

<p>Kaye M. Breon Principal</p>	<h1 style="color: green;">Tiger Tales</h1> 	<p>Brian Vanisko Assistant Principal</p>
<p>West Friendship E.S. 12500 Frederick Road West Friendship, MD 21794 P: (410) 313-5512</p>		<p>Web Site: http://wfes.hcpss.org/ School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.</p>

January 13, 2023

Upcoming Dates

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
Thursday, January 19	Incoming 6 th Grade Parent Orientation Meeting at MVMS in Cafe – 6:00 to 7:00pm
Friday, January 20	School Spirit “ Wear Red ” for Lunar New Year
Friday, January 20	End of Second Marking Period
Monday, January 23	Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day
Wednesday, January 25	School Spirit “Mismatched Clothes Day” for Mismatch Day
Thursday, January 26	Band, Strings, and Chorus Winter Concert – See Concert Times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd Gr. Strings, 4th Gr. Chorus, and 4th Gr. Band – 6:00pm (students arrive @ 5:30) • 4th & 5th Gr. Strings, 5th Gr. Chorus, and 5th Gr. Band – 7:30pm (students arrive @ 7pm)
Friday, January 27	Conference Scheduling Opens (via Synergy) at 8:00am
Tuesday, January 31	Quarter Two Report Cards Available via Synergy
Thursday, February 2	WFES Spelling Bee for Grades 4 and 5 in Cafeteria -1:45 to 3:45pm
Friday, February 3	Conference Scheduling Closes at 4:00pm
Tuesday, February 7	Gr. 2 Field Trip, 10:45am to 2:00pm
Thursday, February 9	Schools Close 3-Hours Early - Parent/Teacher Conferences (1:00 to 4:00pm, In-Person and 4:00 to 7:00pm, Virtual)
Friday, February 10	Schools Close 3-Hours Early – Parent/Teacher Conferences (Virtual)
Friday, February 10	School Spirit “Sports T-Shirt/Jersey Day”

School News

Dear West Friendship Families,

We want to take this opportunity to thank our students, parents, and the WFES PTA for the holiday treats, gifts, lunch, and PTA Gift of Thanks contributions our staff received during the holiday. Our staff appreciates your thoughtfulness.

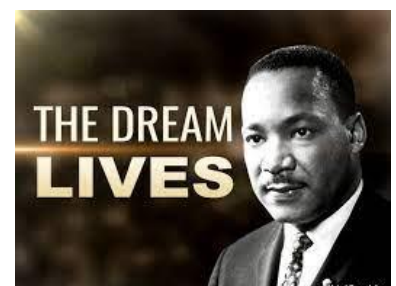
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. devoted his life to realizing the dream of freedom, equality, peace, and economic and social justice. At West Friendship Elementary, we are committed to advancing that dream by ensuring equitable access to education for all our students, and we thank you for the work you do to help.

Schools will be closed Monday, January 16th in recognition of Dr. King. We encourage you to learn more about Dr. King. Get involved to assist in furthering his vision through service to our community. There are many opportunities throughout Howard County to help make January 16th a day of service.

Sincerely,

Kaye Breon, Principal

Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal



Winter Concert

The WFES Winter Concert will be held Thursday, January 26th at West Friendship Elementary School. Third Grade Strings, Fourth Grade Chorus, and Fourth Grade Band students need to arrive at 5:30 PM. The concert will begin at 6:00pm. Fourth and Fifth Grade Strings, Fifth Grade Chorus, and Fifth Grade Band students need to arrive at 7:00pm with a concert start time of 7:30pm. Hope to see you there!



February Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for February 9th and 10th. Conferences with Math teachers and 5th grade GT math teachers will take place during this window. Kindergarten parents will conference with ELA teachers.

Parents have the option to conference either in-person or virtually. Please make note of the designated days/times below for in-person and virtual conferences:

- **In-person** conferences will be held on **Thursday, February 9th from 1:00 to 4:00pm.**
- **Virtual** conferences will be held on **the evening of Thursday, February 9th and the afternoon of Friday, February 10th.**

On Friday, January 27th at 8:00am, scheduling will open to parents and continue through February 3rd at 4:00pm. Directions on how to schedule conferences can be found [HERE](#).

- You will schedule your Parent Teacher Conferences in [HCPSS Connect](#).
 - Click on the Conference tab in the left navigation panel and click Parent Conferences.
 - Select the conference time you want for each class listed.

Families wishing to conference with any of our related arts teachers may email the teacher(s) directly. Please visit our school website [staff page](#) for email addresses.

Parents, please remember that you will need to use your login and password, not your child's. Also, using a computer is the best way to access [HCPSS Connect](#).

Happy Lunar New Year 2023!

A HUGE thank you to Mrs. Elaine Charurat, mother of Mason (4th grade) and Markus (2nd grade), for creating a beautiful Lunar New Year bulletin board for our school community. The bulletin board offers a Happy New Year wish and shares information about the legends and customs around the Lunar New Year festival. This wonderful board has sparked lots of student questions and conversations about the Lunar New Year!

Volunteers Needed

Unheard Perspectives is a fourth grade G/T instructional seminar that allows students to learn research skills as they learn about American innovators whose voices often go unheard.

Community members are needed to serve as judges. Judges will provide feedback to students after they share their presentations. A rubric and guidance will be provided to anyone interested in participating as a judge.

Presentations will take place on Friday, February 10. Please contact Mr. Haskins, WFES G/T Resource Teacher, if interested or to learn more information. Please email nathan_haskins@hcpss.org.



Rising 6th Grade Parent/Guardian Middle School Information Night

Welcome to Mount View Middle School!

We are so excited to have your students join us for the 23-24 school year! Our team at MVMS would like to invite you to join us for our Rising 6th Grade Parent and Guardian Information Night. You will learn more about what to expect with the transition to middle school, course registration and requirements, and programs here at MVMS.

When: Thursday, January 19th
Time: 6:00pm to 7:00pm
Where: Mount View Middle School Cafeteria

WFES Hearing and Vision Clinic on February 23rd

Attention Parents/Guardians of students in Kindergarten, First Grade, and new to Maryland Public Schools: The Howard County Health Department will be at West Friendship Elementary on February 23, 2023, for annual screening. If your child wears glasses, please be sure your child wears them or brings them to school that day. If you have any questions or wish to opt out, please notify Beth Collora, RN at Elizabeth_collora@hcpss.org. For more details: ([English flyer](#)) ([Spanish flyer](#))

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 Web site](#) 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.

Winter 2023 Before/After School Classes

Click here to view the [Winter 2023 Before/After School Classes flier](#) for West Friendship Elementary, which markets the Winter 2023 Howard County Recreation and Parks Before/After School classes for students at WFES. These classes provide fun, structured, educational, and enriching activities for West Friendship students, benefitting both the child(ren) and parents!

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.

Road to Kindergarten Workshops Begin January 19, 2023

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2023? Please save the date and join us for an upcoming Road to Kindergarten parent workshop. All sessions will run 6:30-7:30 p.m. and cover the same content. **Choose a session that is convenient for you.** More information is forthcoming and will be posted as it becomes available.

Thursday, January 19, 2023, Centennial High School**

Tuesday, January 24, 2023, Wilde Lake High School*

Thursday, January 26, 2023, Oakland Mills High School*

SNOW DATE: Thursday, February 2, 2023, Oakland Mills High School**

* Spanish interpreter will be present at these sites.

** Chinese, Korean, and Spanish interpreters will be present at these sites

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.

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 [January issue of Parent Pages](#).

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

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 Student & Parent Handbook

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

Family Read the Rainbow

You are invited to this virtual book club with Drs. LaToya Council, Chelsea Johnson, and Carolyn Choi read and discuss their book, *Love Without Bounds*. Registration information is below.



Join us virtually for **FAMILY Read the Rainbow** on
Saturday, February 11, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m.
with Drs. LaToya Council, Chelsea Johnson, and Carolyn Choi



who will read and discuss
their book, *Love Without
Bounds*

This is a **FREE** LGBTQIA+ inclusive book club and open to **ALL** (students, parents, educators, and community members).

The first 50 families registering with preschool and/or elementary aged children will receive a **FREE** copy of the book!

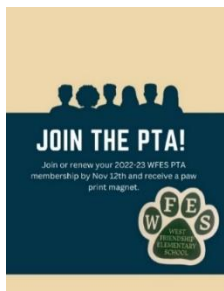
To participate, please register by visiting our HCPSS Pride website:
bit.ly/HCPSSRainbow

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](#).

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>

PTA Survey

The PTA is considering retiring the Square 1 Art fundraiser and would like your feedback. We are also exploring new ideas for family events for the remainder of this year and next school year. Please access the survey by using the following link, <https://forms.gle/qJrTWJz4iuzWYnEb7>. Your opinion is important to us.

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.

Howard County Conservancy Summer Camp

Summer Nature Day Camps are available this summer. Please [click here](#) to view the brochure to learn about the various camps that will be held throughout the summer, specific dates, and prices. **Registration opens on January 18th at 12:00 noon.**