

Hammond Elementary School



Tiger Tales

January 20, 2022



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Hammond families,

I am hopeful that everyone is safe, warm, and dry. We had anticipated spending time with our students today, but we appreciate these opportunities to continuously grow our skills in flexibility!

Great News: It's time for our End of 2nd Quarter Celebration! To honor all the great work our students have been doing this quarter, each team will be having special activities for their students tomorrow! We are so proud of everyone's hard work and so appreciative of our student's smiles and engagement each day.

To support the proposed return of contact tracing efforts, we would like to collect vaccination information for each of our students. To do this, we are asking our families to complete one electronic form for each child attending HES by **Tuesday, January 25th** (see link below). Whether your child is not vaccinated, partially vaccinated, or fully vaccinated, we appreciate the opportunity to collect this information using one centralized form. For families who have submitted this information previously, we kindly ask that you submit it again using our designated form.

[HES Vaccination Status Form for Students](#)

We continue to encourage all families to report students' absences using our [HES Absence Reporting Form](#). This form is used for students' daily absences as well as absences during quarantine.

For students who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have been in school during the 48-hour window prior to the onset of symptoms, families are asked to email Mrs. Rozgonyi (School Nurse, melissa_rozgonyi@hcpss.org) and Mrs. Castaneda (Front Office, lisa_castaneda@hcpss.org) directly. We also ask that you complete the [HES Absence Reporting Form](#) to record your child's absences.

The completion of the [HES Absence Reporting Form](#) for students in quarantine will better allow us to provide you information about instructional supports in a timely manner.

We continue to appreciate the partnership of our school community. We are thankful for this village, every day.

Best wishes,

Ms. Ciarapica

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

From the Health Room:

Has your child had one or both of their Covid vaccines? Regardless of vaccination status, we are asking that **ALL FAMILIES** complete the [HES Vaccination Status Form for Students](#) to collect this information for each of our students. To support the proposed return of contact tracing, please complete the form for each child attending HES by Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 or is a close contact to a positive case, please email the following information to the Health Room staff (Melissa_Rozgonyi@hcpss.org) and Front Office (Lisa_Castaneda@hcpss.org) regarding your child's absence:

Positive Test:

- Date the symptoms began (if any)
- Vaccination status & date of last vaccination
- Type of Covid test taken (PCR or rapid) **and date**

Close Contact to a Positive Individual if not Vaccinated:

- Date of exposure (if close contact)
- Vaccination status & date of last vaccination
- If your child is a household close contact - can the positive family member be completely isolated from the child?
- Has your child had a confirmed positive Covid-19 test within the last 90 days

Updated Covid Mitigation Link:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2022/01/updated-covid-mitigation-efforts-in-hcpss-schools-jan-3-2022/>

Cognitive Abilities Test and Gifted & Talented Placement

For full information click on this [link](#).

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

The HES Counselors have suspended lunch bunches for the foreseeable future due to the upsurge in Covid cases. We will start again as soon as we can, as we enjoy these chances to bond with your children!

Orchestra Announcement

February 17 will be the Beginning Orchestra Winter Concert start time is 6:30pm (6:15pm report time) and the Beginning Band Winter Concert start time is 7:15pm (7:00pm report time).

Young Authors' Contest

Do you have a budding young author at home? Does your child enjoy writing original short stories and poems? ONE winner PER category PER school will advance to county-level judging.

For full information on the contest click [here](#). For an overview of how to submit, see this [YA Flyer](#). Submissions must be made by January 25, 2022.

Use this [Student Cover Letter](#) to submit your author's entry.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Training

All volunteers are required to 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. Effective Monday, October 25, all volunteers and chaperones who interact with students, and parents/guardians who are conducting classroom observations will be required to use the PinPoint platform to show proof of full vaccination at least five school days in advance. [Learn how to access and use the PinPoint VaccineCheck platform](#).

Outdoor Recess, Outdoor Eating & Cold Weather

We will continue to offer outdoor lunch as weather and staff coverage permit. Please have a conversation with your child about where you would like them to eat. If your child is eating outside, please make sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather (coat and hat) each day. If you choose to have your child eat inside, all students have an assigned seat.

The decision to go outside or stay inside for recess, outdoor eating, physical education, or any other outdoor activity is the decision of the administrator at individual schools and based on the following criteria:

- 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, outdoor eating, 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 reading is less than 95. Please be sure children are dressed appropriately for the weather.

PTA NEWS

General Meeting Dates

- 3/8: PTA Meeting, 7pm (TBD Zoom or in-person)
- 5/10: PTA Meeting: Elections, 7pm (TBD Zoom or in-person)
- 6/7: PTA Meeting, 7pm (TBD Zoom or in-person)

Next Restaurant Night

- 2/10: Decadent Coffee and Dessert Bar in Maple Lawn

Upcoming Events

- 4/22: Outdoor Movie Night
- 5/7: Spring Carnival, 3-6pm

Membership

Thank you to everyone who has already joined the PTA! If you haven't yet, please consider doing so--we would love to have all of our families join the PTA this year. Please be aware that even if you were a member last year, you will need to renew your membership for the 2021-2022 school year. The PTA relies on money received through membership fees and fundraisers to provide the many programs and events for our students and families throughout the year, and we can't do any of it without YOU! You can register via our MemberHub site <https://hes-pta.new.memberhub.store/store>. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Kathleen Denny, VP of Membership at membership@hespta.org.

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.

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

IMPORTANT DATES

January 21	End of 2nd Quarter
	It's time for our End of Quarter Celebrations! To honor all the great work our students have been doing this quarter, each team will be having special activities for their students. We are so proud of everyone's hard work and so appreciative of our student's smiles and engagement each day.
January 24	School Closed for Students - Professional Work Day for Staff
January 28	Parent/Teacher Conference Scheduling Window Opens
January 31	2nd Quarter Report Cards Go Home
February 1	Schools Closed for Students - Professional Learning Day for Staff
February 3	Virtual Parent Presentation: Managing Peer Conflict @ 6:30 pm
	The return to in-person learning has brought forth new opportunities to learn important strategies for our students, including how to navigate peer conflict. Parents are encouraged to join our School Counselors, Mrs. Kennedy & Ms. Plotkin, as they share information about what is taught to students in school, how to best support your child from home, and how to differentiate between typical peer conflict and instances of bullying. More information, including a link to join, is forthcoming.
February 10	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early for Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 11	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early for Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 16	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
February 17	Winter Concert for Beginning Band & Orchestra Students (new date)

February 21	Schools & Offices Closed - Presidents' Day
March 16	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
April 1	End of 3rd Quarter - Schools close 3 hours early
April 11- April 18	Spring Break - Schools Closed
April 27	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
May 3	Schools Closed for Students - Professional Learning Day for Staff
May 18	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
May 30	Schools & Offices Closed - Memorial Day

** denotes newly added Early dismissal days

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

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Please communicate all changes no later than 2:45 each day to ensure they are communicated to your child prior to dismissal.

[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.

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.

Sensory-Friendly Sundays

Sensory-Friendly Sundays at Robinson Nature Center:

Join Robinson Nature Center, Therapeutic Recreation, and Park Ranger staff in enjoying outdoor, self-paced activities designed for families with kids, teens, and adults with sensory-processing differences, autism spectrum disorder, or developmental disabilities. Activities include sensory bins and pathways, scavenger hunts, and crafts or games. The center opens early, allowing visitors to enjoy a calm environment. Sensory alert maps, quiet areas, and sensory backpacks, which include headphones and various fidgets, are available. Be sure to preregister to receive additional information prior to the event. Please see the [Sensory-Friendly Sundays flyer](#) for further information.

