

Talbott Springs Families,

TSES has had a wonderful week! Thank you to our families for continued vigilance to assure that children are present for each of their meetings with their cameras on as much as possible to assure that they are engaged with the learning. It is extremely difficult for a teacher to know whether or not your child understands a concept if his or her camera is off for the entire class and/or if he or she does not respond to verbal prompting to answer a question. Although we are in a virtual school model, please continue to reinforce that participation in the learning is not an option. I also encourage you to assure that your children attend their classroom instruction each day for ELA, Math, Social Studies/Health/Science and Related Arts for the entire lesson. Please contact your child's teacher, Mrs. Sansone, Dr. Lewis or me if you need some assistance with assuring your child's continued enthusiasm with learning. Working together, we will work towards a solution! Talbott Springs teachers will continue with teaching and learning during the next week and a half before Winter Break. Each day of learning is of value and each day your child interacts with peers is important for his or her development.

Thank you to the TSES PTA for an outstanding Craft Night and to the TSES Kindergarten teachers for a valuable 'Brave Spellers' event this week!

As a school and as a school community, we are grateful for the unexpected and continued support that we receive as we assure that families have food each week and that our families have resources for the weeks ahead. Please call Dr. Lewis and me at TSES if you are in need of support for securing critical family needs or services. To our school families who are celebrating Hanukkah, we wish you the best! Have a wonderful weekend.

Nancy Thompson

INFORMATION FOR TSES FAMILIES:

COVID Data: HCPSS launched a new [COVID-19 dashboard](#), aimed at identifying positive COVID-19 cases of students and staff who have been in HCPSS facilities. The dashboard will be updated every Wednesday by 11 a.m., consistent with Maryland Department of Health reporting. Any cases reported after Tuesdays will be included in the next week's update. [More information](#). The goal of this resource is to provide a guide for school re-opening based on the COVID metrics in Howard County.

Does your child have a preferred name? In a virtual setting, student names are displayed in several locations, including in Canvas and Google. Some students are more comfortable with their preferred name instead of given names that are publicly seen on the screen. Students may now log in to Synergy to request a preferred name that will replace their displayed name in Google and Canvas only. Requesting a preferred name does not impact students' legal names in HCPSS systems. All preferred names will be approved by school staff prior to becoming live in Google and Canvas in early January. More information at this [link](#).

TSES Holiday Spirit Days Coming Soon! During the last week before winter break, as a way to spread some winter and holiday cheer students may participate in 2 optional spirit days during the last 2 days of school before Winter Break. Any questions or concerns email Mrs. Sansone at lauren_sansone@hcpss.org. Let's celebrate and build school spirit and cheer on Monday and Tuesday! See below for details about each day.

- Monday 12/21-Pajama Day- Students (and staff) may wear pajamas to school.
- Tuesday 12/22-Ugly Sweater/Mismatched/Wacky Tacky Day- Students (and staff) may wear an "ugly" sweater or dress in clothes that mismatched, inside out or backwards.

Attention-Parents of 5th Grade Students: The process for class selection for band, strings and chorus (Performing Arts) will be shared with families of 5th graders on Friday December 18, 2020. Parents of next year's sixth graders will be asked to sign up their child for Band, Strings or Chorus using HCPSS Connect. In previous years, this was done on paper, but that is no longer an option. In addition, please

note that there is a Parent Orientation Night scheduled for January 14, 2020 for 5th graders who are districted to Lake Elkhorn Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year. We will share the date for the Oakland Mills Middle School Parent Orientation when it is available. If you are not sure which middle school your child will attend, [please use this link](#) and follow the directions.

Weekly Open office hours for Parent/Student Support

On Tuesdays, Thursdays (10:20-10:50 a.m.) and Wednesdays (1:30-2:00 p.m.), Mrs. Glassband is available for parents seeking tech support, help navigating Canvas, HCPSS parent portal, etc. Students can also drop in for help with asynchronous assignments. Use the join code: TSEStitle1support or the link <http://g.co/meet/TSES-title1support>

Holiday Greetings for TSES Staff: Several families have inquired about how their family can send a holiday wish to TSES Staff members. Families may send a message of kindness to their teachers through the Canvas In Box. Please consider contacting staff members who do not have a Canvas In Box (all non-classroom, related arts and intervention staff) using the email addresses at this [link](#). A message of gratitude is the best kind of gift for staff to receive from students and families!

HCPSS 2020-2021 Inclement Weather Protocols: New inclement weather protocols were shared with staff and the community for the 2020-2021 school year while in virtual, small groups or hybrid instructional models. More information about the [four possible inclement weather decisions](#) are provided on the HCPSS website.

Family and Community Resource Pages: Check out this new [Family and Community Resource card](#). This links to the HCPSS Family and Community Resource pages and [What Your Child Will Learn Guides](#). Families can choose their grade level in blue on the left and use the orange Course Navigation button to toggle to different content areas.

OMHS Food Pantry: The OMHS Food Pantry will be open for families to receive food on Wednesday, December 16, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The dates for the months ahead are: Wednesday, January 27, Wednesday, February 24, Wednesday, March 3. More information about the OMHS Food Pantry and other programs please visit this [link](#).

IMPORTANT! The Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS) Holiday Food Support Project provides \$100 in direct food support for families experiencing food insecurity and financial hardship this holiday season. ONE support per family, while quantities last. Pick up in person (masks required) on Friday, December 18 between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. at ONE of four Howard County locations: Elkridge 50+ Center; North Laurel 50+ Center; Howard Crossing Apartment Homes; and Long Reach Village Center. To participate, you MUST register in advance at <https://DCRSholidayfoodsupport.eventbrite.com> by December 16.

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 21, 2020 School Spirit: Pajama Day!

December 22, 2020 School Spirit: Wacky Tacky/Ugly Sweater/Mismatched Day!

December 24-Jan. 3 Schools Closed for Winter Break

January 4, 2020 School re-opens after Winter Break

January 14, 2020 Lake Elkhorn Middle School 2021-2022 6th Grade Parent Orientation