

Hammond Elementary School



Tiger Tales

October 14, 2021



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Hammond families,

As we are approaching another 80 degree day, it is hard to believe that we have also reached the middle of the first quarter of school. Though Mid-Quarter Progress Reports/Interims are no longer being used systemically, we hope you have found the information provided in our weekly Feedback Form for Learning Behaviors to be helpful.

Beginning last year, our school community moved away from the celebration of Halloween as we sought activities that were more inclusive of our entire school community. We are excited for multiple opportunities to celebrate with our students during the month of October. Please take a moment to visit our calendar below for upcoming activities including activities for Bullying Prevention (10/18 - 10/22) our next Restaurant Night (10/20), our **FALL** Fun Run (10/26), and our **FALLing** OUT of 1st Quarter Celebration (10/29). Please review the information below for more details!

With many fun activities on the horizon, we recognize that some events previously allowed us to invite families to serve as spectators or participants. At this time, to limit interaction with students in the school building, visitors are not permitted to attend events that occur indoors or outdoors during the school day, such as spelling bees, assemblies, activities associated with American Education Week, and field days. For more information, please review systemic communications on www.hcpss.org.

In the next few weeks you will receive information about setting up a conference with your child's homeroom teacher. Conferences will be offered during the week of November 22nd. Again this year, we will offer virtual conferences for families. More information will be shared in a later communication.

Thank you to the September "groupies" who celebrated the staff with delicious breakfast treats! They were greatly appreciated and quickly devoured!

Best wishes,

Ms. Ciarapica

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Upcoming Events

FALL Fun Run

Our students and staff are getting excited for **Hammond Elementary's Annual Fall Fun Run** on **October 26th**. Each student will participate during their regularly scheduled Related Arts block. Though visitors won't be able to join us this year (for reasons described above) we still need your help in preparing your children to participate in the big event. On Tuesday, October 26th, please remind your child to wear their tennis shoes to school and to a water bottle with their name on it. For questions, please contact Mrs. Serpico (sserpico@hcpss.org) and Mr. Quirk (iquirk@hcpss.org).

FALLing OUT of Quarter One Celebration

We are proud of our student's hard work during the first quarter of school and are excited to celebrate with them on Friday, October 29th. Our **FALLing OUT of Quarter One Celebration** will include fun fall activities for all students. [For more information, please review our flier.](#)

School Volunteers

Effective Monday, October 25, all [School Volunteers and Chaperones](#) who interact with students will be required to use the PinPoint platform to show proof of full vaccination at least five school days prior to entry into a school. We look forward to more information for this process to be shared with the HCPSS community in an upcoming communication. At this time, volunteers are being utilized to support the students' daily lunch. As additional volunteers are needed, families will be contacted.

HCPSS Attendance Information:

Research is clear that showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic and social success starting from kindergarten and continuing through high school. Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school or even facing social challenges.

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days of a school year) can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- By the 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that can indicate if a student is at risk for dropping out of high school.
- In the 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

Student attendance is a major point of focus for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Starting in school year 2018-2019, MSDE lowered the chronic absenteeism rate from 20% to 10% which means that at 10% a student should be receiving support and interventions to improve their absenteeism.

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) believes that attendance is key for student success. Per Policy 9010, HCPSS defines exemplary attendance as a final attendance rate of 96% or more of the student year.

In support of achieving Exemplary Attendance for all students, we are sharing with you a comprehensive approach for attendance supportS and interventions.

- If a student has missed 5% of their monthly attendance days (as few as 1-2 days a month), parents will receive a Care and Concern Phone Call and letter from their school. This step will allow staff members to coordinate with families to determine how the student can be supported for better attendance.
- If a student has missed 10% of their monthly attendance days (this is defined as chronic absenteeism by MSDE), parents will receive a 10% Chronic Absenteeism Attendance Letter. Parents and students may be scheduled for an attendance conference. Other interventions and supports may also be used in an effort to assist the student.
- If a student has missed 15% of their monthly attendance days, in addition to the interventions and support at 5% and 10%, these students may require an attendance support plan. Students may also be referred to the Central Attendance Team.
- If a student has missed 20% of their monthly attendance days, parents will receive a 20% Emergency Chronic Absenteeism Letter or Habitual Truancy Letter. Students may be referred to Project Attend and may be referred to the State's Attorney's Office for habitual truancy.

With the collaborative effort of HCPSS parents, staff and students, we are confident that all students can have successful attendance. This will improve student success in school and in future life.

Fall MAP Assessments

Students in grades 1-5 will take the Measured Academic Progress (MAP) assessment during the month of October. 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:

<https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/>

Teachers in grades 1-5 will administer the assessment on the dates listed below. If your child is absent, makeup testing will be offered when they return to school. Teachers will share specific dates or changes to dates with you via Canvas announcements. **Students in grades 2-5 must bring in their assigned device (or they can leave it at school). Please be sure to send in a fully charged laptop and headphones especially on your student's testing days.** 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 October 18th (varies by homeroom)
- Second Grade Testing Dates
 - October 20th and October 21st
- Third Grade Testing Dates
 - October 26th and October 27th
- Fourth Grade Testing Dates
 - October 27th and October 28th
- Fifth Grade Testing Dates

- October 20th and October 26th

Counselor Corner

It's time again for our **October** edition of our School Counseling newsletter! Please click here to check it out!

We are super excited for next week's Bully Prevention activities! A [message](#) went out yesterday explaining all about our special colors to wear for the week. We can't wait to see everyone supporting our Bully Prevention efforts!

Remember, your School Counselors are only an email away! Please reach out to chat with either of us: Mrs. Kennedy: margaret_kennedy@hcpss.org or Ms. Plotkin: ryann_plotkin@hcpss.org.

Instrumental Music Updates

Congratulations to violinists Billy Guo (5th Grade) and Joshua Luo (3rd Grade) on their acceptance into this year's Elementary School Gifted and Talented Orchestra (ESGTO)! We are so proud of their hard work and achievements! We look forward to celebrating them at the ESGTO concerts in December and May!

PTA NEWS

Membership

If you have not done so already, please consider joining our PTA. PTAs support improvements through advocacy and play an important role in fundraising for curriculum based programs and social events. The HES PTA is a tremendous asset to our school community and needs your support. Visit hespta.org for more information.

HES Monthly Groupies

Now that the "Band is Back Together" at HES, we are looking for some families (or "groupies" if you will) that would like to celebrate the staff each month. Once a month we are hoping to show our support by bringing the staff a token of our appreciation. Examples include, but are not limited to, school supplies, special treats (pre-packaged or store bought), school-appropriate beverages, etc. If you are interested, please visit the sign-up link [here](#). Please feel free to join in with a neighbor as groupies can consist of multiple families.

Outdoor Movie Night

Big Screen Flicks Presents: Monsters, Inc. on the multipurpose field of HES on Friday, October 29. Come as early as 5:30 PM to get your seat, and the movie will start at 6:15 PM. Headphones will be provided.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are limited to a maximum audience size of 200 people. Please fill out the form to request free tickets: <https://forms.gle/XcdcENdRyFnNTd4v7>.

Support the PTA while you shop!

- **Harris Teeter:** Link your VIC card online each Fall at www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education
- **AmazonSmile:** Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and select Hammond Elementary PTA as your charity

Volunteers Needed

The PTA has exciting events planned for the HES community, but we won't be able to make them happen without you! We are looking for volunteers to chair the following committees.

- **Spring Carnival:** This fun family event will be held outdoors at HES in the spring on a Saturday. There are typically games, crafts, prizes, face painting, bounce houses, and more! The chairperson would work with their committee to coordinate vendors, activities, and volunteers for the event.
- **Square 1 Art:** In this fundraising event, students draw a picture during their art class. Parents can then buy various items through the Square 1 Art website that feature their child's art (like cookie plates, notes, oven mitts, etc.). The chairperson would coordinate with HES art teachers and the vendor.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 15 Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day for Staff

October 18 [Bullying Prevention Week Activities](#)

Wear **BLUE** for "Random Words of Kindness" Day

October 19 Wear **PURPLE** for "Spread Positivity" Day

October 20 Wear **Orange** for "Unity" Day

Restaurant Night at Ledo's Pizza (Fulton) (more details to follow)

October 21 Wear **BLUE** for "Pay It Forward" Day

October 22 Wear **Green** for "Resilience and Self Confidence" Day

October 26 **FALL** Fun Run (during related arts classes)

October 29 **FALL**ing Out of Quarter One Celebration ([Celebration Flier](#))

November 3	End of the 1st Marking Period
November 4	Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work/Learning Day for Staff
November 9	PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm (virtual)
November 10	1st Quarter Report Cards Go Home
November 22, 23	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) Parent/Teacher Conferences (Afternoon & Evening*)
November 24	Schools Closed for Students - Parent/Teacher Conferences*
December 13	Advanced Winter Concert @ 7:00 pm (format is TBD)
December 20	Snowdate: Advanced Winter Concert @ 7:00 pm (format is TBD)
December 23	Winter Break - Schools closed for students
January 3	School & Offices Reopen
January 11	PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm (virtual)
January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr Day - Schools & Offices Closed
January 19	Beginners Winter Concert @ 7:00 pm (format is TBD)
January 21	End of 2nd Quarter - Professional Work Day for Staff
January 26	Snowdate: Beginners Winter Concert @ 7:00 pm (format is TBD)
January 31	2nd Quarter Report Cards Go Home
February 1	Schools Closed for Students - Professional Learning Day for Staff

You may link here to access the [HCPSS Calendar for the 2021 - 2022 School Year](#).

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Opportunity at Hammond ES

Lunch/Recess Monitor Position

Description: The Lunch/Recess Monitor, in collaboration with school staff, supervises a large group of students in the cafeteria and/or on the playground. The Monitor works within the school system's behavioral policies to maintain cafeteria and playground standards that ensure a safe, orderly, and

nurturing environment. The Monitor works under the general supervision of the school administrator or designee. Performance is evaluated periodically.

Please contact Mrs. Nykia Mapson (nykia_mapson@hcpss.org) to learn more about the position and schedule an interview.

Interested in Volunteering at HES?

We are hopeful to increase our opportunities to utilize parent volunteers in the building. As these opportunities become available, it is required that all volunteers complete a **multi-step training** prior to entering the school building.

1. Child Abuse Training
 - a. [Review PowerPoint Slides](#)
 - b. [Print and sign your certificate of completion.](#)
2. Volunteer Training Course
 - a. [Review PowerPoint Slides](#)
 - b. [Print and sign your certificate of completion.](#)
3. Complete our [HES Google Form](#) to record your training completion.
4. Bring your completed certificates to school prior to your first day of volunteering.
5. Beginning October 25th, volunteers will be required to share COVID-19 Vaccine Information with schools. For more information, please visit www.hcpss.org of updated [communication information](#).

**Families will be informed as opportunities to volunteer become available.*

Transportation

Changes in afternoon transportation should be submitted to your child's teacher in writing (note or email). For changes that occur after 12 pm, please call our front office team (410-880-5890) to communicate the change and they will provide the information to your child's homeroom teacher.

[Bus Numbers & Routes](#)

[Car Loop Dashboard Cards](#)

Are You Moving?

If your family is moving out of the Hammond Elementary district or even just down the street, we still need to know! Please contact the Front Office at 410-880-5890 if you are changing your address over the summer.

Health and Safety Precautions

Please complete a [COVID-19 Self-Screening](#) with your child every morning.

Scheduled volunteers should also complete a [COVID-19 Self-Screening](#) prior to entering the building.

For more information about [COVID-19 Health & Safety](#) please visit www.hcpss.org.

Students in Quarantine

All elementary school students asked to quarantine will be provided a robust packet of grade level instructional materials that cover all content areas including related arts. The robust packets are only to be used in the event a student needs to quarantine. The tasks that students complete from the packet will not be used as an assessment or counted toward any part of the students' report card grade.

Students may also access some instructional materials via their teacher's Canvas page. A teacher's Canvas page may include overview information of units students are learning in school. If a student has not been assigned an HCPSS-issued device, one will be provided by the school within one to two school days.

Students may participate in up to two virtual check-ins per week with their teacher(s), who will be available to provide broad support and to answer questions. Once in quarantine, check-in days, times, and links will be communicated to families.

Students in quarantine will have access to virtual tutoring services via the Evening School program. Contact Lisa_Castaneda@hcpss.org

For more information about [Students in Quarantine](#) or the [Quarantine FAQ](#).

Chromebook Care Webpage

There is a new webpage for students, [Chromebook Care](#), which includes tips on caring for and transporting Chromebooks, as well as student mobile technology support and additional resources.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please visit the [link](#) to the Howard County Public School System's Community News and Programs page.