

Kaye M. Breon
Principal



Brian Vanisko
Assistant Principal

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.

February 25, 2022

From Our Administrators

Dear WFES Families,

We thank you for the many inquiries concerning two of our absent staff members. We are grateful for your concern, but do not want you to worry.

Our School Nurse, Mrs. Elizabeth Collora had a skiing accident in mid-January that resulted in knee surgery on January 26th. She is participating in physical therapy and on the road to recovery. We are so lucky to have Registered Nurse, Ms. Kirsten Daniels taking care of things in the health room! Ms. Daniels has worked in the WFES Health Room with Mrs. Collora over the past few months. She is very skilled, caring, and is taking great care of the students and staff at WFES. If you have health questions or concerns, please reach out to Ms. Daniels at [Kirsten Daniels contractor@hcpss.org](mailto:Kirsten_Daniels_contractor@hcpss.org).

Mr. Richard Umla, Vocal Music Teacher is out of the building for a while to take care of personal business with his family. We wish Mr. Umla well as he leaves the music room in very capable hands during his absence. Retired HCPSS Vocal Music Teacher, Ms. Lynn Hunter has graciously agreed to substitute. She comes to us with a wealth of knowledge, musical talent, and love for children. Ms. Hunter can be reached at [Lynn Hunter@hcpss.org](mailto:Lynn_Hunter@hcpss.org).

Your care and concern for our staff is very much appreciated. This is just another positive characteristic of our school community. As always, please do not hesitate to contact one of us with any questions or concerns.

We are very excited about the WFES PTA Sponsored Read-a-thon that kicks off this Sunday, February 27th! We encourage each and every student to register for the online Read-a-thon platform, <https://www.read-a-thon.com/readers/r/SrKuMR/1>. While raising funds is not required to participate, the Read-a-thon is a fundraiser for the PTA. If you will be collecting donations, please have donors make checks payable to **WFES PTA**.

Please help your child log their reading minutes and join in the fun and rewards. There is a rumor going around that a certain administrator may kiss a special farm animal if WFES students collectively read a total of 75,000 minutes! We challenge every student to read and log at least 20-minutes per day! And, you have from February 27th to March 13th to log all of your reading minutes. Easy-easy! Right???

Wishing all of you a wonderful weekend! Enjoy time with your family! Happy reading!

Yours in Education,

Kaye Breon, Principal

Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal



Mark Your Calendars

Feb. 28 – Mar. 4	Employee Appreciation Week
March 7 – 11	Virtual Kindergarten Registration Week for 2022-2023 School Year
Mon., March 14	Individual Spring Portraits – All Students Will Be Photographed
Wed., March 16	Schools Close 3-Hours Early, 12:4 pm
Friday, April 1	Schools Close 3-Hours Early, 12:45pm/End of 3 rd Quarter

School News

Lunch/Recess Monitor Needed

We are looking for an outstanding individual who loves children to work at WFES as a Lunch/Recess Monitor! Schedule: Monday-Friday, every day that students are in school

- Hours: 11:00am to 2:30pm, slight adjustment of hours on early dismissal days
- Hourly Rate: \$14.00/per hour

Please contact our Assistant Principal, Mr. Vanisko at Brian_Vanisko@hcpss.org if you are interested in applying for this position. You will also need to apply for this position by visiting <https://www.hcpss.org/employment/substitute-positions/> and click on “View Current Openings and Apply Now”. Select “Substitute/Temporary Employment” on the left-hand side. Scroll down the page to the listing for Lunch and Recess Monitor.

Individual Spring Photos

Individual Spring Photos will be taken on **Monday, March 14th**. All students will be photographed. In a few weeks you each student will receive a photo package to review. At that time you may purchase the complete photo package, a portion of the photo package, or return the complete package. You will be able to pay by check, exact cash, or online. You will receive more information in the next few weeks.

Kindergarten and New HCPSS Student Registration

Registration for 2022-2023 Kindergarten begins on March 7th – 11th. Parents/Guardians of children who will be five years old as of September 1, 2022, must enroll their children in kindergarten for the 2022-2023 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.

From the HCPSS Physical Education Office

All students must wear the proper shoes to participate in PE class. This follows the proper PE dress code set forth by the county PE office. Please remind your child(ren) that if it is a PE day, then tennis shoes/sneakers are to be worn. If your child wants to wear their boots, Uggs, sandals etc..., then please have them carry their tennis shoes in their backpack to change into for PE class. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe.

Field Day News ** Volunteers Needed

HCPSS has advised Field Day planning and events for the 2021-2022 school year may return to normal. As with all HCPSS volunteers, Field Day volunteers must adhere to HCPSS guidelines regarding [masks](#), [vaccine](#)

[requirements](#), and other [Volunteer Training](#). In order for Field Day to run smoothly and be a fun event for our student, we will need the assistance of many parent volunteers. If you have not already done so, please complete all of the required volunteer trainings and vaccine requirements as soon as possible. It is a three step process.

1. Complete the [Confidentiality Training](#), download and print the certificate
2. Review the [Child Abuse Training PowerPoint](#), download and print the certificate
3. Use the [PinPoint Vaccine Check Platform](#) to verify your vaccination status

2021-22 Yearbooks Are Now on Sale

It's not too early to order your 2021–2022 West Friendship Elementary School yearbook! The **deadline for ordering is April 15th**. 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 15th. Don't 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 later this week). Click [HERE](#) to begin your order.

Please reach out to [Penny Smith@hcpss.org](mailto:Penny.Smith@hcpss.org) with any questions. Thank you!

HCPSS Elementary School Counseling Connection Newsletter

The HCPSS Elementary School Counseling Connection Newsletter is a great resource for students and parents to read together. February may be the shortest month of the year but it is also one of the busiest! Did you know that International Boost Your Self-Esteem Month, Black History Month, Valentine's Day and National School Counselor Week are all in February? Read this issue to find out more about these fun topics!

[February ES Newsletter](#)

WFES COVID-19 Absence Reporting

We are asking families to follow the guidelines below to report any student absence(s):

- COVID Related Absences - report here: [WFES COVID-19 Absence Reporting](#)
 - Students displaying symptoms of COVID (a COVID Like Illness)
 - Students who are in Quarantine as a Close Contact to a known Positive case of COVID
 - Students who are Positive for COVID (with or without symptoms)
- All Other Absences - report here: WFESAbsence@hcpss.org
 - Illness not related to any COVID like symptoms (sprained/broken wrist, dental, lice, etc.)
 - Travel, Family Events, Family Emergencies
 - Other

2022 Academic Calendar Modifications

In order to provide school-based staff with additional time to address their increased workload and to support employee well-being, the Board of Education approved updates to the current [academic year calendar](#). Three-hour early dismissals now will take place on the following dates:

- March 16, 2022
- April 27, 2022
- May 18, 2022

At its February 24 meeting, the Howard County Board of Education [approved a modification to the 2021-2022 academic calendar](#) impacting the May schedule. To better align with the Eid al-Fitr holiday, schools now will be closed for students Monday, May 2 and open on Tuesday, May 3.

- Monday, May 2: Schools closed for students. It will be a Professional Learning Day for staff and offices will remain open.

- Tuesday, May 3: Regular school day.

Update Your Family File

Please make certain your Family File is up-to-date. We will be using these to dismiss your student(s) on unexpected closing days. Do not wait until that day to make changes. We may have already printed information prior to you making changes. In addition, HCPSS utilizes Family File for parents/guardians to supply emergency information. If you haven't done so already, [please verify and/or update information for your child\(ren\)](#) for the 2021-22 school year.

2022 Summer Programs Preview Available Online

Parents/guardians and students can now view/download the [2022 Summer Programs Preview](#), which includes descriptions of HCPSS' four summer programs and enrollment information. Online enrollment requests for current HCPSS students opened on Tuesday, February 1st.

Outdoor Dining and Outdoor Recess

When we are able, we will offer outdoor dining during the winter months. We will also have outdoor recess whenever we can. Please have your students wear proper winter weather attire (coats, hat, gloves, etc.) so they are prepared for outdoors. The following factors are considered in determining if recess is to be held outside:

- Temperature and humidity
- Wind chill
- Heat index and air quality
- Age of students
- Length of time outdoors
- Adequacy of the children's clothing
- Condition of the playground
- Falling precipitation (more than a sprinkle or mist)
- Thunder and lightning

Generally, it is assumed that 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.

Mask Policy

We continue to remind our students, regularly, about wearing their masks properly. We are reminding them that their mask should cover their nose and mouth. In addition, students must wear their mask on the school bus. Please check to be sure your child has a mask each day before leaving home. It is a good idea to place an extra mask in their backpack. We just want to keep everyone safe.

Early Dismissal Procedures

If you need to pick up your child early for an appointment that is close to the end of the school day, **please do so before 3:30pm**. After 3:30 pm, it is very difficult for our front office staff to get students while assisting with dismissal procedures. We appreciate your assistance with this! Thank you!

HCPSS Emergency Closing Notifications

In times of emergency/weather closings or delays, information is shared through our website, email, and text, Twitter and the HCPSS weather hotline. The school system's operating status can always be found on the [HCPSS Status website](#). [More information about Emergency closings and information sources](#) is provided online.

From our Health Room - Daily COVID-19 Self-Screenings

All parents/guardians are to perform a [COVID-19 health check](#) every day before your student leaves home. Students are not to come to school if they are experiencing any [symptom\(s\) associated with COVID-19 or other communicable disease](#).

We thank you for keeping your children home when they are experiencing various illnesses. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the health room, by calling 410-313-5515 or email school nurse at Elizabeth_Collora@hcpss.org. If you want to test your child, please don't go to the ER unless the child is having difficulty breathing. [mobile covid testing sites](#)

PTA News

Read-a-thon Begins Sunday, February 27, continues through Sunday, March 13

Readers: We are so excited for our upcoming Read-a-Thon! We encourage you to activate your reader's account today at <https://www.read-a-thon.com/readers/r/SrKuMR/1>. The Read-a-Thon platform is for donations AND tracking minutes each student reads. We do encourage everyone to sign their child up via the platform, then share with your student a visual of their progress and how many minutes of reading they are able to log in just two weeks! Donations are NOT required to participate in this school-wide event. To ensure an equitable experience, there are a variety of incentives students can earn, in a variety of ways!

PTA Budget Revision Request

The PTA Executive Board has voted to make some revisions to the budget for the remainder of the school year. We will be holding a vote of the General Assembly at the next meeting on Wednesday, March 9th. Please see the attached [document](#) and plan to join us at the meeting. Meeting details will be sent prior to the meeting.

Business Supporters

Building community is so important to us! We'd like to take a moment to thank our Read-a-thon local business supporters: Tony's Pizzeria West Friendship, Breezy Willow Farm Country Market, and Time Warp Media! (Fun fact: the owner of Time Warp Media is a WFES alum!) For a donation in the amount of your choosing, if you, or someone you know, is interested in being a business supporter, you'll be supporting our school and young readers while also getting some ad space for your business on our Read-a-thon platform! The business ad will show on everyone's page as well as the main fundraiser page now through March 23rd.

<http://www.read-a-thon.com/donate/> CODE: 46269

Community News

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [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.

Stay up-to-date on vaccine clinics, Covid testing, and more.

[Link to the Howard County Health Department Website](#)

Vaccination Clinics

Upcoming Vaccination Clinics:

- Swansfield Elementary School, Friday, February 25, from 4:00 to 6:00pm
- Phelps Luck Elementary School, Tuesday, March 1, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm

Sensory-Friendly Sundays at Robinson Nature Center

Join Robinson Nature Center, Therapeutic Recreation, and Park Ranger staff in enjoying outdoor, self-paced activities designed for families with kids, teens, and adults with sensory-processing differences, autism spectrum disorder, or developmental disabilities. Activities include sensory bins and pathways, scavenger hunts, and crafts or games. The center opens early, allowing visitors to enjoy a calm environment. Sensory alert maps, quiet areas, and sensory backpacks, which include headphones and various fidgets, are available. Be sure to preregister to receive additional information prior to the event. Please see the [Sensory-Friendly Sundays flyer](#) for further information.

- Time: 11am - 12:30pm
 - General operating hours begin at noon and guests of this program are welcome to stay after 12:30pm
- Cost: \$5, adult; \$3, child;
 - Free, members & children under 3-years
- Programs
 - Spring in Here - March 27
 - Natural Art - May 29
 - River Romp - July 24
 - Fantastic Fall - September 11
 - Nature's Harvest - November 13

Howard County Conservancy Summer Camp

Click here for flier

Mental Health Resources

- [Foreign-Born Support Services/Bilingual Support Services](#) - Updated Resources
 - Bilingual Mental Health Professionals
 - [Asian American Health Initiative \(AAHI\) Mental Health Providers Youth](#)
 - [Chinese](#)
- [Grief & Loss](#) - New Resource

Anastasia the Musical at Glenelg High School

Come join Princess Anastasia on her journey to find her way back to her family in this classic story come to life! The GHS Theatre Department is so excited to be back on stage and to bring this family-friendly musical to our community. So don't miss this breathtaking journey to find home, love, and family as Anastasia learns who she was and embraces who she is meant to be.

Performances:

March 10 at 7pm

March 11 at 7pm

March 12 at 2pm & 7pm

March 13 at 2pm

All tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online [here](#), in the GHS front office, or at the door!

HCPSS/TCOE Virtual Community Academy: Substance Abuse Prevention

Saturday, March 12, 9:00-10:30am, Online

Participants in this virtual community academy will receive information regarding substance abuse prevention and behavioral health within the Howard County community. Representatives from [HC DrugFree](#) will provide resources and education on prevention, risk factors, warning signs, and treatment. This session is open to parents/guardians of students at all levels, and is free to attend.

[Register](#) online. After registering, participants will receive an email with a link to the session. This program is part of a series of workshops sponsored by HCPSS and The Council of Elders.

Mustang Flea Market

The Marriotts Ridge High School Music Foundation Flea Market is looking for donations to be sold at their annual flea market to be held on Saturday, March 19th. Please see below for complete details!

Donations Needed

Gently used items can be dropped off at the storage units in the parking lot at the following times:

Sunday, February 20 th	1pm – 3pm
Saturday, February 26 th	10am – 12pm
Saturday, March 5 th	11am – 1pm
Friday, March 11 th	3pm – 5pm
Saturday, March 12 th	1:30pm – 4:30pm
Sunday, March 13 th	12pm – 2pm

MRHS Commons drop-off: Friday, March 18th 4pm - 8pm
Please hold all large items until Commons drop-off date.

Mustang Flea Market

Sponsored by MRHS Music Department

Saturday, March 19th 8am – 1pm

Marriotts Ridge High School Cafeteria
12100 Woodford Drive, Marriottsville, MD 21104

\$1 Cash Donation per Person
to the MRHS Music Department Upon Entry

Refreshments Available

