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A Message from Admin

Dear HES Families,

As the holiday season approaches, we know students, staff, and families are filled with excitement and joy for the upcoming winter break. This time of year brings a special kind of magic, and we are thrilled to share it with the Hammond Community. We have many fun activities planned for students in the next few weeks.

We understand that the holiday season can bring changes to routines and expectations at home, with many activities and celebrations taking place. However, it is crucial to maintain consistent routines to ensure that our school days remain successful and productive.

At school, our dedicated teachers will continue to provide engaging and meaningful instruction right up until the last day before break! We encourage you to ensure that your children attend school regularly, so they can fully benefit from the learning opportunities.

As an additional reminder, students will continue to have recess outdoors, even in the cold winter months. Please make sure that your child comes dressed prepared with a

jacket or coat. If you are in need of support, please reach out to our school counselors or administrators.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in your child's education. Your support is invaluable, and we feel blessed to be a part of such a wonderful community!

Heather Morauff, Principal

Nykia Mapson, Assistant Principal

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.

Hour of Code



The Hour of Code is returning to HES! We are preparing for the official Hour of Code which begins on Monday, December 9th, but we have been prepping with introducing students to a variety of coding activities. This will be the 10th year that HES is participating in the Hour of Code!

During technology classes, all students in grades K-5 will participate in computer science activities December 9th-20th. These activities introduce students to basic computer programming skills and help to develop problem-solving skills, algorithmic thinking, pattern recognition, and persistence.

Click here for more information on [HOUR OF CODE](#).

Mrs. Koerber, Ms. Sterner and Mrs. Davis
HES Technology and Media Teachers

Parking Concerns

As we continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of our students, we would like to address an important matter regarding parking in our neighborhood and community.

It has come to our attention that some vehicles continue to park in spaces reserved for residents, as well as in crosswalks and other areas that are unsafe for students walking to and from school. These practices not only inconvenience our neighbors, but also pose significant safety risks for our children.

To ensure the safety of all students, we kindly ask that you refrain from parking in reserved spaces, crosswalks, and any other areas that may obstruct the safe passage of students. It is crucial that we all work together to maintain a safe environment for our children as they travel to and from school.

Please be aware that if these parking issues persist, neighbors and community members may be compelled to contact local authorities to enforce parking regulations. Thank you for your understanding, collaboration, and partnership in making sure our students have safe walking routes to and from school. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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

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.




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 | Middle 6-8 | High 9-12 |
|--|--|---|
| <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).

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

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>

Skate Party



PRESALE ENDS 1/3

HES PTA Presents:



ROLLER SKATE PARTY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

4:30-6:30PM

Laurel Roller Skating Center
9890 Brewers Court, Laurel

PRESALE: \$9 per skater
Door Price: \$15 per skater
Cost includes skate rental

PRESALE PURCHASES

<https://hes-pta.givebacks.com/store/items/1144521>

<https://hes-pta.givebacks.com/store/items/1144521>

Outdoor Recess and Weather Conditions

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.

Future PTA Meetings

January 14th All begin at 7:15

March 11th

May 13th



Important Dates

12/4-12/6 Grade 3 Cogat Testing

12/17 Schoolwide Gingerbread Houses

12/18 Hearing & Vision Rescreening

12/18 Chorus Concert HES & HMS at HaHS

12/23-1/1 Schools closed

1/2/2025 School reopens

1/13 Orchestra and Band Winter Concerts at HMS gym

1/14 PTA Meeting at 7:15pm