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### **A Message from Admin**

Dear HES Families,

We hope this message finds you well. We wanted to provide you an update about our atypical school day! As you know, our school experienced a power outage this morning. Despite the unexpected event, we are pleased to report that our students were able to access breakfast and lunch without any issues. Today's lunch was "Grab and Go" style, but please do not worry because the planned holiday lunch menu will be served tomorrow in the cafeteria!

Thanks to the flexibility and responsiveness of our dedicated teachers, we were able to maintain a calm, nurturing, and productive learning environment throughout the day. Our staff worked diligently to ensure that the day's instruction proceeded as smoothly as possible.

We also want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you, our wonderful parents and guardians, for your quick response to the change in schedule and for your cooperation with the early pick-up and dismissal of students. Your partnership and flexibility are

greatly appreciated and play a crucial role in our ability to manage such situations effectively.

American Education Week will continue as scheduled tomorrow. If you are a second grade parent who missed out on this opportunity today, we welcome you to join us tomorrow. In addition, as we continue to foster a strong partnership in your child's education, we want to remind you of the upcoming parent-teacher conferences scheduled for November 25th-27th. These conferences are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and collaborate on their education. Today, Thursday, November 21 is the last day to sign up for conferences. Full directions can be found below.

Thank you for being an integral part of our school community and for your ongoing support and dedication to your child's education.

We hope you and your families have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving break.

Warmly,

*Heather Moraff, Principal*

*Nykia Mapson, Assistant Principal*

## **American Education Week November 18 - 22**

American Education Week is the one week parents can drop in throughout the week to visit the classrooms without an appointment. Visitors must sign in prior to visiting the classrooms. **Visitors are not allowed to attend recess due to previously determined safety risks.**

## **Parent Teacher Conferences - Today is the last day to sign up!**

November 25-27 are designated for Parent Teacher Conferences this year. We will be holding 15-minute conferences. All conferences will be held with your child's ELA teacher. Below are the details about how they will be held based on the date of the conference:

~Monday, November 25th - All Conferences In-Person at HES (3-hour early dismissal for students)

~Tuesday, November 26th - All Conferences Virtual - link will be sent (3-hour early dismissal for students)

~Wednesday, November 27th - All Conferences Virtual - link will be sent If you choose a virtual conference, the Google Meet code will be sent to you with your confirmation email. (No school for students)

Directions to setting up a conference:

- Login to [hcpss.org/connect](https://hcpss.org/connect)
- Select Conference from the left-side choices
- Select Parent Scheduled Conferences at the top right.
- Select a time slot for your conference.

Today, Thursday, November 21 is the last day to sign up for conferences through Connect.

### Upcoming CogAT Testing for 3rd grade

This year, the Howard County Public School System will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to all students in grade 3 during the Dec. 4-20 testing window. The CogAT is a group-administered abilities test that measures students' reasoning abilities, which they develop through in-school and out-of-school experiences. It is not designed to test a student's academic achievement, but their potential.

The test is made of three batteries – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. Each battery takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The CogAT helps educators understand a student's cognitive strengths and weaknesses and assists with adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of each student.

The third grade team will administer testing on December 4th, 5th, and 6th. Makeups will be provided during the testing window. No special preparation is required. Just send your child to school ready to learn as you do daily.

The Gifted and Talented Education Program will use the data from the CogAT as one criterion for placement into fourth grade Gifted/Talented mathematics classes. Students' individual scores will be reported to parents in late February/early March.

### A Note from Music

#### Orchestra and Band Winter Concerts - **DATE CHANGE**

Our Hammond ES Orchestra and Band Winter Concerts will take place on **Monday, January 13** in the Hammond MS Gym. More information will be shared in the next few

weeks. Please contact Mrs. Jacobs (Orchestra) or Mr. Obrigewitch (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.

### **Attention 5th Grade: Carson Scholarship Fund**

The Carson Scholars Fund awards \$1,000 college scholarships to students in grades 4 through 11 who excel academically and are dedicated to serving their communities. Students must attend an accredited K-12 school in the United States.

Hammond Elementary School would like to nominate a 5th grade student. Please see the linked information: [Carson Scholars Program Nomination Information](#).

The Carson Scholars Fund is looking for students in grades 4th - 11th with a minimum of a 3.75 GPA and display humanitarianism through community service.

If your child would like to be considered, he or she should write a brief essay about the importance of academics and how he/she is involved in community service organizations and/or projects. Essays are due Tuesday, December 3, 2024. Essays can be submitted to Mrs. Monti electronically via Google Documents or in person (handwritten or typed).

## Hammond's Talent Show Is Back!

The deadline to register to be in the talent show is **December 19th**. Please read below for the details, rules, and guidelines. \*\*Please note that we are not having in person act reviews this year, and only video submissions.\*\* Register here at this link:  
<https://bit.ly/HESStalent>

## HAMMOND ELEMENTARY



Do you have a special talent, passion, or skill that you would like to share with others?

Need some ideas?

You can juggle, dance, sing, play your favorite instrument, act, fashion design, gymnastics, dramatic reading, martial arts, or magic! If in doubt...register or reach out. *(email below)*

## KEY DATES

Registration Deadline: **DECEMBER 19**

Video Submissions (via email below)  
for Act Review due: **JANUARY 31**

Dress Rehearsal: **FEBRUARY 26** (5:00-8:00)

Talent Show: **FEBRUARY 27** (6:30)

## REGISTER TODAY



Fill out the registration form by December 19th to book your spot in the spotlight! Scan the image or visit the link below.

<https://bit.ly/HESStalent>

## GUIDELINES

- Act review provides the students the opportunity to showcase their talent. Act review and dress rehearsal are both mandatory for you to take part in the show
- Any student K-5 interested in performing is welcome!
- Students may be in no more than one act
- All acts must be at least 1 minute and no longer than 2 minutes in length
- Acts with music should submit a link in the sign-up form or email me the .mp3 file if it isn't online or on Spotify
- Group acts are also welcome! All students in a group must be registered separately. They should list the same date/time range for their act review and add the names of the other performers when registering
- Questions? contact us at [ryan.n.watkins15@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.n.watkins15@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:paula_stehle@hcpss.org) *and* Elizabeth Kluh at [elizabeth\\_kluh@hcpss.org](mailto: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.

### Elementary 1-5

- Short story entries must range between 100-400 words in grades 1-2
- Short story entry must range between 300-800 words in grades 3-5
- Poetry entries will consist of a single poem, any style from a minimum of 25-150 words

### Middle 6-8

- Short story entries must range between 600-1,600 words
- Poetry entries will consist of a single poem, any style, and must range between 25-200 words.
- Entries must not include graphics

### High 9-12

- 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.



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

### **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>

**Thanksgiving Holiday Support**





## 2024 DCRS Thanksgiving Food Support

**Monday, November 25 • 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.**

- Only **ONE** basket per household so we may serve as many families as possible.
- Each basket must be **picked up in person**, and you must be prepared to transport it.
- Baskets available only while supplies last.

**FIRST COME. FIRST SERVED.**

▼ CHOOSE **ONE** LOCATION ▼

### **North Laurel Community Center**

9411 Whiskey Bottom Road  
Laurel 20723

POINT OF CONTACT

**Valerie Mathis**

410-313-0220 (VOICE/RELAY) OR  
vmathis@howardcountymd.gov

### **Elkridge Volunteer Fire Station**

5700 Rowanberry Drive  
Elkridge 21075

POINT OF CONTACT

**Triston Cooper**

410-313-6549 (VOICE/RELAY) OR  
tcooper@howardcountymd.gov

An initiative of the  
**Howard County**  
**Community Resources and Services**  
Office of the Local Children's Board  
and the MultiService Center

If you need this information in an alternate format, or need accommodations to participate,  
contact Triston Cooper at [tcooper@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:tcooper@howardcountymd.gov)  
or 410-313-6549 (VOICE/RELAY).





# Feliz Acción de Gracias

Apoyo alimentario para el Día de Acción de Gracias de DCRS 2024

**Lunes 25 de noviembre • 4:30 a 6:00 p.m.**

- Solo UNA canasta por hogar para que podamos servir a tantas familias como sea posible.
- Cada cesta debe recogerse en persona y debe estar preparado para transportarla.
- Canastas disponibles solo hasta agotar existencias.

**POR ORDEN DE LLEGADA. PRIMERO SERVIDO.**

▼ SELECCIONE UNA UBICACIÓN. ▼

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9411 Whiskey Bottom Road  
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**Mt. Hebron High School "Alice in Wonderland" with a Mad Hatter Tea Party\*!**

Join us for “Alice in Wonderland” and an exclusive tea party before the show at Mt. Hebron High School on Sunday, November 24. Meet the characters, enjoy delicious snacks, and create fun crafts from 12:00pm-1:30pm. After the tea party in the cafeteria, you will be escorted to your VIP seats in the auditorium for the 2pm show. Tickets for the tea party and show are \$20 for children and \$16 for adults (all children must be accompanied by an adult). Tickets are limited and you can purchase tickets [here!](#)



## Important Dates

- 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
- 12/4-12/6 Grade 3 Cogat Testing
- 12/23-1/1 Schools closed
- 1/2/2025 School reopens
- 1/13 Orchestra and Band Winter Concerts at HMS gym