

Hammond Elementary School



Tiger Tales

November 5, 2020



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

Congratulations to our students and families for completing their first quarter of unprecedented virtual learning. Each of us has grown tremendously during this journey. At times, the growing pains have been considerable, but I commend our students, staff and families for their dedication to the process.

During these past two weeks, we've been excited to offer the opportunity for additional adult support for asynchronous health activities. Our outstanding Paraeducator team has been available to students on Wednesday afternoons and the attendance has been great! For more information, please see your child's Monday announcement.

Our students will have an early dismissal on Friday, November 6. The afternoon provides our staff the opportunity to address first quarter report cards. When determining report card grades, teachers consider several factors including participation, engagement and the demonstration of skills during live, synchronous instruction (Google Meets) as well as work completed independently through Dreambox, Lexia Core 5, and asynchronous tasks in Canvas. Though not a requirement, when your child keeps his/her camera on during instruction, he or she is better able to attend and participate in learning. When students turn their camera off, it is more difficult for teachers to determine levels of engagement and monitor progress. We appreciate your support with this strategy.

Recently Google Meet has increased extensions that are accessible to your child, including "blurred" or decorative backgrounds. Staff will be discouraging students from using these extensions as they are distracting and cause delays in Google Meet functioning.

On behalf of our entire staff, thank you so much to our giving PTA. Due to the generosity of the PTA, staff were invited to enjoy a delicious dessert from Decadent Desserts in Maple Lawn. Whether in person or virtually, the way to our hearts is often through our stomachs!

As always, thank you for your patience, understanding, and support.

Our partnership is what makes the Hammond School Community a wonderful place to serve!

Sincerely,

Ms. Ciarapica

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 23 through Wednesday, November 25. We will be offering Google Meet conferences for Homeroom and 4th Grade G/T Math only in the Fall. Math conferences will be held this Winter in February.

You will schedule your Parent/Teacher Conferences in HCPSS Connect. You can access the conference schedule beginning Friday, November 13 through www.hcpss.org/connect. The scheduling window will remain open until Thursday, November 19. The window will then be closed so that teachers will have an appropriate amount of time to prepare for their conferences.

Click on the Conference tab in the left navigation panel and click Parent Conferences. Select the conference time you want for your student's Homeroom or 4th Grade G/T Math class. For specific instructions on how to register for a Conference go to:

<http://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/synergy-parent-teacher-conference-registration.pdf>.

The Related Arts Team will also offer Office Hours during fall conferences for any interested families. Click to view the [Related Arts Office Hours Schedule](#). In addition, Mrs. Kennedy is available for families on Monday, November 23 from 12:30 - 4:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 24 from 12:30 - 7:30 p.m. Please contact Mrs. Kennedy directly to set up a conference (mkennedy@hcpss.org).

As a reminder, all students will be dismissed three hours early on November 23 and November 24. Schools will be closed for students on Wednesday, November 25.

HES Virtual Spirit Day

Let's all stay connected by having a little fun from afar. Students and staff are invited to participate in Spirit Day on Friday, November 5-**Stuffed Animal Day!**

MAP Score Access

Thank you for supporting your child during MAP testing. To access your child's MAP score, you will need to log in to HCPSS connect as a parent. Please see below for directions. A more detailed home report will be available in Synergy by early November.

How Can I Access my Child's MAP Test Results?

Fall 2020 MAP test results are entered in Synergy the Friday after a student takes the test. It can take up to 24 hours to become visible for an individual student.

To access test scores:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#)

2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select Standardized Test Scores from the middle

<https://help.hcpss.org/grades-testing/fall-2020-MAP-scores>

If you have any questions about MAP testing, please contact our assistant principal, Nykia Mapson, at nykia_mapson@hcpss.org.

Young Authors' Contest

The Howard County Literacy Association is launching the annual State of Maryland Young Authors' 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](#).

Music News: Quaver Notes

Hey Hammond Tigers! There is a new Quaver Code for November. Have you designed your Quaver avatar on your Student Dashboard? Well, guess what? Quaver is giving us "Quaver Notes" so you can change your avatar. Enter the code **TG2020** and have fun!

Tips for Rebooting Your Chromebook

Having issues with your Chromebook? [Click here](#) for directions to correct or repair unexpected Chromebook system behavior. Begin with the quick Refresh Procedure. If the issue continues, complete the Reset Procedure.

Kindergarten and First Grade - Enrichment Activities

Kindergarten and First Grade students will have an opportunity to learn creative and analytical thinking strategies through a variety of activities this year. These lessons will be announced in each teacher's Monday Announcement and on the student's ELA Homepage. The lessons are optional but highly recommended! We hope you have fun with these activities. Please contact us with any questions:

Mrs. Miller – Kindergarten Enrichment (belinda_miller@hcpss.org)

Mrs. Calanni – First Grade Enrichment (gwyn_calanni@hcpss.org)

IMPORTANT DATES

November 6	Spirit Day-Stuffed Animal Day
November 6	Schools close 3 hours early-End of 1st Quarter
November 10	PTA Restaurant Night, Corner Stable
November 17	PTA Meeting 7:00-8:30 p.m.
November 23-24	Schools close 3 hours early (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
November 25	Schools closed for students (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
November 26-27	Schools and offices closed-Thanksgiving

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update on School Meals

Free school meals previously due to expire at the end of December, have been extended through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Thus, HCPSS will be able to provide meals at no cost to any HCPSS student, and all children 18 and under, through the entire school year, assuming continued availability of USDA funding.

Google Meet Expectations

To ensure a positive, productive and enjoyable learning experience for all participants, it is important that all students and parents/guardians adhere to these [Google Meet Expectations](#).

Ms. Freitag, School Psychologist Office Hours

Ms. Freitag, School Psychologist, will offer Office Hours on Mondays from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Please use the code **hes-schoolpsych** to join in to ask a quick question or share a concern. As always, Ms. Freitag is available to set up a Google meet at any time by reaching out via email at angela_freitag@hcpss.org.

Mrs. Kennedy, School Counselor

Mrs. Kennedy, our School Counselor, is available to support students and families when adjusting to our virtual learning environment. Please do not hesitate to contact her for additional assistance (mkennedy@hcpss.org). Check out her [Canvas page](#) here.

PTA NEWS

PTA Meeting

The next HES PTA meeting will be held Tuesday, November 17 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Restaurant Night

Save the date! On Tuesday, November 10 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. the Corner Stable is donating 15% of takeout orders to Hammond Elementary School PTA! Take a night off from cooking and join us in eating for a great cause. Just mention Hammond Elementary School PTA when you order for your meal to be counted.

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Hammond Elementary School

At-A-Glance Resource Sheet

Stay Updated:

- Access hes.hcpss.org for Tiger Tales News, our staff directory, calendar dates & more!
- Access www.hcpss.org for HCPSS information & resources
- Read “Tiger Tales” newsletters and Family Communications
- Listen to HCPSS BOE meetings
- Complete your Family File at www.hcpss.org/connect

Save the Dates:

HCPSS School System Calendar List of Dates:
<https://www.hcpss.org/f/news/calendars/datesony202021.pdf>

School Office: Due to COVID-19, our school building is only open to HCPSS staff, those registered through Columbia Association child care, and mail and delivery workers.

School Virtual Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.

School Phone Number: Our office number is **410-880-5890**, but please note that you may need to leave a message during school hours. If it is an emergency and your call is not answered during school hours, please email either Ms. Ciarapica, Principal at Lisa_Ciarapica@hcpss.org or Mrs. Mapson, Assistant Principal at Nykia_Mapson@hcpss.org.

School Address: 8110 Aladdin Drive, Laurel, MD 20723

School EFax Number: 443-973-5552

To report a school absence: While parents/guardians can continue to email their child’s teacher for absences, we are encouraging parents to use this [GoogleForm for absence reporting](#) available at www.hes.hcpss.org. We hope this makes reporting absences more convenient and efficient for you!

If there is a health issue that you would like the teacher and health office to know about, please email your child’s teacher and our school nurse, [Mrs. Rozgonyi](#). Please email [Ms. Bajwa](#) with any doctor notes for student absences.

Need Grab-and-Go Meal Services?

Grab-and-Go meals will be served at HES Monday through Friday from 8:00–9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Meals can be picked up in the rear of the building, at the doors of our kitchen. When entering the main parking lot, please drive down the access road to the right of Hammond Middle School. Meals will be provided at no cost to all students for the remainder of the school year.

Need Support or Health Services?

School Counselor: Mrs. Kennedy
Margaret_Kennedy@hcpss.org

School Psychologist: Mrs. Downin
Laurie_Downin@hcpss.org

School Nurse: Mrs. Rozgonyi
Melissa_Rozgonyi@hcpss.org

Pupil Personnel Worker: Monique Finch
Monique_Finch@hcpss.org

Need How-to Tech information?

<https://hcpss.me/join-chromebook-to-wifi/> for directions to connect your Chromebook to your home WiFi

<https://hcpss.me/account-self-service/> if you forgot your username and password

<https://hcpss.instructure.com/courses/77796> for common self-help resources

If after reviewing these resources, your family continues to need support, please complete the [Student and Family Technology Support Request Form](#).

Need Language Assistance?

Espanol: 410-313-1591

Korean: 410-313-1592

Chinese: 410-313-5920

Chin: 410-313-5968

Call and leave a message with your name, contact information and question. A liaison will return your call.

Want to get involved?

Visit <https://www.hespta.org/> and follow instructions on how to join or renew membership. You can also email membership@hespta.org with additional questions.

Hammond Elementary Fun Facts

Mascot: Tuffy the Tiger

Colors: Green and Yellow

Age: HES is 49 years old this year!

