

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 21, 2020

From Our Administrators

Dear West Friendship Elementary Families,

WFES School Administrators invite families who are new to WFES to attend a Virtual Information Meeting on Wednesday, August 26th at 6:00 p.m. Please stop in and meet the principal, assistant principal, school secretaries, school nurse, and school counselor. We look forward to sharing general school information with you. In addition, we invite you to complete this [survey](#) to help us prepare for the meeting. We hope you can join us at this virtual meeting.

We will be distributing and collecting Chromebooks and other materials at our school on Tuesday, September 1st. Please review this [important information](#) so that you will be prepared to return and receive devices and materials on that day.

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.

Yours in Education,
Ms. Breon and Mr. Vanisko

School News

School Supply Lists

Please find the school supply list for all elementary schools [here](#). For the 2020-21 school year, there is one supply list for all elementary schools. The number of supplies on the list have been reduced to keep costs down for families and reflect those most essential for virtual learning.

Collection and Distribution of Devices and Materials

- Collection and distribution will occur on Tuesday, September 1st. Please use this [link](#) to see specific information needed for this day.
- 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.

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](http://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](http://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. Please complete the **Withdrawal Request** form and return Mrs. Green. In addition, if you are planning to homeschool you must complete and submit a **Home Schooling Notification** form to the Home Instruction Office.

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.

New Student Virtual Get Together! (for students NEW to WFES in grades 1-5)

Hello to all of our newest tigers from Mrs. Schnebly, your School Counselor! As we start the new school year, I would like to invite all new students to a virtual get together before school officially begins. This will be a time for us to meet in a smaller setting where you can ask questions and get a chance to meet other new students in your grade. Specific times for each grade level are below. Google Meet codes will be shared at a later date. I am looking forward to meeting you all! Thank you!

Friday, August 28th

New First Graders - 9:00 am

New Second Graders – 9:30 am

New Third Graders – 10:00 am

New Fourth Graders – 10:30 am

New Fifth Graders – 11:00 am

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.

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.](#)

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

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|------------------------|--|
| 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
Access Survey |
| Fri., Aug. 28 | New Student Get Together with the School Counselor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New First Graders - 9:00 am• New Second Graders – 9:30 am• New Third Graders – 10:00 am• New Fourth Graders – 10:30 am• New Fifth Graders – 11:00 am |
| Tues., Sept. 1 | Collection and Distribution of Devices & Materials
Click Here for Directions & Schedule |
| 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 - 2 nd 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