

# Hammond Elementary School



## Tiger Tales

March 3, 2022



### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Hammond families,

This past Tuesday masking expectations changed for all Howard County Schools. Beginning March 1st, students, staff, volunteers, and visitors now have the option of wearing a mask in all parts of our building, with the exception of the health suite. I would like to commend our community for their support of each person's decision for masking. We are hopeful that despite the change in expectations, our community will continue to be healthy.

The GoNoodle virtual evening together hosted last Tuesday by Mrs. Frere was a huge success. Over fifty families joined in the fun! Our next event is not to be missed! This evening, Thursday, March 3rd Mrs. Serpico will be leading us in Family Boot Camp at 6:30pm

(<http://meet.google.com/rpv-nkpp-doo>), so grab your workout shoes and login.

Next week brings the official kick-off of kindergarten registration. Please spread the word through the community for any family with an incoming kindergarten student. We appreciate everyone's effort for students to register early as it provides us the best opportunity to plan for the upcoming school year.

Please join the PTA next week for their next virtual meeting on March 8th at 7pm. You may click this link to join <https://zoom.us/j/93149929646?pwd=MjN0aFQrVHh2WVBrWFR3Zy83TnlZz09>.

Attending PTA meetings is a great way to stay connected to our school community.

Thank you in advance for enjoying our most recent copy of our Tiger Tales.

Best wishes,

Ms. Ciarapica

### UPDATE TO FACE MASKS, as of March 1,2022

[Effective March 1, 2022, universal indoor masking in HCPSS buildings or on school buses is no longer required.](#)

All students, staff and visitors will be able to choose if they wish to wear a mask in HCPSS buildings. While optional, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other health experts continue to recommend face masks as a precautionary measure.

Please note that per the CDC, masks are required in healthcare settings, so students and staff must continue to wear a mask in school health rooms.

**FAMILY BOOT CAMP TONIGHT!** Thursday, March 3 6:30pm

[Family Boot Camp\\_Serpico.pdf](#) - click here for the link to the Family Boot Camp



## 2022-2023 Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration begins Monday, March 7. Click [here](#) to start the online registration process. Children must be 5 years old by September 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. For full information, refer to the [HES website](#).

## SPRING SCHOOL PICTURE DAY: MARCH 9

Class pictures will be taken on March 9. If desired, you can also have individual Spring pictures taken. For ordering and pricing information, [click here](#).

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### Rainbow Events

HCPSS is committed to creating safe spaces for all County families. Rainbow Representatives are new positions in the county this year and Mrs. Kennedy, School Counselor, is the Rainbow Rep for HES, helping to support LGBTQIA+ families, students, and staff in our community. She will share Rainbow events here in the newsletter. All are welcome. There is an exciting, fun, and free climbing event happening on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Movement Columbia Gym for ages 5-12 at 12pm! Please check out the attached [flier](#) for complete information! We hope to see you there!

### Children 5 Years & Younger Resources

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. Starting at birth, there are many things a parent or caregiver can do to help their child. There are numerous resources available to support families as they create everyday learning opportunities for children, which will ultimately ensure that the children are prepared to succeed in school and later life. Check out [SST Resources for Families & Students Canvas Page](#)

## 2022 VIRTUAL SIMULATED CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS YOU'RE INVITED TO JUDGE

A Simulated Congressional Hearing (SCH) is a performance assessment that culminates our fifth-graders' year of social studies instruction. The students will serve as experts on issues related to the constitution. You will help simulate the role of a Congressional panel by listening, asking the questions we provide you, and giving positive feedback. To be a great judge, you do not need to be a constitutional scholar. It's the students job to teach you. Hammond's SCH will be held on May 26th, more details about the event will be shared with 5<sup>th</sup> grade families as the date approaches.

RSVP to Judge: <http://tinyurl.com/2022-Judge-RSVP>

After you RSVP, look for an email confirmation from Member Solutions within 24 hours. Two weeks prior to registering, you will receive an email that includes more information, the links for joining the virtual hearings, judge instructions, and the detailed schedule for the day(s) you selected.

For more information review this [flyer](#) or contact Kim Eggborn: [Kimberly\\_Eggborn@hcpss.org](mailto:Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org), 410-313-5678, Follow us on Twitter [@HCPSSSElemSS](#)

## Orchestra Announcement

### Has your child had a growth spurt since the last concert?

As you start your spring cleaning, please look for any gently used white shirts, or black skirts, pants, socks, and shoes. Your HES Music Team can always use donations of gently used concert wear for our band, chorus, and orchestra students. Since these clothing items are often only worn once or twice before they are outgrown, you can donate and help another family as well as help reuse and cut down on waste! Please contact Mrs. Sanders at [larissa\\_sanders@hcpss.org](mailto:larissa_sanders@hcpss.org) with any questions.

## 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 as soon as possible.

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](mailto:Melissa_Rozgonyi@hcpss.org)) and Front Office ([Lisa\\_Castaneda@hcpss.org](mailto: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/>

### 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](http://www.hcpss.org).

### HES is Still Hiring!

#### Temporary Employee (TE)

**Description:** These individuals provide close adult support to some of our special education students, under the supervision of Hammond staff.

For this special education position, interested candidates would apply through an outside agency that staffs these positions in our schools.

- The position is for 6.5 hour day (6 hours paid with an unpaid ½ hour lunch) from Monday through Friday from 9:00-3:30.
- Contact [R. Tencher](#) and apply through [Social Service Consultants](#)

- The pay rate for this position is \$13.

If you are interested in this position or have any questions, please contact Mrs. Mapson at [nykia\\_mapson@hcpss.org](mailto:nykia_mapson@hcpss.org) or 410-880-5890 as soon as possible.

### **Recess/Lunch Monitor Position**

**Description:** These individuals supervise students at recess and outdoor/indoor lunch, under the supervision of Hammond staff.

- Begins as soon as possible
- We prefer 5 days (Monday through Friday ) but can discuss part time options
- The hours are 10:45am - 2:15pm
- The pay rate for this position is \$12.50.

[Recess Lunch Monitor Application Link](#) - Please note that this is a long process through HCPSS Human Resources, so please submit your application as soon as possible and contact Mrs. Mapson, Assistant Principal, at [nykia\\_mapson@hcpss.org](mailto:nykia_mapson@hcpss.org) or 410-880-5890, to let her know you are interested.

**Please feel free to share these employment opportunities with friends, family, and neighbors.**

## **2022 Summer Programs**

- The 2022 Summer Programs Preview, which contains descriptions of HCPSS' four summer programs and enrollment information, is available to view and download from the Summer Programs web page <https://www.hcpss.org/summer-programs/>
- Come out to Sports Camp the week of June 27 and/or July 18 at Reservoir High School. Camp is hosted by Lime Kiln teacher/Reservoir coach Phil Ranker, as well as other certified elementary and middle school teachers in the county and state. The camp is open to current K-8th graders and features many different sports and activities every day. If your child likes PE, they will love camp. Campers are split into age and ability groups to ensure that everyone has a fun, productive time. Full day and half day options available. For more information, please visit <http://rankerssportscamp.weebly.com> or email [phillip\\_ranker@hcpss.org](mailto:phillip_ranker@hcpss.org) for questions!

## **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 (virtual)

<https://zoom.us/j/93149929646?pwd=MjN0aFQrVHh2WVBrWFR3Zy83TnltZz09>

Meeting ID: 931 4992 9646 Passcode:7Ct5Ps

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

### Upcoming PTA Events

- 4/22: Outdoor Movie Night
- 5/7 Spring Carnival - Our Spring Carnival will be on Saturday, May 7 at HES from 3-6pm. More details to come! In the meantime, we're building some exciting baskets to raffle off during the carnival. Do you have any items or services you could donate? It's a great way to support the PTA and advertise your small business! Please contact Lauren at [Laprice13@gmail.com](mailto:Laprice13@gmail.com).

### Cultural Arts

Do you have a passion for the performing arts? The HES PTA is looking for volunteers for a Cultural Arts committee that would bring an in-school event to the study body this spring. The committee would meet virtually a few times in the coming months to research, select, and schedule a performer/presenter. (Previous events include Ukulele Week in 2019 and the virtual Beat Boxer guest last year.) If you are interested, please contact Kristina at [president@hespta.org](mailto:president@hespta.org).

### Grade Level Facebook Pages

Did you know that each grade level has a Facebook group page where parents and families can share ideas, ask questions, and get to know each other? To find the right group(s) for your family, check out the list on the [Family Resources](#) page of the PTA website.

### Open PTA Positions



We have positions opening up for the next school year! Please consider volunteering for one of these roles so we can continue to provide programs and events for our students, families, and teachers throughout the year. We can't do any of it without you! Please contact Kristina at [president@hespta.org](mailto:president@hespta.org) with any questions.

- **Treasurer:-** oversee and report on the PTA's financial transactions; file applicable paperwork
- **Communications VP:** -oversee PTA communications, including email, website and social media
- **Grade Level Liaison** - for the incoming kindergarten class: coordinate meeting various classroom needs (e.g., making a Sign Up Genius for donations of Valentine's Day party supplies), setting up the back-to-school play date, maintaining the grade-level Facebook page

### Support the PTA while you shop!

- **Harris Teeter:** Link your VIC card online each Fall at [www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education](http://www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education)
- **AmazonSmile:** Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and select Hammond Elementary PTA as your charity

## IMPORTANT DATES

March 3	HES Evening Get Togethers - Family Boot Camp 6:30pm with Mrs Serpico <a href="http://meet.google.com/rpv-nkpp-doo">http://meet.google.com/rpv-nkpp-doo</a>
March 8	HES Evening Get Togethers - more info to come!
March 16	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
March 24	HES Evening Get Togethers - more info to come!
March 29	HES Evening Get Togethers - Family GoNoodle with Mrs. Frere 6:30 pm <a href="http://meet.google.com/gcg-tayf-siw">http://meet.google.com/gcg-tayf-siw</a>
April 1	End of 3rd Quarter - Schools close 3 hours early
April 6	HES Evening Get Togethers - more info to come!
April 11-18	Spring Break - Schools Closed
April 27	Students Dismiss 3-Hours Early (12:30 pm) **
May 2	Schools closed for students - Professional Learning Day for staff. Offices will be open. **

May 3	Regular school day**
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 new changes to calendar

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.

### 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.

