



- **A Message from Administration**
- **Arrival & Dismissal Reminders**
- **Pets on School Property**
- **Community & Student Survey for Strategic Planning Process**
- **Providing a Safe & Nurturing Environment for All Students**
- **A Note From the Music Team**
- **Lego Donations for Gifted & Talented**
- **Grateful Gardeners**
- **Recreation & Parks Before & After School Classes**
- **Mental Health Matters**
- **August is Wellness Month**

## **A Message from Administration**

Dear Families,

Thank you for reading our first Tiger Tales School Newsletter! Tiger Tales will be shared with our school community every other Thursday. Thursdays that are not “Tiger Tales” weeks will be designated for the PTA Newsletter. Please make sure you check your email **every** Thursday for important school news and announcements. All issues of Tiger Tales will be posted on our school website: [www.hes.hcpss.org](http://www.hes.hcpss.org).

We are **SO** proud of all our Tigers for a great first four days of school! Students quickly acclimated to the routines and procedures. They are coming into school ready and excited to learn! This week and next week, we will be having our “Admin Tiger Talks”. This is a time for school administration to visit with the students in each grade level, go over our school wide expectations, HCPSS policies, and kick off the school year with excitement! We will also introduce our two new school wide goals:

This school year, two of our shared goals are as follows:

1. Keeping our learning environment neat and clean. (Taking responsibility for picking up after ourselves, taking care of supplies and materials, etc.)
2. Quiet and peaceful hallway transitions. (Walking silently in the halls so we can be respectful of all learning areas.)

Please take time to review these goals and expectations with your child. We appreciate your partnership and support. We look forward to another fantastic week and school year! Have a wonderful long weekend! We will see you Tuesday, September 3rd for week two!

*Warmly,*

Heather Moraff, Principal  
Nykia Mapson, Assistant Principal

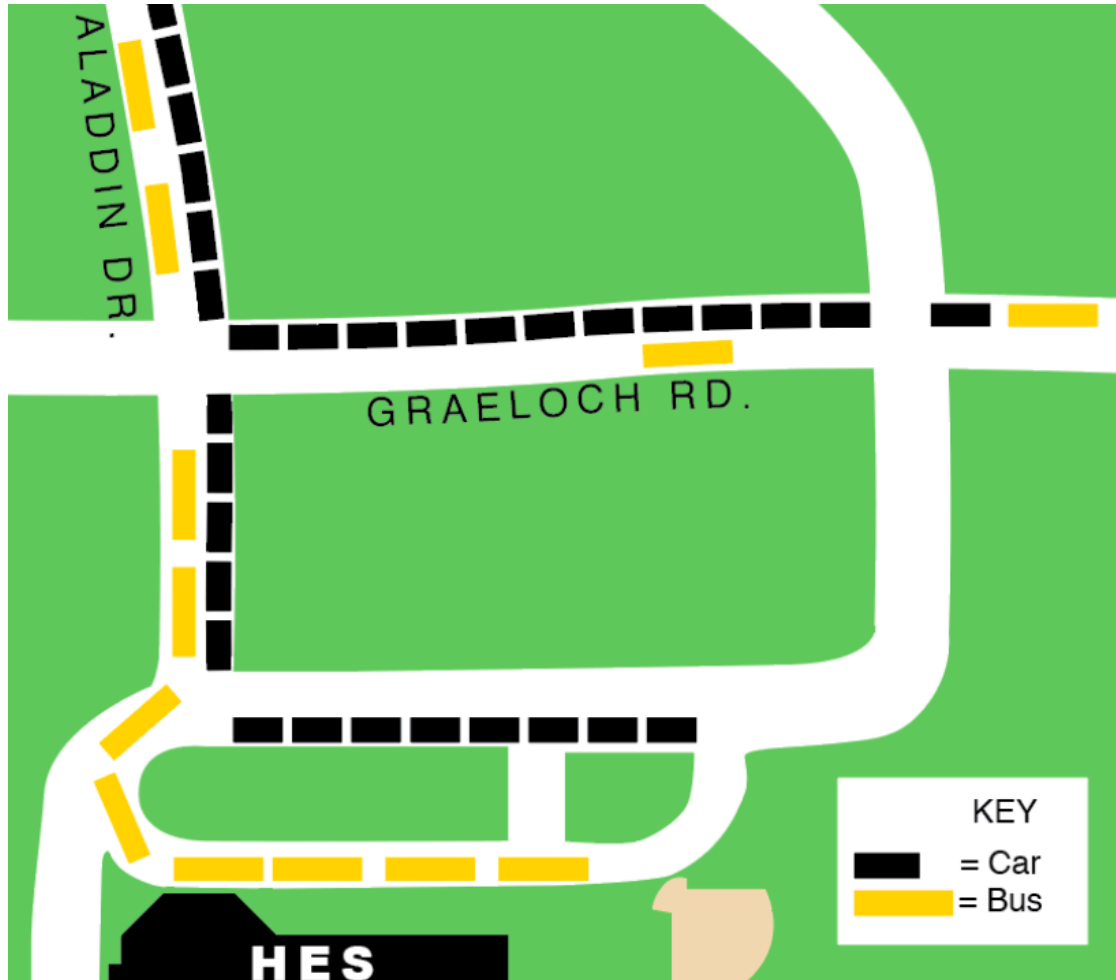
## **Arrival & Dismissal Reminders**

As you know, it takes some time to efficiently execute the drop off and pick up routines during the first few weeks of school. Thank you for exercising patience as we work out the kinks. Here are some reminders and updates that will help our staff ensure safety and smooth arrival and departure for all students:

### **In the carloop:**

- Cars that are entering from **Aladdin Drive** should line up on the **LEFT** side of the road (when facing the school entry). This will clear a path on the right side of Aladdin for buses to have access into the school bus loop entry.
- Cars entering from **Graeloch** line up on the **RIGHT** side of the road.
- Please position your car as **close to the curb as possible** so our buses have space to pull through.
- **DO NOT** block intersections.
- We are NO LONGER using a double car loop lane. Since our arrival and dismissal times no longer overlap with middle school, cars should stay in a single-file line.
- Unless directed to by a staff member, cars **SHOULD NOT PASS** in the car loop lane.
- Please remember to be kind and courteous to our staff. All messages being delivered are for the safety of children.

- We ask that you continue to work with your child to be able to unbuckle their own seat belt and open the car door on their own. If a staff member is present, students may exit the car to the sidewalk.



**For walkers:**

- Many of our families were newly identified as not receiving bus transportation this year. To increase safety in walking from these neighborhoods, a crossing guard was assigned at Leishear Rd and Graeloach Road.
  - The crossing guard is at his post at the following times:
    - **8:50 am to 9:20 am** in the morning
    - **3:55 pm-4:25 pm** in the afternoon.

If your child is earlier or later than these designated times, they will not receive any support or supervision in crossing this busy road. We **STRONGLY recommend** that if your child is walking outside of these times, an adult accompany them. We are

reaching out to request an extension of both windows, but until you receive an update, please exercise caution for your walkers.

- Please make sure you drop students off in a “Walker Drop Off Zone”. This will help overcrowding by the entrance.

**Our doors will close at 9:25 am and students will need to be signed in by the parent/guardian as tardy in the front office.**

**For bus riders:**

- Students must ride on their assigned buses.
- Students should never access a middle school bus to get to school.
- Students who live in an area that provides bus transportation are expected to ride the bus that is assigned from the transportation office. This is assigned based on your child’s home address.
- Students **are not** allowed to switch buses without having this request made and approved by the Transportation Office. Please note that our buses are full and most have reached capacity, as a result, we must adhere to students riding their assigned bus.
- If you are trying to identify which bus your child will ride and the approximate time for pick-up and drop off, please use our [HCPSS Bus locator](#), enter your address and you will receive the information. Please know that these are approximate times- we recommend that you be ready 10 minutes prior as well as provide a 10 minute window after the designated time for pick-up/drop-off.

**General Reminders:**

- Adult supervision at the school does not begin until 9:10 am. Teachers and staff are in meetings and planning until that time.
- Designated Arrival/Dismissal Areas for Students
  - Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade students enter and dismiss through the front doors.
  - 3rd grade and 4th grade students enter and dismiss through the side doors located by the 3rd grade wing.
  - 5th grade students will walk to and from the blacktop.
  - \*\*All students will enter through the front doors if they arrive after 9:25am.

**Pets on School Property**



Animals in schools or offices, whether leashed or not, present safety, environmental, and liability issues. Students and staff may be exposed to potential physical hazards, such as bites, and/or allergy-related health problems. As a result, animals are prohibited within Howard County Public School (HCPSS) buildings. Animals are also prohibited on school system property during arrival, dismissal, recess, and other HCPSS-sponsored outdoor activities. Thank you for your support in ensuring all students and staff are safe.

## **Community & Student Survey for Strategic Planning Process**

As part of the HCPSS strategic planning process, 5th grade students, staff and families are being asked to provide input about their values for our school system.

Parents/Guardians: Please complete this [HCPSS Strategic Planning Input Survey](#) by 9/20/2024 and share the [student version](#) with your Grade 5-12 student(s).

This survey is anonymous and available in multiple languages. If you have students at more than one school, please complete the survey one time, and indicate each school your students attend.

If your student needs assistance completing the survey, please contact our front office for assistance.

Thank you for providing your input in this important process!

## **Providing a Safe & Nurturing Environment for All Students**

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all students. Preventing bullying is an important part of this goal. [HCPSS Policy 9460](#) states that bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation are prohibited in HCPSS. Our administration and staff have been trained and made aware of this policy as well as preventative and responsive measures.

We know how important your role is in not only supporting your children, but also reporting possible incidents as you become aware of them. The Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment and Intimidation (BCHI Reporting Form) should be used to report all alleged incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation that occur at school or have a connection back to the school setting that create a risk of harm to other students while they are at school, or interfere with the educational environment. An [online version](#) is available and can easily and confidentially be used by students, staff, and family members. Hard copies of this form are available in the main office, staff workroom, school counseling office, media center, and health services office. If you believe your

child has been bullied, please complete and submit this form as soon as possible and/or assist your child in doing so.

Once the form is submitted, school administrators will ensure the parent/guardian of both the alleged target and alleged offender are aware of the report and will begin an investigation within two school days of receiving the report. Parents/guardians can expect a school administrator to reach out to them during the investigation. Once the investigation is completed, parents/guardians will be provided written notice of the outcome of the investigation within fifteen days of receiving the complaint, excluding extenuating circumstances.

There are times when incidents of peer conflict or code of conduct offenses may occur that may not be bullying, but may need follow up action. If you become aware of something that falls under conflict and/or a code of conduct offense, please notify a school administrator via email or phone call so that they can become aware and follow up as needed.

Cyberbullying is bullying using electronic media like computers, cell phones, and game systems. Our digital interconnectedness makes bullying different and more damaging than it's ever been before. It allows hatred and publicly humiliating gossip or photos to be instantly far-reaching and inescapable as electronic media is everywhere. It can NOT simply be ignored. In October 2013, the State of Maryland enacted Grace's Law, making misuse of interactive computer services a criminal offense. Its purpose is to prohibit anyone from using electronic media (computers, tablets, phones, etc.) to maliciously engage in conduct that inflicts serious emotional distress on a minor and/or places that minor in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury. A person who is found guilty of violating this law is subject to imprisonment and/or fines.

While all of this information will be reviewed with students at school, we are asking you to do the same at home. Thank you for your partnership in ensuring all of our students feel a sense of safety and belonging in their school communities! More information can be found on the [HCPSS Stop Bullying website](#). If you have any questions regarding this policy or its implementation, please contact a school administrator.

## A Note From the Music Team



Families of students interested in participating in Orchestra and Band are encouraged to attend our Back to School Night for Music on Tuesday, September 3 from 6:30-7:00pm in the Media Center. Please attend to learn more about our programs.

Additionally, please click the links below to find out more information about signing up for Orchestra, Band, or Chorus:

- Orchestra (Grades 3, 4, and 5): [HES Orchestra Registration Letter 2024](#)
- Band (Grades 4 and 5): [HES Band Registration Information](#)
- Chorus (Grades 4 and 5): [HES Chorus Info Letter](#)

## Lego Donations for Gifted & Talented



### REQUEST FOR LEGO DONATIONS

The GT Department is excited to announce a new 3rd grade instructional seminar titled **Lego Landmarks**. In order to make this seminar successful, I need your support.

I am still seeking donations of LEGO pieces in all colors and shapes, with a particular need for base plates. If you have any to spare, please consider donating them to the cause. You can drop off your LEGO donations at the front office, where you will find a box labeled "Legos."

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Ms. Lee  
GT Resource Teacher

## Grateful Gardeners



We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the families who generously signed up to assist with the garden over the summer. Your enthusiastic participation and hard work played a crucial role in the garden's success. Thanks to your efforts, the garden thrived and flourished in ways we could not have achieved alone. We truly appreciate the time and energy you dedicated to this project, and we hope you enjoyed being part of this rewarding experience as much as we did.

## Recreation & Parks Before & After School Classes

Sign up for Fall 2024 Before & After School Classes from Howard County Recreation & Parks has begun. These classes provide fun, structured, educational, and enriching activities for students, benefitting both the child(ren) and parents!



# Fall 2024 Before & After-School Classes at Hammond Elementary

Register early, programs fill quickly!



## Chess

### Chess Club Before & After School with Magnus Chess Academy **flickr**

All skill levels are welcome! Learn chess with the world champion's academy! We've taught over 10,000 children to play chess in Howard County, including state champions (though most students are beginners looking to learn a new skill and have FUN). Class time is divided between lessons and practice games. Lessons range from the basic rules to advanced tournament strategies. Participants have the opportunity to play in tournaments. Chess supplies provided. Registrants receive a Chess Kid Gold Membership with the program. Info: Patrick Hughes, 410-313-4622 or phughes@howardcountymd.gov.  
5-11 yrs Classes: 12  
RP3322.108 Hammond ES Oct 1 4-5pm Tu \$259

## Crafts & Fine Arts

### KidzArt After School **flickr**

Enjoy a fun, unique, confidence-building art experience. Our drawing-based curriculum delivers engaging and educationally rich, creative classes that amaze and delight. Create a new masterpiece each week while exploring a variety of artist-grade mediums every session (oil pastels, chalk pastels, watercolor, air dry clay, metal tooling, textured papers and more)! Our curriculum never repeats so join us for all new projects every session, year after year! Info: Adam Wienckowski, 410-313-4714 or awienckowski@howardcountymd.gov.  
Grades K-5 Classes: 6 Materials included  
RP0113.108 Hammond ES Sep 23 4-5:15pm M \$159  
Grades K-5 Classes: 9 Materials included  
RP0113.155 Hammond ES Nov 4 4-5:15pm M \$235



## Language

### Spanish After School with International School of Languages

ISL provides a well-rounded program to learn and improve your Spanish. Apart from the language, learn about the culture and traditions of countries where Spanish is spoken. Learn greetings and presentations, the alphabet, numbers, colors, shapes, animals, and more! Activities include conversation, music, flashcards, games, videos, art, and storybooks. Fee includes online resources for continued practice at home. Info: Carson Nickell, cjnickell@howardcountymd.gov.  
Grades K-5 Classes: 6 Materials included  
RP3311.103 Hammond ES Oct 10 4-5pm Th \$155

## Music

### Learn Now Music After School **flickr**

Budding musicians participate in musical instruction, theory, musical games, special extension curriculum-based activities, musical listening excerpts, and more! Rental instruments and music are provided and can be taken home in between classes to enjoy. A rental agreement must be signed, and instruments must be returned in the same condition at the last class. Parents are responsible for the return cost/replacement of any unreturned/damaged instruments. Info: Carson Nickell, cjnickell@howardcountymd.gov.  
Grades K-5 Drums Classes: 6  
RP3360.111 Hammond ES Sep 30 4-5pm M \$165  
Grades K-5 Viva Violin Classes: 6  
RP3360.112 Hammond ES Sep 30 4-5pm M \$165  
Grades K-5 Poppin' Piano Classes: 6  
RP3361.133 Hammond ES Nov 11 4-5pm M \$165  
Grades K-5 Groovy Guitar Classes: 6  
RP3361.134 Hammond ES Nov 11 4-5pm M \$165



## What To Do When Schools Are Closed or Have Early Dismissal

[tinyurl.com/hcrpschoolsout](http://tinyurl.com/hcrpschoolsout)

No Class When Schools Are Closed or Have An Early Dismissal  
Sep 18 • Oct 3 • Oct 18 • Oct 31 • Nov 5 • Nov 25-29 • Dec 23-31

**Howard County**  
Recreation & Parks



This information is neither sponsored nor endorsed by HCPSS or the school.

**Financial Aid:** 25-75% financial assistance available for Howard County residents that qualify. Information: 410-313-7275.

**Registration:** 410-313-7275, [www.howardcountymd.gov/rap](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/rap) or 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046  
**Refund Policy:** [www.howardcountymd.gov/recreation-parks/programs](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/recreation-parks/programs)

## Mental Health Matters

# SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH (SBMH) DOES YOUR STUDENT NEED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT?



School-Based Mental Health Services (SBMH) are therapy services provided at school buildings during the instructional day. Eligibility for SBMHS is determined by Student Support Teams (SST), which exist at each school and may consist of a school administrator, Pupil Personnel Worker (PPW), school counselor, school psychologist, school nurse, achievement liaisons, teachers, school social worker and other student services personnel. For more information about mental health warning signs visit:

<https://www.hcpss.org/supports/mental-health-wellness/warning-signs/>

Some of the reasons students are referred to SBMH include, if the student is currently experiencing or has experienced:

- Barriers to accessing care outside of school
- Trauma
- Behavioral challenges
- Emotional challenges, including anxiety or more worries than other students
- Decline in school performance or grades

If SBMH is something you are interested in for your student, please complete the link to the interest form. If your student does not meet eligibility requirements, Mrs. Ganoë can help connect to other supports.



**For in School services, the minimum requirement is having state insurance, however, please still reach out to Mrs. Ganoë/complete the interest form below if you do not meet this requirement for alternative supports.**

### QUESTIONS?



443-774-87603



amanda\_ganoë@hcpss.org

For more information, SCAN QR code or complete google form in the link below  
<https://forms.gle/DVQLJrC5C5XpGoi88>



## August is Wellness Month



## Diabetes Self-Management Workshop

**Join the FREE Living Well with Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP) to learn about the tools you need to control blood sugar and live healthier.**

**This is a small group workshop that meets once a week for six weeks.**

**Location:** Chase Brexton Health Care

**Address:** 5500 Knoll N Dr #370, Columbia, MD 21045

**Date:** Wednesdays, September 11 – October 16, 2024

**Time:** 5:00pm – 7:30pm

**Participants can earn up to \$100 in Giant Food purchase cards and other prizes!**

**Register by September 7, 2024.**

- Online: <https://livingwellwithdiabetes.events.hcgh.hopkinsmedicine.org/>
- Email: Journey to Better Health at [hcgh-j2bh@jhmi.edu](mailto:hcgh-j2bh@jhmi.edu)
- Call: 410-740-7601