

Kaye M. Breon
Principal

Tiger Tales

Brian Vanisko
Assistant Principal

West Friendship E.S.
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Web Site: <http://wfes.hcpss.org/>
School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

March 14, 2022

From Our Administrators

Dear West Friendship Families,

We are on the last leg of the PTA sponsored read-a-thon. The final day to participate is this Sunday, March 13th. Be sure to record your child's reading minutes on Sunday evening. Our school's current total number of reading minutes is 67,000! Amazing!!! 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**.

This is a reminder that our school photographer, Strawbridge Studios will be at West Friendship Elementary on Monday, March 14th to take spring individual portraits. All students will be photographed, so come to school with your best smiles. In a few weeks students will take home their [photo package](#). Families will have the opportunity to review and purchase the entire photo package or create your own combination by purchasing individual sheets. You will then return payment to school, pay online, or return the non-purchased portraits to school.

All 5th grade students will be taking the MISA (Maryland Integrated Science Assessment) the mornings of Thursday, March 17th and Friday, March 18th. You may visit <https://www.hcpss.org/academics/testing/misa/> for more information about the MISA. No preparation is needed for this assessment. Simply send your child to school well rested, on time, and with a fully charged Chromebook each day of testing.

We wish each and every one of you a happy, relaxing, weekend!

Yours in Education,

Kaye Breon, Principal

Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal

Mark Your Calendars

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Now thru March 13 | PTA Sponsored Read-a-thon Continues |
| Mon., March 14 | Individual Spring Portraits – All Students Will Be Photographed |
| Mon., March 14 | PTA Sponsored Restaurant Event at Mutiny in Elkridge – 11am to 9pm |
| Wed., March 16 | Schools Close 3-Hours Early, 12:45 pm |
| March 17 & 18 | Fifth Grade MISA Testing, 9:30 to 11:30AM |
| Friday, March 18 | 3 rd Grade Strings Performance for 3 rd Grade Students – 10:00am |
| Wed., March 23 | 4 th & 5 th Grade Strings Performance for 4 th & 5 th Grade Students – 3:00pm |
| Thursday, March 24 | Kindergarten Field Trip to the Howard County Library – 9:40 to 11:50am |
| Friday, April 1 | Schools Close 3-Hours Early, 12:45pm/End of 3 rd Quarter |

Friday, April 8	Report Cards Issued via Synergy
April 11 – 18	Schools Closed – Spring Break
Friday, April 15	Last Day to Order Yearbooks
Tuesday, April 19	Schools Reopen

School News

Individual Spring Photos

Individual Spring Photos will be taken on **Monday, March 14th**. All students will be photographed. In a few weeks, you will receive a photo package to review. At that time you may choose to 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.

Related Arts Color Day Rotation Survey

HCPSS is seeking feedback on the elementary related arts color rotation schedule. The color rotation schedule was implemented to mitigate loss of instructional time due to school closures for related arts classes scheduled on Mondays and Fridays, sometimes up to nine classes per school year. This feedback will be utilized in conjunction with additional stakeholder input to determine the 22-23 related arts schedule model. Thank you for your time in completing this feedback form by March 25, 2022.

<https://forms.gle/qz2JZGtophiXPT7h8>

Music Room News

Dear Parents/Guardians of WFES Kindergartners, First Graders, and Second Graders,

Your child is invited to bring a small stuffed bear/animal or small doll to vocal music next week, March 14-18. They can enjoy rocking their toy to the tune of a lovely Irish lullaby.

With best regards,

Mrs. Linnie Hunter

Music Substitute for Mr. Rich Umla

Dear Parent/Guardians of WFES Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders,

During the week of March 21-25 your child may choose to either play a solo on the piano or on their band or stringed instrument when they come to vocal music class. We will be celebrating MIOSM, Music in Our Schools Month. Should they decide to participate, the instrument as well as the music should be brought to vocal music class on that day. I will put a sign-up chart right outside the music room so I will know how many solos to expect each day.

Best regards,

Mrs. Linnie Hunter

Music Substitute for Mr. Rich Umla

Fifth Grade State Testing

5th grade students will be participating in the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) on **March 17th and 18th from 9:20 to 11:30AM**. This test is computer-based and replaces the former Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in Science. This test is made up of four “units”, in which students will engage in constructed response, multiple choice, fill-in-the blank, matching, and other technology-enabled item types. Students will take one unit per day of testing. The questions assess *Next Generation Science Standards* and represent teaching and learning of science, across subjects and content. For further information about this test, please go to the following website: <http://www.hcpss.org/academics/testing/misa/>

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 Colleen_Green@hcpss.org 410-313-5512 for assistance in completing the registration process.

Early Admission for Kindergarten and First Grade

Applications for early admission to [kindergarten](#) and [first grade](#) are now being accepted. Applicants must submit all application materials for early admission to kindergarten and first grade by April 30 and May 31, 2022, respectively.

Field Day Will be Held on Friday, May 20th ** Volunteers Needed

WFES Field Day is scheduled for Friday, May 20th (Thursday, May 26th is the rain date)! Many parent volunteers will be needed to make this a fun and successful day for our WFES Tigers! 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 with any questions. Thank you!

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.

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.

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

WFES PTA Read-a-thon continues through Sunday, March 13

Wow! 67,000 minutes read have been logged on the Read-a-thon platform already! With just 3 days left, please make sure to log your child's minutes. Only minutes read outside of the school day should be logged. The Read-a-thon closes at 11:59 pm on Sunday night, so make sure all of those minutes are logged by then! This is how we know how many raffle tickets each reader earned.

If you are submitting paper reading logs and donations by check, please make sure checks are made out to: West Friendship Elementary School PTA. Kindly, have your child return their form(s) to their homeroom teacher NO LATER THAN Wednesday March 16th. If collecting donations, please send the donation log and all checks in a sealed envelope with your child's name AND WFES PTA on the outside of the envelope and return with the reading log.

PTA Sponsored Restaurant Event

On Monday, March 14th the WFES PTA will have a Restaurant Event at Mutiny Scratch Kitchen located at 7190 Troy Hill Drive, Elkridge, MD. Take the day off from trying to figure out what to make for lunch or dinner! You'll be supporting the WFES PTA and a local business by dining in or ordering out from Mutiny in Elkridge! Mention West Friendship PTA, or use **promo code: WFES** when you order online, and Mutiny will donate **10%** of those sales back to the PTA!

PTA Sponsored Spring Community Yard Sale

Saturday, April 30th from 8AM-1PM. Spaces are limited. Secure your spot today in our MemberHub store! Discounted price for PTA members. All proceeds support the on-going efforts of our PTA.

<https://westfriendship.memberhub.com/store?category=Community%20Yard%20Sale>

There will also be a few vendors (crafts, pickles etc.) If you want to set up a vendor table, reserve a spot and let us know what you'll be selling so we can make sure to advertise your goods as well! It's a win-win: support the PTA, sell your stuff, keep your profits!

Questions? Please email: tina.terranoa@yahoo.com

As always, THANK YOU for your ongoing support of the PTA and our efforts.

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:

Tuesday, March 15, 2022; 4-6pm Elkridge Library, 6540 Washington Blvd, Elkridge, MD 21075
<https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/3012759169>

Wednesday, March 16, 2022; 4-6pm Miller Library, 9421 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042
<https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/9216901685>

Tuesday, March 22; 4-6pm Miller Library, 9421 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042
<https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/8512609179>

Wednesday, March 23, 2022; 4-6pm Savage Library, 9525 Durness Lane, Laurel, MD 20723
<https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/1982910605>

Tuesday, March 29, 2022; 4-6pm Glenwood Library, 2350 State Route 97, Cooksville, MD 21723
<https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/2619581109>

Wednesday, March 30, 2022; 4-6pm Central Branch Library, 10375 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, MD 2
<https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/1615729059>

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 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!

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 information to the right 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



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

HC DrugFree Updates

FREE Parenting Classes: HC DrugFree will present another series of parenting classes for Howard County parents, guardians, and grandparents starting March 30. This program will meet via Zoom for 5 classes (March 30, April 6, 27, & May 4, 11) from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Adults should plan to attend all 5 sessions. Topics include How to Prevent Drug Use in Your Family, How to Develop Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards, Avoiding Trouble: How to Say No to Drugs, Managing Conflict: How to Control and Express Your Anger Constructively, and How to Strengthening Family Bonds. The class is free, but space is limited. Registrations will be accepted until the class is full or March 22, 2022: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ParentingClassReg> For more information: Email Parenting@HCDrugFree.org, visit www.hcdrugfree.org or view **downloadable flier**

FREE Life Skills Classes for Students: HC DrugFree is providing a highly interactive skills-based program designed to promote positive health and personal development for youth in grades 6-9. For slightly younger or older students, please register and we will consider each request. We encourage siblings and friends to take these classes together! These skills have been shown to help students resist substance use, violence, and other high-risk behaviors. Our instructional team consists of dedicated adults and older students sharing situations they may face in high school, college, and beyond. The next series of classes will be held via Zoom Tuesdays and Thursdays May 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31 and June 2 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Registration is required. Please **sign-up** ASAP as space is extremely limited! For more information: Email LifeSkills@hcdrugfree.org, visit www.hcdrugfree.org or view **downloadable flier**

Parents: If you are interested in learning more about what is happening in Howard County, the many free resources HC DrugFree and other organizations offer, or how your student can volunteer as they learn skills and receive more community service hours, then sign up for our free newsletter to get updates on events as well as information to keep your family safe and informed. Go to the bottom of our homepage at www.hcdrugfree.org

Medication and Sharps Drive-thru Collection: HC DrugFree's next drive-thru prescription and over-the-counter medication and sharps (needles, syringes and EpiPens) collection will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot in Columbia. Medication will be

guarded and transported by the Howard County Police and the DEA. For more information visit www.hcdrugfree.org or email Admin@hcdrugfree.org or view **downloadable flier** Adults, teens, youth groups, and medically-trained adults may volunteer at www.hcdrugfree.org/drug-take-back-day-1/