



January 15, 2026

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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 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

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.

## Scholastic Book Fair - Feb 9 - Feb 13

The Scholastic Book Fair is just around the corner. Parent volunteers are needed to help make it a success! Sign up to assist with setup, student shopping times, or checkout. Evening hours will be held on Tuesday and Thursday so students can shop with their parents. It's a fun way to support our school and foster a love of reading.

[Scholastic Book Fair Volunteer Sign-up](#)

## 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](#)

Hammond Elementary PTA Presents

# TALENT SHOW

Come showcase your skills

**March 4, 6:30 PM /  
HES Gymnasium**

You can perform music, dance, drama, sports,  
magic, or other talents!

- Registration required
- Open to all students in grades K-5; each student may participate in one act
- Group acts allowed; all performers must register individually with the same review time
- Video submission and rehearsal (on March 3 at 5:30pm/HES gymnasium) are required
- Music acts must provide a link or MP3 file
- Acts must be 1-2 minutes long

Questions? Contact:  
[ryan.n.watkins15@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.n.watkins15@gmail.com)

Registration

Deadline is  
February 1st!



# Young Authors' Contest Celebration!

We would like to extend a big thank you to all of the students who participated in this year's Young Authors' Contest! We were truly impressed by the creativity, effort, and thoughtful writing shown in every entry. We are so proud of all our young authors!

We also greatly appreciate the support of our teachers and families who encouraged students, promoted literacy, and assisted with submitting pieces.

All first-place winners at the school level have been submitted to the countywide Young Authors' Contest. County-level winners will be announced soon. Stay tuned!

 **Congratulations to our School-Level First-Place Winners:**



## Career Day is March 19

We are excited to host Career Day on Thursday, March 19! This is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about different careers and hear directly from community members about their jobs and career paths. If you're interested in speaking with students about your career, click the link below or scan the QR code on the flyer to complete the Google Form. We would love to have you join us!

<https://forms.gle/WuM7LMVexGyGCDt57>



## 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.

## SuperSquads Cheerleading Spring registration

Spots are filling quickly, so don't miss your chance to join the fun this spring. You can register today at [www.supersquads.org](http://www.supersquads.org).

We can't wait for another fun-filled SuperSquads season — hope to see you in the gym!

SUPERSQUADS  
CHEERLEADING  
**SPRING 2025**

Get ready to jump, cheer, and shine with the SuperSquads After-School Program this spring! No experience required—just come ready to have fun. Participants will learn stunts, cheer skills, and dance routines, all building toward an exciting end-of-season performance!

[www.supersquads.org](http://www.supersquads.org)

Schools start the week of Jan 25

After-school for 12 weeks

Current Schools:  
Ilchester ES, Forest Ridge ES,  
Fulton ES, Pointers Run ES,  
Dayton Oaks, Gorman  
Crossing ES, Hammond ES &  
Lime Kiln MS

## Atholton High School Poms Clinic

[Atholton High School Poms](#) is excited to invite K-8<sup>th</sup> graders to a special community event on February 11th and 13<sup>th</sup>! Join us on February 11<sup>th</sup> for a fun clinic where our talented Poms will teach dance techniques, our fight song and a halftime routine. Then, on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, all participants will have the opportunity to showcase their skills by performing at the halftime show of our Girls Varsity Basketball Game! Each participant will receive a complimentary ticket along with one for a parent, so be sure to stay and cheer on our Lady Raiders!

Who: All students K-8th

Where: Atholton High School

When: Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> Clinic and Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> Game Half Time Show

Cost: There is no charge to attend the clinic, however, the Poms program will be accepting donations to assist in the development and growth of the program.

## 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 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**

- 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 2/5 School Closes 3 Hours Early; Parent-Teacher conferences

- Mon 2/9 - Fri 2/13 Scholastic Book Fair
- Wed 3/4 Talent Show