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Principal

Tiger Tales

Brian Vanisko
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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.

April 30, 2021

School News

Spring 2021 MAP Testing

Students in grades 1-5 will take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment in May. Please see below for the testing dates for each grade. For questions about MAP testing, please contact Mr. Vanisko at brian_vanisko@hcpss.org

Tuesday, May 4 - Grade 1(Group A & Virtual students) MAP Math (1:55-3:50 PM)

Wednesday, May 5 - Grades 2-5 MAP Math (9:45-11:45AM)

Thursday, May 6 - Grade 1(Group B) MAP Math (1:55-3:50 PM)

Tuesday, May 18 - Grade 1(Group A & Virtual students) MAP Reading (1:55-3:50 PM)

Wednesday, May 19- Grades 2-5 MAP Reading (9:00-11:00 AM)

Thursday, May 20 - Grade 1(Group B) MAP Reading (1:55-3:50 PM)

We encourage all students to take the computer adaptive assessment. It is computer-adaptive because it adjusts to your child's level based on the correct and incorrect responses provided by your child. **This is why we ask that you do not help your child with the content of the assessment.** Having the most accurate data from this assessment will help teachers individualize instruction this year and next year.

The MAP test does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly. If your child is unable to attend, makeup testing will be offered.

To learn more about the MAP assessment, please visit: <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/>

Commit to the 2021-2022 HCPSS Digital Education Center by May 5

[Español](#) | [中文](#) | [한국어](#)

The Howard County Public School System is planning for a full-time online option for students entering grades K-12 who wish to learn virtually for the 2021-2022 school year. Once finalized, the Digital Education Center (DEC) program will give students the opportunity to take classes and earn credits virtually, while receiving support services from both the DEC and their assigned home school. DEC students will continue to be enrolled in their assigned home school and will be able to participate in athletics and activities at that school if/as schedules and transportation allows.

Parents/guardians who wish to commit to the DEC should log in to HCPSS Connect Synergy by **Wednesday, May 5 at 4 p.m.** (see directions below). Families **must commit to the DEC for the full 2021-2022 school year.** **Students who wish to return to in-person learning during the 2021-2022 school year, if that option is available, should not sign up for the DEC.** The Superintendent and Board of Education members have stressed that they consider the return to normalized, five-day, in-person learning this fall to be essential for the

majority of HCPSS students, however, an official decision on the 2021-2022 academic year has not yet been made.

In committing to the DEC, parents/guardians acknowledge that:

- This is a commitment that your child will attend the DEC for the 2021-2022 school year, and that students will need to go through the reassignment process if they choose to return to their home school for instruction.
- Not all course requests may be able to be honored in the DEC environment.
- There are attendance requirements that will apply in the DEC environment.
- The implementation of the DEC is pending funding from the HCPSS Board of Education. Should funding not be provided, students automatically will be returned to their assigned home school.

Prior to making any decision, we strongly encourage families to review [details about the DEC](#) that are available online, as well as answers to frequently asked questions for the [DEC in general](#) and [student-specific information](#).

Families who commit to the DEC will be contacted by DEC staff in the coming weeks to review student courses prior to final enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. **This decision has no impact for students on the current school year.**

To access the commitment form:

1. [Log in to HCPSS Connect Synergy](#) using parent/guardian credentials
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select Digital Education Center Commitment from the middle of the page
4. Complete the questions in the form for each child and select "save"

Please note, families of incoming kindergarten students will not have access to the commitment form. Those families who are interested in committing to the DEC should call the school your child is enrolled in for the 2021-2022 school year.

Email DEC@hcpss.org with any questions about the Digital Education Center. If you need assistance completing the online commitment form, please contact your child's school.

Health Check Reminder

With the return of students and staff to classrooms and extracurricular activities, it is critical that everyone strictly follows the health guidance in place to keep HCPSS students and staff safe and able to continue to provide in-person opportunities. It is important that open communication exists between households and the school. Please [review the update](#) from Health Services.

If you have questions, please email the school nurse elizabeth_collora@hcpss.org and wfesabsence@hcpss.org. We appreciate your understanding.

Beth Collora, BSN, RN, NCSN

School Nurse

Phone: 410-313-5515 ** Fax: 443-973-5518

Did you move? Are you moving?

According to **HCPSS Policy 9000** - Student Residency, Eligibility, Enrollment, and Assignment, "A student attending a public school in Howard County will attend the designated school serving the school attendance area in which the parents have bona fide residence unless reassignment is granted or administrative placement occurs."

If you have moved or are moving soon, please notify us as soon as possible. Please do not wait for us to find out through other means. We are available to assist you with transitioning to your child's new school. Whether it be another HCPSS school, a private school, or a school out of the HCPSS district, we are here to

help. If you are transferring to another HCPSS school, our registrars will partner to make the transition as smooth as possible.

If you have an address change, please fill out the attached fillable **Address Change Form** below and email it back to us with your new deed or lease. This way we can electronically verify your school district and update your new address on file. If you have any questions, contact our registration secretary, Colleen Green at Colleen.Green@hcpss.org.

It is very important for us to have the most accurate information about your residency.

[Fillable Change of Address Form](#)

West Friendship Yearbook

We need your photos for our 2020-2021 yearbook! Please send photos of your children doing their virtual learning, enjoying a virtual field trip experience, or participating in school spirit days. You may send all photos to Penny Smith at Penny.Smith@hcpss.org. In addition, if your child was not able to come to WFES and sit for their portrait to be published in the yearbook, please send a head shot of your child to Penny Smith. All pictures should include the name of the student, grade, and activity. Please contact Penny Smith if you have any questions.

New Late Arrival/Early Dismissal Procedures

Late Arrivals:

- Student and Parent/Guardian together, should come to the vestibule, ring the doorbell, and sign-in on the late arrival sheet.
- **Only the student will be admitted into the building.** Parent/Guardian may not enter the building. Parents must accompany their child into the vestibule in order for your student to be marked present.

Early Dismissals:

- Parent/Guardian will come into the vestibule and ring the buzzer for early dismissals. **We ask that early dismissals are completed by 3:15 pm.**
- We will ask Parent/Guardian to hold their driver's license up to the camera for staff member to see. **We are only permitted to allow contacts listed in your Family File to pick up your student.**

Parents and/or Visitors are not permitted into the building at this time.

Dropping off Student Items

- Parent/Guardian should come into the vestibule.
- Parent/Guardian should ring the intercom to notify the secretaries that they are dropping off an item.
- All items being dropped off need to be **clearly labeled by the parent/guardian** with:
 - Child's name and Grade
- Item will be left on the drop off table in vestibule for secretaries to retrieve.

Absence Email Reminder

Please do not send your child's absent note through Canvas. All absent notes must be emailed to WFESabsence@hcpss.org and **include student name, date of the absence, and the reason for the absence.** If this information is not included, the note will not be accepted. This email goes directly to our Attendance Secretary. You may cc: your child's teacher in the same email. Thank you in advance for adhering to our absence reporting procedures.

Kindergarten Registration Continues

Online Registration for students entering Kindergarten in fall continues. Please share this information with your friends and neighbors. **There will be no in-person registration appointments at this time.**

Kindergarten is mandatory in Maryland, so if your child turns 5-years old by September 1, 2021, you must register your child for the 2021-22 school year. Parents or guardians are to register students at the school serving the address where the child's parent or guardian resides. Information on neighborhood schools can be found through School Locator <https://hcpss-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b1d3153921514f92090217> on the [school system web site](#) or by calling the Public Information Office at 410-313-6682.

Step 1: Register Online Here: https://sisparents.hcpss.org/PXP2_OEN_Login.aspx

Step 2: Complete registration online by providing the documents listed below. ***The registration process is easier if you upload them during online registration. Otherwise, you will be asked to submit them via email as pdfs. I-phone users can scan documents through your notes app. (Images must be clear.)***

The following documents are needed for registration:

- Child's evidence of birth (i.e.: birth certificate, baptismal certificate)
- An authorized record of immunizations
- Proof of residency in the form of a signed lease or deed including signature pages
- Current utility bill
- Photo ID of parent/guardian
- Proof of custody (if applicable)

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Colleen Green at 410-313-5512 or colleen_green@hcpss.org.

Food Services - Student Meals

Students returning in-person may choose to receive meals any day they are in school. For all other families, meals will be available for pickup from 7:45-8:45 a.m. at elementary school locations and 9-10 a.m. at middle and high school locations on the following:

- Mondays – Students in Group V and/or non-HCPSS students age 18 and under
- Wednesdays – Students in Groups E, A or B
- Thursdays – Students in Group V and/or non-HCPSS students age 18 and under

Full [details on student meals](#) can be found on the HCPSS website.

Mark Your Calendars

Mon.-Fri., May 3 – 7	Teacher Appreciation Week
Thursday, May 13	Schools Closed for Students - Articulation Day
Monday, May 17	5 th Grade Virtual Visit to Mount View Middle School
Thursday, May 20	PTA Meeting via Zoom – 6:00pm
Monday, May 31	Schools & Offices Closed – Memorial Day
June 10, 11, 14 & 15	3-Hour Early Dismissal for Students
Tuesday, June 15	Last Day of School

County Information

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, 2021, respectively.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Parents or guardians of children receiving special education and related services were mailed the Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey from the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services during the week of February 8, 2021. Parents are asked to complete the survey and return it in the postage paid envelope by May 21, 2021. The survey may also be completed online. Please look for details in your survey packet. Your feedback will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services in your local school system. Your voice can make a real difference for your child and many other children across the state of Maryland. To learn more, please visit <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com>.

PTA News

National Teacher Appreciation Week- Call for Donations!

May 3rd - May 7th is National Teacher Appreciation Week and we want to celebrate our amazing WFES teachers! Please click on the link below if you are interested in donating items for the events we have planned: signupgenius.com/go/9040e4da4a92eabfe3-national

All items must be pre-packaged and individually wrapped. If you have any questions, please reach out to Glenda Hernandez Tittle at glendahtittle@gmail.com OR Dara Kern at darakernmorgan@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting our teachers!!

WE HAVE MASKS!!!

We now have adult and child-sized masks IN STOCK and ready for pickup! Adult \$6 and Child \$4. Please visit <https://westfriendship.memberhub.store/store> to place your order. Stay safe while supporting the PTA!

5th Grade Memory Book Orders - Deadline Extended

Attention fifth grade parents: The deadline to order a 5th Grade Memory Book is being extended to Friday, May 28th for online orders and Thursday, May 20th for check orders!

WHERE TO ORDER: <https://westfriendship.memberhub.store/store/items/721316>

COST: \$30 per book

DEADLINES: May 28th (online orders)/ May 20th (check orders)

****Books will be delivered to WFES by June 10th****

If you prefer to pay by check, please return a check made payable to WFES PTA along with this completed order form: <https://drive.google.com/.../1ndB7IDsM4IMqgFueLSq.../view...>

The WFES PTA is dedicated to ensuring that every 5th Grader receives a memory book!

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact wfes2021@gmail.com.

PTA Board Nominations for 2021-2022

Do you want to get involved in the WFES community, meet people and make a difference? The PTA Nomination committee is looking for volunteers to serve a variety of positions on our 2021-2022 PTA Board. For more information please contact Courtney Douglass at courtneyt702@gmail.com, Penny Smith at Penny_Smith@hcpss.org, or Stacy Perrier at sta1434@yahoo.com.

Amazon Smile

Help support West Friendship Elementary Schools PTA by shopping on Amazon through Amazon Smile. You get the same great deals and benefits offered by Amazon while supporting our school! Just go to smile.amazon.com, and login to Amazon using your regular username and password. Search for and select West Friendship Elementary School PTA under charitable organizations, and you are ready to shop! And yes, we know it is spelled wrong on Amazon's page. Unfortunately, we can't change it.

Family and Student Support

HC DrugFree Updates for Parents/Guardians

Free Parenting Classes:

HC DrugFree and the Howard County State's Attorney's Office, partnering with HCPSS and the Health Department, will once again provide evidence-based classes for families to gain skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will engage in risky behaviors including using drugs. **This 4-class series for parents will be held on Zoom from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 4, 11 and June 1, 8.** Parents/guardians must register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCDrugFreeSpring2021>. If you have questions, email Joan Webb Scornaienchi, HC DrugFree's Executive Director at Admin@hcdrugfree.org.

Community News

Please visit the HCPSS website [Community News and Programs page](#) for upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

Mobile Testing Sites

Howard County is dedicated to expanding COVID-19 testing to residents in our community who many not have adequate access. First Call Urgent Care and Centennial Medical Group are implementing four mobile testing units in the following locations:

- Long Reach Village Center (Monday, 3pm-7pm)
- North Laurel Community Center (Tuesday, 3pm-7pm)
- Normandy Shopping Center (Wednesday, 3pm-7pm)
- Recreation and Parks Headquarters (Thursday, 3pm-7pm)
- The Elkrige 50+ Center (Friday, 3pm-7pm)

Rapid testing and PCR testing will be available to residents at no cost. These new testing sites will help us promote more equitable healthcare and ensuring our most vulnerable populations have access to COVID-19 testing.

Howard County Arts Council's Camps

Spring has sprung, flowers are blooming, and it's time to start planning for summer which means - camp! Register today for Howard County Arts Council's Visual & Performing Arts camps. From June 28-August 27, camps will be offered in one-week, full-day sessions for students entering Grades K-7.

We've developed rigorous COVID-19 health and safety protocols for this year's program, enabling us to offer fun and engaging arts camps while minimizing risk for our campers and staff. Individual camps will be structured as learning pods consisting of one instructor, one counselor, and up to 8 campers. The use of face masks, physical distancing, and health screenings are among the other safety precautions that will also be in place.

With limited enrollment, our summer arts camps are filling up fast with several camps already at full enrollment. So don't miss out – register now and get ready for a summer filled with art adventures!

Visit hocoarts.org/camp for more information and to register.

Howard County Arts Council
8510 High Ridge Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21043
info@hocoarts.org
410-313-ARTS (2787)
hocoarts.org

West Howard Warhawks Youth Football and Cheer

Registration opened on April 19th for 5-13 year old boys and girls interested in playing football or cheering this fall for the West Howard Warhawks Youth Football and Cheer organization. Visit the website at gowarhawks.com and consider joining the Warhawks family this fall!