

Thunder Hill Elementary

November 8, 2024



School hours: 9:25 am – 3:55 pm
*Doors open at 9:15 am

Important Dates

- Nov. 8th - Conference Scheduling Opened, 8:00am
- Nov. 8th - Report Cards Issued Via HCPSS Connect, 4:00pm
- Nov. 11th - Veterans Day Assembly - 9:45am (**Please wear Red, White and/or Blue**)
- Nov. 25-26 **Schools Close 3-hours Early** (12:55pm) - Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - November 25th - In-Person Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - November 26th - Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 25-26 Parent Sessions - More Details to Come
- Nov. 27-29 Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

[Related Arts Color Calendar](#)

[A Message from Administration](#)

Greetings THES Families,

Thank you for helping us have another wonderful week here at THES. The newsletter has a lot of important information for how to best support your child's needs and how to better be connected within our school community.

You will be able to view your child's report card later today, and we wanted to remind you of the resource that HCPSS has provided to help you better understand the new report card. Please see the information below to learn more about our report cards.

Proudly partnering with you,

Sonia Hurd, Principal

Brian McMahon, Assistant Principal

Report Cards Issued Today



Please remember to check your **Family Portal**

[New Information](#)

SBIR Family Communication

Report cards will be available in Synergy this Friday, November 8th. This is an important opportunity for us to collaborate to support your child's learning and growth. This year, changes have been made to the report card format for students in grades 3 to 5. To help you understand these changes, please refer to this resource, "[Understanding Your Child's Report Card](#)" This guide contains information on how to interpret your child's report card.

Below are a few essential ideas we would like to highlight.

1. Standards-Based Report Cards

- You may notice: All grades (K-5) now use standards-based report cards. This means your child's grades reflect their progress toward specific learning goals for their grade level.
- If you see: "M, P, or L" (primary grades) or "A, B, C, D, or E" (grades 3-5), these indicate your child's progress toward grade-level standards.
 - M (Meeting), A, B: Your child is meeting grade-level expectations.
 - P (Progressing), C: Your child is progressing toward grade-level expectations but may need additional support.
 - L (Limited/No Progress), D, E: Your child is not yet meeting grade-level expectations. This means we need to work together to create a plan to help them succeed.

2. What Do the Grades Mean?

- If you see: "D" or "E," it does not mean your child is failing. It simply means they still need to work towards meeting the grade-level expectations, and we need to work together to support their growth.
- It's important to remember: Grades this year focus on your child's individual progress toward specific learning goals, not how they compare to other students.

3. "On Grade Level"

- You may notice that the report card doesn't use terms like "above," "on," or "below" level. This is because the standards on the report card already represent what your child should be learning in their grade. Their grades (A, B, C, D, E or M, P, L) show whether they meet those expectations.
- If you see: A comment in math about your child learning "another grade level standard," this means they are working on more advanced skills.

- To learn more, reference the [measurement topics crosswalk](#) (shows the specific standards in each measurement topic within the specific grade level) or discuss your child's progress in detail at parent-teacher conferences.

4. IEPs and ELD Reports

- If your child has an IEP, You will receive a separate progress report showing their progress toward their IEP goals.
- If your child is a Multilingual Learner, You will also receive an ELD progress report showing how your child is progressing toward English language development.

5. Report Card Comments

- You may notice that report card comments are more focused. One comment highlights a strength, and any other comments explain an "L," "D," "E," or "3."
- To learn more: The report card provides a snapshot of your child's progress (quantitative and equitable). For a more complete picture (qualitative), attend parent-teacher conferences and stay in regular contact with your child's teacher.

November 25th and 26th Parent Sessions

Parents will have the opportunity to join a session focused on technology & parent access as well as a session about social emotional support for students. More details about times and locations to come shortly.

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

To ensure smooth and safe arrival and dismissal for our students, please be reminded of the following information:

SCHOOL HOURS: 9:25 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.

ARRIVAL TIMES: 9:15 a.m. First bell rings/students may enter the building.

9:25 a.m. Second/late bell rings/students should be in the classroom.

Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:15 a.m. Supervision is not guaranteed for all students before this time. Before and after care is available through Columbia Association as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

All children who are late must be accompanied by a parent and be signed into school in the front office.

DISMISSAL TIMES: Dismissal begins at 3:45 p.m.

If you need to change your student's dismissal, please send a note to their teacher. If you need to make a change during the day, after your student has arrived at school, please email your child's teacher **AND** call the front office. **No students will be released from the front office for early dismissal after 3:30pm.** This will help to ensure the safety of our students and cut down on confusion at the end of the day as afternoon dismissal begins.

Counselor's Connection

As you prepare for your students' first report cards to be sent home, you and/or your students may have some feelings, either positive or negative, about the grades they received. Report cards are a tool to understand where a student is at the end of the quarter, but they can also be used as a tool to set intentions and goals for the quarter ahead.

One of the roles of the School Counselor is to help students with goal setting and mindset in order to be successful in school. However, since it isn't feasible for us to meet with every student at the end of every quarter to set goals, we thought we would provide you with some questions to guide a discussion between you and your student about their report card.

- Start by taking a look at all of the grades. Were there any surprises on the report card?
- If there were some happy surprises, what were they? Why did they surprise you? Why did you expect the grade to be different?
 - What did you do to earn this grade? How can you recreate this result for next quarter, in this subject and other subjects?
- If there were some disappointing surprises, what were they? Why did they surprise you? Why did you expect the grade to be different?
 - If your learning behaviors for that subject were a 2 or a 3, what can you change to bring it up to a 1 next quarter? Our learning behaviors have a direct impact on our academic outcomes.
 - If your learning behaviors were a 1 for that subject...
 - Did you tell a teacher or parent that you didn't understand something?
 - What are strategies you can use next quarter if you are confused?
 - Was there anything going on in your life beyond school that might have affected your learning?
- Based on these reflections, what are your goals for next quarter? What steps do I need to take to achieve these goals?

As always, if you think your child could use some support with their learning behaviors, accessing coping strategies in the face of frustration or disappointment, or simply have big feelings about their

grades, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ms. Douglas. We are happy to collaborate with you to support your student(s)!



Please click here for the [PTA Weekly Newsletter](#)

Information Worth Repeating

Conference Reminders

Parent-Teacher Conference time is quickly approaching! Conferences with Homeroom/Language Arts teachers will take place on November 25-November 27. Ms. Kozikowski's and Mrs. Parsons' 4th grade math families may also schedule. For your planning purposes, please note the schedule below:

- In- person conferences will be held on Monday, November 25th *only*
- Virtual conferences will be held on Tuesday, November 26th or Wednesday, November 27th *only*

Families will sign up for conferences using Synergy beginning November 8th. The sign up window will close on November 21st. After November 21st, families must call the front office secretaries directly to schedule a conference. More information will be shared in a separate email as the date approaches. We look forward to seeing you!

Scholastic Book Fair

Book Fair
Volunteers
Needed!



The Book Fair will be held during National Education Week in the Media Center beginning Monday, November 18 through Friday, November 22.

Important information about the Fair will be sent home with your student(s) within the next week.

Currently, I need parent/adult volunteers to help out with...

- Setting-up on Friday, November 15 after school
- Working with the students who come to the Book Fair during their Media Classes that week,
- Working afterschool in the Book Fair to help customers
- Break-down of the Book Fair at its closing on Friday afternoon, November 22nd.

If you are interested and available to volunteer in any of these areas, **be sure to look for the Sign-Up Genius coming your way on Monday, November 11th!** If you have any questions, you may contact me at leah_mcilvain@hcpss.org and I will give you all pertinent information needed to fulfill the job.

Thank you so much ahead of time for your support!!! – Leah McIlvain, Media Specialist/Teacher

Young Author's Contest

The Howard County Literacy Association invites students in grades 1-5 to submit their original poems and/or short stories to the annual writing contest called **The Young Authors' Contest**. Please see the attached [Young Authors' Contest Guidelines](#) for information about the rules and guidelines. All entries must have a completed [THES YAC Student Cover Sheet](#) sent as a PDF. Submissions may be emailed to sara_stevenson@hcpss.org by **Monday, December 2, 2024**.

Contact Sara Stevenson with any questions. All Young Authors' Contest information can be found on the [HCLA website](#).

Howard County Literacy Association welcomes parents as members. Visit the [HCLA Welcome Page](#) for information about joining.

PTA Information



Save the Date!

November 20th Delivery of Joe Corbi's Fundraiser Orders, THES Cafeteria, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

KidzArt Session Two at THES, Begins 11/11/2024, 4:00-5:15 pm

REGISTER NOW

KidzArt is a FUN, art-enrichment program designed to enhance drawing skills and build each child's confidence. By using our simple drawing method and specialized format, students will learn to focus, relax and think creatively. Our Certified Instructors help students create original works of art, take risks and think outside of the box. Within each session, students will explore a variety of artist grade materials, such as oil and chalk pastels, watercolor, charcoal, clay, copper, textured papers and much more. Younger children practice following directions and using fine motor skills. Older children love having the creative freedom and guidance to further their skills. KidzArtists will bring home a new masterpiece each week with kid-tested and educationally rich curriculum that NEVER REPEAT!

*Students report to class directly at dismissal.



KidzArt at Thunder Hill

Sponsored by the PTA

Grades K-5
MONDAYS, 4-5:15pm



SESSION 1	9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28 6 classes \$159
SESSION 2	11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 1/6, 1/13, 1/27 (*No class on 11/25, 12/23, 12/30, 1/20) 9 classes \$239
SESSION 3	2/3, 2/10, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 (*No class on 2/17, 3/31) 7 classes \$186
SESSION 4	4/7, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 6/2 (*No class on 5/26) 6 classes \$159

KidzArt is a FUN, art-enrichment program designed to enhance drawing skills and build each child's confidence. By using our simple drawing method and specialized format, students will learn to focus, relax and think creatively. Our Certified Instructors help students create original works of art, take risks and think outside of the box. Within each session, students will explore a variety of artist grade materials, such as oil and chalk pastels, watercolor, charcoal, clay, copper, textured papers and much more. Younger children practice following directions and using fine motor skills. Older children love having the creative freedom and guidance to further their skills. KidzArtists will bring home a new masterpiece each week with kid-tested and educationally rich curriculum that NEVER REPEAT!

Register Now!
Classes Fill Quickly
 Projects Never Repeat
 Quality Art Supplies Provided

Office will Announce KidzArt at Dismissal. Students will Report Directly to the Art Room.

Register Now For Any Session Securely Online at:



CentralMD.KidzArt.com
and click "Register Now"



Check out our Creative Fine Art "School's Out" Workshops*

- October 3rd (Thurs) • October 18th (Fri) • October 31st (Thurs) • November 5th (Tues)
- January 20th (Mon-MLK) • January 29th (Wed) • February 7th (Fri) • February 17th (Mon-PRES)
- March 31st (Mon) • April 14-18th (Spring Break)

Harriet Tubman Cultural Center • Roger Carter CC • 8:30am to 4pm

**Registration for "Schools Out" Workshop is through HoCo R&P*

AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES • BIRTHDAY PARTIES • SCHOOL'S OUT WORKSHOPS

Howard County Parks & Recreation Afterschool Programs at THES

https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/howardcounty/activity/search?onlineSiteId=0&from_original_cui=true&locale=en-US