



December 18, 2025

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A Message from Admin

Dear Hammond Families,

As we approach winter break and the holiday season, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our families and community members for your incredible generosity in donating to the staff gift card raffle. Your kindness gave our teachers and staff something extra to look forward to during these final school days of 2025, and it truly lifted spirits across our building. (See photo below of just a few of our lucky winners!)

Please know that your thoughtfulness did not go unnoticed. Our staff deeply appreciates your support, and we are grateful to be part of such a caring and generous school community.

To close out the year and celebrate the start of winter break, we are excited to share a few fun spirit days for our students next week:

- Monday, 12/22: Wacky Tacky Day (Ugly sweaters are welcome!)
- Tuesday, 12/23: Schoolwide Pajama Day

We wish you and your families a wonderful and restful holiday, whatever you may celebrate, and a happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming our students back in 2026 with many exciting and meaningful experiences planned for them in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Heather Moraff, Principal

Nykia Mapson, Assistant Principal



Winter Break Reminder

School continues on a full-day schedule through Tuesday, December 23. Winter break begins Wednesday, December 24. School resumes on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Winter MAP Assessments

Students in grades 1-5 will take the Measured Academic Progress (MAP) assessment during the months of January and February. There are two sessions scheduled for each grade level: one for reading and one for mathematics. The data from the MAP assessment will help schools and teachers measure your student's academic progress. The MAP test does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly. To learn more about the MAP assessment, please visit: [HCPSS The Measures of Academic Progress Information](#) page.

Teachers in grades 1-5 will administer the assessment on the dates listed below. Teachers will share specific dates or changes to dates with you via Canvas announcements. If you have any questions regarding MAP testing, please reach out to Mrs. Mapson, Assistant Principal and Testing Coordinator or your child's teacher.

- First Grade Testing Dates
 - Week of February 9th (varies by homeroom)
- Second Grade Testing Dates
 - January 27th and 28th
- Third Grade Testing Dates
 - February 2nd and 3rd
- Fourth Grade Testing Dates
 - February 19th and 20th
- Fifth Grade Testing Dates
 - January 6th, 7th, or 8th

You do not need to do anything special to prepare your child for the MAP 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.

Parents will receive a report on their child's performance on the MAP assessment after the testing window closes.

A Note from 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.

Talent Show Registration

Do you have a special talent, passion, or skill that you'd like to share with others? Come join the Hammond Talent Show! This is an opportunity for all Hammond Elementary students in grades K-5! You can dance, sing, play an instrument, do gymnastics or martial arts, or put on a magic show! You can show off your talent by yourself or have a group act.

Important - Please Read!

- Registration/video submissions are due by: **February 14, 2026**
- Talent Show: **Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 6:30 pm**
- Dress Rehearsal: **Tuesday, March 3, 2026 from 5:30-7:30pm**

Attendance at both rehearsal and the showcase is mandatory. All act reviews will be submitted as video submissions; no in-person act reviews will be held. Each student may register for **one** act for the show, and students in group acts must register separately and provide the names of the others in their group on the registration form. Please make sure that song lyrics are appropriate for the school environment. Details about how to submit the video are on the google form in the link below.

[Register here](#)

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 | • Age of students |
| • Wind chill | • Length of time outdoors |
| • Heat index and air quality | • Adequacy of the children's clothing |

- Condition of the playground
- Thunder and lightning
- Falling precipitation (more than a sprinkle/mist)

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 - Winter 2026 Before & After School

Classes 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.

[Winter 2026 HC Rec & Parks Before & After School flier](#)

[Hammond Elementary Registratgion 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

- 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
- Thu 2/4 School Closes 3 Hours Early; Parent-Teacher conferences
- Fri $\frac{2}{5}$ Thu 2/4 School Closes 3 Hours Early; Parent-Teacher conferences
- Wed $\frac{3}{4}$ Talent Show