



**January 20, 2023**

## Upcoming Dates

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 In-School Performance for Students/Staff; Evening Performance for Parents
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"
Tuesday, February 14	Classroom Group Photos and Individual Spring Portraits
Wednesday, February 15	PTA General Membership Meeting – 7:00pm
Monday, February 20	Schools and Offices Closed – Presidents' Day
Friday, February 24	Gr. 1 Field Trip; 9:45am to 2:00pm

## Lunar New Year Celebration

In celebration of Lunar New Year, we had a dragon parade throughout the school this morning. Thank you to the following first graders who became our school dragon: Sebby, Kabi, Tara, Ayla, Kinley, Lola, Hailey, and Rowan.

This was a memorable experience for everyone! Happy

Lunar New Year!**Happy Lunar New Year 2023!**

**When is Chinese New Year 2023? Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Chinese New Year 2023 falls on Sunday, January 22, 2023, and celebrations culminate with the Yuan Xiao (元宵节 / yuán xiāo jié), or Lantern Festival on February 5, 2023.

**How Long is Chinese New Year? 16 Days**

Celebrations last up to 16 days, but only the first 7 days are considered a public holiday (January 22–January 29, 2023).

**What is the 2023 Chinese Zodiac? Rabbit**

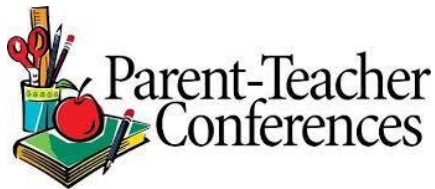
Chinese New Year marks the transition between Chinese zodiac, or Sheng Xiao (生肖), is a repeating 12-year cycle of animal signs and their ascribed attributes, based on the lunar calendar. 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit.



# School News

## Winter Concert

The WFES Winter Concert will be held Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 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!



Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Conferences with Math teachers and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade GT math teacher 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 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00pm.**
- **Virtual** conferences will be held on **the evening of Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> and the afternoon of Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**On Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am, scheduling will open to parents and continue through February 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](#).

## Winter MAP Assessment

Students in grades 1-5 will participate in the Winter administration of Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing. MAP is an untimed computer-adaptive assessment that measures student growth and achievement, independent of grade level or age. This is but one indicator of your child's progress, providing us with an additional piece of information about achievement levels and growth in acquiring Reading and Mathematics skills. To learn more about the MAP assessment, [click here](#). Please take a moment to see when your child will take the ELA & Math MAP testing:

Grade	Math	ELA
1st	1/24 @12:30pm (Tuesday)	2/2 @9:30am (Thursday)
2nd	1/25 @9:20am (Wednesday)	1/27 @ 12:30pm (Friday)
3rd	1/30 @ 2:25pm (Monday)	2/6 @11:30am (Monday)
4th	1/31 @2:25pm (Tuesday)	2/8 @10:35am (Wednesday)
5th	2/15 @9:20am (Wednesday)	2/16 @10:35am (Thursday)

## Volunteers Needed

**Unheard Perspectives** is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade GT 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.

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](mailto:nathan_haskins@hcpss.org).

## WFES Valentine Celebrations on February 14<sup>th</sup>

WFES students and staff will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Each grade level will organize a time within the school day for students to participate in exchanging Valentine Cards, classroom activities and having a small snack. Closer to the date, teachers will be sending specific information about their celebration, to include the food items that will be offered.

Parents/Guardians, please keep the following important information in mind:

- Due to allergies and HCPSS Policy 9090, **no Valentine cards or goodie-bags with food or candy are permitted**. Please do not send in Valentine's that contain candy. These variety of Valentine's will NOT be distributed due to student safety. Pencils, stickers, trinkets, etc. are allowed.
- Teachers will send home class lists. It is expected that if your child chooses to give out Valentine cards, he/she will give one to each child in the homeroom class.
- Individual teachers/grade levels will be in contact with families for any specific needs.
- Celebrations are for students and staff. Parent volunteers will only be requested by the Kindergarten team.

## Classroom Group and Individual Spring Portraits

The school photographer will be at WFES on **Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** to take [classroom group photos](#). The cost for a **class group photo is \$10.00** and can be purchased online by visiting [www.strawbridge.net](http://www.strawbridge.net). Please click [here](#) for detailed instructions on how to make an online purchase. We will also send home purchasing envelopes in the coming weeks. In addition, [individual spring portraits](#) will be taken the same day. [No payment is needed](#) at this time. In 3-4 weeks, a photo proof package will be sent in home for you to review. You may purchase the photos or return them to school at that time with no obligation.

## WFES Hearing and Vision Clinic on February 23<sup>rd</sup>

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](mailto:Elizabeth_collora@hcpss.org). For more details: ([English flyer](#)) ([Spanish flyer](#))

## 2022-23 Yearbooks Are Now on Sale

It's not too early to order your 2022–2023 West Friendship Elementary School yearbook! The deadline for ordering is April 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 next 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!

## Road to Kindergarten Workshops

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.

- **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.

**\*\*\* February Asynchronous Learning Packets were sent home with students today, 1/20/2023. \*\*\***

## 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.

## 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!

## 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

## 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.

## Explore Dynamics of Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships

The Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County (TCOE), in collaboration with the Howard County Public School System, will host a TCOE Community Academy on **Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships** on Saturday, January 28, 2023 from 9:00 - 10:30am. This is a virtual session. Representatives from HCPSS, as well as Howard County community organizations, will provide resources and education on managing peer conflict, identifying abuse in teen relationships, and identifying skills and strategies to intervene if needed. Please see this [flier](#) for additional information. Registration is required, and families can complete the registration linked [here](#).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#).

## HCPSS Student & Parent Handbook

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



## 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/>

## Work at HCPSS!

**HCPSS is hiring!** We're hosting a job fair for custodians on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, a virtual recruitment event for teachers on January 26<sup>th</sup>, and welcome all interested applicants to attend. Seeking a different type of position? Check out our current openings, learn about our application process, and find out why HCPSS is a great place to work!

## 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 can be found here.



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](https://bit.ly/HCPSSRainbow)

## 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](https://community-news-and-programs.hcpss.org) 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](https://community-programs.hcpss.org) for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto: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 opened on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon.**

## Howard County Dance Festival

**Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm, Atholton High School**

This event will feature performances by all 12 HCPSS high school dance companies and the 2022-2023 All-County Dance Performance Ensemble. General admission tickets can be purchased online for \$10 beginning January 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be no option to purchase tickets at the door.

## MRHS Music Foundation Second Annual Bingo Night!!

The Marriotts Ridge High School Music Foundation is holding its second ANNUAL BINGO FUNDRAISER on **Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** 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>

