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A Message from Admin

Dear Hammond Families,

Happy October! In recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month, Ms. Plotkin and Mrs. Barron would like to take this time to educate our HES community on impacts of bullying, signs of bullying, and how the school counseling program is involved in the prevention of bullying.

Did you know...

...Students who are bullied report more physical symptoms, such as headaches or stomach aches, and mental health issues, such as depression or anxiety, than other students?

...Students who bully others can also be negatively affected by the behavior with higher rates of physical and emotional health issues?

...Bullying directly affects a student's ability to learn? Students who are bullied often do not want to go to school. They may find it difficult to concentrate, show a decline in grades, and lose self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-worth.

The School Counseling program is actively involved in bullying prevention through our classroom lessons, small group sessions, and individual check-ins. Topics and strategies that may be introduced by us that promote peaceful and productive social interactions and conflict resolution are (but not limited to):

- Conflict Resolution Strategies
- Development of cultural competence and acceptance of differences
- Intervention strategies for bystanders
- Effective communication skills
- Cultivating positive staff and student relationships
- Appropriate use of technology and social media

How can you identify a situation that is considered bullying?

Conflict between students is inevitable, but it's not always easy to identify whether it is bullying or mean/rude behavior. Understanding the difference is essential so we know how to respond. Here are a few key points to consider when determining if something is bullying:

- Bullying - Repeated, harmful, and involves an unfair power match
- Mean - Hurt is intentional/purposeful but not part of a larger pattern or a mismatch
- Rude - Accidentally hurting another person's feelings

All of these behaviors require attention. Addressing mean/rude behavior early can help prevent a student from turning their behavior into a pattern of bullying.

If you are unsure if behaviors meet the criteria for bullying, please contact the counseling team or administration to consult.

If you believe your child is a victim of bullying, please report the behavior in accordance with HCPSS policies. Ms. Plotkin and Mrs. Barron can offer a safe space for your student to visit for support if they believe they are the victims of bullying behavior.

Bullying can appear in many different forms. Below are a few examples.

<p>Verbal bullying is saying or writing mean things. Verbal bullying includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teasing ● Name Calling ● Inappropriate sexual comments ● Taunting ● Threatening to cause harm 	<p>Social bullying, sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships. Social bullying includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leaving someone out on purpose ● Telling other children not to be friends with someone ● Spreading rumors about someone ● Embarrassing someone in public
<p>Physical bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions. Physical bullying includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hitting/kicking/pinching ● Spitting ● Tripping/pushing ● Taking or breaking someone's things ● Making mean or rude hand gestures. 	<p>Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The most common places cyberbullying occurs are social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok, text messages, direct messaging, chat rooms, emails, and online gaming communities. ● This includes sharing personal or private information about someone, causing embarrassment or humiliation. ● At times, it can cross the line into unlawful or criminal behavior. ● More information on Cyberbullying can be found on the Stopbullying website.

How is bullying reported in HCPSS?

1. When you believe bullying has taken place, you should report it through the Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, and Intimidation (BCHI) reporting form. Reporting can occur in one of three ways:
 - a. Complete a [BCHI online reporting form](#)

- b. BCHI paper reporting form (available in the main office, staff workroom, school counseling office, media center, and health services office)
 - c. An oral report to a staff member
2. It is important to note that the policy states, “In the event the reporting party does not complete a BCHI Reporting Form, school administrators/supervisors will take the appropriate steps to address and document the incident.” Therefore, if you or someone else makes an oral report, the administrator must document it (i.e., through a BCHI reporting form).

If at any time, you need support or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your school counseling team (Ms. Plotkin & Mrs. Barron) or your school administration (Mrs. Moraff & Mrs. Mapson). Thank you for your partnership in ensuring a safe environment that promotes belonging for all students at HES.

Heather Moraff, Principal

Nykia Mapson, Assistant Principal

School Picture Orders - LAST CHANCE

Friday is the final day to send in picture order envelopes. Online orders will be accepted through Sunday evening. For online ordering go to www.schoolpix.com use order code: HESF24.

Standards-Based Instruction and Reporting

Starting this school year, HCPSS will report student academic progress in grades 3rd through 5th using standards-based reporting. This change occurred during the school year 2023-2024 for PreK to 2. To learn more about standards-based instruction and reporting, visit parent resources [at this link](#).

Free Chromebooks for Qualifying Families

As part of a grant from the State of Maryland's Connected Devices Program, our school is partnering with the [Bright Minds Foundation](#) and the Howard County Government to provide qualifying families with one free Chromebook and charger per household. This free new HP Chromebook can be used by your family to connect with our schools, access community services, or for any other purpose that would be of benefit to you.

In order to qualify for a free Chromebook and charger, you must meet the following criteria:

- Your family has not already received a free device from one of these organizations: Community Action Council of Howard County, Howard County Office of Children and Families, or Making Change;
- You are the parent or legal guardian of a student currently enrolled in HCPSS;
- You meet **one** of the income qualifications outlined on the application form; and,
- The application form is fully completed.

If you qualify for a Chromebook and have completed the Google Form application, you will be notified by Hammond Elementary School when the device is available in November/December for pick up. At that time, an adult family member (at least 18 years old) will need to come to the school to receive the device. When you pick up the device, you will receive information about setting up the device and how to access technical support. These are not HCPSS devices, and will not come loaded with any HCPSS educational applications. HCPSS is not responsible or liable for the operation, loss, or repair of your Chromebook or charger. Families will be responsible for their own internet service. Families will have 5 days to exchange any non-functioning devices. Please read the instructions and complete the Free Chromebooks for Eligible HCPSS Parents or Guardians Google Form at [this link](#) by **Friday November 1, 2024**. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Koerber, Instructional Technology Teacher.

We look forward to partnering with the Bright Minds Foundations, Howard County Government, and you for this incredible opportunity!

Survey for Military Connected Families

If you are a military connected family, please fill out [this survey](#)! This will help to plan future activities and ensure our HES military connected families are being supported, please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below. Our goal this year is to be recognized as a Purple Star School. Maryland's Purple Star Schools program was established by Education Article 7-129 and approved by the Maryland General Assembly in 2022. This prestigious recognition program honors schools that go above and beyond to support military-connected students and their families.

A Note from Music

Orchestra and Band Winter Concerts

Our Hammond ES Orchestra and Band Winter Concerts will take place on Monday, December 9 in the Hammond MS Gym. More information will be shared in the next few weeks. Please contact Mrs. Jacobs (Orchestra) or Mr. Obrugewitch (Band) with any questions.

Chorus at Hammond

Our 4th and 5th grade chorus students have started working with our two music teachers, Mr. Burrows and Mrs. Sanders. We have over 90 students singing in chorus this year! We are excited to hear them sing in our two upcoming concerts. We will share the concerts with the Hammond Middle School choruses. Save the date for our Winter Concert at Hammond High School on Wednesday, December 18 at 7pm.

Strings Congratulations

Congratulations to 4th Grade violinist Joanna Luo on her acceptance into the Howard County Elementary School Gifted and Talented Sinfonia (ESGTS)!

News from the Health Room

Flu Shots/Covid Vaccines

Each year, Howard County Public School System partners with Maryland Partnership for Prevention to bring flu immunizations into our schools for students. This year, they will also be offering the latest Covid vaccine, if it is available at the time of the clinics.

The clinic at HES will be held on **Monday, October 28th**, during school hours. If you would like your child to be vaccinated against the flu and/or Covid at this clinic, please register at this link: <https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/7615829052>

Registration ends on Oct 15.

You do not need to provide your child's insurance information. If you have any concerns about the new Covid vaccine, you are advised to speak with your child's pediatrician.

If you wish to cancel your child's appointment after Oct. 15, please call the nurse at your child's school, **BEFORE THE MORNING OF THE CLINIC!!!**

If you have any questions, please call your school's health room at (410) 880-5893.

If in-school immunizations do not suit your family, or if your child would like the support of a parent when receiving a shot, consider getting a flu shot outside of school. **Getting the flu shot together can help ease any anxiety for kids and make the experience more positive.**

This is an awesome opportunity for students, siblings, parents and grandparents to get their shots together FOR FREE, WITH OR WITHOUT INSURANCE. (These clinics have the 65 and older flu shot as well). See the locations and dates on the flier....

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/seasonal-flu>



PE Fall Fun Run

Our annual PE Fall Fun Run will be held on Tuesday Oct 15th (Thursday Oct 17th as rain date). It will take place during the grade level Related Arts time. More information to come! Volunteers needed: <https://tinyurl.com/HESFFR24>

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

October is LGBTQIA+ History Month. Let's celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of the LGBTQIA+ community! Click here for the [LGBTQIA+ History Month Resource](#).

Trunk or Treat at HES (Sponsored by the PTA)

Be part of the fun and magic of the HES PTA Trunk or Treat! Go big, go small, go spooky, go sweet! Let's provide our kids with a fun treat! No time to put together a trunk? PTA is also accepting donations of candy and small toys to give out at the event. Drop off your generous donations in the box in the HES Front Office.

HES PTA PRESENTS:

TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

12-2 PM

HES PARKING LOT

8110 ALADDIN DRIVE, LAUREL MD

CANDY GIVEAWAY

COSTUME/TRUNK CONTESTS

VISIT THE HAUNTED WITCH'S COTTAGE

I LOVE ME SOME SNOBALLS, SWEETS & TREATS

& MORE!

BE PART OF THE FUN AND HOST A TRUNK!

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/HESTRUNK](https://tinyurl.com/HESTRUNK)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR:

MOSQUITO
AUTHORITY
Protect your yard with **Authority**



Annual Coat Drive

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® | Iota Lambda Omega Chapter



ANNUAL
Coat Day

WHEN:
Saturday, October 12, 2024
8:30-11:00 a.m.

WHERE:
Wilde Lake Interfaith Center
10431 Twin Rivers Rd
Columbia, MD 21044

We will **gift the gift of warmth** and help families in need by giving away **NEW** coats, hats, scarves, and gloves for men, women, and children.

Melody Johnson Morales, First Vice President and Program Chairman
programs@akaiotalambdaomega.org

Angela L. Williams, President

Iota Lambda Omega's Annual Coat Day is held in collaboration with Pearl Foundation, Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.®, Kappa Phi Lambda Chapter and Wilde Lake Interfaith Center.



www.akaiotalambdaomega.org  [@akaiotalambdaomega](https://www.instagram.com/@akaiotalambdaomega)  [@iotalambdaomega](https://www.facebook.com/@iotalambdaomega)  [@akaiotalambdaomega](https://www.twitter.com/@akaiotalambdaomega)

End of Quarter 1 Celebrations

It is hard to believe, but Quarter 1 is coming to an end on October 30. We will mark the day with grade appropriate celebrations at the end of the school day on October 30. To see the details click on the links below.

[Grades K-1](#)

[Grades 2-5](#)

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King

This year, the Howard County Office of Human Rights and Equity have several exciting opportunities for students to engage with Dr. King's vision of equality, justice, and community service. Additionally, all the awards come with cash prizes.

Poster Contest: Open to Elementary, Middle, and High School students, participants can visually express their interpretation of Dr. King's dream through creative poster designs. All entries must be received by November 15.

For more information, including deadlines and submission guidelines, please visit <https://bit.ly/2025MLKContests>.



Howard County
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission

Howard County Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

2025 STUDENT CONTESTS:

Honor Dr. King's Legacy & Win Cash Prizes!

Elementary, Middle & High School Poster Contest:
Create a piece of artwork that illustrates how we can make positive changes in ourselves, schools, and communities.

High School & Middle School Essay Contest:
Write an essay about a time that you created positive change in yourself, school, or community. Discuss challenges, outcomes, and personal growth.

High School & Middle School Oratory Contest:
Create a 5-7-minute speech that illustrates how you created positive change in yourself, school, or community. Discuss challenges, outcomes, and personal growth.

GET AN APPLICATION:
@ [HTTPS://BIT.LY/HCMLK25](https://bit.ly/hcmlk25)
For More Information:
Call (410) 313-6430
Email: MLK@howardcountymd.gov



SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Entries must be received by
November 15th, 2024 at 5:00 PM EST


Via Email: MLK@howardcountymd.gov
Via Mail: Howard County Office
of Human Rights & Equity
9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 237
Columbia, MD 21046

Young Authors' Contest

The Howard County Literacy Association invites students in grades **1-5** to submit their original poems and/or short stories to the annual writing contest called **The Young Authors' Contest**.

Click here to view the slides describing the contest rules: [Contest Slides](#) All entries must be submitted as a Word document. In addition, all entries must have a completed YAC Cover Sheet sent as a PDF. Click here to make a copy: [Cover Sheet](#)

Submissions may be emailed to Paula Stehle at paula_stehle@hcpss.org *and* Elizabeth Kluh at elizabeth_kluh@hcpss.org by **December 20, 2024**. Contact Mrs. Stehle and Mrs. Kluh with any questions. All Young Authors' Contest information can be found on the [HCLA website](#). Howard County Literacy Association welcomes parents as members. Visit the [HCLA Welcome Page](#) for information about joining.




YOUNG AUTHORS' CONTEST 2025

SoMLA is thrilled to unveil the 2024-2025 Young Authors' Contest, presented in collaboration with various State of Maryland Literacy Association (SoMLA) local chapters. This exciting competition is open to students from grades 1 to 12, encouraging them to showcase their creativity and talent through original short stories and poetry. As an important note, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in supporting student work is strictly prohibited. Local contests will be hosted by the respective SoMLA chapters, with the top winners progressing to the state-level competition. Join us in celebrating the budding authors of Maryland and their remarkable literary endeavors!

GRADE-LEVEL GUIDELINES

All entries must be original work and submitted in 12-point Times New Roman font. Entries must not include graphics. Only individual entries are accepted; group submissions are not being accepted. Submissions that do not meet these guidelines will be disqualified.

<u>Elementary 1-5</u>	<u>Middle 6-8</u>	<u>High 9-12</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Short story entries must range between 100-400 words in grades 1-2Short story entry must range between 300-800 words in grades 3-5Poetry entries will consist of a single poem, any style from a minimum of 25-150 words	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Short story entries must range between 600-1,600 wordsPoetry entries will consist of a single poem, any style, and must range between 25-200 words.Entries must not include graphics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Short story entries must range between 800-2,000 words.Poem entries will consist of a single poem, any style, and must range between 25-300 words.



Submission Requirements:

- Each entry must include a completed cover sheet with a signature by the student author's guardian.
- Each participant must submit two files (original work and cover sheet).

For additional details and guidelines, contact your local SoMLA Young Authors' Contest Chairperson or go to

Howard County Literacy Association website
<https://hocoreads.weebly.com/young-authors-contest.html>

Submit entry and cover sheet to your school by December 20.

Hammond Pride Fridays

HAMMOND
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRIDE DAYS

Students and Staff
are invited to wear
their Hammond
Elementary apparel
and/or school
colors to show their
Hammond pride.

EVERY FRIDAY!

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!





Important Dates

- 10/15 PE Fall Fun Run
- 10/18 School Closed for students
- 10/19 Trunk or Treat - 12:00 - 2:00 pm
- 10/28 Flu Clinic - Flu and Covid shot Clinic at school
- 10/30 End of Quarter 1
- 10/31 Schools Closed for students
- 11/5 Election Day - Schools & Offices closed
- 11/8 Report Cards available at 4pm
- 11/8 Window opens to schedule Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 11/14 Hearing & Vision Clinic
- 11/21 Hearing & Vision Clinic - RESCREENING
- 11/21 Parent-Teacher Conference scheduling window closes at 4:00 pm
- 11/25 School closes 3 hours early
- 11/25 In-Person Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 11/26 School closes 3 hours early
- 11/26 Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 11/27 School closed
- 11/27 Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 11/28 School closed
- 11/29 School closed
- 12/9 Orchestra and Band Winter Concerts at HMS gym

