

HAMMOND TIGER TALES

November 14, 2019



Hammond Elementary School provides a safe, nurturing learning environment that fosters individual success through academic excellence, and appreciation of diversity, to ensure lifelong learners.

November 18–November 25	HES Book Fair
November 19	Literacy Night 6:30 p.m.
November 20	Hearing/Vision Clinic
November 25 & 26	Schools Close 3 Hours Early (12:30 dismissal), Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 27	Schools Closed for Students, Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 28 & 29	Schools and Offices Closed (State mandated holiday)
December 6	1 st and 2 nd Grade Field Trip to Toby's Theater
December 11	Advanced Band and Orchestra and Chorus Performance 7:00 p.m.
December 13	Quarter 2 interim progress reports issued
December 18	Advanced Band and Orchestra and Chorus Performance *Snow Date*
December 23-January 1	Winter Break (Schools closed for students)
January 9	Dental Clinic
January 9	Family Fit Night
January 14	Beginning Band and Strings Performance 7:00 p.m. HMS Gym
January 20	Schools and Offices Closed (State mandated holiday)
January 27	Schools Closed for Students, Professional Work Day
January 28	Beginning Band and Strings Performance *Snow Date*
February 3	Quarter 2 report cards issued



We Like You Just The Way You Are!

Dear Parents,

As we move into the winter season, we would like to again request your support with assuring that the children come dressed with appropriate outdoor clothing daily. In general, students participate in outside recess when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Having hats, gloves and coats assures students have the opportunity to be comfortable as they engage in physical activities and get fresh air.

Additionally, we kindly request that you write your child's last name on the inside tag of his/her coat. This will help ensure that the coat will get returned to your child if it is found in the school, on the bus, or in the lost and found. Please do not drop students off prior to 8:40 a.m. as they do not enter the building until 8:45 a.m.

In times of emergencies/school closings, information will be shared with the community through the following:

The school system's homepage: www.hcpss.org

HCPSS News email and text message alerts

HCPSS Information Hotline: 410-313-6666

Twitter - @hcpss

Facebook - Howard County Public School System

HCPSS Cable TV - Comcast 95/Verizon 42

On another note, I wanted to share that with the flu season approaching, we would appreciate donations of hand sanitizer and tissue boxes to the classroom teachers and office. These will be used throughout the building to provide students, staff and visitors during the day. Although we have a dispenser in the cafeteria, your children are also welcome to bring individual sanitizers in their lunch boxes. Your children are also able to keep un-medicated Chap Stick in their pocket or lunch box. If you elect to have your child bring his/her own sanitizer or Chap Stick, please help us in explaining that these items are personal and should not be shared with other students.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership!

Sincerely,

Kimberlyn S. Pratesi

Principal

Hammond Elementary School

kimberlyn_pratesi@hcpss.org

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Congratulations

5th grader Jayla Stanilaus and 4th grader Eva Bujanauskas have artwork on display at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore from November 13-24. There is a reception for student artists and their families on Sunday, November 24 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Walters Art Museum located at 600 N. Charles St., Baltimore, 21201. Friends and staff members are invited to attend. Congratulations to Jayla and Eva!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 25 through Wednesday, November 27. You can access your child's Language Arts teacher's conference schedule beginning Monday, November 11 through www.hcpss.org/connect. For specific instructions on how to register for a Conference go to: <http://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/synergy-parent-teacher-conference-registration.pdf>. As a reminder, all students will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. on November 25 and November 26. Schools will be closed for students on Wednesday, November 27.

Book Fair

The **Book Fair** is coming to HES...

This annual event is enjoyed by students and staff alike and is an important fundraiser for our school. Hope to see you there!

Monday, November 18
9:15 to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 19
9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (extended hours event)

Wednesday, November 20 through Friday, November 22
9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday, November 25
9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Literacy Night November 19

On Tuesday, November 19 we will host a **Literacy Night** in conjunction with the Book Fair. It will be a fun-filled night that includes a variety of activities! Highlights will include:

- Meeting AND writing a poem with assistance from the famous author of, "Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary," Laura Shovan.
- Learning about a variety of books during an engaging presentation from the Howard County Library.
- Participating in an interactive technology session using the Howard County Public School's data base.

Feel free to come early and visit our Book Fair from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.! Please click on the link below to RSVP for this event so we know how many people to expect!!

<https://forms.gle/DJT9YBYvNwbWkCc18>

American Education Week November 18-22

November 18-22 is American Education Week for public schools across the nation. Our Hammond Elementary students and staff welcome our families to visit and to join students in the classroom. Because we share the traffic loop with middle school, we ask our parents to visit between the hours of 9:00 am – 2:30 pm in order to avoid challenges with bus and car movement. When you arrive, please report to the office to login and receive a visitor badge - you will need a picture identification card at the time of entrance. We would also appreciate your understanding in regards to younger siblings attending American Education Week. Although we enjoy meeting our students' siblings, American Education Week is not the best venue for their participation, so we do ask that they not attend. They are welcome to attend our family fun functions that are sponsored throughout the year by our PTA. Please also be aware that use of cell phones is not permitted during school hours and that pictures and videos are not permitted due to privacy matters.

Did you know that the National Education Association (NEA) met in 1919 to brainstorm ideas for bringing support to public education after learning that 25% of the World War I draftees were illiterate? By 1921, the first American Education Week was observed and served to highlight the importance and accomplishments of public education. [Click here](#) to learn more about American Education Week.



Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found is starting to grow! Please have your children look for their lost items in the large bin located by our gym. During conference week, parents are encouraged to check for any missing items. All items will be donated before Winter Break.

Thank You

Hammond Elementary would like to thank Weis for donating the pumpkins for our Fall Fun Run. In addition, a big thank you to all the volunteers and family members who came out to support our HES students during this event.

Hearing and Vision Screenings

Hearing and Vision Screenings will be held on Wednesday, November 20. The Howard County Health Department will screen all kindergarten and 1st grade students.

**If your child wears glasses, please be sure they bring them to school and for the screening.

Hammond ES Music Department Volunteer Opportunity

Our school is in need of a few parents willing to volunteer to attend the Howard County Parents for School Music monthly meetings. HCPSM is an advocacy group whose members are parents with children involved in public school music programs. The primary goal of HCPSM's activities is to raise awareness among the decision makers and the community as a whole so that our schools' music programs have the support they need to maintain quality programming. If you want to know more about HCPSM, please visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/hcparents4schoolmusic/about-hcpsm>. We are hoping a few parents will step up to work together to attend meetings. If you are willing to volunteer to attend a meeting, please contact Mrs. Armstrong at carmstrong@hcpss.org.

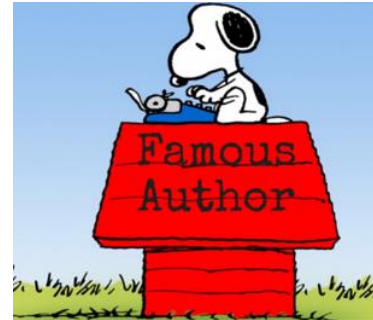
CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Young Authors' Contest

The Howard County Literacy Association is launching the annual State of Maryland Young Authors' Contest! This year we are excited to announce that first graders are eligible to enter the contest.

Students in Grades 1-5 are encouraged to submit a short story and/or poem by Monday, December 2 using the following guidelines:

- Entries must be original work.
- All entries must use no smaller than 12 point font in Times New Roman.
- Short story entry must range between 100-400 words (gr. 1-2) and 300-800 words (gr. 3-5).
- Poem entry will consist of a single poem, any style, and must range between 25-150 words (all grade levels).
- Entries must not include graphics.
- Each entry must include a completed cover sheet signed by the student author's parent.



View the flier for more information and be sure to include the contest coversheet.

RHS Fall Play

Reservoir High School's fall play "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" will be November 21-23, 2019. The show is a total treat, honoring the award winning Broadway play and New York Times bestseller book of the same title. View the flier for more information.

Text Alerts

If you are interested in receiving school text alerts, please subscribe by texting the word "YES" to 67587 from the cell phone number on file in HCPSS Connect.

Birthday Celebrations

In order to avoid disappointment for our students and to maintain an environment conducive to learning, please understand that birthday party invitations should be distributed outside of school. A student directory is now available on Family File. On the special day, if you choose to bring lunch for your child, please remember only your child is allowed to enjoy the meal and/or snack as we have to assure safety for students with allergies, and dietary needs.



Absence Reporting and Change in Dismissal Reporting

In an effort to go green and reduce interruptions to the classroom instruction, we ask that you use the following Google Forms for reporting absences or if there are any changes in your child's dismissal routine: HES-Reporting Absence(s) Form and HES-Change in Dismissal Routine Form. These forms are available on Hammond Elementary School's website: hes.hcpss.org

Please be advised: You will need your photo ID any time you are entering the building.

Volunteers Welcome!

The old proverb is right! It takes a village to raise a child and we need your support. Volunteering is easy and fun!

Each year HCPSS/HES requires you to take 2 short trainings online before volunteering in the school or on field trips. Visit the HES website, click on Get Involved and scroll down to "Volunteer" section. The link will take you to the HCPSS Parent Volunteer Information page. *Due to liability and safety concerns, Hammond Elementary requests that small children do not accompany parent volunteers.* Questions or Concerns? Email: volunteer@hespta.org

Please be advised you will need to turn in your volunteer certificates to Mrs. Bajwa or Mrs. Hawkes if you are planning on volunteering in the classroom or attending your child's field trip(s).