



## MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Wow! We had a wonderful opening week to school and week two has been no different! We welcomed 740 students back to Hammond Elementary. Students have done a fantastic job acclimating to the school environment and following school routines.

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigated through the added transportation challenges to our arrival and dismissal. The staff felt incredibly supported through the kind words of our parents and community. We thank you for following the guidance of our staff on duty as you came to pick up and drop off students. We know that the wait times have been challenging, but they improve each day! Thank you for continuing to support us as we welcome students to school safely each day.

As a reminder, please remember to stay in a single file as you pick up your students. Passing is a danger to students and staff. If you do not yet have a car loop sign for your front window, it is linked [here](#). Also please ensure your child is seated on the passenger side of the vehicle for the safest exit. Please continue to follow the guidance of staff members on duty to make our drop-off and pick-up as smooth and safe as possible.

We are excited to continue in our partnership with families as we share some updates and changes to the Pre K-2 report card. Please mark your calendars and join us for a virtual night on SBIR (Standards Based Instruction and Reporting) updates. The administration, literacy coach, math coach, and SBIR teacher lead will host an informational night on **September 20th at 6:45 pm**. Please look for joining information to come the week of 9/20.

Thank you for your continued support!

*Mrs. Heather Moraff, Principal*

*Mrs. Nykia Mapson, Assistant Principal*

## **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, absence reporting forms, calendars, resources and community news. It is updated frequently. Being informed and involved helps our children achieve success!

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

### **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.

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

This is the [form](#) regarding an extended or discretionary absence, meaning absences of choice. FOR ABSENCES OF UP TO 3 DAYS, the principal may determine whether the absences will be lawful/excused or unlawful/unexcused.

## **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\\_Stanilaus@hcpss.org](mailto:Amy_Stanilaus@hcpss.org). These need to be completed every year, before any volunteer shift at HES.

## FAMILY FILE

Currently, only 79% of our students have updated or completed Family Files. Let's make it to 100% completion.

Please log in to [HCPSS Connect](#), **PARENT ACCOUNT** and select the **MORE OPTIONS** tab on the left. Finally, click on **FAMILY FILE**.

Once logged in, you will be asked to update or provide the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information
- Arrival/Dismissal Procedures
- Photo Approval Data Confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA Directory

***Again, it is imperative that you complete the Family File. This must be done every year.***

<https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-quick-guide.pdf>

FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (ENGLISH) - <https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-user-instructions.pdf>

FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (SPANISH) - <https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-user-instructions-spanish.pdf>

FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (KOREAN) - <https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-user-instructions-korean.pdf>

***If you need assistance completing your family file, please call HES office at 410-880-5890.***

## 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](#).

### **3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade: BACK TO MUSIC NIGHT**

Attention 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade families! We will be holding our Back to Music Night for all students in Band, Chorus, and/or Orchestra on Wednesday, September 13 at 6:00pm in the Media Center. Families are encouraged to attend to learn more about our programs. If you have any questions, please contact your child's music teacher. We look forward to seeing you then!

Mrs. Jacobs, Orchestra  
Teacher  
[brittany\\_jacobs@hcpss.org](mailto:brittany_jacobs@hcpss.org)

Mr. Obrigewitch, Band  
Teacher  
[nicholas\\_obrigewitch@hcpss.org](mailto:nicholas_obrigewitch@hcpss.org)

Mrs. Sanders, Chorus  
Teacher  
[larissa\\_sanders@hcpss.org](mailto:larissa_sanders@hcpss.org)

### **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>

## PTA Meeting

Our first PTA meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, September 12th at 7:15pm in the Media Center. Come out and meet your community! Find out all the ways you can get involved! If you can't make it in person, the link to join the meeting remotely is below. See you there!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93149929646?pwd=MjN0aFQrVHh2WVBrWFR3Zy83TnlZz09>

Meeting ID: 931 4992 9646      Passcode: 7Ct5Ps

## 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.

## Restaurant Night

Join us for our first Restaurant Night of the year at Ledo's Pizza in Fulton! All Hammond ES families and friends are invited to Dine-In or place a Carryout Order on Tuesday, September 19th from 4-8 pm! \*\*\*Orders may be placed by PHONE and ONLINE!

**Please inform the Ledo staff when ordering or upon pick-up that you are with the fundraiser!\*\*\*** A portion of the proceeds raised will be donated to the school.

## 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!