

# Watch Us Live It!

A Monthly Update from the Hernando School District

March 2021

## VPK Registration Underway; Free Full-Day Programs Offered

VPK registration for the 2021-22 school year began March 29 and spots are filling up fast! This is the first year we've been able to offer free, full-day programs at schools throughout the district. Parents interested in having their children participate should not wait to sign up. Several locations already have a waitlist. A full-day program is also offered at Chocachatti, but has a cost of \$85 a week. For further details, contact the Hernando County School VPK office at (352) 797-7000, ext. 238. [VPK Flyer](#)

## Pomp & Circumstance Return this Summer

The Hernando School Board, at its March 9 meeting, approved for all Hernando high schools to hold in-person commencement ceremonies, proms and Grad Bash events. Each of the five high schools will host two outdoor graduation ceremonies. The decision to have two smaller ceremonies with half of the graduating class was to allow the opportunity for more guests to attend. [Media Release](#)

## FSA testing scheduled for April and May

The Florida Department of Education reinstated state assessments for 2021. Watch for letters from your child's school for details about the testing schedule. We have created 2 information flyers to help prepare parents and students. [Prep For Success](#) is an easy checklist; and, to help counter misinformation about opting out of state assessments, take a look at [Know Before You Skip](#)

## Additional Staff Receive Covid Vaccines

The school district teamed up with two organizations in March to offer Covid vaccinations to HCS D K-12 staff, charter schools, private schools and Kelly Services substitute teachers ages 50 and older. The Hernando County Emergency Operations Center offered Johnson & Johnson vaccines March 13 at a drive-through event at Nature Coast Technical High School. The Hernando County Health Department provided the first round of the Moderna vaccine on March 22 at the Spring Hill office. So far, more than 400 staff have participated in these vaccine events.

Message from the Superintendent, John Stratton

### Reaching Our Youngest Learners

We're pretty proud of our district's graduation rate. In 2020, almost 92% percent of our students graduated, on time. The formula for success is well-established - involve parents and teach children early. We have prioritized getting great resources into the hands of children not yet in our schools. Digital literacy tools free to families, early childhood care programs and now free VPK at multiple schools throughout the community. But we don't do it alone. The school district joins the Early Learning Coalition, the United Way and a host of other community groups that have made a commitment to making sure young learners have what they need to reach the graduation stage and to create the life they dream for themselves.

