

# Hammond Elementary School



## Tiger Tales

April 14, 2023



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

- Earth Day Challenge
- Report Cards
- Spring Picture Day
- End of 3rd Quarter Celebration
- Parent Input Form
- 5th Grade Promotion Celebration
- 5th Grade Simulated Congressional Hearings
- Kindergarten Registration
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- PTA News
- Important Dates
- Continuing Announcements
- Community News

### EARTH DAY CHALLENGE

Did you know that using single-use plastics, like Ziploc bags, create a lot of extra waste each day? That waste goes into landfills and oceans which harm animals and their habitats. According to the [EPA](#), 4.2 million tons of plastic bags and films were generated in 2018 and 3.04 millions tons ended up in a landfill.

Mrs. Edwards' 3rd grade class is proposing a waste-free week for the week of April 17th-21st. We are asking that all parents of Tigers help to pack their child's lunches using reusable bags and containers for that whole week. With your help, we can all make our Earth a cleaner place!



happy  
**EARTH  
DAY**

## REPORT CARDS

Parents/guardians will have access to view report cards as of 4 p.m. on April 18. Parents/guardians may view/download report cards by taking the following steps:

- Log in to [HCPSS Connect Synergy](#) using parent/guardian credentials
- Select More Options from the left panel
- Select Report Cards from the middle
- Select the report card you wish to access

### Understanding your child's Report Card

A [reference sheet](#) has been developed to support families in understanding the Elementary School Report Card

## SPRING PICTURE DAY is Wednesday, April 19

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.

Class group photos will be taken on Picture Day for all students.

For individual portraits, only students who bring in their envelopes on Picture Day will be photographed.

Order forms will be sent home. Spring Picture day link to [order form](#).

## END OF 3RD QUARTER CELEBRATION



## **PARENT INPUT FORM**

At Hammond Elementary School, we value your input. During the next few months, our staff will begin the process of forming homeroom and mathematics classes for the 2023 - 2024 school year. We invite you to share information about your child that would be helpful for your child's new teachers to learn in preparation for greeting your child on the first day of school. The purpose of this form is to give you an opportunity to share information about your child's strengths, areas for growth, and special interests.

Our articulation process with current and new students is thoughtful and detailed. Once we have gathered this information, our teachers and administrative team will use this information in association with a wide range of criteria, including learning styles, instructional levels, learning behaviors and academic data to better inform placement decisions for the upcoming school year. Thank you in advance for your understanding that this form is not intended to be used to request a specific teacher.

The completion of this form is optional; however, you are encouraged to use this opportunity to provide helpful information for our upcoming school year. This tool, over individual emails, serves as the best communication tool to tell us more about your child.

[Parent Input Form \(2023 - 2024\)](#) Completed forms are due by Friday, April 28th. We thank you in advance for adhering to the deadline.

## **5th GRADE PROMOTION CELEBRATION**

The 5th Grade Promotion ceremony will be Tuesday, June 13th from 9:30 am - 10:15 am in the Hammond Middle School Gym. Spectators will be limited to the capacity of the middle school gym. We ask that families consider that we currently have 103 students whose family may choose to attend the ceremony. Beginning at 9:10 am families may enter the HES front doors to proceed to the HMS Gym.

After the promotion ceremony the HES PTA will be hosting all families and students in a celebration from 10:30 am - 11:30 am. The schedule for this portion of the day is still being planned and we will share details as the date approaches. If you have any questions please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher.

## **5th GRADE SIMULATED CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS**

5<sup>th</sup> grade is starting to prepare for their Simulated Congressional Hearing (SCH) that will occur on May 16th. The SCH is an authentic, performance-based assessment where students demonstrate their understanding of the U.S. Constitution. Students display their expertise on topics ranging from colonial life and government to the contemporary rights and responsibilities of citizens in our country. The students present prepared oral statements before a panel of simulated congressional committee members ("judges"). Following the formal presentations, students respond to follow-up questions from the panel. For more information about this program, visit: [sch.hcps.org](http://sch.hcps.org)

To start the planning process, judges need to be coordinated for the event. To register to judge, please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/2023-SCH-RSVP>. After you register, look for a confirmation email from Member Solutions. You will also receive an email 2 weeks prior to the hearings with additional details and judging materials.

If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly\_Eggborn@hcpss.org or 410-313-5678.

\* **All grades & staff: Spirit Day** - Wear **Red**, White, and **Blue** or HES Spirit Wear/Colors to support The 5th Gr Simulated Congressional Hearing Day.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is underway! 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.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

HCPSS Rainbow Conference - Register Now!

The HCPSS Rainbow Conference will be held on Saturday, May 6th from 9am - 5pm. The conference will be hybrid with opportunities for both virtual and in-person participation. For more information scan the QR code on the [Rainbow Conference Flier](#) or access this [link](#).

## PTA NEWS

### Spring Carnival

Rain or shine, please join us Saturday, April 29 from 3-6pm at Hammond Elementary School\* for a Day of Family Fun! Featuring bounce houses, a giant slide, inflatable obstacle course, DJ, carnival games and prizes, cake walk, temporary tattoos, PTA concessions, food trucks, funnel cakes, raffle prizes, and more!

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, so we invite everyone to come out and have a great time while supporting the HES PTA!

*\*Enter on the middle school side. If the weather is good, continue around to the fields behind HMS. If the weather isn't great, we'll move inside to the gyms and cafeteria of HES/HMS.*

- **Please consider volunteering 1 hour** of your time during the carnival. We need a lot of volunteers to make this a great event for our HES community! As a bonus, parents who volunteer 1 hour get 5 free tickets that can be used for PTA concessions or raffle entries! Sign up at <https://bit.ly/HES-SUG> \*\*Parents must have met the HCPSS criteria for volunteering before being allowed to volunteer at the carnival. This information can be found on the front page of the [school website](#).
- **Cake walk donations needed:** Could you help by donating a store-bought cake or other treat for this delicious event? Sign up at <https://bit.ly/HES-SUG>
- **The Poofy gourmet cotton candy fundraiser is back!** What's a carnival without cotton candy? Order some [Poofy Gourmet Cotton Candy](#) in advance, and it will be ready for pickup at the Spring Carnival. There are many exciting flavors to choose from, and it's only \$5 a bucket! Order online at [poofycottoncandy.com](http://poofycottoncandy.com) now through April 26 using code **HE PTA**. Choose the "pickup" option and scroll down for the Hammond Elementary location or use the direct link on the Poofy flyer. If you can't make it to the Carnival but you still love cotton candy, online orders can also be picked up at Poofy (11271 Terrace Lane, Fulton).
- **Avoid the long lines AND save money...buy your wristbands and tickets ahead of time** online at <https://hes-pta.memberhub.com/store>. Presales will end on Sunday, April 23 at 8:00 PM. See below for pricing details.
- **Presale Ticket Pick-Up:** Presale wristbands and tickets will be available for pick-up on April 26 and 27 from 4-6p in front of HES. You may also pick them up the day of the carnival at the presales table.

### Spring Carnival Pricing

Avoid the lines AND save money...buy your wristbands/tickets ahead of time [here!](#)

	Pre sale	Day-of
Unlimited Rides/Games Wristband	\$12	\$18
PTA Meal Deal Large slice of pizza, chips, drink	\$6	\$10
Tickets for Raffle Prizes and PTA Concessions	10 for \$9	\$1 each
<i>Individual PTA food items</i>		
Slice of pizza		4 tickets
Drink		3 tickets

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Popcorn		4 tickets
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Poofy gourmet cotton candy	\$5 via Poofy <a href="#">website</a>	5 tickets
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*Tickets are for PTA concessions. Non-PTA food vendors will accept their typical forms of payment (cash, credit, etc.), not tickets.*

**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"

### PTA Board Elections

We are pleased to announce that we have nominees for all of our open Board positions: President (Melissa Zawadzki), Membership VP (Korin Sharp), and Secretary (Emily Griffin). Please join us via Zoom at our next PTA meeting on May 9 at 7:15pm when we will hold elections.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93149929646?pwd=MjN0aFQrVHh2WVBrWFR3Zy83TnlTZz09>

Meeting ID: 931 4992 9646

Passcode: 7Ct5Ps

### IMPORTANT DATES

March 27-31 Reading Spirit Week (see above)

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 13-14	MCAP ELA Testing Grade 5
April 14	HES Pride Day! Wear HES apparel or school colors
April 17-18	MCAP ELA Testing Grade 5
April 18	Report Cards available after 4pm
April 19	Spring Picture Day (see above)
April 19-20	MCAP ELA Testing Grade 4
April 20	PTA Spring Carnival Poster contest ends
April 21	Schools closed for students
April 23	Carnival ticket presales end
April 24	Club Pictures
April 25-26	MCAP ELA Testing Grade 4
April 26	Poofy cotton candy presales end (PTA fundraiser)
April 26-27	Pick up Carnival presale tickets, 4-6pm at HES
April 29	Spring Carnival, rain or shine, 3-6pm
April 21	Schools closed for students
May 1-2	MCAP ELA Testing Grade 3
May 2-3	MCAP Math Testing Grade 5
May 3	STEM Night
May 4-5	MCAP ELA Testing Grade 3
May 5	HES Pride Day! Wear HES apparel or school colors
May 8	Teacher Appreciation Week begins
May 9	PTA Meeting, 7:15pm via Zoom (elections will be held)
May 9-10	MCAP Math Testing Grade 4
May 11-12	MCAP Math Testing Grade 3
May 15	Beginning Band & Orchestra Spring Concert
May 15-16	MCAP Math Testing Grade 3

May 16	5th Grade Simulated Congressional Hearings
May 16	School Wide Spirit Day - Wear Red, White, and Blue or HES Spirit Wear/Colors
May 18	Field Day
May 19	Schools closed for students
May 29	Memorial Day – Schools and offices closed
June 1	5th Grade to visit Middle School 10am - 11:30am
June 5	Enrichment Fair
June 6	PTA Meeting, 7:15pm via Zoom (previously scheduled as hybrid but will be via Zoom only)
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 13	5th Grade Promotion Ceremony 9:30am (doors open at 9:10am)
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 the county.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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

