

Kaye M. Breon Principal	<h1 style="color: green;">Tiger Tales</h1> 	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.

January 27, 2023

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, January 31	Quarter Two Report Cards Available via Synergy
Thursday, February 2	WFES Spelling Bee for Grades 4 and 5 in Cafeteria - 2:00 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”
February 13 – 17	Annual WFES Kindness Challenge Week
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

School News

Winter Concert

Congratulations to all our third, fourth, and fifth grade students who performed in last evening’s Winter Concert. We are proud of every one of you! We enjoyed terrific music from our choral, band, and string students. Thank you Mr. Diener, Mrs. McCoy, and Mr. Marini for preparing our students for the performance.

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	2/1 @2:25pm (Tuesday) Date Change	2/8 @10:35am (Wednesday)
5th	2/15 @9:20am (Wednesday)	2/16 @10:35am (Thursday)



Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for February 9th and 10th. **Conferences with Math teachers and the 5th 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 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.**

Scheduling is now open to parents and will 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](#).

IMPORTANT UPDATE: When registering for conferences an issue has been discovered that causes both boxes for in-person and virtual conference to display for all the available time slots and when one is selected both are automatically selected for the same time slot. Additionally, the automated email parents/guardians receive after scheduling the conference will include both. This issue is causing confusion on which type of conference has been selected.

Please see below for information on how you can confirm which type of conference you have scheduled.

For West Friendship Elementary School parent-teacher conferences will be held February 9-10

- Feb. 9 - Afternoon conferences will be held in person from 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 9 - Evening conferences, for those teachers who are offering them, will be virtual starting after 4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 10 - Conferences will be virtual

Parents/guardians can register via HCPSS Connect Synergy beginning at 8:00 a.m. Friday, January 27 through 4:00 p.m. February 3. [Directions on how to register](#) are available online.

When making a selection for a conference slot, the conference will be recorded in the system correctly within the above time parameters.

Parents can verify the selection in-person or virtual registration by selecting **More Options** from the left navigation menu and selecting **Conference Scheduling (View or Schedule ARL/DigEd)**. On that page, conference locations are displayed properly, and you will see a room number/location (for in-person) or a Google Meet URL (for virtual) in the Location field.

Parents will receive reminder emails prior to the scheduled conference that will indicate the correct location, in person or virtual.

Annual WFES Kindness Challenge Week, February 13 - 17

Each day this week is a [different spirit day and a different challenge](#)! Will you accept the challenge???

WFES Valentine Celebrations on February 14th

WFES students and staff will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14th. 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 14th** 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. Please click [here](#) for detailed instructions on how to make an online purchase. Purchasing envelopes were sent home today. 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 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](#))

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. Thank you!

Helping Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2023? Every age eligible child must be enrolled in a kindergarten program this fall or have an approved waiver form, which will be available March 1, 2023. Kindergarten registration for the 2023-2024 school year begins March 6, 2023. Please visit the Howard County Public School System ["Getting Ready for Kindergarten"](#) webpage to learn about enrolling your child for school, and for a complete timeline of things to do or prepare for a fun and smooth beginning of their school career.

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. *****

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 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](#).

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

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/>

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.

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>



Bingo Night

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO COME

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM
BINGO STARTS AT 7:00 pm

FOP LODGE #69
(Near Historic Ellicott City)

2832 Nine Mile Circle, Catonsville, MD 21228
(carpooling makes parking easier)

TICKETS:
\$30 in advance
\$35 at the door
Includes 20 regular bingo games and door prizes

Additional items for sale:
20 Regular Games
5 Special Games
Raffles
50/50
Bake Sale
Concessions

To purchase tickets and for more information, go to:
mrhsmusic.net

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 opens January 26, 2023.



Morning and afternoon programs, supervised lunch, and before and after care. One- and two-week half-day programs that are developed by teachers and content expert instructors.

**More than a summer camp—
experience the difference at HCC.**

JOIN US!

View summer class schedule
howardcc.edu/kids
Request summer class schedule
koc@howardcc.edu
Have a question?
443-518-4110



Apply Critical & Inventive Thinking

- Drone Adventures
- Prep for Pre-Algebra
- Video Production



Build Civic Literacy, Global Awareness & Cross-Cultural Skills

- Art From Around the World
- Beginning Chinese
- Introduction to the United Nations
- Mysteries in History



Develop Communication, Collaboration & Information Skills

- Creative Writing
- Introduction to Debate
- Writing Dynamic College Essays



Follow Artistic Pursuits

- Special Effects Makeup
- Summer Sewing
- Watercolor Crash Course



Become an Enthusiast

- Hogwarts Experience
- Marketing Essentials
- Wall Street Challenge

Plus hundreds of other options!

The information is neither sponsored nor endorsed by HCPSS or the school.



You Can Get There From Here.