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Principal



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

**August 28, 2020**

## From Our Administrators

Dear West Friendship Elementary Families,

Please mark your calendars! A lot of things will be happening next week as we continue to prepare for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

We will be distributing and collecting Chromebooks and other materials at our school on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please review this [important information](#) so that you will be prepared to receive devices/materials or return media and/or classroom books on that day. Every student will have materials to be picked up.

You will be able to see who your child's teacher will be on September 1<sup>st</sup>. In order to do so, you must complete your family file. This is required for each child and is the only way you will get your child's class placement before back.

Our staff is looking forward to presenting grade level information to parents during virtual Back to School Night on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Back to School Night meetings are for parents. The schedule is as follows:

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<sup>nd</sup> Session

Students and parents are asked to join us for our virtual Open House/Meet & Greet on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. This is the perfect opportunity to meet teachers and see classmates. Each grade level's time slot is listed below. Please note that the last time slot of the day is a Grade Level Team Q & A.

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

Please know that Google Meet codes will be sent out prior to each virtual activity so you can join that meeting.

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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 HCPSS Connect at [www.hcpss.org/connect/](http://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](#), 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.
- 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 10<sup>th</sup>**, the information entered will be attached to the 2019-2020 school year and the Family File will be considered incomplete.

### HCPSS News

[HCPSS News emails and text alerts](#) keep families up-to-date on news and events, and delivers real-time notices of emergency closings and information. All HCPSS News subscriptions are generated from the information provided in Family File and have been

automatically updated for the 2020-2021 school year. Parents/guardians new to the system are automatically enrolled for email notification, and [must opt in to text alerts](#).

### **School Calendar**

Make sure you know important dates on the [2020-2021 academic calendar](#). There are no printed calendars; you may view the online calendar and/or download printable calendar PDFs on our website. The calendar is subject to change.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:Colleen_Green@hcpss.org) or Mrs. Smith at [Penny\\_Smith@hcpss.org](mailto: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](mailto: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. Please contact our school nurse, Beth Collora at [mailto:Elizabeth\\_Collora@hcpss.org](mailto:mailto:Elizabeth_Collora@hcpss.org) immediately if you are unsure if your

child needs school required immunizations. Please review the [attached flyer](#) for clinic dates and locations.

### **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 28<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **School Meals**

The [food services program during the first semester](#) of the 2020-2021 school year will consist of Grab-and-Go breakfasts and lunches served Monday through Friday from 8–9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m., beginning Tuesday, September 8.

Parents of students who qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMs) must submit a new application every school year. [View program details](#) and learn how to apply.

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

- 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<sup>nd</sup> 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**

## Community News

[School Supply Giveaway](#)