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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.

December 11, 2022

Upcoming Dates

Monday, December 12	Last Day of the WFES Toys for Tots Collection
Wednesday, December 14	3-Hour Early Dismissal for Students – Professional Work & Wellness Day
Wednesday, December 21	Kindergarten Field Trip to Glenwood Library – AM
Friday, December 23	School Spirit “Pajama Day”
Friday, December 23	School-wide Tiger Celebration – 2:40 to 3:35pm
December 24 – January 2	Winter Break – Schools Closed
Tuesday, January 3, 2023	Schools Reopen
Monday, January 16	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Schools & Office Closed
Wednesday, January 18	Schools Close 3-Hrs Early (12:45pm) - Professional Work Day/Wellness Day
Friday, January 20	End of Second Marking Period
Monday, January 23	Professional Work Day – Schools Closed for Students
Thursday, January 26	Band, Strings, and Chorus Winter Concert – More Details to Come
Monday, January 30	Quarter Two Report Cards Will be Available via Synergy

Federal Impact Aid Forms Due December 19

Howard County Public Schools needs your assistance to secure additional funding from the federal government through the Impact Aid program. This program provides funds to school districts that have students whose parents work for a federal government agency or are on active military duty or reside in low-income housing.

The deadline has extended to Monday, December 19. Please take time to complete the Impact Aid survey.

1. *Confirm your status.* If you did not complete Family File this year *and* work on federal property in Maryland or are active duty military, please [log in and complete the Federal Impact Aid section of Family File](#) prior to completing the Impact Aid form.
2. *Apply just your digital signature on the online Impact Aid form.*
 - [Log in to HCPSS Connect](#) using parent/guardian credentials.
 - Select More Options from the left navigation.
 - Select Federal Impact Aid from the middle.
 - Note: digital signature only needs to be completed by one parent.

All information provided remains anonymous. With your help, Howard County will secure the district’s appropriate share of Impact Aid funds.

More information may be found at [Impact Aid](#). Thank you for your attention to this important manner.

December Fun 2022 Continues...

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12  Let it Snow Wear White or Hat/scarf	13  S'winter Day! Dress in a mix of Summer and Winter gear!	14  Dress comfy for ½ Day	15  Wear your Flannel or Hoodie!	16  Wear something festive or wintery

Snacks are Back!

Snacks now available for students to purchase during lunch shifts. Students in grades 2 through 5 are welcome to purchase the snacks using either cash or money from their accounts. Some of the items include fresh baked cookies, rice Krispie treats, frozen fruit ices, and pretzels. Snacks range from .50 to \$1.00.

Outdoor Dining

Outdoor dining has ended for the winter. On December 12, Grounds Services staff will begin removal of all tents in the order they were installed, weather permitting. The tents will be set up again in the spring.

Outdoor Recess Guidelines

Generally, 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. Please be sure students are dressed appropriately for the outdoor weather.

Harris Teeter Together in Education Rewards

If you shop at Harris Teeter, you can link your VIC card to benefit WFES. Follow these simple steps [HERE](#):

1. Enter email associated with your VIC account
2. Enter the one-time passcode sent to your email
3. Search for your school and click "add" to link



The WFES Toys for Tots drive ends on Monday, December 12. The outpouring of support from our community has been amazing! We were able to fill two giant bins full of toys. A special thank you goes to our fifth grade students who helped advertise this event with posters displayed throughout our building and another special thank you to our WFES community for your generosity. Many children will be happy this holiday season thanks to your support!!

Family Read the Rainbow Book Club

Registration for the next FAMILY Read the Rainbow book club is now open.

This virtual book club will feature the title, *When Aidan Became a Brother* written by Kyle Lukoff and illustrated by Kaylani Juanita and will take place on Saturday, January 7th at 1:30pm. Both Kyle and Kaylani will be present at the meeting! Kyle will do a read-aloud of his book and Kaylani will talk a little about what it was like to illustrate Kyle's story. Both will answer questions from the audience.

This is a FREE LGBTQIA+ focused book club and open to ALL (families, students, parents, staff, and community). The first 50 families who register will receive a free copy of *When Aidan Became a Brother* mailed to their home. Learn more about [the book and this author/illustrator team](#).

[Digital advertisement](#)

[Link to our website to register for the club](#)

Inclement Weather & Asynchronous Days

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) now allows local school systems to repurpose inclement weather days as asynchronous school days. At the discretion of the superintendent, HCPSS will use up to three inclement weather asynchronous days during the 2022-2023 school year. One of two additional codes will be instituted to reflect the decision to transition to an asynchronous instruction day:

- Code Purple Asynchronous Student Day - School buildings and Office buildings open for staff only
- Code Pink Asynchronous Student Day - School buildings and Office buildings closed

On these Code Purple and Code Pink days, HCPSS curriculum resources for secondary students will be delivered within the Canvas learning management system. Resources will be available for all subjects and courses two hours after the start of the regular school day.

Health Room Reminders

- **Please keep all sick children at home.** Any student with a temperature of 100 degrees should be kept at home for 24 hours past the last fever (without medications).
- Encourage your child to wash their hands frequently to reduce the spread of germs.
- Stay home while sick and limit contact with others.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve or tissue.
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap & warm water.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if washing is not available.
- Avoid touching your nose, eyes, and mouth.

Always feel free to email our School Nurse, Elizabeth.Collora@hcpss.org with any questions.

Howard County Family Resources

Please consider signing up to receive monthly newsletters from the Howard County Office of Children and Families. Attached you will find the [December issue Parent Pages](#).

School-Based Mental Health Services

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is expanding its school-based mental health services. Previously available in forty-five schools across the county, these services will be available at all HCPSS schools by the end of the first semester of the 2022-23 school year. The services, including therapy provided at school buildings during the instructional day, are provided by HCPSS' school-based student services teams in collaboration with community mental health agencies. For more information please click on the following link:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2022/10/hcpss-to-expand-school-based-mental-health-services-for-students/>

HCPSS School Messages

All parents/guardians are in our system to receive HCPSS and school emails. Please do not attempt to create a new account with your child's 2022-2023 school. Additionally, unsubscribing from any HCPSS or school messages will block you from receiving all messages from the district and your child's school. **Please do not unsubscribe. To opt in to receive text messages** from HCPSS you must text "YES" to 67587.

HCPSS Student & Parent Handbook

Click [HERE](#) for the county's 2022-23 handbook

When Your Child is Absent from School

Attendance Procedures

Now that our year is well underway, we would like to remind our families about our attendance procedures. If your child is going to be absent from school, or if you need to provide a note to excuse your child's absence from a previous day, please use our school absence inbox by emailing wfesabsence@hcpss.org. You may also send in a note the day your child returns to school. Your message must include your child's first and last name, the date of absence, and the reason for absence. Please do not email CANVAS or the teacher regarding absences. We are required to have a reason for the absence in order to code absences as excused in alignment with [HCPSS Policy 9010: Attendance](#).

HCPSS is Hiring

Join our award-winning workforce and make a difference in the lives of our students. Learn more about HCPSS employment, view current openings online, and do not forget to follow us on LinkedIn.

HCPSS Policies

Policy 9260 - The purpose of [Policy 9260](#) is to provide guidelines related to the school system's authority to safely conduct searches of a student and the student's possessions, and to provide uniform procedures for the administration of such searches.

- **Policy 8080** - We are asking all families to review with their elementary students the rules surrounding cell phones. For the elementary school level, students with cell phones must have the phone TURNED OFF and secured in their backpack while at school. You can read [HCPSS Policy 8080](#), specifically Standard E.
- **Policy 1050 - Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Free Environment** - The Board of Education of Howard County is committed to promoting and providing an alcohol, drug, and tobacco free academic environment for all students that maintains appropriate safeguards for the administration of prescription medication and over-the-counter medication. View the full policy [HERE](#).
- **Policy 1080** - The purpose of this policy is to achieve educational equity by establishing expectations related to the identification and elimination of disparities in education outcomes. You can read more about the Educational Equity policy by going [HERE](#).

- **Policy 10020 - Use of School Facilities** - Public school facilities in Howard County are devoted primarily to instructional programs and school-sponsored activities. Nonetheless, the Board of Education of Howard County recognizes that facilities paid for by the taxpayers of Howard County should be utilized to the fullest extent possible. View the full policy [HERE](#).
- **Policy 1060 - Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment & Intimidation** - All students have the right to be free from bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation. View the full policy [HERE](#) and you can find the sit to report incidents of bullying [HERE](#)
- **Policy 9210** - The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines, standards, and implementation procedures for student dress during the school day and during other school-related activities. Read the policy [HERE](#) to get the full information.

PTA News



Join the PTA

Becoming a member of the PTA supports the programs and events that enhance your child's experience at school. The PTA also supports the needs of our teachers and shows them our appreciation! Joining does not require any further commitment, although we always welcome volunteers to help with our various events. PTA membership must be renewed each year. Please consider joining today!

<https://mywfespta.weebly.com/supportus-992913.html>

Community News and Events

HCPSS Community News and Programs Site

The HCPSS [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. Community organizations requesting their announcements be shared in school newsletters should visit community-programs.hcpss.org for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss.org.

Know What's Happening in Howard County

Sign up for HC DrugFree's newsletter at <https://hcdrugfree.org/enews-signup/> to get updates on events as well as information to keep your family safe and informed.

Marriotts Ridge High School Winter Music Concerts

December 14th and 15th at 7:00pm

Admission is \$5.00. ** Special Family Pricing Available **