

Talbott Springs Families,

We had a great 'virtual' week! The flow and pattern of virtual learning is getting better, answers to questions are coming with greater clarity and our students and families are figuring out schedules that are workable for their situation. Again, family support for students is outstanding because of your presence, your coaching and your willingness to ask questions. The most frequent questions are related to how to know if your child has completed assignments, and how to schedule the completion of asynchronous assignments. Information about checking Canvas for completed assignments is at this [link](#). Asynchronous assignments have due dates. Consider spreading the three Related Arts asynchronous assignments across the entire week which will provide some Wednesday relief.

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

Please read below for important information on a variety of topics. 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. I look forward to seeing your children in their classrooms next week! Take care and stay safe, Nancy Thompson

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

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

On **Wednesday October 14** at **9:00 OR** at **1:00** we are offering the MAP Math 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. 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 MATH 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. For information on how to view your child's Fall MAP scores, please visit this site: <https://help.hcpss.org/grades-testing/fall-2020-MAP-scores>

**Student and Family Technology concerns MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) READING for students in Grades 2-5:** Please find below information regarding technology support for fall virtual instruction that includes both self-help resources and how to request technology support.

- [Student Technology Resources](#): Provides guides, resources and videos for HCPSS student technology. Below are some direct links to commonly used resources:
  - [Canvas Orientation](#) - includes how to navigate Canvas
  - [Google Meet](#) - includes a [video overview](#) of how to login
  - [Chromebooks](#) - provides a variety of resources for using an HCPSS Chromebook
- [Password and Username Self-Service](#): Allows families to request a password reset or student's username. New students can use this application to retrieve their account information. This application is also linked off the [hcpss.me](#) website, which also includes [user directions](#).
- [HCPSS Connect Parent Resources](#): Provides HCPSS Connect—including Synergy, Canvas, and Family File—guides and videos for parents.
- [TSES Request for Technology Support](#)

Please complete the Student and Family Technology Support Request form if none of the other self-help resources is effective. One of our staff members will reach out to you as soon as possible. If you cannot access the online form for any reason, please call the school at 410-313-6915. Staff will attempt to resolve

the issue, and if unsuccessful will provide directions for exchanging the broken device for a working one at the school system's [Onsite Technology Center](#). I hope that these resources will be of support as our students access learning virtually.

### **HCPSS Marks National School Lunch Week with Meal Additions and Distribution Revisions**

Beginning Monday, October 12, snacks and dinner will be added to each daily grab-and-go meal. Weekend meals will be included in all meals picked up on Fridays and with meals pre-ordered for pickup on Thursdays. Multi-day pre-orders will be available for pickup on Mondays and Thursdays only. Meals are provided free of charge for all students and any child under age 18. Next week is also National School Lunch Week! When you stop by TSES for meals, please be sure to thank Miss Cindy, Miss Dulsa and Miss Alija for their outstanding service to the TSES community! TSES loves our cafeteria staff!

**Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) Program Enrollment/Application:** Please complete the Free and Reduced Meal Application in order for your child to be able to continue to receive meals at either a free or reduced meal price when we return to school for in-person learning. Please find the on-line application at this [link](#)

**Winter Coat Giveaway:** Winter is coming! If your family needs coats, please visit the Howard County MultiService Center at the North Laurel Community Center on October 10 from 10:00 am-12:00 noon. Information at this [link](#).

### **Virtual Community Academy Workshops**

Effective School and Home Communication is the first in the [2020-2021 parent workshop series](#), co-sponsored by The Council of Elders and HCPSS, on October 17, 9-10:30 a.m. [Learn more and register](#).

**COVID 19 Rent Assistance:** Beginning October 5, 2020, Howard County residents may contact one of the participating providers to complete an application for assistance to pay past due rent and/or mortgage payments and/or to prevent eviction. Maximum assistance per household is 3 months of housing expense. [Click here for details](#).

### **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](#).

### **Strengthening Families Maryland**

#### **Virtual Parent Cafés are coming to you in October and November!**

##### ***Partnering with Parents to Help Keep Families Strong!***

A parent in a recent Virtual Parent Café said: “Parent Cafés help me talk about things I need to talk about and realize I’m not alone.” Maryland Family Network is providing Virtual Parent Cafés for parents of children birth through age five. Please share information about these Cafés with your families!

Virtual Parent Cafés are a free, safe space for parents to have meaningful conversations with other parents. The structured conversations give parents an opportunity to talk together about things that

matter to them. They're a great way to help us stay connected and keep our families strong during these difficult times. Below are the links which can be forwarded to parents, or posted on social media sites. Advance registration is required – just click on the link for the Cafe you want to attend!

[Bilingual Virtual Parent Café 10/13 6 pm – 8 pm \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

[Virtual Parent Café on 10/28 2 pm – 4 pm \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

[Virtual Parent Cafe 11/10 6 pm – 8 pm \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

[Virtual Parent Cafe 11/17 6 pm – 8 pm \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Please contact Brenda Badger, [bbadger@marylandfamilynetwork.org](mailto:bbadger@marylandfamilynetwork.org) with any questions you may have.

**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!

**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>

**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>

**The TSES PTA is participating in the 2020-2021 National PTA School of Excellence Program and we need your help!**

TSES Families, Staff and Community are encouraged to take the online survey to answer 20 brief questions. Comments are welcome at the end of the survey. All responses are anonymous, no email information is required to complete or submit the survey.

With your help, the TSES PTA will adopt an action plan based on your responses to guide us over the coming school year. Please complete your survey by October 15th, 2020. Please contact Casey Otten @ [caseypotten@gmail.com](mailto:caseypotten@gmail.com) with questions. **Thank you for your valuable input to help us as we continue to seek ways to better serve the TSES Community!**

**Survey:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSefNWzDI1fOqpenRlKlqOfzZzq5Qeq12mOFbbQ-AL2HRZYTcA/viewform>

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

**TSES PTA Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Talbott-Springs-Elementary-School-PTA-153654291324397>

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

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

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

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](#)

November 3, 2020	Schools Closed for Election Day-No virtual instruction
November 13, 2020	Parent Teacher Conference Sign Up Begins
November 16, 2020	Report Cards Issued
November 23, 2020	Parent Teacher Conferences-Early Dismissal
November 24, 2020	Parent Teacher Conferences-Early Dismissal