February 17, 2023

Upcoming Dates

**Monday, February 20**
Schools and Offices Closed – Presidents’ Day

**Tuesday, February 21**
WFES PTA Restaurant Fundraiser at E.W. Beck’s in Sykesville – 11:30am to 9:00pm

**Thursday, February 23**
Vision & Hearing Screening for Kindergarten, First Grade & New to WFES Students

**Friday, February 24**
Gr. 1 Field Trip; 9:45am to 2:00pm

**Tuesday, February 28**
Vision & Hearing Rescreening for Kdgn, 1st Grade, & New to WFES Students

**Monday, Mar. 6 – Fri., Mar. 10**
Kindergarten Registration Week

**Tuesday, March 7**
WFES School Spirit “Book Character” Day

**Wednesday, March 15**
Schools Close 3-Hours Early – Professional Wellness Day

**Wednesday, March 15**
WFES School Spirit “Wild About Reading” Day – Wear something with an animal on it or with animal print.

**Friday, March 24**
WFES Spirit “Maryland Day” – Wear Red, Yellow, and Black

**Friday, March 24**
PTA Sponsored Cultural Arts Assembly – Spectacular Science: Fire & Ice

9:30 to 10:15 – Grades 3, 4, & 5
10:30 to 11:15 – Kdgn, Grades 1 & 2

**Friday, March 31**
Schools Close 3-Hours Early – End of 3rd Marking Period

**Mon., Apr. 3 – Mon., Apr. 10**
Schools Closed – Spring Break

**Tuesday, April 11**
Schools Reopen

School News

**Kindergarten and New HCPSS Student Registration**

Registration for 2023-2023 Kindergarten begins on March 6th – 10th. Parents/Guardians of children who will be five years old as of September 1, 2023, must enroll their children in kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year. Registering for school is an online process.

- [Road to Kindergarten Workshop Slideshow](#)
- [Getting Ready for Kindergarten](#)
- [Gather Documentation](#)
- [Begin Registration](#)

Parents/Guardians without access to a computer should contact Teachers’ Secretary, Mrs. Colleen Green at 410-313-5512 for assistance in completing the registration process.

**Early Admission for Kindergarten and First Grade**

Applications for early admission to [kindergarten](#) and [first grade](#) are now being accepted. Applicants must submit all application materials for early admission to kindergarten and first grade by April 30 and May 31, 2023, respectively.
Elementary school students access asynchronous tasks

Asynchronous Student Days

Students,

Inclement families.

Howard of alignment additional prekindergarten 1 accepted program's (virtual, hybrid, in person, or class quarantine). If you have any questions or wish to opt out, please notify school nurse Beth Collora, RN at Elizabeth_collora@hcpss.org. For more details: (English flyer) (Spanish flyer)

2022-23 Yearbooks Are Now on Sale

It is not too early to order your 2022–2023 West Friendship Elementary School yearbook! The deadline for ordering is April 14th. To make sure your child will have a yearbook when they are delivered at the end of the school year, you must order through our school photographer. Books will NOT be available for purchase after the deadline of April 14th. Do not delay, order today! Books are $20.00.

Please view this flyer for directions to order online (your student should be bringing home a paper copy next week). Click HERE to begin your order. Please reach out to Penny Smith@hcpss.org with any questions.

Pre-Kindergarten Programs

The Bushy Park Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) prekindergarten programs are preparing for classes for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. These classes include children with and without disabilities. The program’s focus is helping all children develop communication, literacy, math, problem solving, motor, and social skills. Parents of children who will be 3 by September 1st may apply. Applications will be available and accepted in mid-February.

In alignment with Maryland’s Blueprint for the Future, new applications for students turning 4 by September 1 will not be available or accepted. The Howard County Public School System continues to offer a prekindergarten program for income eligible children who will be four years old by September 1. For additional information contact the school or visit: https://www.hcpss.org/schools/pre-k-programs/

HCPSS is committed to providing instruction based on the statewide Early Learning Standards which are in alignment with Kindergarten Readiness. The fees listed in the application will be collected monthly regardless of the learning model determined by HCPSS throughout the upcoming school year (virtual, hybrid, in person, or class quarantine). If you have additional questions, please contact Roseann Kleinschmidt at (410) 313-5500.

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 February issue of Parent Pages.

Inclement Weather Reminders & Asynchronous Students Days

Students, families, staff, and community members will be notified of inclement weather notifications via:

- HCPSS Status website
- HCPSS homepage
- HCPSS News email and text message alerts
- Twitter - @hcpss
- HCPSS Information Hotline, 410-313-6666

Asynchronous Student Days are as follows:

- Code Purple – Asynchronous Student Day; Buildings Open
- Code Pink – Asynchronous Student Day; Buildings Closed

Elementary school students access asynchronous tasks distributed by teachers or via the HCPSS website.

* * * February Asynchronous Learning Packets were sent home with students on 1/20/2023. * * *
**Chaperones * Visitors * Volunteers**
This year there will be many opportunities for parents to volunteer at school and/or chaperone school field trips. According to Howard County Board of Education Policy, all volunteers must complete required volunteer trainings. Take time minutes now to complete the required trainings now, so you will be all set to go when these opportunities present themselves. You must review the trainings, print the documentation for each training, and **send them to school at least 5 days prior to volunteering or chaperoning a trip.** You may email them directly to Penny Smith at penny_smith@hcpss.org.

- **Child Abuse Training** and **Child Abuse Certificate**
- **Confidentiality Training** and **Confidentiality Certificate**

**Summer Programs Registration Opens February 1**
**Online enrollment requests** for HCPSS’ 2023 Summer Programs for currently enrolled HCPSS students will open Wednesday, February 1 at 6:00pm. Enrollment requests can be made via HCPSS Connect Synergy by a parent, guardian, school counselor, or school achievement liaison. Enrollment requests do not guarantee placement in courses.

**Recess Update**
The Office of School Safety and Security and Risk Management, in collaboration with School Management and Instructional Leadership, reviewed county wide practices regarding school visits and it has been determined that **parents are no longer able to attend recess.** Parents can continue to eat lunch with their child(ren) if they complete the following:

1. Go to the **HCPSS website** to review information about the school system volunteer process.
2. Review the **“Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Procedures Online Training”** PowerPoint.
3. Sign the **Certificate of Completion** for the “Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Procedures Online Training” form and provide it to the school when signing in.
4. Review the **"Confidentiality Training for Volunteers"** PowerPoint.
5. Sign the **Confidentiality Agreement** and provide it to the school when signing in.
6. Sign in at the front office using the Lobby Guard sign-in system (a valid photo I.D. must be provided).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**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.

**When Your Child is Absent from School**
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**.
PTA News & Events

WFES PTA Restaurant Fundraisers

EW Becks Fundraiser
E. W. Beck's is located at 7565 Main Street Sykesville, MD
Enjoy lunch or dinner from E.W. Beck's on Tuesday, February 21st and earn money for the WFES PTA at the same time. Mention our fundraiser or show the flyer (coming soon) and the WFES PTA will get 10% back! The fundraiser is all day, 11:30am to 9:00pm! Hope to see you there!

Walker's Tap and Table Fundraiser
Walker's Tap & Table is located at 2465 MD-Route 97, Glenwood, MD
Have a delicious meal at Walker's Tap and Table on Monday, March 27th and support the WFES PTA!

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.hcps.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.

MRHS Music Foundation Second Annual Bingo Night!!
The Marriotts Ridge High School Music Foundation is holding its second ANNUAL BINGO FUNDRAISER on Saturday, February 25th at FOP Lodge 69 in Catonsville. Amazing prizes -- Kate Spade & Coach bags, Gift Card Extravaganza, Car Detailing, Solo Bonfire Smokeless Fire Pit, Tailgate Party, and many more!
Tickets are $30 now/$35 at the door and include 20 regular games & door prizes!
Order here: https://tinyurl.com/MRHSMusicBINGO
And here is a QR code that could be used; there is a bingo flyer below that:
MRHSMF Bingo! 2/25/23
Order Tickets Now!

https://tinyurl.com/MRHSMusicBINGO
**Kids on Campus at Howard Community College**

Each summer, Howard Community College offers a variety of weekly enrichment programs for youth ages 6 to 17. Below you will find a flier, or you may visit [www.howardcc.edu/koc](http://www.howardcc.edu/koc) for information and updates. A limited number of booklets are available in the “WFES Brochures and Information” display located in the front hall by the office. Registration opened January 26, 2023.

**Winter Wonderland Father-Daughter Dance**

![Winter Wonderland Father-Daughter Dance Flier](image)

Join us for a night of winter festivities, music, fun, dancing, games, and prizes! Costumes welcome! Girls K-3 w/one parent.

**Friday, February 24th, 2023**

6PM - 8PM

**Patapsco Middle School**

Make Reservations by Feb 20

EARLY BIRD TICKETS $26.50

(Adult + One Child)

Or $35 at the door

Additional children +$10