

Kaye M. Breon
Principal



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 4, 2022

From Our Administrators

Dear West Friendship Families,

Maryland weather seems to be steadily improving, and that means we all have increased opportunities to get outside. With outside dining and recess becoming more available, we need your help. Please have a conversation with your child regarding behavior expectations. Students should be actively engaged in positive individual, cooperative, and group activities that are collaborative and display teamwork. Interactions should be positive and emphasize friendships. Physical contact or unkind behaviors exhibited with the purpose of making someone else feel bad is not acceptable and we need all our students to be **Respectful**, **Responsible**, and **Ready** to learn. Thank you for your help with affirming these expectations.

We are very excited about the WFES PTA Sponsored Read-a-thon that began last Sunday! The read-a-thon continues through Sunday, March 13th. It is not too late to join in, and we encourage each and every student to register for the online Read-a-thon platform, <https://www.read-a-thon.com/readers/r/SrKuMR/1>. While raising funds is not required to participate, the Read-a-thon is a fund-raiser for the PTA. If you will be collecting donations, please have donors make checks payable to **WFES PTA**.

Please help your child log their reading minutes and join in the fun and rewards. There is a rumor going around that a certain administrator may kiss a special farm animal if WFES students collectively read a total of 75,000 minutes! We challenge every student to read and log at least 20-minutes per day!

Thanks to your ongoing support of the PTA and its Staff Appreciation Committee, West Friendship's amazing bus drivers were greeted on Tuesday morning with delicious breakfast gift bags in honor of Bus Driver Appreciation Day! The bags were stocked with fresh fruit, pastries, snack bars, nuts, cheese, water, and juice. We love our bus drivers and are grateful they "go the extra mile" to keep our students safe each day!

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
March 7 – 11	Virtual Kindergarten Registration Week for 2022-2023 School Year
Mon., March 14	Individual Spring Portraits – All Students Will Be Photographed
Wed., March 16	Schools Close 3-Hours Early, 12:4 pm
Wed., March 23	4 th & 5 th Grade Band Performance for Students – 3:00pm
Friday, April 1	Schools Close 3-Hours Early, 12:45pm/End of 3 rd Quarter

School News

Lunch/Recess Monitor Needed

We are looking for an outstanding individual who loves children to work at WFES as a Lunch/Recess Monitor! Schedule: Monday-Friday, every day that students are in school

- Hours: 11:00am to 2:30pm, slight adjustment of hours on early dismissal days
- Hourly Rate: \$14.00/per hour

Please contact our Assistant Principal, Mr. Vanisko at Brian_Vanisko@hcpss.org if you are interested in applying for this position. You will also need to apply for this position by visiting <https://www.hcpss.org/employment/substitute-positions/> and click on “View Current Openings and Apply Now”. Select “Substitute/Temporary Employment” on the left-hand side. Scroll down the page to the listing for Lunch and Recess Monitor.

Individual Spring Photos

Individual Spring Photos will be taken on **Monday, March 14th**. All students will be photographed. In a few weeks you each student will receive a photo package to review. At that time you may 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. You will receive more information in the next few weeks.

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 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.

From the HCPSS Physical Education Office

All students must wear the proper shoes to participate in PE class. This follows the proper PE dress code set forth by the county PE office. Please remind your child(ren) that if it is a PE day, then tennis shoes/sneakers are

to be worn. If your child wants to wear their boots, Uggs, sandals etc..., then please have them carry their tennis shoes in their backpack to change into for PE class. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe.

Field Day – May 20th ** Volunteers Needed

WFES Field Day is scheduled for Friday, May 20th (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](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
 - 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.

Masking Update

Masks will be optional for students, staff, and visitors starting tomorrow, March 1st, both in school and on the school bus. We will continue to have disposable masks on site for those that need them and for those who need to visit the health room, where masks are still required.

Masking for individual students is at the discretion of each family and should be discussed at home. Each student should be clear on the individual family expectation in order to manage their own masking during the school day. Parents may want to provide daily reminders to their child about their masking expectations. Staff will not be reminding individual students to put on masks or to wear masks based on parent preference; individual family masking preference is not a task that staff will be able to manage on a daily basis.

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](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 continues through Sunday, March 13

Please continue to encourage your child to read so you can log their minutes for the WFES PTA Sponsored Read-a-thon. If you have not already done so, please activate your reader's account at <https://www.read-a-thon.com/readers/r/SrKuMR/1>. The Read-a-thon platform is for donations AND tracking minutes each student reads. We do encourage everyone to sign their child up via the platform, then share with your student a visual of their progress and how many minutes of reading they are able to log! Donations are NOT required to participate in this school-wide event. To ensure an equitable experience, there are a variety of incentives students can earn, in a variety of ways! Our current total is over 27,000 minutes. We hope your child will read and do their part to help us meet our school-wide goal of 75,000 minutes by Sunday, March 13th!

PTA Budget Revision Request

The PTA Executive Board has voted to make some revisions to the budget for the remainder of the school year. We will be holding a vote of the General Assembly at the next meeting on Wednesday, March 9th. Please see the attached [document](#) and plan to join us at the meeting. Meeting details will be sent prior to the meeting.

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!

Business Supporters

Building community is so important to us! We'd like to take a moment to thank our Read-a-thon local business supporters: Tony's Pizzeria West Friendship, Breezy Willow Farm Country Market, and Time Warp Media! (Fun fact: the owner of Time Warp Media is a WFES alum!) For a donation in the amount of your choosing, if you, or someone you know, is interested in being a business supporter, you'll be supporting our school and young readers while also getting some ad space for your business on our Read-a-thon platform! The business ad will show on everyone's page as well as the main fundraiser page now through March 23rd.

<http://www.read-a-thon.com/donate/> CODE: 46269

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:

- Swansfield Elementary School, Friday, February 25, from 4:00 to 6:00pm
- Phelps Luck Elementary School, Tuesday, March 1, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm

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/**

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 10 at 7pm

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!

HCPSS/TCOE Virtual Community Academy: Substance Abuse Prevention

Saturday, March 12, 9:00-10:30am, Online

Participants in this virtual community academy will receive information regarding substance abuse prevention and behavioral health within the Howard County community. Representatives from [HC DrugFree](#) will provide resources and education on prevention, risk factors, warning signs, and treatment. This session is open to parents/guardians of students at all levels, and is free to attend.

[Register](#) online. After registering, participants will receive an email with a link to the session. This program is part of a series of workshops sponsored by HCPSS and The Council of Elders.

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 below 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

