



**January 9, 2023**

## Upcoming Dates

Friday, January 13	School Spirit "Hat Day"
Friday, January 13	Gr. 3 Field Trip, 10am to 2:15pm
Monday, January 16	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Schools & Office Closed
Tuesday, January 17	Gr. 2 Field Trip, 10:45am to 2:00pm
Wednesday, January 18	Schools Close 3-Hrs Early (12:45pm) - Professional Work Day/Wellness Day
Thursday, January 19	Incoming 6 <sup>th</sup> 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 National Opposite Day
Thursday, January 26	Band, Strings, and Chorus Winter Concert – More Details to Come
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
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

### 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](http://wfes.hcpsz.org/) 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.

## Attention 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents

You are invited to attend the Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation Meeting at Mount View Middle School on Thursday, January 19, 2023. The meeting will be held in the MVMS Cafeteria from 6:00 to 7:00pm. On this night parents will learn about middle school, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade schedule, and answers to questions about the transition to middle school.

## 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.



## February Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Conferences with Math teachers and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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 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!

## 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:

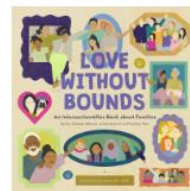
<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2022/10/hcpss-to-expand-school-based-mental-health-services-for-students/>

## 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 can be found 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](https://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](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](#).

## 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>