

Kaye M. Breon  
Principal

# Tiger Tales

Brian Vanisko  
Assistant Principal

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

**March 18, 2022**

## Mark Your Calendars

- Wed., March 23 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Strings Performance for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students – 3:00pm
- Thursday, March 24 School Spirit “Book Character Day” & “Buddy Reading Day”
- Thursday, March 24 Kindergarten Field Trip to the Howard County Library – 9:40 to 11:50am
- Friday, March 25 School Spirit “Maryland Day” – Wear Maryland colors: red, white and gold
- Thursday, March 31 School Spirit “Pawsitively Wild about Reading Day” – Wear something with an animal or with animal print
- Friday, April 1 Schools Close 3-Hours Early, 12:45pm/End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter
- Monday, April 4 School Spirit “National Find a Rainbow Day” – wear something with rainbow colors
- Tuesday, April 5 PTA Restaurant Event at E.W. Beck’s in Sykesville
- Wednesday, April 6 PTA Sponsored Walking Wednesdays Scheduled to Begin (Volunteers Needed!)
- Wednesday, April 6 PTA General Assembly Meeting via Zoom – 7:00pm
- Friday, April 8 Report Cards Issued via Synergy
- April 11 – 18 Schools Closed – Spring Break
- Friday, April 15 Last Day to Order Yearbooks

## School News

### Wanted: Empty Toilet Paper Rolls

WFES is asking for donations of empty toilet paper tubes, as we have a fun school-wide planting activity planned for Earth Day! Please leave them in the marked bin in the vestibule. We will be collecting TP tube donations until April 8<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your help!

### WFES Upcoming School Spirit Days

Show your school spirit and join in the fun!

**March is reading month! We have a few reading spirit days planned below:**

- **March 24 - Book Character Day & Buddy Reading Day** -- Bring your favorite book to life by dressing up as your favorite book character! \*No, slippers, masks, or weapons\*  
Grade levels will meet today and read together.
- **March 25 - Maryland Day** -- Show your Maryland pride and wear Maryland colors: red, white, & gold!
- **March 31 - Pawsitively Wild about Reading!** -- Wear something with an animal or animal print on it. Go wild for reading!

## 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 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. Lynn Hunter

Music Substitute for Mr. Rich Umla

## Kindergarten and New HCPSS Student Registration

Registration for 2022-2023 Kindergarten continues. 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. Please be sure to tell your family, friends, and neighbors!! 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](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> \*\* Volunteers Needed

WFES Field Day is scheduled for Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> (Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 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 15<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 15<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 later this 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!

## 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](mailto: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:

- 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 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.

## Outdoor Dining and Outdoor Recess

When we are able, we continue to offer outdoor dining. We also have outdoor recess whenever we can. Please have your children dress for the weather, so they are prepared for outdoors. The following factors are considered in determining if dining and/or 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.

## 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](mailto: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 Update

Thank you to all of our WFES Tiger Readers! Our students were very excited to see our reading minutes gauge on Monday morning. More than 89,000 minutes were logged on the Read-a-thon platform! Parent volunteers are totaling the paper reading logs that came in earlier this week. They are also calculating the many raffle tickets each reader has earned. The final tally will soon be announced. So stay tuned! In the meantime, Ms. Breon needs to pucker up and get ready for her kiss! The pig is waiting!!



### PTA Sponsored Restaurant Events

Mark your calendars now!!!

- April 5<sup>th</sup> E.W. Beck's in Sykesville
- April 25<sup>th</sup> Tony's Pizza in West Friendship

## PTA Sponsored Spring Community Yard Sale

**Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 8AM-1PM**

WFES PTA sponsored Spring Community Yard Sale spots are now OPEN for registration! Spaces are limited, so secure your spot early! Spot size is equivalent to two parking spaces. The yard sale will be held on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the West Friendship Elementary School parking lot and blacktop area. Set up may begin at 7 a.m. Sellers are responsible for bringing whatever they need for their space (tables, tents, chairs, etc.), and for break down and clean-up of your area. We will also have a few vendors, so if you are interested in setting up a vendor table, please secure a spot. Vendors should let us know what you plan on selling so we can help advertise your goods, along with the other sellers who will be there!

Discounted rate for WFES PTA members. Register

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

You are welcome to share this event with your networks to help bring in more sellers and shoppers for everyone. Any questions, please email [tina.terrano@yahoo.com](mailto:tina.terrano@yahoo.com). We hope to see you in April for our second ever Community Yard Sale!

## Walking Wednesdays Relaunches on April 6<sup>th</sup>!

### What is Walking Wednesdays?

Walking Wednesdays is a program that encourages exercise and school spirit, rewarding kids for walking laps during recess every Wednesday (weather permitting) until June 1<sup>st</sup>. Students are encouraged to walk a minimum of 2 laps but can do as many as they want during each Wednesday's recess. Students will earn a shoe charm for every 10 laps completed, that can be added to a necklace that is usually worn on Wednesdays. The ultimate prize is the Golden Shoe Trophy, which is awarded to the class with the most laps.

**Parent volunteers are** needed to monitor progress and count laps on these days (kids will try to trick you so watch close!). If you are interested in volunteering during any or all of the recess periods on Wednesday, please comply with the requirements to volunteer in HCPSS schools, and complete the attached survey below. Walking Wednesdays aren't possible without enough parent volunteers, so please complete the volunteer requirements and sign up to help the kids get their laps!

### **Parent Volunteer Requirements**

1. Individuals are required to show proof of full vaccination, with no testing option, at least five school days in advance by using the [PinPoint VaccineCheck platform to submit proof of full vaccination](#).
2. All [volunteers must complete a Confidentiality Training Course](#) about protecting the privacy of our students, staff, and schools.
3. Please complete [Child Abuse and Neglect Training](#) about reporting any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to Howard County Department of Social Services.
4. Please send the signed **Confidentiality Agreement** and the **Child Abuse Neglect Reporting Certificate** to WFES, Attention: Mrs. Penny Smith, Principal's Secretary.
5. Sign up to volunteer for Walking Wednesday, <https://forms.gle/dXAsaS5oNvvdn9KTD8>

## 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](http://community-programs.hcpss.org) for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto: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 22; 4-6pm Miller Library, 9421 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042

<https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/req/8512609179>

Wednesday, March 23, 2022; 4-6pm Savage Library, 9525 Durness Lane, Laurel, MD 20723

<https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/req/1982910605>

Tuesday, March 29, 2022; 4-6pm Glenwood Library, 2350 State Route 97, Cooksville, MD 21723

<https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/req/2619581109>

Wednesday, March 30, 2022; 4-6pm Central Branch Library, 10375 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, MD 2

<https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/req/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 19 at 2pm & 7pm

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 will be held Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The flea market will be held in the Marriotts Ridge High School Cafeteria. \$1.00 cash donation per person upon entry. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

### Learning Together Program – Prekindergarten

The Bushy Park Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) prekindergarten programs are making preparations for classes for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. These classes include children with and without disabilities. The program's focus is helping all children develop communication, literacy, math, problem solving, motor, and social skills. Parents of children who will be 3-years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> or are already 4-years old may request an application. Applications will be available and accepted in mid-February and priority will be given to applications received by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

HCPSS is committed to providing instruction based on the statewide Early Learning Standards which are in alignment with Kindergarten Readiness. The fees listed in the application will be collected monthly regardless of the learning model determined by HCPSS throughout the upcoming school year (virtual, hybrid, in-person, or class quarantine). If you have any additional questions, please contact Roseann Kleinschmidt at 410-313-5500.

### 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](mailto:Parenting@HCDrugFree.org), visit [www.hcdrugfree.org](http://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](mailto:LifeSkills@hcdrugfree.org), visit [www.hcdrugfree.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.hcdrugfree.org) or email [Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto: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/](http://www.hcdrugfree.org/drug-take-back-day-1/)**