

December 2, 2022

Talbott Springs Families,

I hope that your Thanksgiving Break was a good one! We are so grateful to the many families who were able to attend Parent Teacher Conferences. The conversations, both in person and virtually were productive as connections were made with teachers and families. If you were unable to schedule or attend a conference, please be sure to connect with your child's teacher to find a good time to meet to talk about your child's progress.

We are nearly halfway through the second quarter of the 2022-2023 school year! Based on student classroom performance in ELA (Reading and Writing) or Math some students may have an adjustment in instructional level on the Quarter 2 report card. If that is the case for your child, you will receive a Canvas message from your child's ELA or Math teacher. Instructional levels indicate a student's performance in relation to grade level expectations. Instructional levels are indicated as below grade level, on grade level and above grade level. More about the HCPSS Elementary School report can be found at [this link](#).

Inclusive Schools Week is an annual international event celebrated the first full week of December to acknowledge schools' continued journey to providing quality education to all children regardless of differences in ability, gender, ethnicity, language and health status. In other words, there may be a change thinking about how we can include everyone instead of excluding someone. At TSES, we will be engaging students in conversation about 'invisible' and 'visible' differences such as challenges with learning and apparent physical handicapping conditions.

We look forward to a wonderful week ahead! Enjoy your weekend.

Nancy Thompson, Principal

### **Information:**

**Bus loop and Carpool loop:** Each day TSES staff members are doing their best at both arrival and dismissal time to assure the safety of each of our students. We also understand that your time is important and we are moving students and traffic through as quickly as possible. On a typical morning, we can get all 500 students in the building in under 15 minutes that includes bus riders, walkers, daycare van riders and car riders. Rainy days provide additional challenges, and the flow of traffic and students moves more slowly. This information is being shared again because we recently had incidents that put the lives of staff members and students in danger. We are asking for your continued support and patience with the following:

- Please drive slowly and carefully through the TSES parking lot when dropping off your child or when pulling out of a parking spot.
- Please do not pull into the bus loop to drop off or pick up your child between 8:20 and 9:00 or 2:45-3:45. The area is marked for buses and staff members.
- When entering or exiting the parking lot, please follow the directions of the crossing guard and the staff members who are assisting with directing traffic. Do not bypass the directions of the crossing guard or the staff members to drop off children in the bus loop.

We appreciate those who are already following these guidelines and who are exercising kindness to our staff members who are on arrival and dismissal duties.

**COVID Booster Vaccines at TSES:** On December 7, 2022, Our School-Based Wellness Center will offer free COVID bivalent booster vaccines for children ages 5 through 11 years of age who have received their primary COVID series two months ago or longer.

If you would like your child to receive this vaccine for protection against the COVID virus, please complete the attached paperwork and return to the school nurse by Monday December 5th.

If you have questions, please email the School-Based Wellness Centers Program office at: [howardsbwc@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:howardsbwc@howardcountymd.gov)

**Parents of TSES 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders! CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test):** This year, the Howard County Public School System will be administering the CogAT to all students in grades 3 and 5. The CogAT is a group-administered abilities test that measures students' reasoning abilities, which they develop through in-school and out-of-school experiences. It is not designed to test a student's academic achievement, but their potential.

The test is made of three parts – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. Each part takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The CogAT helps educators understand a student's cognitive strengths and weaknesses and assists with adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of each student.

All students in Grades 3 and 5 will participate in the testing. The CogAT will be administered on December 6, 7, 8. No special preparation is required. Just send your child to school ready to learn as you do daily.

The HCPSS/TSES Gifted and Talented Education Program will use the data from the CogAT as one criterion for placement into fourth grade Gifted/Talented mathematics classes and middle school Gifted/Talented content classes. Students' individual scores will be reported to parents in late February/early March. Please contact Dr. Derek Lewis with questions.

**TSES SEL Question of the Week for the week of November 28-**This week's question of the week was: What does it mean to be open minded? During our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) time we talked about ways to solve this problem. Open mindedness is the quality of being willing to consider ideas and opportunities that are new or different from your own. Please take a moment to have a conversation with your child about this!

**Young Authors' Contest:** Students in grades 1-5 may submit a short story and/or a poem for the Young Authors' Contest. The deadline is December 10, 2022, please email [laura\\_ciarrocchi@hcpss.org](mailto:laura_ciarrocchi@hcpss.org) with questions! Please find the information flyer and the required coversheet information at this link.

**TSES Super Singers: We are so happy to congratulate these students!** Each week one student in each of our 1<sup>st</sup> Grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade music classes is selected as the "Super Singer". Students

selected demonstrate consistent excellence in the school RISE expectations and/or the music skills that are being taught (singing, playing instruments, creating, and moving are some of the skills). Here are the super singers for the period Here are our super singers for the week Here are the super singers from 11/15-11/21: Jude W., Joanna S., Nathaniel V., JT R., Dylan M., Austin F., Steven T., Felicia M., Kaiel C., Dimitri P., Marissa P., Samson S., Max C., Christian H., Kai E., Desmond M., Ameyah B., Daiah J., Raheem R., Charleigh L. and for the week of 11/22-12/1: Amiyah J., Hailey C., Lenora C., Megan F., Angela S-C., Archer T., Alaiah W., Abbie M., Brennan E., Victoria D., Joshua S., London L., Selwyn B.C., Eddy B.P., Charlotte W., Brinley T., Aiden C., Evelyn L.

**News from the TSES PTA:** We are 12 days away from our first Restaurant Night at MOD Pizza! Please come out to support our PTA!

Where: Mod Pizza 10000 Town Center Ave, Suite C, Columbia, MD

When: December 14th, 2022

What: Restaurant night! Order online with code MODF15272 or in person with linked the flier -- each purchase will support the Talbott Springs PTA.

**HCPSS Community News!** Approved materials will be published on the [HCPSS Community News and Programs website \(Links to an external site.\)](#) which is user-friendly and searchable.

#### **Important Dates:**

December 5-9, 2022	Inclusive Schools Week
December 6, 7 and 8, 2022	CogAT administered to students in Grades 3 and 5 (see above)
Wednesday December 14, 2022	Early Dismissal for Students at 12:10
Wednesday December 14, 2022	TSES PTA Restaurant Night at Mod Pizza
Wednesday December 14, 2022	Council of Elders/Black Student Achievement Program Celebration of Student Achievement 6:00
Thursday December 15, 2022	TSES PTA Meeting at 7:00
Friday December 16, 2022	TSES in School Winter Concerts
Tuesday December 20, 2022	TSES Winter Concert at OMHS at 6:30
December 26-January 2	Schools Closed for Winter Break
Tuesday January 10, 2023	Bumble Bees Grades 1, 2 and 3
Thursday January 12, 2023	TSES Family Science Center Night 5:30-7:30
Monday January 16, 2023	Schools Closed-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Tuesday January 17, 2023	TSES Spelling Bee (Grades 4 and 5)
Wednesday January 18, 2023	Early Dismissal for Students at 12:10
Monday January 23, 2023	School Closed for Students-Professional Work Day