February 24, 2023

Upcoming Dates

Mon., Feb. 27 – Fri., Mar. 3  Employee Appreciation Week – Recognize a Staff Member
Tuesday, February 28  Vision & Hearing Rescreening for Kdgn, 1st Grade, & New to WFES Students
Friday, March 3  Gr. 3 Field Trip; 9:30am to 3:00pm
Mon., Mar. 6 – Fri., Mar. 10  Kindergarten Registration Week
Tuesday, March 7  WFES School Spirit “Book Character” Day
Sunday, March 12  Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)
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

From Our Administrators

Dear West Friendship Community,

February 27th - March 3rd is Employee Appreciation Week throughout HCPSS. Ms. Breon, Ms. Slattery, and Mr. Vanisko are planning some special things throughout the week to show our appreciation for the outstanding people who make a positive and lasting impact upon the lives of our students each and every day at WFES.

We want to extend our families an opportunity to join in on the fun. We encourage our families to take a moment to recognize a staff member who has made a positive connection and/or impact upon your child and/or family. Feel free to submit this form multiple times for different staff members. We will share your message with each individual staff member. Thank you, WFES Families, for the outstanding support and encouragement you always show our staff!

We are excited to remind all new Kindergarten families to register for the 2023-2024 school year. Registration and newly enrolled first graders will begin on Monday, March 6. Please do not delay registering new students, as the number of enrolled students determines our staffing. It is recommended that you complete the registration process on a laptop or desktop computer. Problems often occur when working from a cell phone or iPad. Please email Colleen_Green@hcpss.org or call 410-313-5512 with registration questions.

Yours in Education,

Lauren Slattery, Substitute Principal
Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal
School News

Kindergarten and New HCPSS Student Registration

Registration for 2023-2024 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.

Hearing and Vision Screening

Re-screening: Tuesday, February 28

The Howard County Health Department will be performing hearing and vision re-screenings for all kindergarten and first grade students that missed the initial screening on February 23. The HCHD will also be re-screening students in grades 2-5 who have been referred by teachers, and newly enrolled students from out of state who do not have a record of prior hearing and vision screening within the last 12 months. If your child wears glasses, please be sure they wear them or bring them to school that day. 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-years old 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.hcps.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.

* March Asynchronous Learning Packets were sent home with students on 2/24/2023. * *

* Chaperones * Visitors * Volunteers
There are opportunities for parents to volunteer at school and/or chaperone field trips. According to Howard County Board of Education Policy, all volunteers must complete two required volunteer trainings. Please take time to complete the required trainings now so you will be ready 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
- Child Abuse Certificate
- Confidentiality Training
- Confidentiality Certificate

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.

Summer Programs Registration
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.
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 wjesabsence@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

West Friendship Elementary PTA Read-a-thon

Our Read-a-thon will start on Thursday March 2, 2023. Approximately one week before our Read-a-thon starts we will send home instructions on how to activate your reader's personal page. This is where you will be able to view and record their progress. We encourage you to activate your reader’s account today by clicking on this link https://www.read-a-thon.com/readers/r/cPABYZ/1 and following the simple instructions. We've chosen Read-a-thon because it will not take much of your time, gives your child a reason to read, and helps in the development of stronger reading skills. We hope EVERYONE participates.

WFES PTA Restaurant Fundraisers

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 can 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 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