

HAMMOND TIGER TALES

February 20, 2020



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

February 25	Kindergarten Field Trip to Savage Branch Library (Wethington & Taylor)
February 28	Spirit Day-Hat Day
March 6	Interim progress reports issued
March 13	Spirit Day-Wacky Tacky Day
March 19	Spring and Class Picture Day
March 27	5 th Grade Field Trip to Robinson Nature Center
March 27	Spirit Day-Career Day
March 27	Multicultural Night
March 31	3 rd Grade Field Trip to Ellicott City
April 2	Social Emotional Learning Family Night
April 3	Schools Close 3 Hours Early (12:30 dismissal), Professional Work Day
April 6 -13	Spring Break (Schools closed for students)
April 17	Spirit Day-Fitness Friday
April 28	Schools and Offices Closed (Primary 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](https://hes.hcpss.org) Twitter: @hcpss_hes PTA Website: hespta.org

Dear Parents,

It is with mixed emotions I share I will be retiring effective March 1, 2020. My 30-year journey with the Howard County Public School System brings wonderful memories that will forever be held near and dear to my heart. My passion to serve as an advocate for children led to a calling that has far exceeded any fulfillment imagined, and I thank you for entrusting your children in my care here at Hammond Elementary.

Many years ago, I began collecting quotes that I found to be inspirational and encouraging. One favorite comes from an unknown source, "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to change a life." As I reflect on moments in which I was recipient of such actions from students, colleagues, and parents, I humbly share these resulted in me becoming not only a better educator, but a better version of myself! And for that, I am grateful!

During this period of transition, I am elated to share that Ms. Ciarapica, Assistant Principal, will assume the role of Acting Principal. Ms. Ciarapica's warm, kind demeanor combined with her knowledge of students, instruction, and daily operations will be of great asset. She is a dedicated, talented leader who understands what is needed for the final part of the school year. Ms. Ciarapica will work collaboratively with staff and parents to assure the best for our students!

Assisting Ms. Ciarapica will be Mrs. Webster who is a retired Howard County Principal. Mrs. Webster holds 35 years of experience, having served as an elementary principal at Bryant Woods, Triadelphia Ridge, and Waterloo. During retirement, she has been substituting as a school administrator, assisting Human Resources with hiring processes, and serving as an adjunct instructor at McDaniel College where she also supervises leadership interns. Mrs. Webster is excited to join the Hammond team, where her six nieces and nephews attended school.

Should you have any questions, please feel welcome to contact Ms. Ciarapica or me at 410-880-5890. Hammond will always remain special to me, and I wish your family all the best in the years ahead!

Warmly,

Kimberlyn S. Stoll
Principal
Hammond Elementary School
kimberlyn_stoll@hcpss.org

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Art Room News

3rd Graders Kendall Kaba and Konstantine Zeller will have artwork on display at the Youth Art Month Showcase located at the Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042. The art show will run from February 29 through March 30. There will be a reception for the student artists, their family and friends on March 11 from 5:00-6:30pm at the Miller Branch Library. Congratulations Kendall and Konstantine!

Ukulele Unit in General Music

This week we have started our Ukulele unit in general music, which will culminate when our Artist-in-Resident, Dr. Bryan Powell comes to Hammond ES to work with our students in March. During the next 3 weeks, students will use our classroom set of 30 ukes to review the basics of playing the ukulele and some simple techniques in preparation for Dr. Powell's residency. Some students, who already own a ukulele, have asked if they could use their own instrument from home. It is perfectly fine if a student wishes to use his/her own instrument. There is safe storage space in Mrs. Armstrong's general music classroom. If you have any questions about this unit or the residency, please contact Mrs. Armstrong.

New Required Confidentiality Agreement for Volunteers/Observers

The Howard County Public School System is implementing a new Confidentiality Agreement this school year. Any volunteers/observers/chaperones who enter Hammond Elementary School must review and sign the updated [Confidentiality Agreement](#). This form will be available in the front office or you may print and bring your own.

You can view additional Volunteer Training information using the links below:

Confidentiality Training Course

According to HCPSS Board Policy, all parent volunteers/observers/chaperones must complete a "Confidentiality Training Course" about protecting the privacy of our students, staff, and schools before they can register to volunteer. Click on the link below to view the brief 5-minute training. When you have completed the course, print and sign the [Confidentiality Agreement](#). Please bring the signed form to the HES front office.

[Confidentiality Training](#)

Child Abuse and Neglect Training

Maryland State Law and HCPSS Policy 1030 requires all parent volunteers/observers/chaperones to receive training on the reporting procedures of suspected child abuse prior to serving as a volunteer. Use the link to view the "Volunteer Training" presentation. After viewing the training, print and sign the Online Training Certificate of Completion form. Please bring the signed form to the HES front office.

[Child Abuse and Neglect Training](#)

Thank you for your participation in our school and helping to ensure our students remain safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the front office: 410-880-5890.

Community Reminder

We ask community members to refrain from walking their dogs on school property during dismissal and when students are outside for PE or recess. Additionally, please remember to pick up after your pet and dispose pet waste properly. Thank you for helping keep HES a safe and healthy place for our students and staff!



Wands for Wildlife

We collected 123 mascara wands for the Appalachian Wildlife Refuge thanks to a last minute donation of 31 wands. Thank you to everyone who helped contribute!

Stay tuned for our next 5th grade Kindness Project!

2020-2021 Kindergarten and New Family Registration

Kindergarten and New Family Registration Week will be held on March 9-13. Parents are encouraged to visit HES from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to register their student. All information can be found on the Howard County Public School System [website](#).

Students must be registered by their custodial parent (biological, adoptive, legal guardian). Parents can complete a registration form at their school or fill out one ahead of time to complete the registration process.

Parents must live in the school attendance area of the school in which they plan to enroll their student.

- Verify school attendance area – [HCPSS School Locator](#)
- View boundary lines of attendance areas – [click here](#).
- The following original documents are required at time of registration:
 - Parent picture ID: original driver's license, military ID, or passport.
 - Signed original, current lease or deed with your address, valid dates, signatures.
 - Current utility bill with name and address (non-cellular telephone, gas and electric, cable bill).
 - Student's proof of birth (original birth certificate, baptismal certificate, hospital certificate, passport or military ID).
 - Proof of parental relationship, custody, or guardianship. If applicable, bring legal proof of custody (court order).
 - Student's current proof of immunizations signed by a doctor/health care provider.
 - Student's most recent grade report, transcript, report card from last school attended at time of withdrawal, if applicable.
 - Documentation of Special Education (IEP), 504, Psychological Report, or related services.
 - Any additional paperwork that may be necessary due to special living arrangements or circumstances.

Please note: Children must be 5 years old by September 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. Every child who is 5 years old by September 1 must be enrolled in a state approved kindergarten program this fall or have an approved [waiver](#).

All HCPSS elementary schools provide full-day kindergarten programs.

Note: Students who need ESOL services or parents who need language support should contact the [International Student Registration Center](#) at 410-313-1525 (Korean/English) or 410-313-7102 (Spanish/English).



From the Nurse's Office

As we continue into flu season, this is a reminder that good hand washing and covering sneezes/coughs with tissues and sleeves are essential steps to preventing the spread of "germs." Also, remember that despite concerns about school attendance, your children's health (and the health of other children) is most important of all. For this reason, we ask you to please:

- Call/email the school nurse and your teacher to let us know if your child is absent with a contagious illness such as strep throat, or the flu etc. Please provide any documentation from your physician about diagnosis and release to return to school. (Ear and sinus infections, while often a reason for keeping a child home, are usually not contagious.)
- Keep your child home if he/she has a fever of over 100.0 degrees. A fever indicates that your child has an infection that could be passed to other students. *If you give your child Motrin or Tylenol, the fever will, of course, disappear but he/she will still be contagious to others. Children must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school!
- Have your children wash their hands properly after using the restrooms and prior to eating.



Regarding the gastrointestinal illness that is circulating with symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, nausea, fever and abdominal cramps: gastrointestinal illnesses can spread quickly from one person to another through contact with an infected person and contaminated surfaces.

Remember the best way to prevent and control an infection is by frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water along with frequent cleaning of high contact surfaces.

Additionally, ill persons should not return to school until they have been without symptoms for at least 24-48 hours so they have time to rest and feel back to normal.

If your child currently has symptoms named above, make sure they drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration and encourage increased hand washing. If symptoms become severe, contact your physician.

Thank you very much for helping keep all our students healthy!

Melissa Rozgonyi, RN
HES School Nurse
melissa_rozgonyi@hcpss.org
Health Room # (410) 880-5893

Girl Scout Troop 720 Book Drive

Girl Scout Troop 720 will be holding a Book Drive to donate toward Better World Books. The donation box will be available in the HES lobby through the end of the year. Thank you for your support!



CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recess Policy

With winter weather here, please be sure to send your student to school with a coat, hat and gloves each day. Per HCPSS policy, students will be outside for recess when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit. If the temperature combined with the wind chill is below 20 degrees, students will have indoor recess.

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



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).