

Kaye M. Breon
Principal

Tiger Tales

Brian Vanisko
Assistant Principal

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



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

April 8, 2022

Mark Your Calendars

- Friday, April 8 Report Cards Available in Synergy after 5:00pm - [Instructions for accessing report cards](#)
- April 11 – 18 Schools Closed – Spring Break
- Friday, April 15 Last Day to Order Yearbooks - Click [HERE](#) to place order!
- Tuesday, April 19 Schools Reopen
- Wednesday, April 20 PTA Sponsored Walking Wednesday, Weather Permitting
- Friday, April 22 School Spirit Earth Day – Wear your Planet Protector Shirt or the Colors Green & Blue
- Mon.-Fri., April 25 – 29 Scholastic Book Fair at WFES, Room 189 (Mrs. Walker’s G/T Classroom)
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9am – 3:30pm; Thursday 9am – 5:30 pm
- Monday, April 25 PTA Restaurant Event at Tony’s Pizzeria
- Wednesday, April 27 Schools Close 3-Hours Early (12:45pm)
- Saturday, April 30 PTA Sponsored Community Yard Sale, 8:00am to 1:00pm
- Monday, May 2 Schools Closed for Students – Professional Learning Day
- Monday, May 2 PTA Sponsored Restaurant Event at Walkers Tap & Table
- Mon.-Fri., May 2 – 6 National Teacher Appreciation Week
- Mon.-Fri., May 2 – 8 Screen Free Week – School-wide Activity – More Information Coming Soon!
- Tuesday, May 3 Regular Full Day of School
- Saturday, May 14 PTA Spring Festival!

School News

Report Cards Available Today, April 8th

Quarter 3 report cards will be accessible via HCPSS Connect Synergy after 5 p.m., today, April 8. [Instructions for accessing report cards](#) are available online.

We Want to Hear From You! Please Complete by April 22nd

As part of our school improvement process, we are asking families to provide input about their equity priorities for our school. Please use the link below to complete the Indicators of Educational Equity Survey by Friday, April 22nd. We will use your input, along with other school data, to refine our school improvement plan for next school year. The survey is anonymous and available in multiple languages. If you have children at more than one school, please complete one survey per school.

[English version](#)

[Chin version](#)

[Chinese \(simplified\) version](#)

[Korean version](#)

[Spanish version](#)

If you have any questions please contact Kaye Breon at Kaye_Breon@hcpss.org or 410-313-5512

2021-22 Yearbooks Are Now on Sale

It's time to order your 2021–2022 West Friendship Elementary School yearbook! The **deadline for ordering is April 15th**. To make sure your child will have a yearbook when they are delivered at the end of the school year, you must order through our school photographer. Books will NOT be available for purchase after the deadline of April 15th. Don't delay, order today! Books are \$20.00.

Please view this [flyer](#) for directions to order Click [HERE](#) to begin your order.

Please reach out to Penny_Smith@hcpss.org with any questions. Thank you!

Yearbook Photos

We are in the process putting together the yearbook for this school year, and we can't do it without your help! Please send photos of all the events from the year: First Day of School, Trunk or Treat, Movie Night, Restaurant Events, Spirit Days, and any other school-related activities to Penny_Smith@hcpss.org.

WFES Upcoming School Spirit Days

Show your school spirit and join in the fun!

- **April 22 – Earth Day;** Wear your Planet Protector Shirt or the Colors Green and/or Blue
- **May 2-8; Screen-Free Week** is an annual invitation to play, explore, and rediscover the joys of life beyond ad-supported screens. During the first week of May, thousands of families, schools, and communities around the world will put down their entertainment screens for seven days of fun, connection, and discovery. Even though it's about turning off screens, Screen-Free Week isn't about going without – it's about what you can get! An hour once dedicated to YouTube becomes an hour spent outside; ten minutes whiled away on social media turn into ten minutes spent doodling; a movie on a rainy afternoon is replaced by time spent reading, chatting, or playing pretend! You can celebrate Screen-Free Week at home, in your school, in your community, or anywhere – just put down those entertainment screens and do literally anything else! You might be surprised at what you find. (“Entertainment screens” means that you can't use Screen-Free Week as an excuse not to do your homework or your job. But if you're a teacher or boss, you can help everyone celebrate by reducing the amount of screen-based work you assign!)
- **May 27 – Memorial Day Celebration;** Wear Red, White, and Blue for Memorial Day

Time for the Book Fair

We are very excited to announce that West Friendship Elementary will host the Scholastic Book Fair this spring! We have missed having the book fair in our school for the past two years. Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Please plan on visiting our Book Fair to help our children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading. An awesome way to build your family library for summer reading!

Book Fair dates: Monday, April 25 to Friday, April 29, 2022

Book Fair location: Mrs. Walker's Classroom – Room 189 (Back hallway, across from the Media Center)

Shopping hours: 9:00am to 3:30pm

Extended hours: Thursday, April 28 -- 9:00am to 5:30pm

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

Kindergarten and New HCPSS Student Registration

Registration for 2022-2023 Kindergarten continues. Parents/Guardians of children who will be five years old as of September 1, 2022, must enroll their children in kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year. Please be sure to tell your family, friends, and neighbors!! Registering for school is an online process.

- [Road to Kindergarten Workshop Slideshow](#)
- [Getting Ready for Kindergarten](#)
- [Gather Documentation](#)
- [Begin Registration](#)

Parents/Guardians without access to a computer should contact Teachers' Secretary, Mrs. Colleen Green at Colleen_Green@hcpss.org 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, 2022, respectively.

Volunteer Requirements

Volunteers must complete both trainings (print certificate for each and send to school prior to first scheduled volunteer session, or email to Penny Smith at penny_smith@hcpss.org).

- [Child Abuse Training](#)
- [Child Abuse Certificate](#)
- [Confidentiality Training](#)
- [Confidentiality Certificate](#)

Early Dismissal Procedures

If you need to pick up your child early for an appointment that is close to the end of the school day, **please do so before 3:30pm**. After 3:30 pm, it is very difficult for our front office staff to get students while assisting with dismissal procedures. We appreciate your assistance with this! Thank you!

2022 Academic Calendar Modifications

In order to provide school-based staff with additional time to address their increased workload and to support employee well-being, the Board of Education approved updates to the current [academic year calendar](#). Three-hour early dismissals now will take place on the following dates:

- April 27, 2022
- May 18, 2022

At its February 24 meeting, the Howard County Board of Education [approved a modification to the 2021-2022 academic calendar](#) impacting the May schedule. To better align with the Eid al-Fitr holiday, schools now will be closed for students Monday, May 2 and open on Tuesday, May 3.

- Monday, May 2: Schools closed for students. It will be a Professional Learning Day for staff and offices will remain open.
- Tuesday, May 3: Regular school day.

Tentative Last Day of School

The last day for *half-day* pre-K/RECC students is currently Tuesday, June 14. The last day for *full-day* pre-K and K-12 students is scheduled for Friday, June 17. Full [details on the calendar](#) are available online.

2022 Summer Programs Preview Available Online

Parents/guardians and students can now view/download the [2022 Summer Programs Preview](#), which includes descriptions of HCPSS' four summer programs and enrollment information. Online enrollment requests for current HCPSS students is now open.

Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

Parents of students receiving special education services are encouraged to complete a Maryland State Department of Education survey, which will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services. Complete and return a hard copy recently mailed from MSDE to parents, or complete the survey online at www.mdparentsurvey.com no later than May 27.

COVID-19 Test Kits

Per Dr. Martirano's recent email, HCPSS took delivery of COVID-19 test kits this week to ensure that each student and staff can receive one prior to spring break. Our students took their test kit yesterday.

HCPSS encourages the use of at-home tests prior to returning from spring break. Reminder that all students and staff are to **remain home if they are experiencing symptom(s) associated with any communicable disease**, including COVID-19. Details on daily [health checks](#) are available online. If you are displaying any COVID-19 symptoms, please use your test kit as an additional mitigation effort to keep our schools and offices healthy, and/or access one of many available public testing sites in your area.

Please continue to engage in healthy practices during the break. We have made great strides throughout the past year, and we must remain vigilant. We hope you have a happy and safe Spring Break!!

Absence Reporting Updated

Please report ANY absence to WFESAbsence@hcpss.org and your child's homeroom teacher. We are asking that the following information be provided:

- Student's full name and grade
- Date of absence(s)
- Reason for absence:
 - **COVID like symptoms: please be specific with symptoms
 - Positive for COVID
 - Non-COVID related illness: please be specific
 - Other (injury, travel, etc.): please be specific

**If your child is experiencing COVID-like symptoms, one of the following options is required prior to return:

- Proof of a negative rapid test (a photo of the card with name, date of birth and date of test)
- Note from a healthcare provider with an alternate diagnosis
- Quarantine period of 5 days

Please contact the Health Room at 410-313-5515 with any questions.

From our Health Room - Daily COVID-19 Self-Screenings

All parents/guardians are to perform a [COVID-19 health check](#) every day before your student leaves home. Students are not to come to school if they are experiencing any [symptom\(s\) associated with COVID-19 or other communicable disease](#). We thank you for keeping your children home when they are experiencing various illnesses. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the health room, by calling 410-313-5515 or email school nurse at Elizabeth.Collora@hcpss.org. If you want to test your child, please don't go to the ER unless the child is having difficulty breathing. [mobile covid testing sites](#)

WFES COVID-19 Absence Reporting

We are asking families to follow the guidelines below to report any student absence(s):

- COVID Related Absences - report here: [WFES COVID-19 Absence Reporting](#)
 - Students displaying symptoms of COVID (a COVID Like Illness)
 - Students who are in Quarantine as a Close Contact to a known Positive case of COVID
 - Students who are Positive for COVID (with or without symptoms)
- All Other Absences - report here: WFESAbsence@hcpss.org
 - Illness not related to any COVID like symptoms (sprained/broken wrist, dental, lice, etc.)
 - Travel, Family Events, Family Emergencies
 - Other

Outdoor Dining and Outdoor Recess

When we are able, we continue to offer outdoor dining. We also have outdoor recess whenever we can. Please have your children dress for the weather, so they are prepared for outdoors. The following factors are considered in determining if dining and/or recess is to be held outside:

- Temperature and humidity
- Wind chill
- Heat index and air quality
- Age of students
- Length of time outdoors
- Adequacy of the children's clothing
- Condition of the playground
- Falling precipitation (more than a sprinkle or mist)
- Thunder and lightning

Generally, it is assumed that students will be outside for recess when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit or the heat index reading is less than 95. Children with certain health conditions may need special accommodations during extremely hot or cold weather. Parents of those children should provide medical documentation and may be consulted to determine if other arrangements are necessary.

HCPSS Emergency Closing Notifications

In times of emergency/weather closings or delays, information is shared through our website, email, and text, Twitter and the HCPSS weather hotline. The school system's operating status can always be found on the [HCPSS Status website](#). [More information about Emergency closings and information sources](#) is provided online.

PTA News

PTA Sponsored Spring Community Yard Sale

Saturday, April 30th from 8AM-1PM

WFES PTA sponsored Spring Community Yard Sale spots are now OPEN for registration! Spaces are limited, so secure your spot early! Spot size is equivalent to two parking spaces. The yard sale will be held on Saturday, April 30th, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the West Friendship Elementary School parking lot and blacktop area. Set up may begin at 7 a.m. Sellers are responsible for bringing whatever they need for their space (tables, tents, chairs, etc.), and for break down and clean-up of your area. We will also have a few vendors, so if you are interested in setting up a vendor table, please secure a spot. Vendors should let us know what you plan on selling so we can help advertise your goods, along with the other sellers who will be there!

Discounted rate for WFES PTA members. Register

here: <https://westfriendship.memberhub.com/store?category=Community%20Yard%20Sale>

You are welcome to share this event with your networks to help bring in more sellers and shoppers for everyone. Any questions, please email tina.terranova@yahoo.com. We hope to see you in April for our second ever Community Yard Sale!

PTA Sponsored Restaurant Events

Mark your calendars now!!!

- Monday, April 25th Tony's Pizza in West Friendship
- Monday, May 2nd Walker's Tap & Table

Amazon Smile and Earn \$\$\$ for WFES

On your Amazon account, search and select AmazonSmile. Choose West Friendship Elementary School PTA as your charity and turn on this feature or simply visit smile.amazon.com and 0.5% of your purchase price will be donated to WFES PTA. Unfortunately, our school name is spelled incorrectly in the program, **West Frienship Elementary School PTA**. Sadly, we have not been successful in having it corrected. 😞

Community News

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [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."

Learning Together Program – Prekindergarten

The Bushy Park Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) prekindergarten programs are making preparations for classes for the upcoming 2022-23 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 are already 4-years old may request an application. Applications will be available and accepted in mid-February and priority will be given to applications received by April 1st.

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 any additional questions, please contact Roseann Kleinschmidt at 410-313-5500.

HC DrugFree Updates

FREE Life Skills Classes for Students: HC DrugFree is providing a highly interactive skills-based program designed to promote positive health and personal development for youth in grades 6-9. For slightly younger or older students, please register and we will consider each request. We encourage siblings and friends to take these classes together! These skills have been shown to help students resist substance use, violence, and other high-risk behaviors. Our instructional team consists of dedicated adults and older students sharing situations they may face in high school, college, and beyond. The next series of classes will be held via Zoom Tuesdays and Thursdays May 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31 and June 2 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Registration is required. Please **sign-up** ASAP as space is extremely limited! For more information: Email LifeSkills@hcdrugfree.org, visit www.hcdrugfree.org or view **downloadable flier**

Medication and Sharps Drive-thru Collection: HC DrugFree's next drive-thru prescription and over-the-counter medication and sharps (needles, syringes and EpiPens) collection will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot in Columbia. Medication will be guarded and transported by the Howard County Police and the DEA. For more information visit www.hcdrugfree.org or email Admin@hcdrugfree.org or view **downloadable flier Adults, teens, youth groups, and medically-trained adults may volunteer at www.hcdrugfree.org/drug-take-back-day-1/**