

Hammond Elementary School



Tiger Tales

February 18, 2021



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings Families,

I hope each of our families is doing well. It has certainly been a busy winter these past few weeks. Though travel has been difficult for many, there is something comforting about the winter scene that has been created.

At HES we are hard at work to prepare for the return of in-person learning. I must give an extra shout-out to our amazing custodial team! This week has been an especially difficult week for our entire staff, but particularly our custodial team who had the pleasure of working so closely with Mr. Paul Mfodwo, whom we lost tragically on Sunday.

Our behind the scenes unsung heroes have been staging classrooms, hauling furniture throughout the building and distributing PPE. Simply put, they are exhausted and yet find a way to keep going. If you happen to find yourself passing by, please consider dropping off an unsolicited thank you treat or a card of thanks and well wishes. I have found pizza with all the meat it can hold to be one of many loved treats by this amazing crew. Unfortunately, you won't be able to see them, but I can assure you they will appreciate any act of kindness.

As we move closer to in-person learning, I have been contacted by families who may have missed the deadline to record their intent for returning to the building or remaining virtual or have since reconsidered their decision and wish to make a change. As shared when families were asked to complete the survey, families have the opportunity to transition from in-person learning to virtual learning at any time. At this time, we are not in a position to provide opportunities for families to change their intent from remaining virtual to in-person learning. We are carefully balancing the number of students that previously designated their intention to return, when the survey closed, with the safe capacity of each space in the building.

In the next couple of weeks, our current in-person return data will be analyzed and a determination will be made whether students will be invited to return in person for two days (Cohorts A & B) or one day (Cohorts A, B, C & D) a week. Those decisions are based upon the careful consideration for the capacity of each space, including classrooms, related arts classrooms and the cafeteria. Once that decision has been made, we will begin the process of informing families of their assigned cohort.

As we await further systemic direction, additional consideration **may** be given once those scheduled for a March transition have entered the building and we have safely adjusted to the planned capacity. Should opportunities arise for consideration in **late April or May**, they will vary between grade levels and classes, based on available space. However, at this time, we are unable to collect requests and are not maintaining a waiting list. Thank you for your understanding.

Within the next week or so, as more information becomes available, we will begin communicating information about instructional staff who do not intend to return, either in person or to their current position for the remainder of this school year. Should that occur for any of your child's teachers, we will also communicate how the staff members role will be filled.

I recognize that I have provided a lot of information, splintered with many yet to be answered questions. As I share with staff frequently, when information is confirmed it will be shared with all affected parties. This wait time remains challenging for each of us.

Thank you,

Ms. Ciarapica

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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, February 19-**Crazy Hair Day!**

Changes to 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

In preparation for HCPSS' phased transition to a hybrid model of in-person and concurrent learning, the Howard County Board of Education approved changes to the 2020-2021 academic year [calendar](#). February 25-26 are now 3-hour early dismissal days for students at all levels.

Hybrid Learning Resource

A new [resource document](#) summarizes all major aspects of the school system's planned transition to hybrid in-person and concurrent virtual instruction that begins on March 1. The document is intended to serve as a reference for both families and staff.

Message from the School Nurse

If your child is returning to school in March and will need medication left in the Health Room, please contact HES School Nurse Mrs. Rozgonyi as soon as possible to set up a time to drop off the

medication. No medications can be sent to school with children. You can email Mrs. Rozgonyi at melissa_rozgonyi@hcpss.org or call 410-880-5890.

Counselor Corner

The [HCPSS Elementary School Counseling Connection Newsletter](#) is a great resource for students and parents to read together. Included in February's issue of the School Counseling Connection newsletter is information regarding Black History Month, self-compassion tips, ideas for morning affirmations and much more. In addition, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Kennedy, School Counselor, for your family's needs (margaret_kennedy@hcpss.org).

New HCPSS Community News and Programs Site

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [Community News and Programs](#) website makes it easy for families to find educational and recreational resources, events and after-school programs beyond the school day by non-profit organizations.

New 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.

Opt-In Letter Update

Recently an Opt-In Letter was communicated through email requesting parent/guardian consent in order for students to have access to the HCPSS authorized set of digital tools used for virtual instruction. The purpose of this [message](#) is to update you on the availability of digital tools on HCPSS Chromebooks.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 19	Spirit Day-Crazy Hair Day!
February 24	PTA Restaurant Night at PepperJack's Subs 2:00-8:00 p.m.
February 25	3 Hour Early Dismissal for Students
February 26	3 Hour Early Dismissal for Students

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEL Opportunity

Your child's Homeroom class will have one optional weekly opportunity to participate in an activity to get to know one another. Some examples of activities are Show and Tell, Would You Rather?, Dance Parties, Read Alouds and many more other opportunities. The activities will be occurring during the Family Additional Asynchronous Support Time for each specific grade level. Homeroom teachers will post information regarding these virtual gatherings in their Canvas Monday Morning Weekly Outline Announcements. We hope that many students can participate in these optional opportunities to get to know one another!

Grade Level Lunch Bunches: Chat and Chew

HES invites our students to attend optional [Lunch Bunches](#). View the schedule below and join in on your grade's special day! Log in using the code **HES-LUNCH**.

Kindergarten: Mondays 11:20 - 11:50

First Grade: Mondays 12:00 - 12:30

Second Grade: Tuesdays 11:20 - 11:50

Third Grade: Tuesdays 12:00 - 12:30

Fourth Grade: Thursdays 11:20 - 11:50

Fifth Grade: Thursdays 12:00 - 12:30

Media Center News: Contactless Circulation at HES

Contact Circulation is now available at HES! Use the form below to request resources from your media center. The media team works to fill your orders each Wednesday. Book bags are placed outside our front doors on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please return any media books that are currently checked out when you collect your bag. Book bags will be organized on carts by grade level and alphabetical order by last name. There will be a cart clearly labeled for the return of any books that are currently checked out. **Returned books will quarantine for seven days before they are checked in.**

Use this link to fill your request: [Hammond Elementary Contactless Checkout](#)

If you have any questions about this program, please reach out to:

[Mrs. Davis](#), Library Media Specialist or [Mrs. Talaii](#), Media Paraeducator

2020-2021 Inclement Weather Protocols

For the 2020-2021 school year, while in virtual, small groups or hybrid instructional models, HCPSS will transition to fully virtual instruction during inclement weather days. [View the four possible inclement weather decisions.](#)

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 Restaurant Night

Our next Restaurant Night will be at PepperJack's Subs on Wednesday, February 24 from 2:00-8:00 p.m. Call in orders and walk in service will count towards our fundraising efforts, but third party orders (e.g. Doordash, Grubhub) will not count. Be sure to mention HES PTA or show an e-copy of this flyer when you order. To view the menu, visit www.pepperjackssubs.com. Please come out and support another local eatery while also supporting our PTA.

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 visit the [link](#) to the Howard County Public School System's new 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/datesonly202021.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](https://www.hes.hcpss.org) 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](mailto:Mrs.Rozgonyi). Please email [Mrs. Hawkes](mailto:Mrs.Hawkes) with any doctor notes for student absences.

<p>Need Grab-and-Go Meal Services?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Need Support or Health Services?</p> <p>School Counselor: Mrs. Kennedy Margaret_Kennedy@hcpss.org</p> <p>School Psychologist: Mrs. Downin Laurie_Downin@hcpss.org</p> <p>School Nurse: Mrs. Rozgonyi Melissa_Rozgonyi@hcpss.org</p> <p>Pupil Personnel Worker: Monique Finch Monique_Finch@hcpss.org</p>
<p>Need How-to Tech information?</p> <p>https://hcpss.me/join-chromebook-to-wifi/ for directions to connect your Chromebook to your home WiFi</p> <p>https://hcpss.me/account-self-service/ if you forgot your username and password</p> <p>https://hcpss.instructure.com/courses/77796 for common self-help resources</p> <p>If after reviewing these resources, your family continues to need support, please complete the Student and Family Technology Support Request Form.</p>	<p>Need Language Assistance?</p> <p>Espanol: 410-313-1591</p> <p>Korean: 410-313-1592</p> <p>Chinese: 410-313-5920</p> <p>Chin: 410-313-5968</p> <p>Call and leave a message with your name, contact information and question. A liaison will return your call.</p>
<p>Want to get involved?</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Hammond Elementary Fun Facts</p> <p>Mascot: Tuffy the Tiger</p> <p>Colors: Green and Yellow</p> <p>Age: HES is 49 years old this year!</p>

