

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.

May 14, 2021

From Our Administrators

During the past several weeks we have been celebrating staff and showing appreciation for all they do. We want to take the opportunity highlight some individuals that have contributed to our school on a daily basis and deserve special recognition. I will begin with our fabulous **Custodial Team, Mr. Stewart Custis, Mrs. Terry Hamby, and Ms. Florence Frimpong**. This team works diligently to keep our school clean and safe. Schools could not remain open without their tireless efforts and dedication.

Next, I would like to recognize our **amazing cafeteria workers, Ms. Claudia Allnut and Ms. Vivian Schafer** have been working daily for over a year passing out meals. Did you know they also package meals that are picked up by families for the weekend? Their hard work and dedication to WFES and preparing meals for our school community is much appreciated.

We would also like to acknowledge the dedication and countless hours that our **School Nurse, Mrs. Elizabeth Collora** has given to our school, staff, families, and the county. She participated in countless trainings and several vaccine clinics to help us get through the COVID pandemic. Mrs. Collora has worked tirelessly this year, and we want to recognize her during School Nurses week.

Also, a special thank you to **Mr. Matthew Deyton, our Pupil Personnel Worker**. PPWs have a great passion to serve HCPSS schools, families, and students. PPWs help remove barriers, address unique hardships and situations, while following county, state, and federal policies. This week please congratulate the PPWs for thinking outside of the box and being problem solvers, this is especially needed during this time of COVID-19.

Thank you for this opportunity to showcase some individuals who work behind the scenes, but are vital to our educational system. This is just further proof that *"It takes a village to raise a child"*, which is an African proverb that means that an entire community of people must interact with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Kaye Breon, Principal

Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal

School News

Attention: Fifth Grade Parents

Your student's 2021-2022 course requests are available to view Thursday, May 13, 2021 - Thursday, May 20, 2021, in HCPSS Connect. It is recommended that you and your student review the course requests. If there is an error or you would like to adjust a course request it is advised that you first speak with your student's teacher and current school counselor. Please note this is not your schedule and there may be future adjustments due to course availability and/or staffing. Reach out to your current school counselor, Mrs. Leslie Schnebly with any questions. Leslie_Schnebly@hcpss.org

Fifth Grade Celebrations!

Mark your calendars and we hope you can join us for these two occasions.

Fifth Grade Promotion Celebration

June 9th at 1:30pm

Please join us for a virtual "watch party" to honor and celebrate our fifth graders! Each student will be represented in the presentation as we wish them good luck moving on to middle school.

Fifth Grade Drive thru Celebration

June 10th at 2:00pm

We welcome each family to decorate their vehicle and drive thru our school parking lot to receive the promotion certificate and more. We would love the opportunity to give our fifth graders a big send off!

More specifics to come about each event as we get closer.

Spring 2021 MAP Testing

Students in grades 1-5 will take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment in May. Please see below for the remaining testing dates for each grade. For questions about MAP testing, please contact Mr. Vanisko at brian_vanisko@hcpss.org

Tuesday, May 18 - Grade 1 (Group A & Virtual students) MAP Reading (1:55-3:50 PM)

Wednesday, May 19 - Grades 2-5 MAP Reading (9:45-11:45 AM)

Thursday, May 20 - Grade 1 (Group B) MAP Reading (1:55-3:50 PM)

We encourage all students to take the computer adaptive assessment. It is computer-adaptive because it adjusts to your child's level based on the correct and incorrect responses provided by your child. **This is why we ask that you do not help your child with the content of the assessment.** Having the most accurate data from this assessment will help teachers individualize instruction this year and next year.

The MAP test does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly. If your child is unable to attend, makeup testing will be offered.

To learn more about the MAP assessment, please visit: <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/>

WFES Supports Grassroots: May 10th – May 24th

Please help support our community! This year, West Friendship will collect goods to benefit Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center in Columbia, MD.

Grassroots depends upon the generosity of individuals, organizations, and businesses in the community to support its free services to anyone in crisis, to help provide the 24-7 hotline and suicide prevention efforts, round-the-clock personal counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, the shelter programs, and other activities to help people achieve a positive resolution to their crisis situation.

Please help by donating from the items below:

Kindergarten: Baby Wipes

1st Grade: Paper Towels

2nd Grade: Toothpaste and/or Dental Floss

3rd Grade: Canned Soups or boxed macaroni and cheese

4th Grade: Containers of Peanut Butter and/or Jelly

5th Grade: Individual instant oatmeal variety packets or Individual packets of Cream of Wheat

Virtual Students: there is a box in the WFES vestibule where you can place your donations.

The grade level with the most donations will receive a certificate for 1 hour of free game play at [The Main Event](#) at Columbia Mall! WFES would like to thank [The Main Event](#) for providing our school with these incredible incentives for our students!

"Helping others is the way we help ourselves." –Oprah Winfrey

Please contact WFES School Counselor, Leslie Schnebly with any questions. Thank you for your support!

Did you move? Are you moving?

According to **HCPSS Policy 9000** - Student Residency, Eligibility, Enrollment, and Assignment, "*A student attending a public school in Howard County will attend the designated school serving the school attendance area in which the parents have bona fide residence unless reassignment is granted or administrative placement occurs.*"

If you have moved or are moving soon, please notify us as soon as possible. Please do not wait for us to find out through other means. We are available to assist you with transitioning to your child's new school. Whether it be another HCPSS school, a private school, or a school out of the HCPSS district, we are here to help. If you are transferring to another HCPSS school, our registrars will partner to make the transition as smooth as possible.

If you have an address change, please fill out the attached fillable **Address Change Form** below and email it back to us with your new deed or lease. This way we can electronically verify your school district and update your new address on file. If you have any questions, contact our registration secretary, Colleen Green at Colleen.Green@hcpss.org.

It is very important for us to have the most accurate information about your residency.

[Fillable Change of Address Form](#)

Upcoming Spirit Days!

Show your school spirit and join in the fun! Here are our final Spirit Days for the rest of the school year!

- **May 28th**: Wear Red, White & Blue Day! Let's wear Red, White & Blue in honor of Memorial Day!
- **June 4th**: Hawaiian Day! - Wear your Hawaiian/beach themed attire (**no swim suits**). (Ex: Flowers, leis, beach colors, water scenes, beach names, surfboards, sunsets, etc.)

We encourage families to email pictures so we can tweet them out. Please email photos to Kathleen.Donegan@hcpss.org, then look for all the awesome WFES School Spirit on Twitter! In addition, please email photos to Penny.Smith@hcpss.org for possible publication in the WFES Yearbook!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

It is important to recognize the importance of our emotional and mental health. Although we may be 6 feet apart physically, we can still come together as a community to lift up activities and practices that help us be at our best. Small positive changes in your life can benefit your mind and your body!

Here are some fun mental health activities for families to do together for May and June: [WFES ABC Mental Health Countdown to Summer!](#)

These will also be highlighted for our students in our weekly Morning Announcements. Enjoy, and Happy Mental Health Awareness Month!

HCPSS Elementary School Counseling Connection Newsletter

The HCPSS Elementary School Counseling Connection Newsletter is a great resource for students and parents to read together. Included in this latest issue of the [May School Counseling Connection](#) you will find

information regarding Mental Health Awareness Month and the importance of taking time for your feelings and self-care. Also included is information about National Tell a Story Day, a fun Color by Numbers website and more! I implore you to look through this edition with your student(s)! You can access this newsletter and past editions through my Canvas Course entitled, **West Friendship Elementary School Counseling** located on your child's Canvas dashboard.

West Friendship Yearbook

We need your photos for our 2020-2021 yearbook! Please send photos of your children doing their virtual learning, enjoying a virtual field trip experience, or participating in school spirit days. You may send all photos to Penny Smith at Penny_Smith@hcpss.org. In addition, if your child was not able to come to WFES and sit for their portrait to be published in the yearbook, please send a head shot of your child to Penny Smith. All pictures should include the name of the student, grade, and activity. Please contact Penny Smith if you have any questions.

Health Check Reminder

With the return of students and staff to classrooms and extracurricular activities, it is critical that everyone strictly follows the health guidance in place to keep HCPSS students and staff safe and able to continue to provide in-person opportunities. It is important that open communication exists between households and the school. Please [review the update](#) from Health Services.

If you have questions, please email the school nurse elizabeth_collora@hcpss.org and wfesabsence@hcpss.org. We appreciate your understanding.

Beth Collora, BSN, RN, NCSN

School Nurse

Phone: 410-313-5515 ** Fax: 443-973-5518

Absence Email Reminder

Please do not send your child's absent note through Canvas. All absent notes must be emailed to WFESabsence@hcpss.org and **include student name, date of the absence, and the reason for the absence.** If this information is not included, the note will not be accepted. This email goes directly to our Attendance Secretary. You may cc: your child's teacher in the same email. Thank you in advance for adhering to our absence reporting procedures.

Kindergarten Registration Continues

Online Registration for students entering Kindergarten in fall continues. Please share this information with your friends and neighbors. **There will be no in-person registration appointments at this time.**

Kindergarten is mandatory in Maryland, so if your child turns 5-years old by September 1, 2021, you must register your child for the 2021-22 school year. Parents or guardians are to register students at the school serving the address where the child's parent or guardian resides. Information on neighborhood schools can be found through School Locator <https://hcpss-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b1d3153921514fbeat0abb0f92090217> on the [school system web site](#) or by calling the Public Information Office at 410-313-6682.

Step 1: Register Online Here: https://sisparents.hcpss.org/PXP2_OEN_Login.aspx

Step 2: Complete registration online by providing the documents listed below. ***The registration process is easier if you upload them during online registration. Otherwise, you will be asked to submit them via email as pdfs. I-phone users can scan documents through your notes app. (Images must be clear.)***

The following documents are needed for registration:

- Child's evidence of birth (i.e.: birth certificate, baptismal certificate)

- An authorized record of immunizations
- Proof of residency in the form of a signed lease or deed including signature pages
- Current utility bill
- Photo ID of parent/guardian
- Proof of custody (if applicable)

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Colleen Green at 410-313-5512 or colleen_green@hcpss.org.

Food Services - Student Meals

Students returning in-person may choose to receive meals any day they are in school. For all other families, meals will be available for pickup from 7:45-8:45 a.m. at elementary school locations and 9-10 a.m. at middle and high school locations on the following:

- Mondays – Students in Group V and/or non-HCPSS students age 18 and under
- Wednesdays – Students in Groups E, A or B
- Thursdays – Students in Group V and/or non-HCPSS students age 18 and under

Full [details on student meals](#) can be found on the HCPSS website.

Mark Your Calendars

Monday, May 17	5 th Grade Virtual Visit to Mount View Middle School
Tuesday, May 18	Grade 1 (Group A & Virtual students) MAP Reading (1:55-3:50 PM)
Wednesday, May 19	Grades 2-5 MAP Reading (9:45-11:45 AM)
Thursday, May 20	Grade 1 (Group B) MAP Reading (1:55-3:50 PM)
Thursday, May 20	PTA Meeting via Zoom – 6:00pm
Friday, May 28	School Spirit “Wear Red, White & Blue Day” in honor of Memorial Day
Monday, May 31	Schools & Offices Closed – Memorial Day
Friday, June 4	School Spirit “Hawaiian Day” – Wear Hawaiian/Beach Themed Attire
Wednesday, June 9	Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony Virtual “Watch Party” – 1:30pm
Thursday, June 10	Fifth Grade Drive Thru Celebration – 2:00pm
June 10, 11, 14 & 15	3-Hour Early Dismissal for Students
Tuesday, June 15	Last Day of School

County Information

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, 2021, respectively.

PTA News

WE HAVE MASKS!!!

We now have adult and child-sized masks IN STOCK and ready for pickup! Adult \$6 and Child \$4. Please visit <https://westfriendship.memberhub.store/store> to place your order. Stay safe while supporting the PTA!

5th Grade Memory Book Orders - Deadline Extended

Attention fifth grade parents: The deadline to order a 5th Grade Memory Book is being extended to Friday, May 28th for online orders and Thursday, May 20th for check orders!

WHERE TO ORDER: <https://westfriendship.memberhub.store/store/items/721316>

COST: \$30 per book

DEADLINES: May 28th (online orders)/ May 20th (check orders)

****Books will be delivered to WFES by June 10th****

If you prefer to pay by check, please return a check made payable to WFES PTA along with this completed order form: <https://drive.google.com/.../1ndB7IDsm4IMqgFueLSq.../view...>

The WFES PTA is dedicated to ensuring that every 5th Grader receives a memory book!

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact wfes2021@gmail.com.

PTA Board Nominations for 2021-2022

Do you want to get involved in the WFES community, meet people and make a difference? The PTA Nomination committee is looking for volunteers to serve a variety of positions on our 2021-2022 PTA Board. For more information please contact Courtney Douglass at courtneyt702@gmail.com, Penny Smith at Penny_Smith@hcpss.org, or Stacy Perrier at sta1434@yahoo.com.

Amazon Smile

Help support West Friendship Elementary Schools PTA by shopping on Amazon through Amazon Smile. You get the same great deals and benefits offered by Amazon while supporting our school! Just go to smile.amazon.com, and login to Amazon using your regular username and password. Search for and select West Friendship Elementary School PTA under charitable organizations, and you are ready to shop! And yes, we know it is spelled wrong on Amazon's page. Unfortunately, we can't change it.

Family and Student Support

HC DrugFree Updates for Parents/Guardians

Free Parenting Classes:

HC DrugFree and the Howard County State's Attorney's Office, partnering with HCPSS and the Health Department, will once again provide evidence-based classes for families to gain skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will engage in risky behaviors including using drugs. **The remaining sessions of this 4-class series for parents will be held on Zoom from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, June 1 and 8.** Parents/guardians must register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCDrugFreeSpring2021>. If you have questions, email Joan Webb Scornaienchi, HC DrugFree's Executive Director at Admin@hcdrugfree.org.

Community News

Please visit the HCPSS website [Community News and Programs page](#) for upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

Mobile Testing Sites

Howard County is dedicated to expanding COVID-19 testing to residents in our community who many not have adequate access. First Call Urgent Care and Centennial Medical Group are implementing four mobile testing units in the following locations:

- Long Reach Village Center (Monday, 3pm-7pm)
- North Laurel Community Center (Tuesday, 3pm-7pm)
- Normandy Shopping Center (Wednesday, 3pm-7pm)

- Recreation and Parks Headquarters (Thursday, 3pm-7pm)
- The Elkridge 50+ Center (Friday, 3pm-7pm)

Rapid testing and PCR testing will be available to residents at no cost. These new testing sites will help us promote more equitable healthcare and ensuring our most vulnerable populations have access to COVID-19 testing.

Howard County Arts Council's Camps

Spring has sprung, flowers are blooming, and it's time to start planning for summer which means - camp! Register today for Howard County Arts Council's Visual & Performing Arts camps. From June 28-August 27, camps will be offered in one-week, full-day sessions for students entering Grades K-7.

We've developed rigorous COVID-19 health and safety protocols for this year's program, enabling us to offer fun and engaging arts camps while minimizing risk for our campers and staff. Individual camps will be structured as learning pods consisting of one instructor, one counselor, and up to 8 campers. The use of face masks, physical distancing, and health screenings are among the other safety precautions that will also be in place.

With limited enrollment, our summer arts camps are filling up fast with several camps already at full enrollment. So don't miss out – register now and get ready for a summer filled with art adventures!

Visit hocoarts.org/camp for more information and to register.

Howard County Arts Council
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Ellicott City, MD 21043
info@hocoarts.org
410-313-ARTS (2787)
hocoarts.org