



Thunder Hill Elementary 2022-2023

December 2 , 2022

2022-2023

SCHOOL HOURS

9:25 a.m. – 3:55 a.m.

Note: Doors open at 9:15 a.m.

Arrival ends at 9:23 a.m.

Students are expected in their classes at 9:25 a.m.

#WeSOARtogether

Important Dates:

December

- 6 CogAT testing for 3rd and 5th grade
- 7 CogAT testing for 3rd and 5th grade
- 9 CogAT testing for 3rd and 5th grade
- 14 Professional Work & Wellness Day, Schools close 3 hours early (12:55 p.m.)
- 15 Picture Retakes/Absentees/Yearbook Candids
- 26-30 Winter Break - Schools closed

January

- 2 - Winter Break - Schools closed
- 3 - Schools Reopen
- 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Schools & offices closed
- 18 - Professional Work & Wellness Day - Schools close 3 hours early (12:55 p.m.)
- 23 - Professional Work Day - Schools closed for students
- 30 - Report Cards issued

December 2022

APPROVED

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2023

APPROVED

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Student Absences

Just a reminder that parents/guardians must turn in a note if the child is absent. The note should include the student's name, date absent, reason for absence, and parent/guardian signature. We also accept these notes through an email address. Please email THESabsence@hcpss.org with the same information if you prefer this format. Please submit notes within five days of your child returning to school.

The Howard County Public School System is committed to helping all our students develop an understanding of the importance of regular school attendance, so they can fully benefit from our comprehensive educational program.

Please click [here](#) to read more information regarding student attendance.

Message from the counselor:

Next week Thunder Hill will be celebrating Inclusive Schools Week with a focus on Unity within our Community. Ask your students about how they're participating in activities school-wide! There will be special SEL (social emotional learning) lessons and activities in their classrooms all week, a spirit week, a food drive, Toys-for-Tots collection, and buddy-class visits on Friday! Please be on the lookout for flyers in Friday folders for Spirit Week and one with details for the Oakland Mills Food Pantry!(information listed below) If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Ms. Veenstra kveenstra@hcpss.org

School Spirit Thursday's

Every Thursday we will begin celebrating THUNDEROUS THURSDAY!! Please show your **THUNDERBIRD PRIDE** on Thursdays by wearing yellow and/or blue!

New Information

Help Us Celebrate THES Staff

Please help us celebrate our wonderful Thunder Hill staff. Click this [link](#) for a list of items that can be donated to help us celebrate the 12 days before winter break. Please drop off items to Laura Nichols in the front office by 12/7/22. Cookies can be dropped off on 12/19. Thank you for your support!

Snacks Available in Cafeteria

Starting December 1st snacks will be available to purchase for students in 2nd-5th grade. If your child buys lunch from the cafeteria, they will be able to purchase a snack as they go through the line. If your child brings their lunch from home they will be able to purchase a snack after all lunches are served. Below is a list of the snacks that are available to purchase. Please make sure you have a conversation with your child about purchasing snacks.

Cookies 50 ¢

Pretzels 75 ¢

Rice Krispie Treat \$1.00

Holiday Outreach – Oakland Mills Food Pantry Holiday Food Drive

Next week Thunder Hill will be celebrating Inclusive Schools Week with a focus on Unity in Community. As a part of this celebration, we will be hosting a two-week food drive to help support the Oakland Mills Food pantry. As winter break approaches, more families reach out to

the food pantry and we would like to support our community by ensuring that the pantry is well stocked over the long break.

Thunder Hill will be collecting donations for this particular drive through **December 16th**. You or your child may drop off donations to the front office, to Kasey Veenstra (school counselor), or to their homeroom teachers.

See the OM Food Pantry website here: <https://omhs.hcpss.org/student-services/food-pantry> for a link if you'd like to make a monetary donation or check out their Amazon Wish List.

Although the pantry always accepts canned goods, they are stocked with many of those. Currently they are in most need of the items listed below:

- Breakfast cereal
- Oatmeal
- Ramen noodles
- Pasta
- Rice
- Dry beans
- Macaroni and cheese
- Juice
- Shelf-stable milk
- Baking mixes (cookies, brownies, bread)
- Vegetable oil
- Snacks (cookies, crackers, chips, granola bars, raisins, fruit snacks, trail mix, nuts, etc.)

CogAT Testing for 3rd and 5th grade

This year, the Howard County Public School System will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (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 batteries – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. Each battery takes approximately 60 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 Tuesday December 6th, Wednesday December 7th and Friday December 9th. No special preparation is required. Just send your child to school ready to learn as you do daily and please avoid any appointments or early pick-ups on these days for your child.

The 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 Ms. Dillard at kimberly_dillard@hcpss.org if you have any questions about your child's involvement with the CogAT assessment.

Community Outreach Team Meeting:

The community outreach team will be meeting on 12/9 at 8:30 a.m. to plan for the January and February activities.

Families and community members are welcome to join in person or via the Google Meet link below:

meet.google.com/wbg-dhnk-zup

Dial-in: (US) +1 650-980-4316

PIN: 110 756 317#

Please contact Megan_Chrobak@hcpss.org with any questions. Thank you!

Repeated Information

Help Needed

Help us nominate Mrs. Rembert-Gonzalez for Howard County Teacher of the Year!

If you are a current or former family of a student that had/has our amazing Mrs. Rembert-Gonzalez as your teacher- please consider submitting a letter of support for her nomination to

Megan_Chrobak@hcpss.org or Rebecca_Stephen@hcpss.org. If possible, please include examples of any or all of the following: Instilling in students a desire to learn, understanding the needs of students and encouraging them, fostering self-esteem, and positive relationships with students and families.

Letters can be submitted by both parents/guardians/families and students.

Fall is Here! Please dress warmly for outdoor recess

Children are expected to wear clothing appropriate for forecasted conditions when participating in recess, outdoor lunch, or other outside activities. Please remember to label names on their jackets, hats, and/or gloves in case they are temporarily lost.

Generally, it is assumed that students will be outside for recess, outdoor dining, and/or other outdoor activities when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit or the heat index reading is less than 95. Children with certain health conditions may need special accommodations during extremely hot or cold weather. Parents of children with those specific needs should provide medical documentation to our school nurses.

PTA News:

Community News

Community Outreach-Toys-For-Tots

Thunder Hill is working with Toys-for-Tots this year to provide toys to local families. If you are interested in donating to Toys-for-Tots you may drop off donations in the front office marked for Kasey Veenstra/Toys-for-Tots. TFT recommends gifts in the \$10+ range, new and unwrapped. They have the greatest need for toys suited for those 10-15 years old. All toys must be dropped off to THES by Friday, December 9th.

Toys-for-Tots is also in need of volunteers, especially bi-lingual (Spanish-speaking) volunteers. If you are interested, please access the volunteer link : [Office of the County Executive: Howard County Toys for Tots Distribution - 2022 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com/link/office-of-the-county-executive-howard-county-toys-for-tots-distribution-2022) or email Kim Pruim at kpruim@howardcountymd.gov. Set up for the event is on Friday, December 16th from 3-11pm. Distribution is on Saturday, December 17th from 6am-6pm. Please do not email Kim Pruim to register to receive toys. If you have questions about receiving toys for your family, please contact our school counselor, Kasey Veenstra kveenstra@hcpss.org