

HAMMOND TIGER TALES

December 5, 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.

December 6	1 st and 2 nd Grade Field Trip to Toby's Theater
December 11	Advanced Band, Advanced Orchestra and Chorus Performance 7:00 p.m.
December 13	Quarter 2 interim progress reports issued
December 18	Advanced Band, Advanced Orchestra and Chorus Performance *Snow Date*
December 20	Spirit Day-Pajama Day
December 23-January 1	Winter Break (Schools closed for students)
January 9	Dental Clinic
January 9	Family Fit Night
January 14	Beginning Band and Beginning Orchestra Performance 7:00 p.m. HMS Gym
January 17	Spirit Day-Crazy Hair Day
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
February 4	Schools and Offices Closed (Election Day)



We Like You Just The Way You Are!

Hammond Elementary School, 8110 Aladdin Drive, Laurel, MD 20723
Office: 410-880-5890 Fax: 410-880-5895 Health Room: 410-880-5893
HES Website: Hes.hcpss.org Twitter: @hcpss_hes PTA Website: hespta.org

Dear Parents,

On November 21, 2019, the Board of Education voted to revise HCPSS school attendance areas for the 2020-2021 school year. Please know that our staff will do all we can to support our students and their families through the redistricting process. I encourage you to find information about the area adjustment process at <https://www.hcpss.org/school-planning/boundary-review/>. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Additionally, all HCPSS schools and offices will now be closed on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, due to the special election to fill the 7th congressional district seat vacated following the passing of Rep. Elijah Cummings.

HCPSS schools and offices are typically closed on all election days as county school buildings are used as polling sites by the Howard County Board of Elections. Students and staff are not able to access school buildings for instruction while elections are underway.

As this closing was not originally listed on the HCPSS Calendar, we are making this announcement early to allow families to plan ahead for the closure. HCPSS has reached out to community partners who typically provide camps and other programs on non-school days to encourage them to provide similar opportunities on February 4. Additionally, our Office of Food and Nutrition Services is exploring the possibility of opening food sites where free lunches could be served to children under the age of 18.

The school system plans to apply to the Maryland State Department of Education for a waiver of the closing day.

Sincerely,

*Kimberlyn S. Stoll
Principal
Hammond Elementary School
kimberlyn_pratesi@hcpss.org*

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Congratulations

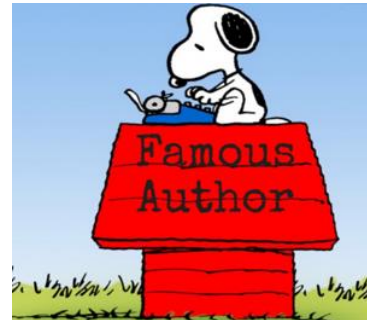
Congratulations to 5th Grade students Dara Akinsanya and Toni Akinsanya on their acceptance into this year's Howard County Elementary School Honors Orchestra! Two students from each elementary school are selected each year. They will be participating in several evening and weekend rehearsals, leading up to our concert on Saturday, February 29 at 3:00 p.m. at Atholton High School. We are so excited for Dara and Toni, and we hope you can join us in celebration at the concert!

Young Authors' Contest-LAST CALL!

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 Friday, December 6 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.



Thank You

We would like to thank the HES PTA and families for the delicious dinner they provided to staff during Parent/Teacher conferences. Having dinner provided is such a nice way for staff to refuel for evening conferences. As always, we are thankful for all the blessings provided by our HES family.

Emergencies/School Closings

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



Caring School Community Corner

Now that first quarter report cards have been sent home, you have likely seen the latest report card template reflecting the following new learning behaviors:

- Demonstrates Interpersonal Skills
- Demonstrates Responsibility
- Demonstrates Perseverance
- Demonstrates Collaboration
- Demonstrates Initiative



Consider having ongoing conversations with your child(ren) to make connections with learning behaviors in different areas of their lives. For instance, discuss the meaning of responsibility and how it applies to the child's role on the sports team (arriving on-time to practices and games, being dependable, putting forth best efforts, encouraging teammates, etc.). Allow your child(ren) to explain how perseverance and collaboration may also play a role in extracurricular activities. How did the family demonstrate (or not) collaboration getting ready for the Thanksgiving feast? Did any family members show perseverance getting ready for the big day? How does being able to show initiative help a person when they feel bored during school breaks?

Showing how the learning behaviors connect to normal life helps children understand them better and how they can practice each of these skills every day!

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).