

# Hammond Elementary School



## Tiger Tales

September 15, 2022



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

- School website
- Absence reporting
- MAP Testing
- Individual School Picture Day
- School meals, menus, and how to create an account
- Volunteer requirements
- Reminder from the Healthroom
- Community Resources
- Counselors' Corner
- PTA News
- Important Dates

### SCHOOL WEBSITE

We encourage you to bookmark, and visit frequently, the school's website at <https://hes.hcpss.org/>. Here you will find important information, calendars, resources and community news. It is updated frequently. Being informed and involved helps our children achieve success!

### ABSENCE REPORTING

#### **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.

If your child is demonstrating any Covid-like symptoms, or has tested for Covid-19, please note that information on this form. If your child has tested positive and is therefore required to quarantine, please note the date that symptoms began and/or the date of the positive test as well as the date that you anticipate your child returning to school, assuming they remain symptom-free.

#### **For Extended/Discretionary absences, meaning travel or other non-illness-related absences:**

Please take a moment to complete this [form](#) regarding your child's extended or discretionary absence. FOR ABSENCES OF UP TO 3 DAYS, the principal may determine whether the absences will be lawful/excused or unlawful/unexcused. This completed form should be submitted to the principal in advance.

FOR ABSENCES IN EXCESS OF 3 DAYS, the principal in consultation with the administrative directors will determine if the absences will be lawful/excused or unlawful/unexcused.

STUDENTS WITH UNLAWFUL ABSENCES OF 10 CONSECUTIVE SCHOOLS DAYS OR More- will be withdrawn from school and may be allowed to re-enroll, provided they meet enrollment requirements, upon their return.

## **FALL MAP ASSESSMENTS**

Students in grades 1-5 will take the Measured Academic Progress (MAP) assessment during the month of September or October. 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/>

Teachers in grades 1-5 will administer the assessment on the dates listed below. If your child is absent, makeup testing will be offered when they return to school. Teachers will share specific dates or changes to dates with you via Canvas announcements.

If you have any questions regarding MAP testing, please reach out to Mrs. Mapson, Assistant Principal and Testing Coordinator or your child's teacher.

## **INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PICTURE DAY**

Individual School pictures will be taken on Thursday, September 29. Order envelopes will be coming home from school or you can go to [www.schoolpix.com](http://www.schoolpix.com) pre-order code is HESF22

## **SCHOOL MEALS**

### **School Meals**

Families are reminded that the federal government has not extended waivers allowing free meals for all students. Consequently, for the 2022-2023 school year, students whose families do not qualify for free or reduced lunch will be required to pay the daily meal price. Many HCPSS families are eligible to participate in the Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMs) program, which provides children with a wide range of benefits. Families are urged to check their eligibility and complete a FARMs application as soon as possible. Families must submit a new application every school year. Details on the [Free and Reduced Meals program](#), including a link to apply, are available online.

For the 2022 - 2023 School Year, the daily breakfast and lunch menus can be found at [Nutrislice](#). School meal prices in elementary schools are as follows:

Breakfast - \$2.00

Lunch - \$2..80

Milk (outside of a meal) - \$.50

### **Meal Payment**

On-site payments and prepayments may be made using cash or check. Families may prepay with a credit card by setting up an online account at [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com), which also allows parents to view account activity and receive balance alerts. There is a \$2.75 processing fee for each credit/debit card payment. Each transaction can be up to \$120.00 in total. **Even if you plan to send a packed lunch each day, it is advised to set up an account in case your child forgets his/her lunch one day.**

[CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT](#)

OR

[LOG-IN TO EXISTING ACCOUNT](#)

Each student is assigned a unique, 6-digit cafeteria PIN, which remains the same every school year. If a student has forgotten their PIN, cashiers can look the PIN up by student name. Students will receive their 6-digit PIN at the start of the school year.

### **VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS**

As volunteer opportunities become available, it is required that all volunteers complete a multi-step training prior to entering the school building. This training must be renewed annually.

1. Child Abuse Training
  - a. Review [PowerPoint Slides](#)
  - b. Print and sign your [certificate of completion](#) .
2. Volunteer Training Course
  - a. Review [PowerPoint Slides](#)
  - b. Print and sign your [certificate of completion](#).
3. Complete our [HES Google Form](#) to record your training completion.
4. Please send or bring your completed certificates to school prior to your first day of volunteering to the front office. You can also email them to Mrs. Castaneda at [Lisa\\_Castaneda@hcpss.org](mailto:Lisa_Castaneda@hcpss.org).

\*Families will be informed as opportunities to volunteer become available.

### **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.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

If you would like to be included in a mail list to learn about community resources such as access to free school supplies, food, and clothing, please contact our Pupil Personnel Worker (PPW) Mr. Kevin Lee ([kevin\\_lee@hcpss.org](mailto:kevin_lee@hcpss.org)).

## COUNSELORS' CORNER

The transition back to school can be hard on students and adults alike. Please reach out to our Counseling team, Mrs. Kennedy and Ms. Plotkin with any struggles you may be having. We are here to help!

During the school year, check out this Corner for supports, information, and tips for making sure your student has a great year at Hammond Elementary. The Hammond Tigers are out of this world!

Important Notice for those with Medical Assistance: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MA has been auto  
-matically renewed since March 2020. However, automatic renewals will stop very soon (9/30/2022), so please call the Health Dept Insurance Line at (410)313-5845 to check your status. They will set up an appointment for you to renew if needed.

## PTA NEWS

### Who can join the PTA?

Any and all significant adults in the life of your child(ren) may join the PTA (parents, grandparents, guardians, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and caretakers). The HES PTA goal is to have all parents and guardians from every family become members.

How do I join?

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is open at the HES PTA [MemberHub site](#)

### 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. (We also have a PTA Facebook page that's viewable even if you don't have a Facebook account.)

### Subscribe to the PTA Calendar

Want to know when all the events are happening? Subscribe to our calendar! We'll update it regularly as we schedule restaurant nights, fun-filled family activities, PTA meetings, and more! Visit: [hespta.org/56-2/](https://hespta.org/56-2/) and click on the plus sign at the bottom of the calendar.

## Outdoor Movie Night

Premiere Outdoor Movies presents: Monsters, Inc. on the multipurpose field of HES on Friday, October 28. Bring a picnic dinner, and come as early as 5:30pm to hang out with old friends and make some new ones too! The movie will begin at 7:00pm. Due to licensing restrictions, we are limited to a maximum audience size of 200 people. Please fill out the form to request free tickets: <https://forms.gle/Cr7DGQzuWpg2f4pF7>.

- We'll provide free popcorn.
- Feel free to dress in costume if you'd like!
- We will move indoors to the middle school cafeteria (for the picnic) and gym (for the movie) in the case of inclement weather.
- Please note, this is NOT a drop-off event.

## Spiritwear Orders

Featuring new designs this year for both adults and children, our online spiritwear store will be open until September 16. Visit: [bit.ly/HES\\_spirit](https://bit.ly/HES_spirit).

## Square 1 Art is back!

Get the perfect keepsake or holiday gifts for loved ones with your child's Square 1 Art project this year! Square 1 Art puts your child's art on everything from canvas prints to cookie plates that are sure to become treasured mementos! Look for your personalized catalog to come home in their folders in early November. Order in time for holiday delivery. A portion of the proceeds benefits the PTA and supports all of the wonderful programs your kids love throughout the year.

## 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

September 26	Schools & Offices Closed
September 29	Individual Picture Day - details will be coming home soon
September 30	Custodian Appreciation Day - send a thoughtful note to our amazing crew
October 5	Schools & Offices Closed
October 21	School will be closed for students. Professional Work Day for School Staff
October 24	School will be closed for students. Professional Work Day for School Staff
October 28	Outdoor movie night "Monsters, Inc" (see PTA section for more details)
November 2	Students dismiss 3-hours early (12:30 p.) - End of 1st Marking Period
November 3	Fall Fun Run - details will be shared in October
November 8	Schools & Offices Closed - Election Day

You may link here to access the [HCPSS Calendar for the 2022 - 2023 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 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 county.

### **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.

