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MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we navigate the school year, it's essential to emphasize that the **school bus is an extension of our school community**. Just as we maintain a safe and respectful environment within the school building, we must uphold the same standards while riding the bus.

Our Expectations:

1. **Safety First:** The safety of our students is paramount. We expect all students to follow safety procedures, including remaining seated, keeping their hands, feet, and objects to themselves, and keeping aisles clear.
2. **Respect and Courtesy:** Treat fellow passengers and the bus driver with kindness and respect. Remember that everyone deserves a peaceful journey.
3. **Listen to the Bus Driver:** Our bus drivers are responsible for your child's safety during their ride. Students should follow their instructions promptly and without hesitation.

4. **Keep Noise Levels Reasonable:** While some chatter is natural, excessive noise can distract the driver and compromise safety.

How Parents & Guardians Can Help:

- **Review Expectations:** Talk to your child about the importance of bus safety. Remind them that the rules apply both inside and outside the school building.
- **Monitor & Support Behavior:** Encourage your child to be respectful and considerate. If you notice any issues, address them promptly and report any concerns to our staff.

Remember, our school bus is more than just a mode of transportation—it's a vital part of our educational community and a privilege to ride. Let's work together to ensure a safe and pleasant journey for all our students!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Heather Moraff, Principal

Nykia Mapson, Assistant Principal

TALENT SHOW TONIGHT! TALENT SHOW TONIGHT!



HARLEM WIZARDS GAME! WIZFIT CHALLENGE!



We are excited to announce that the students of **Hammond Elementary School** are teaming up with the **World Famous Harlem Wizards** to help us raise funds for the **Hammond Elementary School PTA** with their new **WizFit Challenge** fundraiser and kids experience. During a two-week period starting on **02-28-2024**, our students will watch and participate in an exclusive series of six interactive video episodes led by **Harlem Wizard stars Swoop and Broadway**. They will get fit, learn tricks, have fun, earn prizes, and be coached on character by the **Wizards**.

We will then conclude this event on **03-18-2024** with a **Graduation Celebration** where every student will participate and win free prizes.

On **03-18-24** at **Hammond High School**, the party continues with the **Harlem Wizards Vs the Teachers**. The game begins at **7 pm** and the doors will open at **6 pm**. Be sure to purchase your tickets for the game in advance.

Your generous donations to the **WizFit Challenge** support all of the **PTA's** programs all year long. These include community events (like the **Ice Cream Social, Trunk or Treat, Talent Show, Spring Carnival, and Multicultural Night**); staff appreciation events; grants for large projects (such as replacing the fence around the school garden); reimbursement to staff for classroom supplies; field trips; special assemblies; and grade-specific events like the **5th-grade dance and moving up ceremonies**. Our goal is to raise **\$10,000**. Students can request donations from friends and family to support them participating in the **WizFit Challenge**. We're excited to see our school come together for this fundraising program.

[**REGISTER NOW**](#)

CLASS PICTURE DAY IS MARCH 14

Class Picture Day is the morning of Thursday, March 14! To order spring photos, you must return the flyer/order envelope **on** Picture Day. **Online pre-ordering is NOT available** for spring photos – **the envelope must be returned on Picture Day. There will be no late orders accepted or online ordering.**

Class group photos will be taken on Picture Day for all students. Individual portraits will only be taken for those students who order individual pictures and bring in their envelopes on Picture Day.

Also, Club Photo for our Safeties will be held this day. If you previously sent in your order for a Safeties photo, the photographer still has that. Please let the front office know if you need an order form for this.

Please be on the lookout for the flyer/order envelope coming home with your child. Or print the [flyer](#) from this email.



DIVERSITY, EQUALITY, & INCLUSION

Centennial Lane ES, Burleigh Manor MS, and Centennial HS are teaming up to bring you a family Rainbow Movie Night to watch the film, *Luca*, on Monday, March 18th at 6:00PM in the Centennial HS Cafeteria. Please see below for more information about this FREE event. [Follow this link to register.](#)



TESTING DATES

Grade 5 Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA)

Students in 5th grade will take the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) assessment on March 4th, March 5th, March 7th and March 8th. Students who are absent on the testing dates will participate in a makeup session during the March 4th-22nd testing window. MISA measures student achievement on the Maryland Content Standards in Science in Grade 5 (testing content from Grades 3, 4 and 5). To learn more about MISA, please visit the [HCPSS Testing](#) page. **Students are encouraged to bring corded headphones (if possible). Wireless or bluetooth headphones are not compatible with the testing platform.**

UPCOMING: Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)

Students in grades 3-5 will take the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) during the month of April and/or May. The MCAP assessments measure student achievement on the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards in English language arts and math. To learn more about MCAP, please visit [HCPSS Maryland Comprehensive Assessment](#) page.

Students in grades 3-5 are encouraged to bring in their own corded headphones (if possible). Wireless or bluetooth headphones are not permitted during the MCAP Assessments.

Before testing, make sure your child gets a good night's rest and eats a hearty and filling meal before testing.

MCAP Testing Dates		
Grade	ELA	Math
5th	4/4, 4/5, 4/8, 4/9	4/29, 4/30
4th	4/11, 4/12, 4/15, 4/16	5/1, 5/2, 5/6, 5/7
3rd	4/22, 4/23, 4/24, 4/26	5/8, 5/9, 5/15, 5/16

***Makeup testing will take place during the testing window.

5th Grade Simulated Congressional Hearings: Your Help Needed!

The Simulated Congressional Hearings are an exciting rite of passage for our 5th graders. We are busy preparing already for this event on May 31.



The top section of the graphic features a blurred American flag on the left and the Howard County Public School System logo on the right. The logo consists of a blue circular emblem with a white flame-like shape inside, followed by the text "Howard County" in a large, bold, blue font and "Public School System" in a smaller, black font below it.

CALL FOR SIMULATED CONGRESSIONAL HEARING (SCH) JUDGES

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION.

JUDGES WILL:

- Listen to 5th graders testify
- Ask questions
- Provide feedback

Register to Judge at:
<http://tinyurl.com/2024-SCH-RSVP>

Register Here: <http://tinyurl.com/2024-SCH-RSVP>

GIRLS ON THE RUN



Girls on the Run 

SO MUCH MORE THAN RUNNING

Afterschool programming
for **EVERY** *girl*.

LOCATION: Hammond Elementary
DAYS/TIMES: Mon & Wed 3:15-4:30pm
FIRST PRACTICE: Wednesday, April 3rd

3rd-5th
grade girls

LEARN MORE



COUNCIL OF ELDERS: HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

The Council of Elders Community Academy will be holding a virtual session about Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships on March 9 from 9-10:30 a.m. The session will explore the dynamics of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships and how to start conversations with children. In this interactive session, participants will:

- Learn how to help their child manage peer conflict.
- Learn how to identify abuse in teen relationships.
- Gain skills and strategies to intervene, if needed.

Please register for this virtual session [here](#). Additional information can be found [here](#).

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

ATHOLTON HIGH SCHOOL

Right in the front of the school



March 14th

2:34-4pm

BULLYING PREVENTION

We wanted to remind you that HCPSS is dedicated to providing a safe and supportive environment that focuses on student well-being. We are taking this time to uplift the importance of reporting any type of bullying that has occurred. We will be reviewing this with our students and staff as we start the second half of the school year, and hope that you too can uplift this at home.

For children facing the emotional toll of bullying, a supportive individual can make all the difference. Please encourage your children to reach out to a trusted staff member at school should they need to report anything. As parents and guardians, you will use the same reporting form as students by following the steps outlined below.

How do I report bullying?

1. When you believe bullying has taken place, you should report it through the Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment and Intimidation (BCHI) reporting form. Reporting can take place in one of three ways:
 - a. Complete a [BCHI online reporting form](#)
 - b. BCHI paper reporting form (available in the main office, staff workroom, school counseling office, media center, and health services office)
 - c. An oral report to a staff member
2. It is important to note that policy states “in the event the reporting party does not complete a BCHI Reporting Form, school administrators/supervisors will take the appropriate steps to address and document the incident.” Therefore, if you or someone else makes an oral report, it then must be documented (i.e. through a BCHI reporting form) by the administrator.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Thu. Feb. 29 In-School Author visit for all grades
- Thu. Feb. 29 PTA Talent Show at night
- Mon. Mar. 4 New Kindergarten registration begins,
- Mon. Mar. 4 5th Grade Md Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) testing
- Tues, Mar. 5 5th Grade Md Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) testing
- Thu. Mar. 7 5th Grade Md Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) testing
- Fri. Mar. 8 5th Grade Md Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) testing
- Tue. Mar. 12 PTA Meeting
- Thu. Mar. 14 Class Picture Day in the a.m
- Wed. Mar. 13 Professional Work and Wellness Day Schools close 3 hours early.
- Mon. Mar. 18 Harlem Wizards Game at Hammond High School (pm)
- Wed. Mar. 20 Restaurant Night at The Charmery
- Mon. Mar. 25- SPRING BREAK – Schools Closed
Mon. Apr. 1
- Thu. Apr. 4 5th Grade MCAP testing for ELA
- Fri. Apr. 5 5th Grade MCAP testing for ELA
- Mon. Apr. 8 5th Grade MCAP testing for ELA
- Tues. Apr. 9 5th Grade MCAP testing for ELA
- Wed. Apr. 10 Professional Work Day Schools closed for students
- Thu. Apr. 11 4th Grade MCAP testing for ELA
- Fri. Apr. 12 4th Grade MCAP testing for ELA
- Sat. Apr. 13 PTA Spring Carnival
- Mon. Apr. 15 4th Grade MCAP testing for ELA
- Tue. Apr. 16 4th Grade MCAP testing for ELA
- Wed. Apr. 17 Report Cards issued

Mon. Apr. 22 3rd Grade MCAP testing for ELA
Tue. Apr. 23 3rd Grade MCAP testing for ELA
Wed. Apr. 24 3rd Grade MCAP testing for ELA,
Wed. Apr. 24 Spring Concert
Fri.. Apr. 26 3rd Grade MCAP testing for ELA
Mon. Apr. 29 5th Grade MCAP testing for Math
Tue. Apr. 30 5th Grade MCAP testing for Math
Wed. May 1 4th Grade MCAP testing for Math
Thu. May 2 4th Grade MCAP testing for Math
Mon. May 6 4th Grade MCAP testing for Math
Tue. May 7 4th Grade MCAP testing for Math
Wed. May 8 3rd Grade MCAP testing for Math
Thu. May 9 3rd Grade MCAP testing for Math
Wed. May 15 3rd Grade MCAP testing for Math
Thur. May 16 3rd Grade MCAP testing for Math