

Talbott Springs Families,

I hope that each of you had a satisfying week! I continue to be in awe of the support that we receive from our families during virtual learning. Working together, we are successfully ensuring that children are learning valuable content. Thank you for continuing to reach out to our teaching staff, Dr. Lewis or me with your questions or celebrations. Feedback is important, including noting those positive moments! One parent this week commented on the amazing resilience of a class of 3rd graders. I am so proud of our students!

Please also note that the end of Quarter 1 is on November 6, 2020, which is also an early dismissal day. (Early Dismissal Schedules are linked in the Dates section of this newsletter). Q1 report cards are issued on November 19 and Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on November 23 and 24. Grades for Q1 will be based on student participation in synchronous learning, completion of asynchronous assignments (including LexiaCore and Dreambox) as well as observation information collected by teachers during synchronous teaching/learning sessions. Two weeks ago, each family was sent information through Canvas regarding reading groups. Please be sure that your children are attending both the whole group reading lesson (20 minutes) and the small group reading lesson (20 minutes). Student participation in both sessions serves as attendance for the Reading portion of the school day. Please see below for information including the parent survey regarding discussions on returning to the school building, updates about HCPSS meal offerings, information about how you can assist families during the holiday season, our PTA food drive and the last round of MAP make ups. I appreciate the care that you are providing for your children and for our community. I hope that you have a wonderful weekend. Take care and stay safe,
Nancy Thompson

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Survey about Participation in Hybrid Learning: This fall, there will be continued public discussion and consideration around the second semester of this school year. At this time, HCPSS is seeking to understand families' intentions regarding sending their students back to school, if that option becomes available, or continuing fully virtual learning. Please see directions below for accessing this questionnaire. This is not a commitment for the second semester; you will be able to change your reply. Your intention at this time will help facilitate planning. Please complete this form by Friday, October 23 at 4:00 p.m.

More information, and translations, may be [found online](#).

To complete the form:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#)
2. Select **More Options** from the left panel
3. Select **Intent to Participate in Hybrid In-Person Instruction** from the middle of the page
4. Complete the questions in the form for each child. Click "Save"

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. For students who were unable to attend or complete the MAP assessments, TSES will be offering one more for Math on Wednesday, 10/28/2020. Information will be added to student Canvas Calendars by Monday October 26. 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>

Holiday Assistance: During this holiday season if you would like to assist a family in our school by providing holiday gifts, or gift cards please contact Ms. Lauren Sansone by email Lauren_Sansone@hcpss.org by November 6th.

School Counseling Connection: Please take a moment to read this outstanding newsletter from our School Counselor, Mrs. Sansone! Mrs. Sansone is available to our students and families for support. Please email her at lauren_sansone@hcpss.org

HCPSS Student Meals Updates

HCPSS is adding a snack and dinner to each weekday meal, in addition to breakfast and lunch already being served. Additionally, weekend meals will be included with meals provided on Fridays, and in pre-ordered meals picked up on Thursdays.

HCPSS also has adjusted the pre-order process. Meals for multiple days need to be pre-ordered at least two days in advance for pickup on Mondays and Thursdays. Pre-order meal pickups will be offered only on those two days to enable Food and Nutrition Services to improve service and efficiency while balancing staffing and food resources. Full details on HCPSS student meal offerings can be found [at this link](#). This meal service has been extended through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. HCPSS will be able to provide meals at no cost to any HCPSS student, and all children 18 and under, through the entire school year, assuming continued availability of USDA funding.

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](#)

Howard County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay, Poster and Oral Competitions:

The deadline for the poster, video, and/or essay is October 30 at 5:00 p.m. Each applicant must submit an application and their submission by the deadline, to be eligible for the cash prizes. If you have any questions, please email Diane Martin (diane_martin@hcpss.org) or Sheree Whitby

[Elementary School Contest Information](#).

[Living the Dream Award Nominations](#)

OMHS Food Pantry

We are so happy to announce that the OMHS Food Pantry will be open next WEDNESDAY, October 28 for distribution. For the foreseeable future, we will be distributing on the last WEDNESDAY of every month from 3:00-5:00 p.m. For more information please use this [link](#).

Dates:

Wednesday, October 28

Wednesday, November 18 (a week early due to Thanksgiving)

Wednesday, December 16 (a week early due to the school break beginning on December 23)

TSES PTA Food Drive! The TSES PTA is once again sponsoring a food drive to collect food for families for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Food donations may be dropped off in a box outside TSES Monday through Friday 8:00-4:00. Communities can agree on having one neighbor be a collection point and to have that person deliver the donations to TSES. Please support our families this Thanksgiving! <https://tses.hcpss.org/file/omhs-food-pantry-october-28pdf>

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 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/1FAIpQLSefNWzDI1fQqpenRlKlqQfzZzq5Qeq12mQFbbQ-AL2HRZYTcA/viewform>

TSES PTA Website: 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:

November 3, 2020 Schools Closed for Election Day-No virtual instruction

[November 6, 2020](#) [Early Dismissal for students](#)

November 13, 2020 Parent Teacher Conference Sign Up Begins

November 16, 2020 Report Cards Issued

November 20, 2020 Parent Teacher Conference Sign Up Closes

[November 23, 2020](#) [Parent Teacher Conferences-Early Dismissal](#)

[November 24, 2020](#) [Parent Teacher Conferences-Early Dismissal](#)