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| 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.hcps.org/ School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. |

August 14, 2020

From Our Administrators

Greetings West Friendship Community,

We hope that this message finds you well. First, we would like to welcome our new West Friendship families to our community! We look forward to getting to know your children and your family during the coming year. We are excited to engage with our students and families in this new way and are committed to serving you, even though we may not be seeing you face-to-face.

We recognize that there is a great deal of information coming through email during this time. Our intent is not to further overwhelm your inbox, but to provide you with important information on the most current plans for the school year each Friday.

As we approach the beginning of the school year, we continue to be in an important time of transition for education in Howard County. As you know, teachers and students will engage and interact virtually throughout the 1st semester. The model of instructional delivery will look significantly different beginning in September than it did from March through June of last school year. Thoughtful and purposeful planning at the county level has provided an aligned and consistent framework from which targeted instruction will be provided by our teachers. As our instructional programming becomes more refined, we will be sure to communicate specifics with our families. Information around the HCPSS Reopening Plan is important and can be accessed here [2020-2021 School Year Details and Information](#) along with the [HCPSS Reopening Plan](#) presented and approved by the BOE. Appendix D provides proposed schedules for each grade level, as you consider the logistics of distance learning for your family.

This year will be different, but it does not diminish our focus on learning. We hope you enjoy the final few weeks of summer. Take care and be well! We look forward to seeing ALL our tigers soon! GO TIGERS!

Yours in Education,
Ms. Breon and Mr. Vanisko

School News

Staff Leaving WFES

- Lisa Townsend, Speech/Language Pathologist - moving to a different HCPSS school
- Carolyn Hubbard, Paraeducator - embarking on a new journey of retirement
- Cheryl Hurbon, Pupil Personnel Worker - working with other HCPSS schools

Welcome to Our New WFES Staff

- Annette Myers, Speech/Language Pathologist
- Michael Moriarty, Paraeducator
- Matthew Deyton, Pupil Personnel Worker

Staff Moves Within WFES

- Katie Farrar will be joining the 2nd Grade Team
- Melissa Oaks will be joining the 5th Grade Team
- Andrea O'Connor will be servicing 5th Grade
- Ira Wright will be servicing 2nd and 4th Grades
- Mary LaRocco will be servicing Kindergarten, 1st and 3rd Grades

Summer Meals Extended to August 28

The [free Grab-N-Go summer meals program](#) has been extended through Friday, August 28. There were several location changes effective Monday, August 3.

Free and Reduced Meals Program

The coronavirus pandemic is causing a lot of hardship for many of our friends and neighbors. Many HCPSS families have been impacted financially by the pandemic, and may be eligible now to receive benefits through the Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMS) program. Qualifying families can take advantage of a wide range of additional resources and discounts, including testing fees, tuition, internet and more. [Click here to learn more or to apply](#). Please share this information with your community.

Chromebooks for Fall

- Beginning August 10, 2020, families with students new to HCPSS and whose registration has been finalized will receive an email from noreply@hcpss.org with the subject "Technology account information for new HCPSS students." The email will be sent to the email address used during the student registration process. The email contains personalized and important information regarding new students' technology accounts. If you have a child new to HCPSS and do not receive the email and/or cannot locate the email in the junk/spam folder of the email account you used during registration, you can use the [Forgot Password or Username](#) button on the hcpss.me student landing page to retrieve both your child's username and password. Directions for [Account Self Service](#) are posted online.
- Students who will attend an HCPSS school for the 2020-2021 school year and who borrowed an HCPSS Chromebook in the spring or summer may continue to use the device for the 2020-2021 school year. There will be more information coming soon if you need to borrow a Chromebook for the upcoming year.
- **Students leaving HCPSS after the 2019-2020 school year and/or who have withdrawn from the 2020-2021 school year** will need to return a borrowed Chromebook and/or hot spot either during the designated time provided by their current school's collection time (schedule will be shared soon) or within a week of the student's last day of enrollment and completion of coursework. Students who will return a Chromebook/hot spot outside their school's designated time will need to bring the device to the HCPSS Logistics Center (9645 Gerwig Lane, Columbia). The building is open weekdays from 9-11 a.m.
- Specific questions regarding Technology devices can be directed to Assistant Principal, Mr. Brian Vanisko, Brian_Vanisko@hcpss.org

School Supplies

We are currently working with Central Office as they develop a revised school supply list that is appropriate for online learning. While there will be some items from the traditional supply list, there will likely be some additions. Information will be sent out when this list is complete.

Collection and Distribution of Materials

- We are currently working on procedures/schedules to collect items from the 19-20 school year AND procedures/schedules to distribute items/materials for the 20-21 school year. Collection and distribution will occur within the next 2-3 weeks - specific information will be coming out soon.
- 19-20 Pick-up of **Protect the Ocean T-Shirts**
- **Collection of Materials** from the 19-20 School Year could include items such as: text books, instruments, media books, Chromebook if leaving HCPSS
- **Distribution of Materials** for the 20-21 school year will include items such as: bundled consumable curriculum materials for Art, PE, Science and other curricular areas, instruments, etc.

Learning at Home Tips

- Below are some tips that you may find helpful or useful as you prepare your child for this year of learning. We recognize that all families are at a different place at this time in terms of school readiness, but for those of you who are curious as to ways you can support your child, we have compiled a beginning list for you.
- **Provide a designated learning space for your child.** This will help your child with understanding that school is important. If your child has their own area that is strictly for their schooling, they are less likely to be distracted and it will help your child get in the zone for learning. This can be a small table, a small tv tray, a corner table in a kitchen, etc. Please do whatever works best for you, however, we recommend that this area has a “permanent” spot in the house.
- **Within the designated space, have organized items that your child will be able to find, put away and use.** This will allow students to work in their area without needing to leave it to find needed materials.
- **School box** or bin for crayons, pencils, scissors, glue and markers
- **Headphones** are helpful to avoid distractions to others AND they will block out distractions from the house
- **Small whiteboard or thick paper in sheet protectors** and black expo markers. Often teachers will ask your child to hold up their work and paper can be hard to see in an online format.

Family File

- **It is required that all families, including returning families, verify or update information for every child in the family, every school year.** Please Note: Although schools remain virtual through 1/28/21, it is important that we have up-to-date emergency contact information for each student, in the event that our staff need to communicate directly with our families.
- You can access the Family File by logging in to the [HCPSS Connect](https://www.hcpss.org/connect/) at www.hcpss.org/connect/. Parents who are new to the Howard County Public School System will receive a welcome email with instructions on how to activate an account. Once you have logged into the [HCPSS Connect](https://www.hcpss.org/connect/), select the Family File tab on the left-hand side, and then select the blue underlined "Family File"

towards the center of your screen. Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to provide, update, or confirm the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/guardian Contact Information
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information
- Media Release (photo approval)
- Data Confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA Directory
- Please note, if the section you are looking for is not allowing you to move forward, then there is a question/checkbox on that page that may still need to be addressed. Please make sure to re the prompts at the top of each tab, and click to expand each section. Assistance is available at this [link](#).
- Parents who have forgotten their login credentials may click the “Forgot Password” link on the sign-in page.
- If a parent completed the Family File **prior** to August 10th, the information entered will be attached to the 2019-2020 school year and the Family File will be considered incomplete.

Change of Address

- A change of Address cannot be made through Family File. If you have recently moved, please contact your child’s new school as soon as possible. As we are preparing for the upcoming 2020-2021 School Year, it is imperative that we have accurate addresses on file for all of our students. If you have moved, and have not provided us with your updated information, we ask that you email the following documents to Mrs. Green at Colleen.Green@hcpss.org
 - A completed change of address form
 - A copy of your new lease or deed
 - A copy of a current utility bill with your new address

Leaving WFES

If your child will not be attending West Friendship this year, please contact Mrs. Green at Colleen.Green@hcpss.org or Mrs. Smith at Penny.Smith@hcpss.org. This allows us to have accurate classes and we can provide you with the information needed to enroll your child at their new school or information for homeschooling.

Kindergarten and New Student Registration On-Line

- Please share with your friends and neighbors
- Parents/guardians of children who will be five as of September 1, 2020 must enroll their children in kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year. Complete registration information can be found at <https://www.hcpss.org/enroll/>
- Registrations should be submitted online. Parents will have the opportunity to upload documents during the registration process. You can find documents required for registration at <https://www.hcpss.org/enroll/#docs>. If parents choose to not upload documents during the registration process, they will be notified of alternative methods to submit the required documents after we have received the registration.
- Registration Questions - contact Mrs. Colleen Green at Colleen.Green@hcpss.org

Immunizations

All children must have the required State of Maryland immunizations in order to attend school, including in districts utilizing virtual instruction. In partnership with the Howard County Health Department and the Maryland Partnership for Prevention, HCPSS will offer several immunization clinics, at no cost to families, for any student who may need vaccines during the week of September 21.

Mark Your Calendars ****Google Meet codes will be sent for events****

- Tues., Aug. 25** **Staff Returns Virtually**
- Wed., Aug. 26** **General Info Meeting for New to WFES Families - 6:00pm**
Meet Administrators, Office Staff, School Nurse
- Thurs., Sept. 3** **Back to School Night Meetings for Parents**
Gifted/Talented - 5:00 to 5:45pm
Grade Levels, Kindergarten - Grade 5 (2 sessions)
 6:00 to 6:45pm - 1st Session
 7:00 to 7:45pm - 2nd Session
- Fri., Sept. 4** **Virtual Open House/Meet & Greet**
This is an opportunity for students to meet their teacher and see their classmates
 9:00am - Kindergarten
 9:30am - First Grade
 10:00am - Second Grade
 10:30am - Third Grade
 11:00am - Fourth Grade
 11:30am - Fifth Grade
 12:00pm - Related Arts
 3:00 to 3:30pm Grade Level Teams Q & A
- Mon., Sept. 7** **Schools & Offices Closed – Labor Day**
- Tues., Sept. 8** **First Day of School for K-5 Students**
- Mon., Sept. 28** **School & Offices Closed – Yom Kippur**