



MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dear Families,

It's the most wonderful time of the year! For many of us, it is a time of celebration and excitement, but also reflection. As we gear up for the winter break, we want to acknowledge all the hard work and strides students have put forth so far this year. We are looking forward to the start of the 2024 calendar year and all the opportunity it brings for our students, teachers, and school community as a whole.

Soon after we return from winter break, the parent teacher conference sign up will open in Synergy. On January 22nd, scheduling will open up and remain open until February 2nd.

This year's winter conferences will be held on February 7th and February 8th.

We will be holding 20-minute conferences. All conferences will be held with your child's **math** teacher. Below are the details of how they will be held based on the date and time of your conference.

-Wednesday, February 7th- All conferences will be held **in person** until **3:30 pm**.

After 3:30 pm, all conferences will be held **virtually only**.

-Thursday, February 8th- All conferences will be held **virtually**.

Please note, if your child is in a 4th or 5th grade GT math class, we already held **4th grade GT math conferences for the fall** and **5th grade GT math conferences will take place for this current schedule** (February conference window). Our GT resource teachers, Ms. Lee and Mrs. Meyer will be sending out more information through Canvas.

If your conference is virtual, once you enter the Google code or link, you will be put in a "holding space" until the teacher admits you. Because many conferences will be back-to-back, please only log on one minute before your designated time. If you have technology challenges, check email as your child's teacher will reach out to you that way. You can also call the school for assistance.

Beginning Friday, January 22nd, you can log into [HCPSS Connect](#) to view and select from the time slots provided by the teacher for the conference. Step-by-step directions

are below. If you do not have access to HCPSS Connect, please call the school for assistance at 410-880-5890.

Directions to Select a Conference Time:

Login to 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.

You will have access through Friday, February 2nd at 4:00pm to schedule your child's conference by logging into HCPSS Connect.

We look forward to conferencing with you about your child's successes and celebrating their progress!

Warmly,

Heather Moraff, Principal

Nykia Mapson, Assistant Principal

FAMILY NIGHT AT THE BOOK FAIR IS TONIGHT DECEMBER 14

FROM 5-8PM

NO CASH! The eWallet is an online account parents can set up for their kids so they can shop without cash. You can share the link with grandparents, friends and other family members to allow them to donate to your child's purchase of books.



Set up an eWallet (online account for your child) now! Link to get started is here: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/content/fairs/how-ewallet-works.html?fairId=5441431>

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Learn about the different holidays and cultural observations happening in our area through this [flier](#) filled with exciting, family-fun information and events.

Another beautifully inspiring showcase in our front lobby created by Mrs. Frere (Kindergarten)



OUTDOOR RECESS

Cold weather has arrived!!! We wanted to remind you that students will still be going outside for recess each day. Please make sure you send your child to school with warm clothes. **All clothing needs to be labeled with your child's name.** Below you will find the HCPSS criteria we consider when having outdoor activities.

- Temperature and humidity
- Wind chill
- Heat index and air quality
- Age of students
- Length of time outdoors
- Adequacy of the children's clothing
- Condition of the playground
- Falling precipitation (more than a sprinkle or mist)
- Thunder and lightning

Generally, it is assumed that students will be outside for recess, physical education, or any other outdoor activity when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit or the heat index is less than 95.

TALENT SHOW

Hammond's Got Talent! Sign up for the Talent Show by December 19 to share your talents & skills with our HES family.



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 & Music Submission: **JANUARY 5**

Act Review Dates: **JANUARY 16,17** (5:00-6:30)

Dress Rehearsal: **FEBRUARY 28** (5:00-8:00)

Talent Show: **FEBRUARY 29** (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/hes-talent-2024>

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

PTA NEWS

Check out all the wonderful things our PTA is up to by reading their new [newsletter!](#)

Membership

If you have not done so already, please consider joining the HES PTA. PTA advocates for our children, builds community and plays 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! Register here:

<https://hes-pta.memberhub.com/store>

Who's Who on the PTA Board

It's easy to reach the PTA Board with your questions, concerns and great ideas! Simply reach out to us at the email addresses below:

President, Melissa Zawadzki , president@hespta.org

Vice President, Membership, Korin Sharp, membership@hespta.org

Vice President, Communications, Sean Larsen, communications@hespta.org

Treasurer, Karin Armour Popkey , treasurer@hespta.org

Secretary, Emily Griffin, secretary@hespta.org

Catch us on the Socials

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram so you never miss a thing.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057586564529>

<https://www.instagram.com/hammondespta/>

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 7-15 Book Fair

Thur. Dec. 14 Book Fair evening event 5-8pm

Mon. Dec. 25-
Jan. 1 Schools & Offices Closed for Winter Break

Tues. Jan. 2 Schools & Offices reopen

Thu. Jan.11 Club Pictures

Mon. Jan 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Schools and offices closed

Wed. Jan 17 Professional Work and Wellness Day Schools close 3 hours early.

Mon. Jan 22 Professional Work Day Schools closed for students

Tues. Jan 30 Report cards issued

Wed. Feb. 7 Math conferences. Schools closes 3 hours early for parent/teacher conferences.

Thu. Feb. 8 Math conferences. Schools closes 3 hours early for parent/teacher conferences.

Fri. Feb. 9 Countywide Professional Learning Day Schools closed for students

Mon. Feb. 19 Presidents Day Schools and offices closed

Mon. Mar. 4 New Kindergarten registration begins

Wed. Mar. 13 Professional Work and Wellness Day Schools close 3 hours early.

Mon. Mar. 25- SPRING BREAK – Schools Closed
Mon. Apr. 1

Wed. Apr. 10 Professional Work Day Schools closed for students

Wed. Apr. 17 Report Cards issued