY**  
Knowledge is power! Wear a hat to represent your brain power and learning style!

**WEDNESDAY**  
We are unique! Wear mixed up socks to represent that we all have different strengths & needs.

**THURSDAY**  
Be comfortable with who YOU are! Wear comfy-cozy clothes or pajamas.

**FRIDAY**  
HES Spirit Day! Wear spirit wear or green/yellow to show that we are building an inclusive culture!

More info at <https://inclusiveschools.org/inclusive-schools-week/>

## Gingerbread House Decorating - Sign up now

[Gingerbread House Decorating flier.](#)



 HES PTA PRESENTS 

Your paragraph text

# GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING NIGHT

Bring your holiday spirit and decorate your very own gingerbread house!  
All supplies will be provided — just bring your imagination  
Tickets are \$5 per child. Space is limited. Parents must stay.  
You must purchase tickets in advance



**DECEMBER 15, 2025** **6:00 PM**

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT [HTTPS://HES-PTA.GIVEBACKS.COM/SHOP](https://hes-pta.givebacks.com/shop)**



**SCAN ME**

HAMMOND ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA



## 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](mailto:lydia_williams@hcpss.org) or turn in a hard copy to their teacher.

The deadline for submissions is December 15th, 2025. Please see the [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.

## A Note from Music

### ...Chorus

The Hammond Elementary School 4th and 5th Grade Chorus Winter Concert will be on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 from 7:00-8:00pm in the **Hammond High School** auditorium (**report time is 6:30pm**).

The concert will feature our 4th and 5th grade Chorus and the Hammond Middle School Choruses. All families are welcome to attend the evening concert. Be sure to stay for the entire concert for a special combined elementary and middle school performance at the end! Please come out to support our student musicians!

### ...Orchestra and Band

Our Orchestra and Band Winter Concert will take place on Tuesday, January 20, 2026!

Where: Hammond High School

Orchestra Concert: 6:30pm

Band Concert: 7:00pm

All families are encouraged to attend both performances to support our instrumental music students! Please contact Mrs. Jacobs or Mrs. Yeager with questions.

## Healthroom Highlights

HEARING AND VISION SCREENINGS ON 12/4 and 12/11:

The Howard County Health Department will be at HES to do Hearing and Vision screenings on all Kindergarteners, First graders and all students new to the state of Maryland on Thursday 12/4/2025. The rescreening date will be on Thursday 12/11/2025.

\*\*If your child wears glasses, please make sure they wear them for the screenings on 12/4 and 12/11.  
Parents may opt out of screenings for religious reasons by emailing the school nurse at:  
[melissa\\_rozgonyi@hcpss.org](mailto:melissa_rozgonyi@hcpss.org).

Thank you!

Mrs Rozgonyi, HES School Nurse

Mrs Rencher, HES School Health Assistant

HES Health Room # (410) 880-5893

## 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 30 degrees Fahrenheit or the heat index is less than 95.

## Career Day is March 19

Mark your calendars! We are excited to announce that our school will be hosting **Career Day** on March 19th! This special event gives students the opportunity to learn about a variety of careers, ask questions, and explore interests for their future. More information will be shared as we get closer to the event.

## 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](#).

## 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

- Thu 12/4 Hearing & Vision Clinic
- Wed 12/10 Winter Chorus Concert
- Thu 12/11 Hearing & Vision Clinic Re-Screening
- Mon 12/15 Young Authors' Contest deadline
- Mon 12/15 Gingerbread House Decorating
- Wed 12/24 Schools & Offices Closed through Fri 1/2
- Mon 1/5 Schools Reopen
- Mon 1/19 Schools & Offices Closed
- Thu 1/22 School closes 3 Hours Early
- Fri 1/23 Quarter 2 ends
- Mon 1/26 School closed for students
- Wed 1/28 Club Photos (ordering info to come)
- Tue 2/3 Report Cards Available through Connect