

Dear Home School Families,

After Governor Hogan's announcement yesterday regarding the continued need for facility, business and school closures to slow the spread of the CO-VID 19 virus, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the remaining Spring 2020 pre-home school classes and provide a prorated refund for the two classes – April and May – which your home schoolers will not get the chance to attend. Your refund will be processed over the course of the next few days.

Though we are deeply saddened to end this home school season, we know that it is a decision that is made in the best interest of our collective community. You will note the updated cancellation of classes on the home school materials website:

www.howardcountymd.gov/RNChomeschoolmaterials

Registration for next year's 2020-2021 homeschool classes is still scheduled to begin on June 4, 2020 for Howard County residents and on June 11, 2020 for non-residents. To see more information about the topics being covered in 2020-2021, [click here for the home school 2020-2021 flyer](#).

Your child's teachers had special messages and activities they wanted to share with you and your child. They remain committed to your child's learning despite the uncertainty of this unprecedented time. Please see their note to you and your child below, and we wish you and your child a very safe and healthy spring.

Hello In-Depth Homeschool class,

We are so saddened that the rest of sessions homeschool class is canceled, but we must do what we can to keep everyone safe. In light of the cancellations, we would like to provide some resources to help continue your study of Ornithology or the study of birds.

<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home>

<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/k12>

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a great resource for learning more about birds. The k12 website has free downloads with activities and lessons to help you better understand birds. Feel free to explore all of its resources.

<https://www.macaulaylibrary.org/>

The Macaulay library is a wonderful resource to learn what different birds look like and what they sound like. As an activity to do in your own backyard, we want you to be able to identify these three birds, the Black-capped Chickadee, the Northern Cardinal, and the Pileated Woodpecker.

We challenge you to look up in the Macaulay library the sounds of each bird and what each bird looks like. Then go outside in your backyard and see if you can identify those three birds. To search, type in the search bar the name of what bird you want to learn about and click enter.

Pictures of the bird should pop up. If you would like to hear their call, press the audio button in the top left corner and different bird calls of the bird of your choice should pop up.

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/learning-games/>

The bird academy has online learning games that help you understand the anatomy of birds, bird calls, and so much more. I recommend Bird Song Hero and All About Feathers.

The last activity we have is called the Lift Off experiment. Here's a [link to the video](#) so you can try it at home! (if you don't have a way to read MOV files, we are looking at adding this to our Facebook page once Howard County Rec & Parks allows us to begin posting content unrelated to CO-VID.)

We hope you have a great Spring Break and Summer, and we hope to see you all in the Fall!

Tracey Gelner
Environmental Educator
Tgelner@howardcountymd.gov

Jessie King
Environmental Educator
Jeking@howardcountymd.gov