

Kaye M. Breon
Principal

West Friendship E.S.
12500 Frederick Road
West Friendship, MD 21794
P: (410) 313-5512



Brian Vanisko
Assistant Principal

Web Site: <http://wfes.hcpss.org/>
School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

January 17, 2020

School News

WFES Parent/Teacher Conference Overview

- The window for scheduling conferences through HCPSS Connect will be open from January 30th through February 11th.
- Some teachers will be offering conferences on February 13th from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., while others have opted to offer afternoon conferences on February 13th and February 14th from 1:00 to 3:45 p.m.
- As in previous years, there are a limited number of time slots to meet with your child's mathematics teacher during this round of conferences.
- Any additional conferences beyond the times offered must be scheduled after the window has closed through direct contact with your child's teacher.
- Second Quarter Conferences will be with Math teachers.
- You are not required to schedule a conference if you do not have a concern.
- Mr. Haskins' GT Math conferences will be open for 5th grade **only**
- Kindergarten conferences will be for ELA
- Please Note: Conferences are scheduled for 15 minutes to maximize the number of time slots offered to families.
- Conferences will need to begin and end on time.
- Please do not schedule back-to-back conferences with different teachers, if at all possible. If you do, please allow your travel time between conferences.
- Related Arts teachers have a limited number of conference times available in comparison to the number of students they teach. You are not required to schedule a related arts conference, however we encourage you to schedule a conference if you have concern you would like to discuss with the teacher. If you would like to schedule a conference with a related arts teacher, please call the Front Office to schedule.

WFES Celebrates Reading Month!

During the month of January, staff members will read an excerpt from their favorite book or poem on the morning announcements. Students will try to guess what staff member is reading each day!

During the week of January 28-31, students and staff will engage in several activities to celebrate our love for reading! Some activities include:

- Staff Mystery Reader - Staff members will visit other classrooms and grade levels to read one of their favorite books. This will be ongoing throughout the week.
- **Wednesday, January 29th is Read Me Day!** Students and staff are encouraged to wear a shirt with words! Let's see how many shirts we can read!
- The Bookmark Swap - All students in grades K-5 will design a bookmark. Bookmarks must be turned in by **Friday, January 30th**. Bookmarks will then be distributed to all classrooms so that each student receives a bookmark designed by someone else.

MAP Testing (Grades 1-5) Winter 2020

Students in grades 1-5 are participating in the MAP assessment. MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) is an untimed, computer-adaptive assessment that provides our teachers with detailed, specific information about where your child is performing in Reading and Mathematics. Our grade level teams collaborate to analyze the data from the MAP assessment and plan instruction that builds on your child's strengths and supports areas where there is room for improvement.

Though the assessment is untimed, students typically finish each session in approximately one hour. There are two sessions scheduled for each grade level: one for reading and one for mathematics. Make-up sessions will be scheduled for students who are absent on specified testing dates.

You do not need to do anything special to prepare your child for the MAP assessment other than ensure he or she has a good breakfast and a good night's rest the night before. We do ask that you avoid scheduling appointments on the day your child will be assessed (dates listed below). Students who are absent on the day their grade takes the assessment will be afforded the opportunity for a make-up session on another date.

February 3	1st Grade Reading (Reilly)
February 5	1st Grade Reading (Braswell)
February 6	1st Grade Reading (Schaaf)
February 7	1st Grade Math
February 6	2nd Grade Math
February 7	2nd Grade Reading
February 12	3rd Grade Math
February 19	3rd Grade Reading
February 11	4th Grade Reading
February 18	4th Grade Math
February 12	5th Grade Reading
February 19	5th Grade Math

Parents will receive a report on their child's performance on the MAP assessment later this winter. More information about MAP, how it is scored, and how you can interpret your child's performance is available at <https://www.nwea.org/map-growth/>.

Valentine's Celebrations

WFES will celebrate Valentine's Day on **Friday, February 14th**. This is an early dismissal day and we will have a jammed pack schedule. Each grade level will organize a short time within the school day which will allow the exchange of Valentine's and a few **(non-food)** classroom activities. **Please do not send in Valentine's that contain candy. These type of Valentine's will NOT be distributed due to student safety.**

Career Day is coming to West Friendship!

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 18th**. WFES will host a school-wide Career Day. We hope you will consider participating to make this a successful activity. Please see the following attachment for complete details! **Career Day Flyer**

Upcoming School Spirit Days

Our next School Spirit Day will be on **Friday, January 31st**! WFES students and staff may show their school spirit by wearing a jersey/sweatshirt/t-shirt representing their favorite sport and/or team.

Equity in Action

One of Howard County Public School System's top priorities is to enhance equity without adding budget dollars. Partner Schools is a new initiative, which involves pairing two schools to enrich the connection between communities. All schools have strengths; and this program will enable schools to share their strengths with one another and to enhance and celebrate diversity. Partner schools may collaborate around community activities, culture building, sharing instructional practices, school-wide best practices, and more. Several schools have already embraced similar models of partnering. West Friendship Elementary is proud to announce their new sibling partner school, Thunder Hill Elementary! Stay tuned for upcoming activities!

Kindergarten & New First Grade Registration

Kindergarten and New First Grade Registration begins Monday, March 9th through Friday, March 13th at West Friendship Elementary School. Please encourage new families to register early as this helps drive staffing and planning efforts for the school. More details will be announced soon.

Student Recognition

Thank you to our Student Leaders who served our school during the first semester. Now that the second semester is here, we have a new group of Student Leaders to congratulate! These students will meet with our School Counselor, Mrs. Schnebly monthly, and serve as the student voice for our school. They help to deliver and collect information from their classes and help to plan and promote school initiatives such as kindness week, spirit days, and community outreach. They will hold this position until the end of the school year. Congratulations to these Student Leaders!

- Kindergarten: Amanda L., Tomio S., Farah A., Charlotte T.
- First Grade: AnnaMaria D., Cooper B., Emma J., Grace C., Parker B., Teniola F.
- Second Grade: Alaina F., Pete S., Kaylee C., Caden W., Ginessa D., Zach L.
- Third Grade: Nathan B., Riley C., Mia H., Brekhna A., Sophia L., Abhi C.
- Fourth Grade: Zoe A., Jackson E., Melanie F., Seelos K., Elaine C., Kranthi P., Sophia T., Joey W.
- Fifth Grade: John K., Alina K., Sophia G., Joshua H., Marleigh S., Andy W.

New Required Volunteer/Observation Form

Beginning Monday, January 13th, Howard County Public Schools required a new volunteer/observation form. All volunteers or observers who enter the school must complete the volunteer observer form. Since the volunteer form must be completed annually, volunteers who completed the form previously for the 2019-2020 school year are not required to update with a new form mid-year. However, NEW volunteers/observers for the current school year and every volunteer/observer for the 2020/2021 and beyond must review, date, and sign the new form annually. New volunteers must also complete the online volunteer training and bring the certificate of completion to the front office.

Please access the NEW information and forms using the links below:

Volunteer/observer training and associated processes:

<https://www.hcpss.org/parents/volunteer-information/>

Volunteer/observer form:

<https://www.hcpss.org/f/parents/volunteer-confidentiality-certificate.pdf>

Lost & Found

The WFES Lost & Found collection is steadily growing! We have moved the collection to the front hall. If your child is missing items (jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts), please take a few minutes to peruse the growing number of items when you visit our school. There are several small lost and found items, including eyeglasses, located in the front office. Please remember to label all student items and clothing.

Summer Programs Registration

On-site/online enrollment requests for Summer Programs begin **Saturday, February 1**. Please click for [more info \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

- BSAP Summer Institute (Entering Grades K-9)
- Gifted and Talented Summer Institutes for Talent Development (Entering Grades 1-8)
- Innovative Pathways High School (Entering Grade 9 and Current Grades 9-12) - Math and Science courses only.

How To Sign-Up for Text Messaging for Early Closings and Other Notifications

- To comply with wireless carrier requirements, parents/guardians and community members must opt into receiving HCPSS text message alerts. Standard data fees and text messaging rates may apply based on your mobile plan. If you are unsure if you have already opted in, text the word "YES" to 67587 from the cell phone number on file in HCPSS Connect.
- For community members without students in the school system, text the word "YES" to 67587 from the cell phone number that you signed up with.
- Please contact your child's school if you have questions regarding your information in [HCPSS Connect](#).
Please remember that in the event of an early closing due to snow, we will send your child home via the directions you selected on the Family File for emergency closings.

Outdoor Recess

As we head into our winter months, now is the perfect time to share our school system's policy regarding outdoor recess. As you are aware, we take students outside each day for recess. This is a great opportunity for students to get some exercise and a much needed break from their academics. With that being said, we want to make sure that we keep students healthy so that they can be in school each day. If the wind chill (AKA "Feels Like") temperature is 20°F or above and no falling precipitation (no more than a sprinkle or mist) we will go outside for recess.

As the temperatures drop, please make sure students are dressed appropriately for the bus stop, as well as for recess. Please make sure students have winter coats with them for recess. We want to keep students safe and healthy. Please be sure all clothing (coats, sweaters, hats, gloves) are labeled with your child's name.

Counselor's Newsletter – *The Advocate*

Please take a few minutes to read the January edition of the HCPSS Elementary School Counseling monthly newsletter, *The Advocate*. Click [here](#)!

Board Approves 2020–2021 Academic Calendar

The [next school year](#) will begin on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, for students and on Monday, August 17, 2020, for school staff. Winter break will be December 24–January 1, with schools reopening on Monday, January 4, 2021. Spring Break will run from April 2–9, 2021. The last day of school is scheduled for June 10, 2021.

Student Safety & Building Security

Please take time to review a few important reminders, reaffirming the importance of safety and security of our school.

➤ Absences, Late Arrivals, and Early Dismissals

- Parents are required to **send a note to school explaining their child's absence when the student returns to school**. The note must include the student's name, the date of the absence, and the reason for absence. In cases of three consecutive days of absence or frequent absence, a doctor's certificate is required.

- When arriving to school late, **the student, accompanied by a parent/guardian, must report to the office for a late pass before he/she will be admitted to class.**
- If it is necessary to pick up a student for early dismissal, please send a note in with the student that day. **Early dismissals must be conducted prior to 3:30 p.m.**

➤ **Dismissal Arrangements**

Please be advised that notes are needed if you want your child to follow a different dismissal arrangement. Telling a student of a dismissal change is not satisfactory. **Notes must be sent to school if you wish for your child to be dismissed to Circle Drive or attend an afterschool activity.** Please **do not email** this information. If our Internet is not working or if a teacher has a substitute, your message will not be received in a timely manner. **Arrangements via telephone will only be honored in the event of an emergency.** Please do not change dismissal plans after 3:15 p.m. Please remember that students are not permitted to ride any bus other than their assigned bus.

➤ **Visitation/Lunch**

Parents are invited to visit our school; however, the instruction of the students is the primary purpose of the school and no other activity should interfere with this basic purpose. We ask that **parents/guests not join students for lunch on early dismissal and/or late arrival days.** We work by a revised schedule on these days and most lunch shifts are doubled up. In addition, please understand **that younger siblings are not permitted during visits/lunch/recess/ volunteer time.** For the protection of the children and staff, **all visitors must report to the school office before going to any other area of the building, including outside recess.** Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

➤ **Weather Updates**

Please review important weather-related information at the following HCPSS website: <https://www.hcpss.org/schools/emergency-closings/> Please also ensure that all emergency information is current and updated in your family file. In the event of an early closing, this information may be critical.

➤ **Text Messages**

To comply with wireless carrier requirements, parents/guardians must opt into receiving HCPSS text message alerts. Standard data fees and text messaging rates may apply based on your mobile plan. If you are unsure if you have already opted in, text the word "YES" to 67587 from the [cell phone number on file in HCPSS Connect.](#)

Harris Teeter

Do you shop at Harris Teeter? Please make sure you have enrolled in Harris Teeter's Together in Education Program. WFES participant number has recently grown from 19 to 26. Please take a moment and sign up for the program. Simply go to www.harristeeter.com and log into your account. At the bottom of your profile screen is a section for Together in Education. You can search for West Friendship Elementary and link the school to your account. You must enroll each year, so even if you were enrolled last year, please take a minute to link your account for this year. WFES thanks you!

Save the Date!

Monday, January 27

Tuesday, January 28

Wednesday, January 29

Thursday, January 30

Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day

Gr. 2 Howard County Conservancy In-House Field Trip – 9:20 a.m.

Read Me Day! ... Wear a Shirt with Words

Vision & Hearing Rescreening

Thursday, January 30	Bookmarks are due for the Bookmark Swap
Friday, January 31	WFES School Spirit "Sports Jersey/Sweatshirt/T-Shirt Day"
Friday, January 31	Bookmark Swap
Friday, January 31	Gr. 5 Tiger Celebration
Monday, February 3	Report Cards Issued
Monday, February 3	Gr. 1 Tiger Celebration
Tuesday, February 4	Schools & Offices Closed – Special Election Day
Wednesday, February 5	Gr. 5 Field Trip – 9:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Thursday, February 6	Kindergarten Tiger Celebration
Wednesday February 12	PTA Meeting in Media Center – 6:30 p.m.
Thur., Feb. 13 & Fri., Feb. 14	Unheard Perspective Presentations in Room 124 – 9:15 to 11:50 a.m.
Thur., Feb. 13 & Fri., Feb. 14	Elementary Schools Close 3-Hours Early - Parent/Teacher Conferences
Monday, February 17	Schools & Offices Closed – Presidents' Day

PTA News

February PTA Meeting

The February PTA meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, February 12th at 6:30 pm in the Media Center. All are invited to attend!

WFES PTA Cultural Night

WFES PTA is proud to present our FIRST Cultural Night celebrating each other with our different and unique backgrounds. This will be a fun filled night of crafts, performances, food and displays. Cultural Night will take place on Wednesday February 26th from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in the event, please use the following Sign-up Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BA8AA22AB9-wfes>. If you do not have Internet access please use the following paper form:

-----Detach Here-----

<p align="center">Participation/Volunteer Form for PTA Cultural Night</p> <p align="center">Check areas you are interested in:</p> <p align="center"> <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering <input type="checkbox"/> Display <input type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ </p>	
Parent/Guardian Name: _____	Email/Phone: _____

For additional questions, please contact Puluna Thakkar-Shelat at tpuluna@hotmail.com or Glenda H. Tittle at glendatittle@gmail.com.

WFES Restaurant Month at Kung Fu 12 Szechuan!

You have one more week to support this fundraiser and enjoy a delicious dinner! **The entire month of January 2020 is WFES Restaurant Month at Kung Fu 12 Szechuan!** Be sure to mention WFES PTA when you place your order and Kung Fu 12 Szechuan will donate 10% of your Lunch, Dinner, or carry-out order to the WFES PTA.

Please visit: Kung Fun 12 Szechuan
 12250 Clarksville Pike, Suite F
 Clarksville, MD 21029
 Phone 410-698-6676

Box Top Collection

The WFES PTA is having a FINAL collection of physical Box Tops, as the Box Tops program has become digital. Please send in those last Box Tops that are lying around your kitchen by Tuesday, February 25th. Kids can drop them off in a small box in the school lobby marked Box Tops. This collection of Box Tops will be donated to our sibling partner school, Thunder Hill Elementary as part of the PTA's community service program. If you have any questions, please e-mail Kate Scott at thescotts@me.com

****Don't forget to scan your receipts and clip those Box Tops. Please get your family in on the action too! Family members can easily download the app and choose West Friendship!****

Community News

Visit the Community News and Programs web-page for all announcements of events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations. <https://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/>

Road to Kindergarten Workshops, January 23 & 30, 2020

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2020?

Please join us for an information session about kindergarten in the Howard County Public School System.

At this workshop you will learn:

- Expectations for school readiness (and receive a Ready for Kindergarten toolkit)
- Details about the kindergarten program
- Information about HCPSS kindergarten registration
- Ways that families and children can be supported during the transition to kindergarten

Sessions are designed for adults only. **Child care is available** for children ages 2 and older. Doors will open at 6 p.m. to allow time for parking, child care drop off and check-in. Sessions begin promptly at 6:30. We anticipate large crowds so please allow yourself ample time.

Choose a session that is convenient for you. No registration required. See below for sessions where a Spanish language interpreter will be present. For any other interpreter needs, please call 410-313-7102 ASAP.

Sessions

All sessions will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. **If Howard County Public Schools are closed for inclement weather, that day's session is canceled.**

- Thursday, January 23, Oakland Mills High School, 9410 Kilimanjaro Road, Columbia (Spanish interpreter present)
- Thursday, January 30, Centennial High School, 4300 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City

An inclement weather date has been reserved for Wednesday, February 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Hammond High. Please contact the Office of Early Childhood Programs, 410-313-5693, with any additional questions, or visit our [Getting Ready for Kindergarten](#) page.

Learning Together Program – Pre-school and Prekindergarten

The Bushy Park Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) pre-school and prekindergarten programs are making preparations for classes for the 2020-2021 school year. These classes include children with and without disabilities. The program's focus is helping all children develop communication, literacy, math, problem solving, motor, and social skills. **Parents of children who will be 3-years old by September 1st or 4-years old by September 1st may obtain an application packet by contacting Ginny Price in the school office beginning (the last Monday in January).**

All applications must be returned by **(the last Friday in February)**. A limited number of openings are available for children without disabilities. Children are selected based upon screening information given on the application form, completion of the "Ages and Stages Questionnaires," and observations of the child's participation in a playgroup.

If you have questions, please contact Katie Hereth at 410-442-2448.

Not My Child: Teen Vaping and More

The Marriotts Ridge High School PTSA is sponsoring a Howard County DrugFree (Howard County non-profit organization) program titled **“Not My Child: Teen Vaping and More”**. This is a **FREE** presentation for parents. Please join them on **Wednesday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Marriotts Ridge High School Auditorium**. Go learn more about the dangers of vaping and other dangerous substances that your teens face daily. In the event of inclement weather the snow date will be on February 11th at 7:00 p.m.



Address

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Website

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Twitter

[@hcpss.wfes](https://twitter.com/hcpss.wfes)