

Talbott Springs Families,  
Six weeks of virtual learning...done! Outstanding job to our students and their families! Your children continue to learn with their classmates and their teachers because of your support and because of the huge effort of our staff. Your child's learning is important, and although this may not be the learning that we imagined, the process is getting better as each of us learns strategies for engagement. Please continue to reach out to your child's teacher, Dr. Lewis or me if you would like to work together to resolve a concern. Do you know that there are many resources for students to find reading material for 'independent reading' time? Although some of the resources are on line, they provide a depth of choices for students. In addition, the Howard County Public Library has contactless book distribution and TSES will offer the same beginning the last week of October. Please visit this [link](#) to find out more information about how to access reading materials.

Please read below for important information on a variety of topics including the link to the Intent to Participate in hybrid in-person instruction. In addition, please find the link to our survey as we re-apply for the [National PTA School of Excellence](#). Your input is so important in this process! One last time...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:**

**Hybrid Instruction Survey** On Monday, October 12, a short survey was distributed centrally to all HCPSS families to gather data about whether families would to send their student(s) back to school or would choose to continue fully virtual learning through the end of the current school year. No decision has been made regarding the learning format for the second semester. The data from this survey will be used for planning purposes and is **not a commitment** for the second semester. This information will assist the Board and HCPSS leadership during discussions about possible models for the second semester. This survey will be available to families through October 23 at 4 p.m. There will also be a transportation question that will only appear if the student is a bus rider. There will also be translated versions of the survey online. [Intent to Participate in Hybrid In-Person Instruction, Survey Open Through Oct. 23, 2020](#)

**Canvas Calendar Update:** Great news! Students and families can now view up to 20 calendars within Canvas! Don't forget to check out the different views on the calendar (month, week and agenda). Learn more about the [Canvas Calendar](#)! Parents, consider [nicknaming your courses](#) or using the [Canvas Parent App](#) to better distinguish courses between children.

**Parent Teacher Conference Scheduling** will be open on November 13, 2020-November 20, 2020. Parent teacher conferences will take place on November 23 and 24 with some conferences on November 25. Information about how to sign up for Parent Teacher Conferences can be found at this [link](#).

**MAP Follow Up:** Thanks to our students and their families who took part in our recent MAP assessments over the past two weeks. For students who were unable to attend or complete the MAP assessments, TSES will be offering make-up times for each test as follows:

-Reading - Wednesday, 10/21/2020 at 12:45

-Math - Wednesday, 10/28/2020 at 12:45

Teachers will share Google Meet codes with students at the beginning of next week for each make-up assessment. For families who are interested in viewing the results of the completed assessments, please see the following link provided by HCPSS: <https://help.hcpss.org/grades-testing/fall-2020-MAP-scores>

**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](#).

**Guiding Good Choices:** Beginning on October 20, HC DrugFree and the State's Attorney's Office (with funding from the Health Department) are partnering to provide a series of 4 free online parenting classes open to Howard County parents/guardians. [Please click here for additional information](#)

**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 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/1FAIpQLSefNWzDIIfQqpenRlKlqQfzZzq5Qeq12mQFbbQ-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 21, 2020	MAP Make Up at 12:45
October 28, 2020	MAP Make Up at 12:45
November 3, 2020	Schools Closed for Election Day-No virtual instruction
<a href="#">November 6, 2020</a>	<a href="#">Early Dismissal for students</a>
November 13, 2020	Parent Teacher Conference Sign Up Begins
November 16, 2020	Report Cards Issued
November 20, 2020	Parent Teacher Conference Sign Up Closes
<a href="#">November 23, 2020</a>	<a href="#">Parent Teacher Conferences-Early Dismissal</a>
<a href="#">November 24, 2020</a>	<a href="#">Parent Teacher Conferences-Early Dismissal</a>

