

# Hammond Elementary School



## Tiger Tales

April 29, 2021



### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Hammond families,

As we prepare to turn our calendars to May and bask in some unseasonably warm weather, an opportunity to celebrate is just around the corner. Next week, May 3rd - May 7th, is Teacher Appreciation Week. Of course at Hammond, we value our entire staff, all teachers in our eyes. As always, our tremendously thoughtful PTA has activities planned throughout the week. Our students and families are also encouraged to celebrate in any way they feel comfortable. A simple, thoughtful note means the world!

Earlier this week, a Parent Input Form was shared with families. We are hopeful that kindergarten through fourth grade families will take a moment to complete a [Parent Input Form](#) for each of their children. Parent Input Forms are due by Friday, May 7th.

We recognize that the families of our fifth grade students are anxiously awaiting information about the fifth grade promotion ceremony. We have recently received some systemic guidance about end-of-year activities so the fifth grade team is ready to start planning. As soon as details are finalized, we'll share them with families. Thank you for your patience!

Continue to stay safe and take care,

Ms. Ciarapica

### NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT REMINDERS

#### May MAP Testing

On Wednesday, May 12 and 19, students in Grades 1-5 will take the Measured Academic Progress (MAP) assessment.

The data from the MAP assessment will help schools and teachers measure your student's academic progress. The MAP test does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly. To learn more

about the MAP assessment, please visit:

<https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/>

The reading test will be offered on Wednesday, May 12 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The math test will be offered on Wednesday, May 19 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Teachers will share Google Meet information and your student's testing group as we get closer to the May dates.

Please email Mrs. Mapson at [Nykia\\_Mapson@hcpss.org](mailto:Nykia_Mapson@hcpss.org) if you have any questions.

### **HES Virtual Spirit Day**

Students and staff are invited to participate in Spirit Day on **Friday, May 7-Fitness Friday!** Show us how you are staying active! You can easily stay active by walking, doing jumping jacks, jump rope and playing outside. Wear your favorite workout or sports team gear. [Click here](#) to view upcoming Spirit Days.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to the following students who are participating in the HCPSS Solo Ensemble Festival on May 1.

Chloe Bramell (4) Vocal

Zurie Kearney (5) Vocal

Benjamin Munford (5) Percussion

Kedus Samson (5) Trumpet

Henry String (4) Bass

Julianna Wissinger (4) Vocal

### **Battle of the Books**

Congratulations to our six Hammond Battle of the Books Teams! We would like to acknowledge all the work that went into preparing for the event. A special shout out to all BOB coaches. Thank you for taking on some very excited readers and preparing them to BATTLE!

Bookologists (Coached by Gwyn Calanni & Susanne McCoy)

Harper Byrns, Rebecca Du, Bonnie Liu, Ayla McCoy, Anne Numata

Football Fanatics (Coached by Sruthi King & Sophia Mandela)

Joshua King, Elias Manela, Orin Okubadejo

Four Ninjas and a Monk (Coached by Priya Varadan)

Miko Evangelista, Rohan Shivakumar, Reon Wu, Kouji Yashiro, Dominic Ye

Nice Readers (Coached by Brenda & Scott Finkle)

Daniel Heine, Tristin Finkle, Ben Munford

Rainbow Readers (Coached by Gwyn Birdsall)

Miriam Beebout, Alexandra Birdsall, Emma Cret, Cori Howard, Chiamaka Ifeanyi

Bananabookinators (Coached by Dave & Anna Hogue)

Wyatt Bohn, Mitchell Eaton, Ryan Hogue, Nathan Hyun

**Attention Car Riders**

HES dismissal begins at 3:35 p.m. Please do not arrive at the car loop prior to 3:30 p.m. Our middle school students are dismissing at that time and it causes congestion in our car loop. Thank you for your understanding.

**Health Check Reminder**

To ensure students are healthy enough to attend in-person instruction, parents/guardians are to perform a symptom check every day before the student leaves home. A student having any of the following symptoms should not be sent to school and may continue to access their classrooms virtually if they are well enough to do so:

1 of the following: New onset cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing; New loss of taste or smell;

OR

2 of the following: Fever over 100.4 or chills within the past 24 hours; Fatigue; Muscle or body aches; Headache; Sore throat; Congestion or runny nose; Chills or shaking chills; Nausea or vomiting; Diarrhea.

Additionally, students who have been in close contact (within less than 6 feet for a cumulative time of more than 15 minutes over the past 24 hours with or without a mask) with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 (exhibiting COVID- like illness and has not tested negative after exhibiting symptoms) should not enter any HCPSS building.

Parent/guardians will assess their children for symptoms of COVID-19 illness and refrain from sending/transporting them to school until after they have been symptom-free at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms, have no fever for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication, and have continued improvement of symptoms and /or medical consult with their primary care physician.

**Champions Against Cancer**

[Champions Against Cancer](#) provides financial and other types of support for children who are facing the challenges of a parent battling cancer. Attached is an application for support. For additional

information, please contact Amy Champion at [championsagainstcancer@gmail.com](mailto:championsagainstcancer@gmail.com).

### **Food Giveaway at HCC on April 30**

There will be a free Food Drive at Howard Community College on Friday, April 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. [View flier](#) for more information.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

May 13	Schools closed for students, Professional Learning Day
May 31	Schools and offices closed, Memorial Day
June 10, 11, 14	Schools close 3 hours early, Professional Work Day
June 15	Last Scheduled Student Day-Schools close 3 hours early, Professional Work Day

## **CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **2021-2022 Kindergarten Registration**

Kindergarten registration for the 2021-2022 school year has begun. If you have a rising kindergartener, please [click here](#) to start the online registration process. View [resources](#) on helping your child prepare for Kindergarten.

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 this fall or have an approved waiver. HCPSS kindergarten is a full day program.

### **Lightspeed Implementation**

Our school is participating in the use of Lightspeed, a platform and instructional support tool that helps teachers keep students on track and safe as they navigate online learning. [Lightspeed Systems Relay Classroom](#) is a software application that allows a teacher, during specified timeframes, to control how a student uses their HCPSS-issued Chromebook including viewing student screens, sharing resources, locking devices, reviewing class activity, and restricting some non-instructional sites. Please read this [letter](#) for more information.

### **HCPSS Technology Support Center**

Devices may be exchanged or returned at any of the following HCPSS Technology Support Centers:

- Old Bushy Park Elementary School, Room E2 (door to the left of the front entrance), 2690 Route 97, Glenwood (Building is between Glenwood Middle School and Bushy Park Elementary School)

- Old Cedar Lane, Gymnasium (door on the left side of the building; follow the signs), 5451 Beaverkill Road, Columbia (Building shares a parking lot with Harper's Choice Middle School)

Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 2-5 p.m. Please note that Technology Support Centers are closed any day that HCPSS offices are closed. [Click here](#) for full details.

### **Grade Level Lunch Bunches**

View the schedule below and join in on your grade's special day. Log in using the code **HES-LUNCH**.

- Kindergarten: Tuesdays 11:05 - 11:35
- First Grade: Mondays 12:05 - 12:35
- Second Grade: Tuesdays 11:35 - 12:05
- Third Grade: Tuesdays 12:35 - 1:05
- Fourth Grade: Thursdays 1:05 - 1:35
- Fifth Grade: Fridays 1:35 - 2:05

### **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.

### **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. Talaji](#), Media Paraeducator

### **Ms. Freitag, School Psychologist Office Hours**

Our School Psychologist, Ms. Freitag continues to be available to support parents. Please email her with any questions or concerns, or to set up a time to meet at [angela\\_freitag@hcpss.org](mailto:angela_freitag@hcpss.org).

### **Mrs. Kennedy, School Counselor**

Mrs. Kennedy, our School Counselor, is available to support students and families. Please do not hesitate to contact her for assistance ([mkennedy@hcpss.org](mailto:mkennedy@hcpss.org)). Check out her [Canvas page](#) here.

## **PTA NEWS**

### **Spirit Wear**

New spring spirit wear has been added to our Hammond school store. Check out the new items under the "NEW!!!" link at the top of the [online spirit wear shop](#). Rainbow hoodies are 10% off in April (code: APR21E).

### **HES Spread the Love Rock Garden**

Let's spread some love and cheer by decorating rocks to line the front of Hammond ES! Signs are by the front of the school showing where to place your rocks. They will go up against the wall to the right of the front doors by the signs. Please not place them on the grass or mulch! You may want to seal your decorated rocks before you place them outside so they last. Thank you in advance for joining us in spreading cheer! Any questions, email Leigh String at [president@hespta.org](mailto:president@hespta.org).

### **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](http://hespta.org) for more information.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

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

