



## MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we are nearing the completion of a month of school! Students have done a phenomenal job settling into their school and classroom routines. We are so proud of them! Staff and teachers have also worked tirelessly to create warm and welcoming environments for them to engage in daily.

We know it has been a bit of a rollercoaster with arrival, dismissal, and start and end time changes, but this has not impacted the amazing relationship making and engaging instruction inside the building. We thank you for your support, flexibility, and responsiveness as we navigated the transition into school.

With the new start time, we want to remind parents/guardians who drop off in the mornings that **there will not be staff to supervise students outside until 8:30 am.** Although there may be middle schoolers arriving and entering their building, **elementary school students should remain in their cars or buses until 8:30** when our staff arrive on duty. We want to ensure that there is an adult at each crosswalk that students access in order to enter the building safely. This is especially important because there may be middle school buses in motion in the bus loop. Thank you for partnering with us to keep all students safe. As always, please continue to reach out to Mrs. Mapson or I with input, feedback, or concerns!

*Mrs. Heather Moraff, Principal*

*Mrs. Nykia Mapson, Assistant Principal*

## **ATTENDANCE MATTERS - please note these procedures**

**ABSENCE REPORTING - Find these links *always* on the front page of the school website**

### ***Is your child not coming to school today?***

***For general, daily absences:*** Please complete this [Google Form](#) to report your child's absence. This form will alert the school of your child's absence and will serve as an absence note for your child's return. You are not required to send a separate note after completing this form. If your child has been absent for multiple days due to illness, a doctor's note may be required.

***Is your child traveling or attending an event keeping them from coming to school? These Extended/Discretionary absences, meaning travel or other non-illness-related absences:*** Use this [form](#) for an extended or discretionary absence, meaning absences of choice. These are unexcused absences unless approved by the principal. FOR ABSENCES OF UP TO 3 DAYS, the principal may determine whether the absences will be lawful/excused or unlawful/unexcused.

### ***Is your child arriving late to school?***

***Your child must be in their classroom by 8:45am***

Tardiness should be a rare occurrence and avoided to the best of your ability. You may think a few minutes isn't a big deal, but it can be. It is disruptive to the teacher, your child's classmates, and to the front office. It also puts your child behind to the start of their day. Let's work together to give your child the best start to their day possible. Please do your very best to have them in their classroom by 8:45. You may need to look at your morning routine if you are noticing a trend of being tardy. Perhaps set your alarm a few minutes earlier. We appreciate your attention to this very important issue.

**Procedure:** . You will need to park and escort your child into the building. Parents must sign any tardy students in on the appropriate sheet. It is not necessary to call nor do you need to use the absence reporting forms. Simply come to school and sign them in.

Children dropped off without a parent signing them in will be given an **unexcused tardy**.

\*Understandably, medical/dental appointments happen occasionally during a school day resulting in an excused tardy.

## ***Will your child be having an EARLY DISMISSAL?***

**Procedure:** Do not call the front office. We cannot call your students down for dismissal until you have signed them out in the vestibule.

1. Email teacher as a courtesy so they can be prepared for the dismissal.
2. Come to the vestibule outside the front office and sign your child out.
3. Be prepared to present your photo id upon request.

\*Note: Students can only be released to parents or individuals listed on their Emergency Contacts list, so please be sure your Family File is up-to-date.

## **INDOOR RECESS NEEDS**

Is your game closet overflowing and in need of a purge? Indoor recess is looking for gently used games for our students to play. Please be sure all donations are age appropriate for all grade levels. There is a box in the vestibule outside the front office accepting donations.

## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

[Check out](#) the latest information and events including the Cultural & Religious Observances calendar, Hispanic Heritage Month, and HoCo Pride.

## **VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS**

All volunteers must complete a Confidentiality Training Course about protecting the privacy of our students, staff, and schools, and the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Training about reporting any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to Howard County Department of Social Services. All training information can be found on the [front page](#) of our [school website](#). Once you complete the courses, which take 10 or so minutes, please print out the certificates and give them to the front office prior to your volunteer shift or email them to [Amy\\_Stanihaus@hcpss.org](mailto:Amy_Stanihaus@hcpss.org). These need to be completed every year, before any volunteer shift at HES.

## **CREATE A LUNCH ACCOUNT WITH LINQ**

HCPSS no longer will use Nutrislice for school menus or MySchoolBucks for meal payments. [LINQ Connect](#) is a secure, online portal that allows families to view breakfast and lunch menus, make online meal payments, monitor their child's account, schedule

automatic recurring payments, set up low balance alerts, submit a Free and Reduced Meals program application, and more. Details and information are available online. ***PLEASE CONSIDER CREATING AN ACCOUNT AND KEEPING A BALANCE IN CASE OF FORGOTTEN LUNCHES! It just may save you a run to school to bring a forgotten lunch.***

Breakfast \$2.00

Lunch \$2.80 includes milk

**Free & Reduced Meals:** HCPSS participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, which provide families with significant benefits to help save money. Qualification is based on family size and income. Enrollment is confidential. Eligible households may receive free or reduced-price meals. . Visit the [HCPSS Food & Nutrition Site](#) for more information. You can access the application [here](#).

## REMINDER FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

### Medication At School

Will your child require medication to be kept at school? Any medications required during school hours including prescription, “over-the-counter” (OTC) and homeopathic/herbal medications require a medication order signed by an approved health care provider and are subject to the HCPSS medication policy and procedure. Please review medication procedures for information about getting your medication to school and providing a physician's order.

For additional assistance, please contact Mrs. Rozgonyi, School Nurse 410-880-5893 or [mrozgonyi@hcpss.org](mailto:mrozgonyi@hcpss.org)

## PTA NEWS

### Membership

If you have not done so already, please consider joining the HES PTA. PTA advocates for our children, builds community and plays 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! Register here:

<https://hes-pta.memberhub.com/store>

### Who's Who on the PTA Board

It's easy to reach the PTA Board with your questions, concerns and great ideas! Simply reach out to us at the email addresses below:

President, [Melissa Zawadzki](mailto:Melissa.Zawadzki@hespta.org) , [president@hespta.org](mailto:president@hespta.org)

Vice President, Membership, Korin Sharp, [membership@hespta.org](mailto:membership@hespta.org)

Vice President, Communications, Sean Larsen, [communications@hespta.org](mailto:communications@hespta.org)

Treasurer, Karin Armour Popkey, [treasurer@hespta.org](mailto:treasurer@hespta.org)

Secretary, Emily Griffin, [secretary@hespta.org](mailto:secretary@hespta.org)

### **Catch us on the Socials**

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram so you never miss a thing.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057586564529>

<https://www.instagram.com/hammondespta/>

### **Deliver Monthly Mojo**

Sign up here to bring coffee, treats or other surprises to our hardworking staff so they can keep their mojo going. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0448ABA929A7FC1-staff3/55828552#/>

Questions? Great ideas for staff appreciation? Reach out to Katie Thorn at [kathrynthorn@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynthorn@gmail.com)

### **Ice Cream Social**

Join us Friday, September 29th at 6:30 pm in the HES cafeteria for HES PTA's Ice Cream Social. Featuring ice cream from Vanderwende's Farm, courtesy of Kloby's Smokehouse, we're ending September with sweet treats and good friends. Hope to see you there!

### **Restaurant Night**

Mark your calendars and forget about slaving over the stove. Our next Restaurant Night is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th, at Kloby's Smokehouse. More details to follow.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteer opportunities abound with the PTA! All levels of time and experience are gladly welcome, and volunteering is a great way to get to know your student's school! Check out the list below to see which events interest you, then just send a quick email to the listed point person or [president@hespta.org](mailto:president@hespta.org) and let us know you want to help. Find more listings at <https://hespta.org/volunteering/>. Let's make great memories for our kids this year!

### **Trunk or Treat, Saturday, October 28th**

Let's get our spooky on! Create this first-time-for-Hammond fall event with trunk or treating and all the fixins! This event needs planning committee members and volunteers to help out on the day of the event. Reach out to Darniesha Beach at [darnieshab@gmail.com](mailto:darnieshab@gmail.com)

### **Skate Party, Saturday, November 4th**

We're throwing a skate party at the Laurel Roller Skating Center and are looking for volunteers to help out on the day of the event. Contact Megan Eller at [megan.freer@gmail.com](mailto:megan.freer@gmail.com)

### **Book Fair, December 7th-15th**

The Scholastic Book Fair is returning again this year! We need a core group of volunteers to help Mrs. Haavik plan this much-anticipated event, as well as, folks for set-up, daytime assistance, after school times/events, and breaking down the event at the end of the fair.

### **Talent Show, Thursday, February 29th**

Hammond's got talent, and we want to showcase it. Back again this year, our Talent Show Committee needs volunteers to plan and put on this wonderful community event. Please contact Ryan Watkins at [ryan.n.watkins15@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.n.watkins15@gmail.com)

### **Grade Specific Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **Kindergarten**

The HES Kindergarten Team is looking for volunteers to assist Kinder students with Tuffy Trade-In on Fridays throughout the fall semester. Volunteers will help Kindergarten students with counting tickets they've earned to trade in for prizes. Volunteers are asked to arrive at HES by 1:50 p.m. and set up the table in time for Kinder Tuffy Trade-In from 2-3 p.m. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0448ABA929A7FC1-kindergarten14>

#### **2nd Grade**

Lunch

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AA9A722A0F85-2ndgrade?fbclid=IwAR1ohPb\\_-kBxOB1zD\\_E6qL0kwqqA9Kiv0-XG1i2eSp7nGPBN7SOQ1hFp6XM#/  
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AA9A722A0F85-2ndgrade?fbclid=IwAR1ohPb_-kBxOB1zD_E6qL0kwqqA9Kiv0-XG1i2eSp7nGPBN7SOQ1hFp6XM#/)

Tuffy Trade In

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AA9A722A0F85-tuffy?fbclid=IwAR2-6d1yyvhYr9gORGbPbNMPLE0zINVU49Ci0tSdwpGxXssZYs8gUOvO6b4#/  
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AA9A722A0F85-tuffy?fbclid=IwAR2-6d1yyvhYr9gORGbPbNMPLE0zINVU49Ci0tSdwpGxXssZYs8gUOvO6b4#/)

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We are brimming with opportunities to get involved this year. Whether it's helping with the yearbook, working on events like the Trunk or Treat, helping out at lunch and recess, or tutoring a student, the PTA has an opportunity for you! Please check out the list of current volunteer needs at the PTA website here: <https://hespta.org/volunteering/> Check back regularly because we update it often.

### **Spiritwear Store is Open!**

The spiritwear store is now open through September 24th! Don't miss your chance to show your Tuffy Pride! Check out the merch here:

<https://www.selectspiritwear.com/v5store/pc/viewcategories.asp?idcategory=1475>

### **Howard County Recreation & Parks Before/After School classes**

Check out our [Fall 2023 Before/After School Classes flier](#) for Hammond ES. These classes provide fun, structured, educational, and enriching activities for students, benefitting both the child(ren) and parents!