

THE ELKSTER EXAMINER

SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

Message from the Principal:

Once again I want to start with a big thank you to the community for making online learning such a big success! We continue to work our way through a variety of logistical challenges as they arise. Classes are much smoother as all parties are becoming more familiar with the technology and schedules but if you need help, it is just a click or call away! There is a lot of information including schedules, meeting codes, email addresses and more on the front page of our school's website. Just visit <https://ees.hcpss.org/> or call our front office that is now staffed from 8-4 Monday-Friday by calling 410-313-5006.

We are all learning new information and becoming familiar with terminology such as synchronous and asynchronous learning. Here are the school's system's working definitions of these terms.

Synchronous Learning: Synchronous learning means that all students are working **on the same task at the same time in the same space** (either physical or virtual). While students may have some choice and flexibility in their assignments and may be working at different paces, they are all engaging in a task at the same time, and collaborating with each other and with the teacher in real-time.

Asynchronous Learning: Asynchronous learning means that students will be working **on different tasks at different times and in different spaces**. Students are able to work on an assignment at any time.

For every grade level you will see a block of time in the student schedule listed as additional or Synchronous Supports. Currently teachers may be using this time as a way to get to know students, have a lunch group, answer questions, play games, review technology tips etc. Starting October 12, students will begin reading groups. Students in grades K-5 will be placed in one of three reading groups for small group instruction. This means that student schedules for synchronous instruction may change to accommodate the small groups and may include the synchronous support time. Teachers in grades K-2 will work to schedule reading assessments starting next week. That data will help teachers create the reading groups. Teachers will communicate with you regarding the small group meeting times in the near future.

Virtual Back to School Nights-September 21st-23rd

Below is the schedule for our virtual Parent Back to School Nights the week of September 21st. This is an opportunity for parents to hear from your child's teacher about the schedule and other grade level specific topics. Please use your child's homeroom google meet code, you child's Chromebook and your child's login information. . A list of codes can be found at ees.hcpss.org. For GT please use the code ees-lpfeifer.

- Kindergarten – September 21st @ 6:00pm
- Grade 1 – September 21st @ 6:30pm
- Grade 2 – September 22nd @ 6:00pm
- Grade 3 – September 22nd @ 6:30pm
- Grade 4 – September 23rd @ 6:00pm
- Grade 5 – September 23rd @ 6:30pm
- Gifted & Talented – September 23rd @ 5:30pm- ees-lpfeifer

HCPSS Student and Parent Handbook 2020-21

The Student & Parent Handbook will no longer be printed and instead will be available online. The 2020-21 Student & Parent Handbook is available [here](#).

- [Chinese](#)
- [Korean](#)
- [Spanish](#)

The handbook outlines districtwide practices and policies related to students and parents. It additionally features sub-topics that describe various services, procedures, and protocols implemented in Howard County Public Schools.

The [2020-21 Student Code of Conduct](#) can be found within the Student & Parent Handbook and also is [available online](#).

Attendance During 2020-2021 Fall Semester

Active student participation is the key to student achievement, both in the classroom and during distance learning. Teachers will design engaging lessons and activities, both for virtual live classes and online assignments. Regular participation is essential for student growth, and students are expected to engage in learning activities every week.

Student attendance for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday instruction will occur as follows:

- At the elementary level, both the Homeroom teacher and Mathematics teacher will take attendance, noting whether students were present online for synchronous instruction.

- Daily attendance will be based on teacher-recorded attendance for the entire school day.
- If there is a technical difficulty, a student may submit asynchronous work for a particular day to receive credit for attendance.

Student attendance for Wednesday instruction will occur as follows:

- A student will be counted as present if they do one or more of the following since the previous Wednesday:
 - Submit an assignment to one of their teachers
 - Engage in synchronous instruction with a HCPSS teacher
 - Complete work in the Canvas learning management system, DreamBox or Lexia Core5

If your child is absent, please send a note explaining the absence to this email address:

eesattendance@hcpss.org

Resource Guide

Please see the attached resource guide for Logging into GoogleMeet, Canvas, Dreambox, & LexiaCore 5 at this link! [\(will link guide\)](#)
Remember, students must enter with their HCPSS username and password.
Google Meet is best accessed through the Chrome web browser.

CONNECT WITH EES AND STAY INFORMED

Website

- [Our website, ees.hcpss.org, is updated regularly.](#)
- [Important news and information is located on the main page of the site including an archive of our weekly newsletter, The Elkster Examiner .](#)
- [Staff information and email is located under the "Our Staff" tab.](#)
- [A subscribeable google calendar is located on the "Calendar" tab.](#)

Email

- [Email is our main form of communication.](#)

- You will receive news and information automatically to the email address you provide in your Family File. We will not inundate your inbox with email. Look for the weekly The Elkster Examiner on Fridays.
- If you would like email sent to different email addresses, update your email in Family File with the email address you prefer.
- You can subscribe additional email addresses by visiting the HCPSS News site here. <http://www.hcpss.org/hcpss-news/>
- Weekly announcements, important information, updates, and more will primarily be sent through email.
- You also have the opportunity to opt-in for text messaging

EES Staff Spotlight - Hero of the Week, 9/16/20

Every Wednesday, EES staff members nominate their colleagues for being a hero. A hero can be defined as someone who is admired or honored for their courage, outstanding achievements, or willingness to help others. Read below for the “Hero of the Week” and to learn more about our amazing EES educators!



Name: Mrs. Wong

Role: Technology Teacher

Why they're a hero: Mrs. Wong has helped our whole staff with navigating technology during virtual learning! She has helped EES staff with at-home technology issues and makes herself available to help at a moment's notice! Mrs. Wong offers “office hours” for our staff to assist with any technology questions, and is always willing to find the answers! She has even been noticed helping a teacher at another school, and goes above and beyond to make sure all educators she works with feel comfortable teaching from home. Thank you Mrs. Wong for being so patient and understanding!

Biography: My name is Jennifer Wong, but most people call me Jen. I have been teaching students at EES technology for 13 years. Helping staff, students and parents with tech issues has been personally rewarding and I am happy to help. I am most honored to accept this Hump Day Hero award. Thanks EES!

3 Fun Facts about Mrs. Wong:

1. I love to bake.
2. I love chocolate!
3. I crochet and do jigsaw puzzles for fun.