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West Friendship E.S. 12500 Frederick Road West Friendship, MD 21794 P: (410) 313-3512		Web Site: <a href="http://wfes.hcpss.org/">http://wfes.hcpss.org/</a> School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

**December 4, 2020**

## School News

### Get Ready for Inclusive Schools Week!

Please join us in celebrating Inclusive Schools Week, December 7-11, 2020. This year's theme is "The Time for Inclusion is Now!" Inclusive Schools Week provides an opportunity for educators, students, and parents to discuss and initiate practices to further ensure schools continue to improve their goal of successfully educating all children. This annual event was created to celebrate the progress schools have made toward providing a quality education for our increasingly diverse student populations and those students marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economics status, cultural heritage, language preference, and other factors. During Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) time, teachers will be engaging our students in activities around inclusion.

We will wrap up Inclusive Schools Week with a special school-wide spirit day on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – see information below.

We look forward to celebrating with our students!

### WFES December School Spirit Days

Show your school spirit and join in the fun!

**Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> is WFES Day** ~ We are all INCLUDED in the WFES Community! In honor of Inclusive Schools Week, let's wear our WFES colors (Green & White)/Spirit Wear to show how we are one!

**Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> is Pajama Day** ~ Students may wear their comfy pajamas to class today!

We encourage students to email pictures so we can tweet them out. Please email photos to [Kathleen.Donegan@hcpss.org](mailto:Kathleen.Donegan@hcpss.org), then look for all the awesome WFES School Spirit on Twitter!

### PBIS News

Did you know that WFES is a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) School?

#### What is PBIS?

- PBIS is a research-based approach that focuses on creating positive environments that are more conducive to learning.
- PBIS uses proactive strategies to support pro-social behaviors.
- PBIS provides a continuum of supports, including rewards and consequences, in all environments.
- PBIS provides consistent routines, language and expectations.

#### West Friendship Expectations

West Friendship has 3 school-wide behavior expectations that are reinforced daily. These rules can be applied to situations both inside and outside of school.

1. **Be Respectful**
2. **Be Responsible**

### 3. Be Ready to Learn

One of our PBIS goals is that positive behaviors are rewarded consistently. In the virtual setting, we do this at WFES via:

- Weekly Virtual Tiger Certificates: Teachers select a student from their class who goes above and beyond to show the 3 R's. These students are rewarded with their name highlighted in the Friday Morning Announcements as well as being sent a Certificate through their Canvas Inbox.
- Class Cards: \*New for Quarter 2\* Each class has the opportunity to earn a class reward of their choosing if they get the 10 blank spaces on their Class Card filled up. A paw is earned 🐾🐾 on the card for excelling with the WFES expectations. Classes can earn paws not only from their homeroom teacher, but from a Related Arts class as well. Once the class has filled up their Class Card, a class reward is earned.

So far, the following classrooms have already earned their class reward:

- Peterman (3 times!!!)
- Pickett
- Farrar
- Braswell

Be sure to ask your student about the progress on their Class Card!!

### December Lunch Bunches

Our School Counselor, Mrs. Schnebly is offering drop-in lunch bunches for all grades K - 5 during December. These are a great opportunity for our students to socialize with peers, and have fun together. If you have questions please contact Mrs. Schnebly at [Leslie\\_Schnebly@hcpss.org](mailto:Leslie_Schnebly@hcpss.org).

**All lunch bunches are from 11:20 – 11:50 am**

#### Lunch Bunch Dates and Codes:

Second Grade: December 8<sup>th</sup>; wfes-lunch2

Third Grade: December 10<sup>th</sup>; wfes-lunch3

Fourth Grade: December 15<sup>th</sup>; wfes-lunch4

Fifth Grade: December 17<sup>th</sup>; wfes-lunch5

### Related Arts Color Schedule for rest of December

Week Of:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12/7 -12/11					
12/14 – 12/18					
12/21 – 12-25			No Asynch Assignments	No School	No School

### Absence Email Reminder

**Please do not send your child's absent note through Canvas.** All absent notes must be emailed to [WFESabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:WFESabsence@hcpss.org) and **include student name, date of the absence, and the reason for the absence.** If this information is not included, the note will not be accepted. This email goes directly to our Attendance Secretary. You may cc: your child's teacher in the same email. Thank you in advance for adhering to our absence reporting procedures.

### Family and Student Support

## Family Support and Resource Center Newsletter

Do you have a child with an IFSP or IEP? The HCPSS Family Support and Resource Center (FSRC) offers a weekly email just for you! FSRC communications include helpful workshops, resources and community information specifically geared to supporting your journey. As a parent of a child with an IFSP/IEP, you should already be receiving the email, but if not, let us know so we can include your contact information in our database. You can also email specific questions to [FSRC@hcpss.org](mailto:FSRC@hcpss.org)

## The National Family Resiliency Center – Virtual Presentation

Family Resiliency: How to Cope During Stressful Times

When: Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00pm [Click here to view the flyer.](#)

## Howard County Family Institute

The Howard County Family Institute is an education, information and community outreach program of the Office of Children and Families, Department of Community Resources and Services. Their Mission is to assist parents in their parenting role by providing education that enhances caregiver skills, knowledge and behavior with a vision that all children will start life with a strong foundation. Please go to their [website](#) and view the resources and upcoming virtual workshops.

## Student Support & Community Resources: Community Advisory Council Mtg

Wednesday, December 9, 7pm, Virtual session

The December meeting will focus on HCPSS Student Support Teams and community resources. [CAC meetings](#) are open to the public. Interested participants may request the virtual meeting link by emailing [cac.hocoboe@gmail.com](mailto:cac.hocoboe@gmail.com). The link will be sent one day prior to the meeting. [Learn more about CAC.](#)

## Student Services Team Update

Each year, the Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services publishes a catalog of the many Organizations within the County who serve our families and children. Please take a moment to glance through the most recent catalog!

- [2020 Howard County Parent's Guide to Resources and Information from Infancy through the Teen Years](#)

Now, more than ever, we recognize that it takes a village to care for our kids and families. Inside the catalog, you'll find organizations assisting with a range of services (childcare, education, special needs services, support groups, sports, etc.). Have a look!

## Technology

### What happens if I/my child has a connectivity or other issue logging on to class?

We recognize there may be times the applications HCPSS is using for virtual learning may not work as anticipated. This may be due to the nationwide increase in demand on these services or an issue with your local internet provider. HCPSS teachers will be understanding and flexible if interruptions to technology services cause delays in assignment submissions and missed virtual learning sessions.

Additionally, if there is a power outage or other situation out of the student's control that would prevent them from completing an assignment, the student or parent/guardian should contact the teacher as soon as possible to alert them to the issue and determine if the due date can be extended. [More information](#) is available online.

## Technology Security

As we continue to rely on technology, it is critical that each of us does our part to ensure that technology is used safely. Threats to our online safety and the health of our technology are present

every time we click a link, open an email or visit a website. HCPSS has provided [helpful guidelines](#) on our website that you are encouraged to review, follow and share.

## **TO DO - HCPSS Google Play Store-- Parents must OPT IN for students to access!**

Did you know that HCPSS has curated a new set of supplemental digital tools that are available for students to use? Parents must complete a very quick (less than 1 minute) process in order for their child to access these resources like various coding apps, digital books and other reading materials, and more. Please OPT IN to the HCPSS Google Play store as soon as possible.

These supplemental digital tools are approved by HCPSS and comply with federal, state and Howard County Board of Education student data privacy policies. Due to Google's settings, students must access this set of tools by utilizing Google's menu of additional services, which requires consent by a parent or guardian.

To provide consent:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#).
2. Select More Options from the left panel.
3. Select HCPSS Google Menu from the middle of the page.
4. Click the check box to provide consent. Changes are saved automatically.

A parent or guardian must provide consent for each student by selecting the student's name at the top of the page.

Please note:

- HCPSS cannot guarantee that apps are available on devices other than HCPSS Chromebooks.
- Teachers may or may not choose to use any or all of these apps during instruction. Students will be notified when a particular app will be used for instruction.
- If you do not provide consent for your student's access to these digital tools, your student's teacher will provide alternative enrichment activities.
- In addition to these Google tools, HCPSS has approved a robust set of [supplemental digital tools](#). Your child's teacher will notify you of the particular supplemental digital tools being used in each class via email or on their Canvas course page.

## **County Information**

### **HCPSS 2020-2021 Inclement Weather Protocols**

New inclement weather protocols were shared with staff and the community for the 2020-2021 school year while in virtual, small groups or hybrid instructional models. More information about the [four possible inclement weather decisions](#) are provided on the HCPSS website.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

<b>Mon., Dec. 7</b>	<b>PTA Restaurant Night at Tony's Pizzeria – 4pm to 8pm</b>
<b>Dec. 7 – 11</b>	<b>Inclusive Schools Week, “<i>The Time for Inclusion is Now!</i>”</b>
<b>Friday, Dec. 11</b>	<b>School Spirit “WFES Day” – Wear School Colors or Spirit Wear</b>
<b>Tues., Dec. 22</b>	<b>School Spirit “Pajama Day” – Wear Your Comfy Jammies to Class</b>
<b>Dec. 24 – Jan. 1</b>	<b>Schools Closed for Winter Break</b>
<b>Thurs., Dec. 31</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Memory Book Photo Submission Deadline</b>
<b>Mon., Jan. 4</b>	<b>Virtual Learning Continues!</b>

## PTA News

### Get Involved! Join the PTA!

Help support West Friendship Elementary by [joining the WFES PTA](#). The cost of a family membership is only \$15. So many benefits for minimal cost! Thank you for your support!

### Help Wanted!

Our incredible PTA Treasurer, Heather Campbell, will be moving at the end of 2020, so we are looking for a volunteer to fill this important position. This is a great way to become more involved in the PTA! Here is a brief list of responsibilities. Please email [president@wfespta.com](mailto:president@wfespta.com) with any questions or if you would like to volunteer. We are sending thanks in advance for considering this opportunity!

- Maintain custody of PTA funds
- Maintain receipts, expenditures, and reconciliations of bank statements
- Make disbursements as authorized
- Present a brief report of current financial standings at each PTA meeting

### WFES PTA Restaurant Night on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>!

The WFES PTA has another Restaurant Night coming up! Restaurant Nights are fun and easy fundraisers. Just dine at the restaurant on the given date and the WFES PTA will receive a percentage of sales! Please mark your calendars for the following date:

- **Tony's Pizzeria \* 12800 Frederick Road, West Friendship \* 443-266-7349**  
**Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm to 8:00pm**

A portion of sales will be given to the WFES PTA. Make sure you mention WFES PTA when you pay to ensure the PTA receives credit! Order carryout or delivery!!

Please share this information with family and friends!!!

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Memory Book

**Attention 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Families:** To remember these special years in elementary school (at WFES or elsewhere), the Memory Book Committee is putting together a special book just for our 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. The book is like a yearbook and will contain candid pictures of the children throughout their elementary school career, thoughts/memories/advice from the staff, and a page dedicated to each individual child with photos that you provide to us. [This letter](#) will give you more information about the types of photos and how to submit them,

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yzTQOis4sN2Nj53algAUkaTD50QM\\_Ulj/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yzTQOis4sN2Nj53algAUkaTD50QM_Ulj/view?usp=sharing).

**Important Deadline -- Photo Submission Deadline is: December 31, 2020**

### Amazon Smile

Help support West Friendship Elementary Schools PTA by shopping on Amazon through Amazon Smile. You get the same great deals and benefits offered by Amazon while supporting our school! Just go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), and login to Amazon using your regular username and password. Search for and select West Friendship Elementary School PTA under charitable organizations, and you are ready to shop! And yes, we know it's spelled wrong on Amazon's page. Unfortunately, we can't change it.

## Community News

Please visit the HCPSS website [Community News and Programs page](#) for upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

### **Winter Wonderland Trivia Night**

Do you want to test out your math and science knowledge and possibly win a prize? Join the Atholton STEM Advisory Committee's *Winter Wonderland Trivia Night* on **Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, from 6-7PM** (open to all ages). To join, use this Zoom link: <https://hcpss.zoom.us/j/95652906134>.

Please feel free to tell your families and friends! The more, the merrier

Hope to see you there,

The Atholton STEM Advisory Committee