

Talbott Springs Families,

At the end of 4 weeks of virtual learning, we are celebrating the efforts of our students, families and staff members! The sustained and caring effort from families and staff members is allowing learning to take place for your children each day. If you would like to share a positive message with any TSES staff member, please do so by completing this [Google Form](#). Your positivity will be shared with that staff member once it is received. In addition, please share our collective gratitude with a number of organizations and families who have shared time, energy as well as human and financial resources with TSES this fall. Please thank the Romack Family, The Kindness Pantry, the Jakkobsen Family, Ellicott City Soccer, the Savoy Real Estate Group, Oakland Mills Village, Grace Community Church and Ellicott City Soccer for their continued support and care. This week, TSES also formally welcomed St. John Baptist Church led by Reverend Dr. Robert Turner and the SJBC Board of Trustees. As a formal partner SJBC will work with TSES to provide needed student supplies and personal support for students. We are so grateful to SJBC and to the entire TSES Community for providing TSES students and their families with so many opportunities and needed items to assist with virtual learning.

Please read below for important information on a variety of topics including early dismissal days virtual school schedules, TSES Administration Office Hours on Thursday 10/8, MAP administration, National PTA School of Excellence and Halloween. If you have not yet done so, please complete your HCPSS Connect Family File and your [Free and Reduced Meal Application](#). I hope that you have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing your children in their classrooms again on Monday! Take care and stay safe, Nancy Thompson

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

#### **MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) READING for students in Grades 2-5:**

On **Wednesday October 7** at **9:00 OR** at **1:00** we are offering the MAP Reading test to your child. MAP Growth helps teachers understand what your child knows today, so goals can be set to improve growth throughout the year. This test will not affect your child's grades. In fact, it's normal for a child to only answer about half the questions correctly. To ensure accurate results, your child should answer the questions independently. You are welcome to provide encouragement for your child to continue trying. On Wednesday, your child will log into his or her teacher's ELA class. When the students are gathered, the link to the test site will be shared through the 'chat box'. Here are some suggestions for a successful MAP experience: Minimize distractions for your child as much as possible. Have scratch paper available for your child to write down Session Name and Password provided in the Google Meet chat. Once your child has finished testing, they should leave the Google Meet and work on other asynchronous learning tasks. If your child is taking the MAP assessment, DreamBox, LexiaCore and additional Math or ELA asynchronous assignments do not need to be completed that Wednesday. Related Arts and Content asynchronous assignments are to be completed.

#### **Student Schedule Adjustments for HCPSS Early Dismissal Days**

The HCPSS 2020-2021 calendar includes four scheduled 3-hour early dismissal days:

- Friday, October 16, 2020
- Friday, November 6, 2020
- Monday, November 23, 2020
- Tuesday, November 24, 2020

The virtual schedules have been adjusted for these scheduled early dismissal days to provide students with synchronous learning for each class. Additionally, both full- and half-day PreK classes will meet on these days using a modified schedule. Early dismissal day revised schedules for all [elementary](#), [middle](#), and [high](#) school grades are provided on the [2020-2021 School Year](#) website. You can also find this information on the [TSES Website](#).

**Parents' Right To Know:** The Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains several provisions which promote a parent/school partnership through communication. One such provision gives

parents of students attending Title I schools such as Talbott Springs Elementary the right to ask for and receive information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher, paraprofessional, and/or long-term substitute teacher. Please find out more information at this [link](#).

**TSES Parent Conversations with Administrators:** TSES school administrators along with additional staff welcome families to join us for a conversation regarding topics that are on your mind regarding school. We will host our first conversation with parents on Thursday October 8 from 4:00-5:00. Our Reading Support Teacher, Mrs. Lubelczyk and our Math Support Teacher, Mr. McDonald will join us for this session. To join, please use this [link](#) (from your child's HCPSS account) or use the Google Meet Code [TSESAdmin](#)

**Halloween:** Please take a moment to review the School Messenger that was sent out on Thursday October 1, 2020 regarding Halloween 2020. In summary, Halloween celebrations will not take place as has been the tradition. With no ties to curriculum, the reluctance of many to celebrate the event, the virtual learning environment and social distancing expectations TSES will not host Halloween events.

**Attention Parents of TSES 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students! Please review the HCPSS Google Meet Guidelines with your children:** Please take a moment to review these [Google Meet Expectations for Students](#) with your child this weekend. Some students have discovered strategies to join Google Meets after the meet is closed. We are working with HCPSS Technology and Google to resolve this concern. In the meanwhile, please assure that your child understands that they may not re-enter a Google Meet after the teacher has left. We have had students re-enter to 'chat' with friends and to play video games together. Please suggest alternate routes for your students to connect to chat and to play video games that are not using HCPSS platforms. Thank you so much for your assistance!

**TSES Bridges After School Program:** Talbott Springs is excited to offer students in grades 3-5 the opportunity to participate in the Bridges after school program. This is a fully virtual program Monday-Thursday from 4:00-6:00pm offering extra academic supports along with enrichment activities like yoga, drama, science, and art. Daily attendance is mandatory to participate. If you would like more information, or to sign your child up, please reach out to [laura\\_ciarrocchi@hcpss.org](mailto:laura_ciarrocchi@hcpss.org).

**School Counseling Connection:** Mrs. Sansone has prepared an outstanding newsletter for TSES parents. Please find the newsletter at the following link: <https://tses.hcpss.org/news/2020/09/tses-school-counseling-connection-september-2020>

**Girls on the Run is HAPPENING!** Schools may be closed to students, but Girls on the Run will still deliver our evidence-based, life skills curriculum to girls of all abilities this fall. We will be offering a **hybrid in-person/virtual program for girls in the Talbott Springs area, which will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-5:15 pm. Mrs. Humphrey and Mrs. Koskie are ready to welcome you!** The team will meet outdoors at the Columbia Ice Rink in the Oakland Mills Village Center. The 8-week season begins on September 20 with our 10th Birthday Bash Virtual 5K is scheduled for November 14 & 15, 2020. Social distancing measures and face coverings will be required during in-person practices. In the event of rain or a change in governmental guidelines for in-person gatherings, the team will seamlessly transition to virtual team meetings using Google Meet. Virtual programming, if necessary, will be engaging and will include plenty of movement with activity goals for girls to meet between practices. The registration fee is \$150, with generous financial assistance available to those who qualify by completing our [online scholarship application](#) before registering. For more information or to register, visit [gotrcentralmd.org](http://gotrcentralmd.org).

**TSES PTA Website:** [www.tsespta.org](http://www.tsespta.org)

**TSES PTA Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Talbott-Springs-Elementary-School-PTA->

[153654291324397](https://www.facebook.com/153654291324397)

**TSES PTA Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/TSESPTA>

**TSES PTA Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/tses.pta/>

**Save the Date: The Council of Elders of Howard County** is hosting Community Academies for Parents. The first meeting will be held on October 17 and the topic is 'Effective Home and School Communication'. Please see link for additional details: <https://tses.hcpss.org/file/save-date-council-elders-1pdf>

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

October 5, 2020      Hispanic Back to School Event at 4:00 (Virtual)  
October 7, 2020      MAP Administration (Reading) for Grades 2-5 9:00-11:00 OR 1:00-3:00.  
October 8, 2020      TSES Administrator Office Hours for Families 4:00-5:00 Code [TSESAdmin](#)  
October 14, 2020     MAP Administration (Math) for grades 2-5 9:00-11:00 OR 1:00-3:00  
October 15, 2020     TSES Virtual PTA Meeting at 7:00  
October 16, 2020     School Dismissed after ½ Day. Afternoon is a professional work day. Schedules are found at this [link](#)