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Principal



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

January 31, 2020

School News

Report Cards

Report Cards will **go home on Monday, February 3rd**. Please take time to review your child's report card with your child. It is helpful for children to know what areas they are doing well and where they need to work harder. Don't feel the need to reward their hard work with a tangible item. Most children respond well to praise for their persistence and hard work. Please focus on the effort behind the grade and not for the grade itself. If a child is lacking in an area, it may be helpful to set a goal to improve a grade or learning behavior.

WFES Parent/Teacher Conference Overview

- The window for scheduling conferences through HCPSS Connect is **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.

Screening for Students at Risk for Reading Difficulties

In accordance with Maryland's Ready to Read Act (2019), all HCPSS kindergarten students* will be administered a screener assessment that includes a battery of four one-minute reading measures (DIBELS 8th Edition) to examine their letter naming, decoding, and word reading skills. The assessments will occur

throughout winter, 2020. Parents and guardians will be notified if assessment results indicate that your child would benefit from an intervention.

*This includes kindergarten students who do not have a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) with reading foundational skills goals.

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/>.

WFES Valentine Celebrations on February 14th

WFES students and staff will be celebrating Valentine's Day the morning of February 14th. Since this is a half day for students, and the schedules are modified, 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 keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Due to allergies and HCPSS Policy 9090, no Valentine cards or goodie-bags with food or candy are permitted. **Please do not send in Valentine's that contain candy. These type of Valentine's will NOT be distributed due to student safety.** Pencils, stickers, trinkets, etc. are allowed.
- Teachers will send home class lists. It is expected that if your child chooses to give out Valentine cards, he/she will give one to each child in the homeroom class.
- Celebrations are for students and staff. Due to space, parents are not able to join us.

- Due to double lunch shifts for the 3-hour early dismissal schedule, parents should not plan to join us for lunch. We will not have space in the cafeteria for parents.

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**

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!**

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. Please share this information with friends and neighbors who have children that will be 5 years old by September 1, 2020. Every child who is 5 years old by September 1st must be enrolled in a kindergarten program this fall or have an approved waiver. More details will be announced soon.

Kindness Supply Drive

West Friendship Elementary is hosting a Kindness Supply Drive. The drive will run from **February 3rd through February 14th**. You can help support our kindness drive **by donating the following items:**

- **Boxes of Tissues**
- **Hand sanitizer**
- **School supplies –crayons, markers, pencils, composition books, folders**
- **Hats and gloves**

All items collected will go to the students at our **sibling school, Thunder Hill Elementary** in Columbia, MD. Donations can be placed in the collection boxes located in the hallway by the front office. Thank you in advance for your kindness and support.

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>

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.

School Directory Access

The school directory is now available. Please log onto the directory with the following directions. The directory can be sorted by grade or other various search options.

Go to www.hcpss.org

Click on [HCPSS Connect](#)

Click on HCPSS Connect Log In

Select **Family File/School Directory** from the menu on the left of the screen in the navigation bar.

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.**

Notes from the Nurse

As we enter into flu season, this is a reminder that frequent handwashing with soap and water or hand sanitizer is the best way to prevent the spread of disease. Many people catch the flu from infected people who are coughing and sneezing. Please teach your child to use a tissue or a sleeve when they have these symptoms.

Cold: Develops over a few days	SYMPTOMS:	Flu: Develops very quickly
May sneeze more often	Sneezing	
Sometimes	Headache	High Probability
High probability	Sore Throat	Not common
Not common	Fever	High probability
Not common	Chills	High probability
Minor	Aches	Severe
Mild	Fatigue	Severe
Heavy/moderate mucous	Cough	Small amount of mucous
Common	Nasal Congestion	Uncommon
Mild	Chest Discomfort	Severe

- **Fever policy:** Keep your child home if she/he has a fever over 100.0. If your child has a fever at school, they must be picked up. **Students may not return to school until their temperature is less than 100.0 for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.** A fever indicates that your child has a contagious infection.
- Please notify your child's teacher and/or the school nurse if your child is absent with a contagious illness such as strep throat or the flu.

- If the doctor prescribes medication for your child, please make sure he/she takes it as directed-which means the right amount at the right time and without missing doses.
- Make sure your child is getting enough sleep. 9-11 hours of sleep is recommended for school age children.
- We encourage you to send in a refillable water bottle labeled with your child's name every day. Please remind your child not to share.
- You may send in cough drops with a parent note. They will be kept in the health room.
- Students may keep lip balm in their backpacks for use during the school day. Please remind your child not to share.

Please contact the Health Room with any questions or concerns.

Phone: 410-313-5515 or Email: elizabeth_collora@hcpss.org

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.

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. Items that are not claimed by end of Parent/Teacher conferences in mid-February will be distributed to local charities.

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, February 3	Report Cards Issued
Monday, February 3	Gr. 1 Tiger Celebration
Monday, February 3	Kindness Supply Drive Begins
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
Friday, February 14	Last Day of Kindness Supply Drive

Monday, February 17
Wednesday, February 26
Wednesday, February 26
Friday, February 28

Schools & Offices Closed – Presidents' Day
Class Group Photos and Individual Spring Portraits
PTA Cultural Night – 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Gr. 1, Gr. 2, & Gr. 5 Tiger Celebrations

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-----

Participation/Volunteer Form for PTA Cultural Night

Check areas you are interested in:

☐ Volunteering ☐ Display ☐ Food ☐ Entertainment ☐ Other: _____

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.

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/>

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.



Address

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Website

wfes.hcpss.org



Twitter

[@hcpss_wfes](https://twitter.com/hcpss_wfes)