

# Hammond Elementary School



## Tiger Tales

March 2, 2023



Please find the most recent updates from Hammond Elementary School. Included in this newsletter, you will find information regarding:

- HES Pride Fridays
- Girls on the Run
- Kindergarten Registration
- Literacy Night
- Bus Safety Reminders
- Grade 5 MISA Testing
- Counselors' Corner
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- After School Classes by HO CO RECS & PARKS
- PTA News
- Important Dates
- Continuing Announcements
- Community News

### HES PRIDE FRIDAYS

Students and Staff are invited to wear their HES apparel and/or school colors to show their Hammond Pride. See [attached flier](#) for calendar dates.

### GIRLS ON THE RUN

- The registration period will be February 19th - March 18th
- Our Season 2023 season will begin the week of March 19th.
- We will have practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:45 pm
- The season will end the week of June 5th. A season-culminating 5K events will be on June 3rd in Howard County.

Link to register: <https://www.pinwheel.us/register/index/GOTRSpring2023Registration>  
(available in English and Spanish)

At Girls on the Run of Central Maryland, we want to ensure that EVERY girl has the opportunity to participate in Girls on the Run. We specifically focus on creating opportunities for girls from the lowest-income families (FARM-eligible) to participate at no cost and offer a sliding scale fee for families who don't qualify for FARM services but still can't afford our full-price fee.

With that in mind, we want to make sure that you are aware of the many ways we are working to make our program accessible for more children at your school.

- **Our online registration process offers a sliding scale fee for those who request financial assistance during the registration process.** After entering their child's information, adults will be asked "Do you need financial assistance?" If they answer yes, they will be prompted to enter their household income and size, which will generate an adjusted fee based on our sliding scale, which will be visible during registration checkout.
- **If the sliding scale fee is still out of reach, guardians can contact our Director of Operations, Susan Michel ([susan.michel@girlsontherun.org](mailto:susan.michel@girlsontherun.org)) for a unique discount code** that will reduce the fee to an amount that works for the family, or waive it completely.
- **We pledge to never turn a girl away from participating in Girls on the Run programming due to her family's financial situation.** If a child wants to participate in our program, we will make it possible for her to participate regardless of her family's ability to pay the fee.

## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 6**

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year opens on March 6. Children must be 5 years old by September 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. Every child who is 5 years old by September 1 must be enrolled in a kindergarten program or have an approved waiver. HCPSS kindergarten is a full day program.

To register a new student, click [here](#) to start the online registration process and to view all of the necessary documents. Do not attempt to register online using a cell phone. It is recommended that you work on a laptop or desktop to complete registration. Packets are available in the front office as well.

## **LITERACY NIGHT**

**Join us on March 30 for an event for the whole family! Please use this [invitation](#) to let us know you will be attending.**

**WANTED: GENTLY USED BOOKS**

Do you have books in your home that your children no longer use? Are they still in great condition and you don't know what to do with them? Well, we have a solution! Send them in and we will "recycle" them during our Literacy Night Event on March 30. Families will have the opportunity to choose books to take home and enjoy. If you have books to donate, please either send them in with your child or drop them off in the front office, Attn: Mrs. Frere. Please only send in books appropriate for grades K-5. Thank you, in advance, for being such a generous community!

# SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 30TH 6-8PM

## LITERACY NIGHT AT HAMMOND ELEMENTARY



Exciting presentation from:  
Author & Illustrator  
Elizabeth Lilly

HAMMOND ELEMENTARY PRESENTS:  
A FUN FAMILY NIGHT TO  
EXPLORE READING AND WRITING

## BUS SAFETY REMINDERS

**If your child is a bus rider, please talk with them about behavior expectations on the bus.**

The bus is an extension of the school day and students are expected to follow directions of the bus driver and school bus rules. We want to ensure the ride to and from school is a safe and comfortable bus environment for all.

Please remind your bus rider(s) of the following:

- Only students and the bus driver are permitted on the bus. If you have any concerns that arise, please contact the school.
- Make sure students are at the bus stop at least 8-10 minutes before the bus arrives. Students should be prepared to enter the bus when it arrives.
- There is no eating, drinking or using cellphones while on the school bus. Cellphones and food should be away during the school bus ride.
- For their own safety, students must remain flat in their seats at all times while the bus is in motion.
- Students should use a voice level that is not distracting to the bus driver and courteous of others while riding the bus each day.

**For complete information regarding our HCPSS Parent and Student Bus Responsibilities, see the document linked below.**

[HCPSS Parent and Student Bus Responsibilities](#)

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the school (410)880-5890 and or the transportation office (410)313-6732 if you have any concerns regarding your child's bus transportation.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

## GRADE 5 MARYLAND INTEGRATED SCIENCE ASSESSMENT (MISA)

Students in 5th grade will take the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) assessment on March 8th, March 9th, March 13th and March 14th. Students who are absent on the testing dates will participate in a makeup session during the March 6th-24th 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 corded headphones (if possible). Wireless or bluetooth headphones are not compatible with the testing platform.

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	4/13, 4/14, 4/17, 4/18	5/2, 5/3
4th	4/19, 4/20, 4/25, 4/26	5/9, 5/10
3rd	5/1, 5/2, 5/4, 5/5	5/11, 5/12, 5/15, 5/16

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

## COUNSELORS' CORNER

We'd like to share a meaningful opportunity for all parents! Attached are fflyers for the screening of Pushout: Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools and the Elevating Equity Mini conference taking place on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> respectively. These are important topics that we are thrilled to share with you!

Please take some time to register for our upcoming events:

Pushout Screening:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/elevating-equity-in-schools-film-screening-tickets-559576076107?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>



## [Elevating Equity in Schools Film Screening](#)

Join us for a free screening and discussion of the documentary "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools."

[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

Mini Conference:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/elevating-equity-in-schools-mini-conference-tickets-559561943837?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>



## [Elevating Equity in Schools Mini-Conference](#)

A Mini-Conference featuring workshops, panel discussions, and a keynote about promoting equity in leadership, curriculum, and student care.

[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

HES Loves Our Community!

Women's History Month is here! Look for our display in our lobby. Last month, we recognized and celebrated Black History Month. We are happy to share our recent celebration displays. Thank you again to Dr. Chen and Ms. Zhang for the festive Chinese New Year display and decorations.



## DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion) Events

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/elevating-equity-in-schools-film-screening-tickets-559576076107>

Join us for a free screening and discussion of the documentary "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools."

Date and Time- Friday March 17th, 2023, 5:30-9:00pm

Location: Harriet Tubman Cultural Center 8045 Harriet Tubman Lane Columbia, MD 21044

## AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES by HOWARD COUNTY RECS & PARKS

Click for [After School Classes](#) offered at HES by Howard County Recreation & Parks. These classes provide fun, structured, educational and enriching activities for Hammond ES students, benefitting both the child(ren) and parents!



## PTA NEWS

### PTA Board Elections

The Nominations Committee is searching for volunteers to fill upcoming vacancies on the HES PTA. As a PTA board member, you're able to support our school and students, as well as stay in close touch with our administration.

Per our bylaws, we need to announce candidates the week of April 23, 2023.

The positions with vacancies next year are PTA President, Secretary, and Membership VP. We are pleased to announce we have a nominee for President (Melissa Zawadzki) but we are still in need of individuals for the Secretary and Membership VP positions.

#### The **SECRETARY**

- Takes meeting minutes and prepares them for posting on the PTA website
- Attends general and executive board meetings (totaling 1 meeting a month)
- This position has a 2-year term. The time commitment is 2 hours or less per month + monthly meeting.

#### The **MEMBERSHIP VP**

- Maintains our current membership list using Memberhub software
- Helps coordinate a membership drive in the fall and promotes membership throughout the school year
- Attends general and executive board meetings (totaling 1 meeting a month)
- This position has a 2-year term. The time commitment is about 2 hours per month + monthly meeting.

If you have any questions, would like to be considered for a position, or have a recommendation, please contact one of the members of the Nominations Committee:

Kristina Kunkle, [president@hespta.org](mailto:president@hespta.org)

Opeyemi Awolesi, [secretary@hespta.org](mailto:secretary@hespta.org)

Kathleen Denny, [communications@hespta.org](mailto:communications@hespta.org)

### **Student Support**

Please see a current wish list of requested items to help support some of our students' sensory needs. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support and generosity! (Please use the registry address.) [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2LE55UGJ8JZ4Z?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2LE55UGJ8JZ4Z?ref_=wl_share)

### **Please Relink Your Harris Teeter VIC Cards**

Have you relinked your Harris Teeter VIC card for this school year? It just takes a few seconds! Go to [www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education](http://www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education) and select the HES PTA. Thank you for your support!

### **Save the Date! Spring Carnival on April 29**

Rain or shine, the Spring Carnival will be held on Saturday, April 29 at HES from 3-6pm. More details to come! In the meantime...

*Please consider helping!* There are small tasks that we'd love help with before the event, and we'll need plenty of volunteers the day of the carnival to help with setup, activities during the event, and clean up. Email [carnival@hespta.org](mailto:carnival@hespta.org) if you are interested.

**Carnival Poster Contest** Help the PTA prepare for the Spring Carnival by making a poster! All

participants receive 5 Spring Carnival tickets. The winner in each grade receives an additional 10 tickets! Place posters in the collection box at the front of the school from April 11 until April 20. Winners will be announced on April 24. Email [Maria\\_Rocco@hcpss.org](mailto:Maria_Rocco@hcpss.org) with any questions.

**Posters must include the following:**

Event: Hammond Elementary School PTA Spring Carnival

Date: April 29, 2023

Time: 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

On the back, please include your name, grade and teacher

Reminders and Tips:

- Please do not use any food on your poster
- Size: No larger than 22" x 28"

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| March 3     | HES School Pride Day *see above                                  |
| March 6     | Kindergarten Registration opens                                  |
| March 15    | Schools Close 3 Hours Early - Professional Work and Wellness Day |
| March 30    | Literacy Night 6-8pm   |
| March 31    | Schools Close 3 Hours Early                                      |
| April 3 - 7 | Spring Break. Schools and offices closed                         |
| April 10    | Schools and offices closed                                       |
| April 21    | Schools closed for students                                      |
| April 24    | Advanced Spring Concert  |
| April 29    | Spring Carnival, rain or shine                                   |
| April 21    | Schools closed for students                                      |
| May 3       | STEM Night   |
| May 15      | Beginning Band & Orchestra Spring Concert                        |
| May 19      | Schools closed for students                                      |



May 29	Memorial Day – Schools and offices closed
June 5	Enrichment Fair
June 7	Schools close 3 hours early.
June 9	Schools close 3 hours early.
June 12	Schools close 3 hours early.
June 13	Last School Day – Schools close 3 hours early.
June 14–16	May be used as 5 inclement weather makeup days
June 20-21	May be used as 5 inclement weather makeup days
June 19	Juneteenth National Independence Day – Schools and offices closed

You may link here to access the [HCPSS Calendar for the 2022 - 2023 School Year](#).

## CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Student Birthdays

- Food, candy, desserts of any kind cannot be brought into school for sharing.
- Birthday party invitations cannot be distributed at school.
- We welcome you to enjoy lunch with your birthday child in the cafeteria. Please visit the front office to sign in.

### Lost & Found

Our Lost & Found grows daily but it does not need to. Please label all coats, jackets, lunch boxes, water bottles etc. with your child's name. Otherwise these items may be donated. We invite you to stop into the front office to check the bin for missing items.

### HCPSS Inclement Weather Instruction Plan

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) now allows local school systems to repurpose inclement weather days as asynchronous school days. At the discretion of the superintendent, HCPSS will use up to three inclement weather asynchronous days during the 2022-2023 school year. For all the details, please go to the [HCPSS Inclement Weather Instruction Plan](#).

### Outdoor Recess Policy

As temperatures begin to get colder, please remember the guidelines we follow for going outside for recess, PE classes, and students waiting outside for arrival and dismissal. Below is the HCPSS Weather Guidelines/Recess. In short, if the feels like temperature in our area is less than 20 degrees,

we will have indoor recess. At this time the "feels like temperature" is 18 degrees. We'll keep an eye on it prior to the start of Kindergarten's recess.

The decision to go outside or stay inside for recess, outdoor eating, P.E., 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, P.E., 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.

## 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 noon 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. Chromebooks must also be turned in if your family moves out of county.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Please visit the [link](#) to the Howard County Public School System's Community News and Programs page.

