

Kaye M. Breon  
Principal



Brian Vanisko  
Assistant Principal

**West Friendship E.S.**  
12500 Frederick Road  
West Friendship, MD 21794  
P: (410) 313-5512

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

**May 7, 2021**

## From Our Administrators Teacher Appreciation Week

The West Friendship Elementary Teachers and Staff are so grateful to work within such a kind and caring community. With the guidance of the WFES PTA Staff Appreciation Committee, parents and students worked together to create an amazing Teacher Appreciation Week. Each day was filled with warm notes of gratitude, delicious lunches, tasty treats, and surprises! Special thank you to Mrs. Glenda Tittle and Mrs. Dara Morgan co-chairing the Staff Appreciation Committee. We appreciate the many hours of work, creativity, and dedication you have committed to make this week so special. Thank you to everyone who donated items, sent notes, emails, and gifts. All of us are sincerely grateful! – WFES Teachers, Staff, and Administration



## Bus Driver Appreciation Day

The WFES PTA Staff Appreciation Committee also celebrated Bus Drivers. We entrust the safety of our students to them every school day! We cannot thank them enough!



Bus #	Driver's Name
17	Mr. Wayne Duncan
19	Mr. Daniel Serrano
25	Ms. Susan Ritter
136	Ms. Christina McDonald & Ms. Emma Craig
409	Mr. Philip Beglan
435	Ms. Cheryl Brown
657	Ms. Kathy Mills
859	Ms. Verna Gassaway
913	Mr. Sergei Ward



## School News

### Battle of the Books

Congratulations to our 5<sup>th</sup> graders who participated in Battle of the Books 2021! You did an OUTSTANDING job representing WFES! We're so proud of all of you!

<b>Book Zoomers</b> Seelos Kim Elaine Choi Yoon Park Brennan Gallagher Kelsey Kim Coach: Anna Kim	<b>Epic Readers</b> Jaydon Feng Varun Veeramarchnani Ethan Sivila Jacob Rodrigues Kwabena Huslin Coach: Zhiyong Yang	<b>Mixed Minds</b> Darshi Shah Lakshami Challagulla Johanna Lambert Sathvik Talluri Caden Zohdi Coach: Monali Shah
<b>Reading Rainbows</b> Ellie Douglass Adaugo Ogunsanya Esha Dave Danielle Olaleye Maya Bacote Coach: Pamela McCarville	<b>Reading, Roaring Tigers</b> Zoe Adams Keagun Chen Bhavya Peri Kranthi Peri Coach: Denise Adams	<b>Royal Readers</b> Elena Bonier Hannah Royle Elyse Buckethal Caroline Wojtech Adeline Ottenritter Coach: Melissa Bonier
<b>RRHL Team</b> Ava Ritter Evie Pena Siena Spangler Grayson Walker Matthew Ivie Coach: Laura Ritter	<b>Taco 'bout Books!</b> Nikhil Anand Ryan Huan Maxwell Phelps John Scribner William So Coach: Kerry Phelps	<b>Tick Tock Chime Biblio files</b> Hazel Meekins Sophia Tang Melanie Fullerton Nalina Yerikalapudi Eli Sabaka Coach: Kelly Meekins

### Thank You for Volunteering

A big thank you to Andrew Keiner, a former WFES and current Mount View Middle student, for volunteering to help weed our pollinator garden. If any middle or high school students in our community are looking for service hours, we could use help with our pollinator beds. Please contact our media specialist, Mrs. Petrilla, if you are interested in volunteering, [Amy.Petrilla@hcpss.org](mailto:Amy.Petrilla@hcpss.org).

### 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](mailto: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 (9:00-11:00 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/>

## 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](mailto:Colleen_Green@hcpss.org).

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

[Fillable Change of Address Form](#)

## WFES Supports Grassroots: May 10<sup>th</sup> – May 24<sup>th</sup>

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

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Paper Towels

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Toothpaste and/or Dental Floss

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Canned Soups or boxed macaroni and cheese

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Peanut Butter and/or Jelly

5<sup>th</sup> 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!

Thank you for your support! "Helping others is the way we help ourselves." –Oprah Winfrey  
Please contact WFES School Counselor, Leslie Schnebly with any questions.

## 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 12<sup>th</sup>:** West Friendship Day! Wear school colors: green & white or WFES Spirit Wear!
- **May 28<sup>th</sup>:** Wear Red, White & Blue Day! Let's wear Red, White & Blue in honor of Memorial Day!

- **June 4<sup>th</sup>:** 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:elizabeth_collora@hcpss.org) and [wfesabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:wfesabsence@hcpss.org). We appreciate your understanding.**

Beth Collora, BSN, RN, NCSN

School Nurse

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

## New Late Arrival/Early Dismissal Procedures

### Late Arrivals:

- Student and Parent/Guardian together, should come to the vestibule, ring the doorbell, and sign-in on the late arrival sheet.



- **Only the student will be admitted into the building.** Parent/Guardian may not enter the building. Parents must accompany their child into the vestibule in order for your student to be marked present.

#### Early Dismissals:

- Parent/Guardian will come into the vestibule and ring the buzzer for early dismissals. **We ask that early dismissals are completed by 3:15 pm.**
- We will ask Parent/Guardian to hold their driver's license up to the camera for staff member to see. **We are only permitted to allow contacts listed in your Family File to pick up your student.**

**Parents and/or Visitors** are not permitted into the building at this time.

### Dropping off Student Items

- Parent/Guardian should come into the vestibule.
- Parent/Guardian should ring the intercom to notify the secretaries that they are dropping off an item.
- All items being dropped off need to be **clearly labeled by the parent/guardian** with:
  - Child's name and Grade
- Item will be left on the drop off table in vestibule for secretaries to retrieve.

### Absence Email Reminder

**Please do not send your child's absent note through Canvas.** All absent notes must be emailed to [WFESabsence@hcpss.org](mailto: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=b1d3153921514f92090217> 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](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](mailto: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

<b>Wednesday, May 12</b>	<b>School Spirit “Wear School Colors Day: Green &amp; White or WFES Spirit Wear”</b>
<b>Thursday, May 13</b>	<b>Schools Closed for Students - Articulation Day</b>
<b>Monday, May 17</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Virtual Visit to Mount View Middle School</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 18</b>	<b>Grade 1 (Group A &amp; Virtual students) MAP Reading (1:55-3:50 PM)</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 19</b>	<b>Grades 2-5 MAP Reading (9:00-11:00 AM)</b>
<b>Thursday, May 20</b>	<b>Grade 1 (Group B) MAP Reading (1:55-3:50 PM)</b>
<b>Thursday, May 20</b>	<b>PTA Meeting via Zoom – 6:00pm</b>
<b>Friday, May 28</b>	<b>School Spirit “Wear Red, White &amp; Blue Day” in honor of Memorial Day</b>
<b>Monday, May 31</b>	<b>Schools &amp; Offices Closed – Memorial Day</b>
<b>Friday, June 4</b>	<b>School Spirit “Hawaiian Day” – Wear Hawaiian/Beach Themed Attire</b>
<b>June 10, 11, 14 &amp; 15</b>	<b>3-Hour Early Dismissal for Students</b>
<b>Tuesday, June 15</b>	<b>Last Day of School</b>

## 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.

### MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Parents or guardians of children receiving special education and related services were mailed the Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey from the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services during the week of February 8, 2021. Parents are asked to complete the survey and return it in the postage paid envelope by May 21, 2021. The survey may also be completed online. Please look for details in your survey packet. Your feedback will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services in your local school system. Your voice can make a real difference for your child and many other children across the state of Maryland. To learn more, please visit <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com>.

## PTA News

## WFES PTA Staff Appreciation Committee

We would like to thank our wonderful WFES families and community for helping us celebrate our amazing WFES teachers for National Teacher Appreciation Week! Many of you donated treats, drinks, sent cards, reminded the students to thank their teachers, etc. With your support, donations and contributions, we were able to treat our teachers to lunch and snacks throughout the week. We finished the week with a small gift letting them know how much they are valued and appreciated! Again, thank you so much for your support as we could not have done this without you!

We still have a couple of staff appreciation events left before the end of the school year. If you are interested in joining our committee or just helping for one or two events, please let us know! Reach out to Glenda Hernandez Tittle at [glendahtittle@gmail.com](mailto:glendahtittle@gmail.com) or Dara Morgan at [Darakernmorgan@gmail.com](mailto:Darakernmorgan@gmail.com) if you have any questions or need additional information.

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> for online orders and Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> for check orders!**

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

**COST:** \$30 per book

**DEADLINES:** May 28<sup>th</sup> (online orders)/ May 20<sup>th</sup> (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 5<sup>th</sup> Grader receives a memory book!

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact [wfes2021@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:courtneyt702@gmail.com), Penny Smith at [Penny\\_Smith@hcpss.org](mailto:Penny_Smith@hcpss.org), or Stacy Perrier at [sta1434@yahoo.com](mailto: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](https://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. **This 4-class series for parents will be held on Zoom from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 11 and June 1, 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](mailto: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 Elkrige 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](https://hocoarts.org/camp) for more information and to register.

Howard County Arts Council  
8510 High Ridge Rd  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
[info@hocoarts.org](mailto:info@hocoarts.org)  
410-313-ARTS (2787)  
[hocoarts.org](https://hocoarts.org)