April 28, 2023

Upcoming Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon., May 1 – Thurs., May 11</td>
<td>WFES Supports OMHS Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 5</td>
<td>In-School Spring Concert – 2:40pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 6</td>
<td>PTA Plant Sale Pickup Day (Extra Plants Available for On-Site Purchase) 10am - 12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7 – May 13</td>
<td>Children's Mental Health Awareness Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 11</td>
<td>Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day -- Wear Green to Show Your Support!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 11</td>
<td>Spring Concert – 6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 16</td>
<td>Howard County Library Visit WFES to Present Summer Reading Program to Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 17</td>
<td>Field Day!!! Volunteers Needed!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 18</td>
<td>Kindergarten Field Trip; 9:45am – 1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 19</td>
<td>Schools Closed for Students – Professional Learning/Articulation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 24</td>
<td>Grade 5 Simulated Congressional Hearings; 9:15am to 1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 24</td>
<td>Support Our Fifth Grade Students SCH – Wear Red, White &amp; Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 26</td>
<td>Mini Tiger Beach Celebration – Wear Beachy/Hawaiian Attire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 29</td>
<td>Schools/Offices Closed – Memorial Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Our Administrators

Dear WFES Community,

Our staff has begun planning and preparing for the 2023-2024 school year. As part of our process, we would like to offer parents/guardians the opportunity to share specific information about your child that you feel would be beneficial for staff to consider when determining next year’s classes.

Please Fill Out the Attached Google Form by May 11th.

The link below is what our school staff will use to consider parent input as we engage in the articulation process. As our staff works to form thoughtful, well-balanced classes for the 2023-24 school year, we take many factors into account, including our students’ academic and social-emotional needs, input from all stakeholders, and staffing needs.

Your input on this form will be considered as we plan for your child. Your response is OPTIONAL but is a valuable source of information for the school staff and for the next teacher. Please complete one form for each child.

2023-2024 WFES Consideration Form

Thank you for your support,

Kaye Breon, Principal
Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal
Important Transportation Information for ALL families

Per Board of Education Policy 5200 Student Transportation, families whose students are eligible for bus transportation are required to register through HCPSS Connect Synergy to receive bus service for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. This new registration process will take place annually to help the HCPSS Office of Student Transportation plan for more accurate student ridership and to make routes more efficient.

Registration for 2023-2024 bus service is open now through June 1.

Please note, families who reside in non-transportation areas are not eligible for bus transportation and do not need to take any action. Find the new non-transportation areas for your school online. Additionally, students who receive transportation as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan do not need to register.

Register Now

Families who need assistance with the registration process or have an incoming kindergarten student should reach out to their child’s school. Please contact the West Friendship Elementary front office staff at 410-313-5512.

Bus routes for the 2023-2024 school year, along with specific school start times, will be finalized in August, prior to the start of school.

FIELD DAY IS COMING! ** Full Day Event ** Wednesday, May 17th ** Rain Date: May 23rd

Volunteers Needed  *  *  *  Volunteers Needed  *  *  *  Volunteers Needed

Field day activities require volunteers to run the activities to make it a successful day!!! The basketballs and footballs must be wrangled, equipment organized, races executed, and water replenished!!!

**IMPORTANT** You must have completed the two HCPSS volunteer training courses to be eligible to help with field day! Both the Child Abuse and Confidentiality training sessions must be on file in the school office. If you have not completed both trainings this school year, please do so now and send your completed certificates to Mrs. Penny Smith in the front office (via backpack mail or email).

1. Child Abuse Training please review then complete the Child Abuse Certificate
2. Confidentiality Training please review then complete the Confidentiality Certificate

Once you are officially trained and the school has the necessary documentation on file, then you may sign up to Volunteer during Field Day.

Here's how to help:
1. Click the link below to volunteer your time and/or to donate.
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot you would like to volunteer. We have AM and PM spots available or if you desire you may sign up for both.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094baea82ca1fc1-wfes#

If you have any questions about volunteering please email Mrs. Rachel Butler at rachel.butler@hcpss.org or Mrs. Dana Keiner at dckeiner00@gmail.com. Thank you!
Spring MCAP Testing Grades 3, 4, and 5
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that states administer annual state assessments to all students in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and once in high school.

West Friendship students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will take the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) in both ELA and Math. The MCAP provides information to educators, parents, and the public on student progress towards proficiency on the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards. For more information, please visit https://www.hcpss.org/academics/testing/mcap/.

The MCAP assessment window is Tuesday, April 11 - Friday, May 26. Specific testing dates are below for each grade level. Please make every effort to have your child attend school on testing days and to refrain from scheduling any appointments during these times to minimize missing instruction due to make-up testing. There is no need to study for the MCAP. To prepare, have your child get a good night’s sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and arrive for school on time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 3</th>
<th>Grade 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELA May 1 at 10:20am to 12:30pm</td>
<td>ELA May 8 at 10:20am to 12:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA May 2 at 10:20am to 12:30pm</td>
<td>ELA May 9 at 10:20am to 12:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA May 3 10:20am to 12:30pm</td>
<td>ELA May 10 at 10:20am to 12:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA May 4 at 10:20am to 12:30pm</td>
<td>ELA May 11 at 10:20am to 12:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade 5
Congratulations! Fifth grade students have completed spring MCAP Testing!

Indicators of Educational Equity Survey
As part of our school improvement process, we are asking families to provide input about their equity priorities at our school. Please use the link below to complete the HCPSS Indicators of Educational Equity Survey by May 5, 2023. Your voice is important for the process of school improvement, and we truly hope every family will complete this survey. We will use your input, along with other school data, to refine our school improvement plan for next year.

This survey is anonymous and available in multiple languages. If you have children at more than one school, please complete one survey per school.

- [English survey](#)
- [Spanish survey](#)
- [Chinese survey](#)
- [Chin survey](#)
- [Korean survey](#)

Your input is extremely important to us, and we appreciate you taking your time to assist us. If you have any questions, please contact WFES Principal, Ms. Kaye Breon at kaye_breon@hcpss.org.

WFES Supports Oakland Mills High School Food Pantry: May 1st - May 11th
This year, WFES will be collecting goods to benefit the OMHS Food Pantry. In a typical month, the OMHS Food Pantry serves between 70 and 80 families (amounting to close to 400 people). While the OMHS Food Pantry receives a monthly food allocation from the Howard County Food Bank, the pantry is supported primarily through donations.

The Oakland Mills HS Food Pantry serves the Oakland Mills community and beyond. Families are not required to have a student at OMHS to access the Food Pantry. The OMHS Food Pantry distributes non-perishable foods, produce, and bread once per month to families in need.

Please ensure that donated goods are in sealed packages and have not expired. For specific donation items, please visit: [WFES Supports OMHS Food Pantry](#). Items will be collected at WFES beginning Monday, May 1st.
Battle of the Books 2023!
Congratulations to our 5th graders who participated in Battle of the Books 2023! This year we have seven teams representing our school. We are so proud of how hard you worked to prepare for the competition to represent WFES at Merriweather Post Pavilion tonight, April 28th. You all are reading SUPER STARS!!!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“3 Little Books and a Big, Bad Page”</th>
<th>Elementals</th>
<th>Random Readers</th>
<th>Reading Rhinos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maddie R</td>
<td>Izzy M</td>
<td>Bryn G</td>
<td>Dimeji O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maya M</td>
<td>Marilyn L</td>
<td>Sarai W</td>
<td>Benjamin J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivian P</td>
<td>Cecilia V</td>
<td>Zoey E</td>
<td>Charles K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte O</td>
<td>London S</td>
<td>Abby H</td>
<td>John R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spicy Cheetos</th>
<th>Tiger Bookworms</th>
<th>Retro Readers</th>
<th>We know all of you will represent West Friendship well. Good luck to all our Battle of the Books teams! Go TIGERS!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elliott W</td>
<td>Isabela H</td>
<td>Mylah R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brycen Z</td>
<td>Magnolia T</td>
<td>Clare P</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason S</td>
<td>Ruthvi B</td>
<td>Deborah O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronan T</td>
<td>Abigail B</td>
<td>Reyah F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James O</td>
<td>Abeera S</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PETS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY REMINDER
Families, please remember that the HCPSS policy is that pets are not allowed on school property when students are present. Service animals are exempt from this policy. However, therapy and emotional support animals are not permitted in HCPSS buildings. Please see School System policy for complete details.

Circular NO. 19 FY23 Animals on School System Property
Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

HCPSS Student & Parent Handbook
Click HERE for the county’s 2022-23 handbook

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.hcps.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.

* Chaperones * Visitors * Volunteers (Must complete if you have not already done so this year!)
If you plan to visit school for any events between now and the end of the year, please give this your attention. According to Howard County Board of Education Policy, all volunteers must complete two required volunteer trainings. Please take time to complete the required trainings now so you will be ready when these opportunities present themselves. You must review the trainings, print the documentation for each training, and send them to school at least 5 days prior to volunteering or chaperoning a trip. You may email them directly to Penny Smith at penny_smith@hcpss.org.

Child Abuse Training please review then complete the Child Abuse Certificate
Confidentiality Training please review then complete the Confidentiality Certificate
Last Day of School for 2022-2023 School Year
As of Wednesday, March 29, HCPSS has used one inclement weather day this school year. As such, the last day of school for students in full-day Pre-K through grade 12 is now scheduled to be Wednesday, June 14. The last day for half-day Pre-K/RECC students is currently Friday, June 9.

The two final weeks for the 2022-2023 school year are as follows:

- Monday, June 5 - Regular school day
- Tuesday, June 6 - Regular school day
- Wednesday, June 7 - Schools dismiss three hours early (Professional Work Day)
- Thursday, June 8 - Regular school day
- Friday, June 9 - Regular school day (Last day for half-day Pre-K/RECC students)
- Monday, June 12 - Schools dismiss three hours early (Professional Work Day)
- Tuesday, June 13 - Schools dismiss three hours early (Professional Learning Day)
- Wednesday, June 14 - Schools dismiss three hours early (Professional Work Day - Last scheduled day for full-day Pre-K-12 students and 10-month staff)

The complete HCPSS academic calendar is available online. This information is subject to change, pending any additional inclement weather.

Report Bullying
Policy 1060 Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation specifically establishes expectations for maintaining a safe and respectful school climate and workplace, where bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation are not tolerated. This policy also provides standards for identifying and preventing bullying, cyberbullying, harassing, or intimidating behavior. Additionally, the policy outlines measures to support students and employees who are either engaging in or are victims of bullying behavior.

The HCPSS Student Code of Conduct, by which all HCPSS students are expected to abide, also specifically addresses bullying.

The HCPSS Bullying Reporting Form – which can be completed online or on paper (available in the main school office, school counseling office, and media center) – allows students, staff, and family members to easily and confidentially report incidents of bullying to their school administrators.

Kindergarten and New HCPSS Student Registration
Registration for 2023-2024 Kindergarten continues! Parents/Guardians of children who will be five years old as of September 1, 2023, must enroll their children in kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year. Registering for school is an online process.

Road to Kindergarten Workshop Slideshow
Gather Documentation
Getting Ready for Kindergarten
Begin Registration

Parents/Guardians without access to a computer should contact Teachers’ Secretary, Mrs. Colleen Green at 410-313-5512 for assistance in completing the registration process.

Early Admission for Kindergarten and First Grade
Applications for early admission to kindergarten and first grade are now being accepted. Applicants must submit all application materials for early admission to kindergarten and first grade by April 30 and May 31, 2023, respectively.

Important Notice for Those with Medical Assistance:
Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, Medical Assistance has been automatically renewed since March 2020. AUTOMATIC RENEWALS WILL STOP AS OF APRIL 30, 2023. Please call the Health Dept Insurance Line at 410-313-5845 to check your status. They will set up an appointment for you if needed.
HCPSS Rainbow Conference - Register Now!
The HCPSS Rainbow Conference will be held on **Saturday, May 6**<sup>th</sup> **from 9am - 5pm**. The conference will be hybrid with opportunities for both virtual and in-person participation. For more information scan the QR code on the [Rainbow Conference Flier](#) or access this [link](#).

HCPSS Rainbow Conference - Register Now!
The HCPSS Rainbow Conference will be held on **Saturday, May 6**<sup>th</sup> **from 9am - 5pm**. The conference will be hybrid with opportunities for both virtual and in-person participation. For more information scan the QR code on the [Rainbow Conference Flier](#) and/or see the details below. We hope to see you there!

9:00am-1:00pm is VIRTUAL
- **15 virtual sessions** to select from
- Register for up to four sessions.
- Target audience - high school students, educators, parents, and community members

1:00pm-5:00pm is IN-PERSON
- Join us at the Homewood Center for [in-person activities](#)!
- 10914 Clarksville Pike Ellicott City 21042
- ALL are welcome to join us for the children and YA book talk sessions, Pride Outside session, Exhibition Hall, and outdoor activities.
- Also featured will be "Prom wear Pop-Up" where high school students attending prom can take home party clothing, free of charge.
- Target audience - The afternoon sessions and activities have a strong family focus.

Registration Information
- Thanks to the *It Gets Better Project 50States50Grants* for funding this event! This conference is a FREE HCPSS event.
- Participants must register to attend.
- [Register HERE](#)

Pre-Kindergarten Programs
The Bushy Park Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) prekindergarten programs are preparing for classes for the upcoming **2023-24 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 1<sup>st</sup> may apply. Applications will be available and accepted in mid-February.

In alignment with [Maryland’s Blueprint for the Future](#), **new applications for students turning 4 by September 1 will not be available or accepted**. The Howard County Public School System continues to offer a prekindergarten program for income eligible children who will be four years old by September 1. For additional information contact the school or visit: [https://www.hcpss.org/schools/pre-k-programs/](https://www.hcpss.org/schools/pre-k-programs/)

HCPSS is committed to providing instruction based on the statewide Early Learning Standards which are in alignment with Kindergarten Readiness. The fees listed in the application will be collected monthly, regardless of the learning model determined by HCPSS throughout the upcoming school year (virtual, hybrid, in person, or class quarantine). If you have additional questions, please contact Roseann Kleinschmidt at (410) 313-5500.

**Howard County Family Resources**
Please consider signing up to receive monthly newsletters from the Howard County Office of Children and Families. Attached you will find the [April 2023 issue of Parent Pages](#).
**Summer Activities for Children**
These summer programs offer children a variety of educational and recreational opportunities during the summer to learn, meet new friends and have fun:

- HCPSS BSAP Summer Institute
- HCPSS GT Summer Institute
- Howard County Public Library System
- Howard County Recreation and Parks
- Howard Community College Kids on Campus

**PTA News & Events**

**Nominating Committee Seeking Volunteers – PTA Positions for the 2023-24 School Year**
The PTA is planning for next year and looking to fill Executive Board positions and Committee Chair positions. We are seeking volunteers to fill the following open Board positions:

- President
- Treasurer
- 1st Vice President
- Corresponding Secretary
- 2nd President
- Recording Secretary

If you are interested in being an active member of the PTA next year, please contact Kathyrn Calton at kathryn.calton@gmail.com, Penny Smith at penny_smith@hcpss.org, or Lindsay Waxler, at wfeswaxler@gmail.com.

**National Teacher Appreciation Week**
The PTA/Staff Appreciation Committee (SAC) is planning and preparing for National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 8-12). It is a time for all of us to pause and celebrate the amazing educators and staff that support our students throughout the school year.

We are asking for monetary donations to help us celebrate our fabulous WFES teachers and staff. We are hoping to provide treats, meals, and some surprises throughout that week so the more funds we raise, the more we can show our appreciation!

Please review the flyer for information on how to make your donation through MemberHub. A QR code has also been added for your convenience.

Thank you so very much for your support. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering to support the planning and celebrations for National Teacher Appreciation Week, please contact Glenda Hernández Tittle at glendahtittle@gmail.com.

**PTA Plant Sale**
Pickup for the PTA Plant Sale will be held on the school blacktop on Saturday, May 6, from 10AM to 12PM. A limited amount of extra annual plants and hanging baskets will be available for purchase that day. Please email kathryn.calton@gmail.com with any questions. Volunteers are needed to help sort plants. Let Kathryn know if you are available to help!

**PTA General Assembly Meeting**
Our next and final (for this school year) PTA General Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 31, at 7PM. The meeting will be held in the school’s Media Center. We will be voting for the PTA Executive Board for the next school year. Please consider volunteering for a position. Details will be forthcoming.

**Save the Date!**
Our end-of-year block party is scheduled for Friday, June 9. Want to volunteer and help make this a successful and fun event for the school? Please email kathryn.calton@gmail.com.
Community News and Events

HCPSS Community News and Programs Site

The HCPSS Community News and Programs website makes it easy for families to find educational and recreational resources, events and after-school programs beyond the school day by non-profit organizations. Community organizations requesting their announcements be shared in school newsletters should visit community-programs.hcpss.org for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss.org.

Free Parenting Classes (Open to Grandparents Too)

Free. Guiding Good Choices is an evidence-based, interactive prevention program that provides families with the skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will use drugs and alcohol or engage in other dangerous behaviors. Howard County parents, guardians and grandparents will learn how to encourage your child to adopt healthy attitudes and behaviors, how to communicate more effectively, how to build a relationship of trust, and much more! Classes will be held on Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. via Zoom. Learn more or register: https://hcdrugfree.org/2023/02/guiding-good-choices-free-classes-for-parents-2/

Be Kind to Your Mind Be Kind to Others

Kindness Grows Here is a Maryland non-profit with a mission of cultivating kindness in communities starting with kids. Kindness Grows Here is holding its first ever Howard County event and we are hoping for a great turnout. Please see this link for details. (FREE: Be Kind to Your Mind...Be Kind to Others Tickets, Sat, May 20, 2023 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite)

GUMC Preschool

Glenelg United Methodist Church (GUMC) is a local private preschool located in Glenelg. Several of their families move on to West Friendship Elementary each year. They have openings in their part-time Pre-K programs this fall (both 4-day and 5-day options are available). Classes are held from 9:15 AM-1:15 PM, so it works well for the bus and elementary drop-off schedules! Tuition assistance may also be available to those who qualify. For more information, please call 410-489-7702
National Teacher Appreciation Week

During the first week of May, the country celebrates National Teacher Appreciation Week (NTAW). NTAW is a time to honor and give back to teachers & staff who give and do so much for their students throughout the school year. This year's celebration is May 8-12.

WFES is full of committed staff members who spend countless hours shaping our children's hearts and minds and with your help, we look forward to uplifting them and celebrating them during NTAW!

WFES PTA Staff Appreciation Committee’s has a wonderful week planned of meals, gifts, and some fun surprises estimated to cost ~$40/staff member.

We need your support! We are asking for monetary donations to support this awesome week.

The more we raise, the more we can celebrate our teachers and staff!

Donations can be made through MemberHub in the amount of your choosing. Any questions? Contact glendahtittle@gmail.com