May 12, 2023

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, May 16
Howard County Library Visit WFES to Present Summer Reading Program to Students

Wednesday, May 17
Field Day!!! Volunteers Needed! (Rain Date is May 23rd)

Thursday, May 18
Kindergarten Field Trip; 9:45am – 1pm

Friday, May 19
Schools Closed for Students – Professional Learning/Articulation Day

Wednesday, May 24
Grade 5 Simulated Congressional Hearings; 9:15am to 1:00pm

Wednesday, May 24
Support Our Fifth Grade Students SCH – Wear Red, White & Blue

Friday, May 26
Mini Tiger Beach Schoolwide Celebration 2:40pm – Wear Beachy/Hawaiian Attire

Monday, May 29
Schools/Offices Closed – Memorial Day

Wednesday, May 31
Mrs. Greene’s Class Field Trip – 9:30am to 3:45pm

Thursday, June 1
Grade 5 Students Visit Mount View Middle School – 10am to 11:30pm

Friday, June 2
Mrs. English & Mrs. Rowe’s Class Field Trip – 9:30am to 3:45pm

Friday, June 2
Grade 4 End of Year Picnic – 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Tuesday, June 6
Kindergarten End of Year Picnic – 9:30am to 12:00pm

Tuesday, June 6
Move Up Day for WFES Students – 2:50pm to 3:30pm

Wednesday, June 7
Schools Close 3-Hours Early for Students – Professional Work Day

Thursday, June 8
Grade 2 End of Year Picnic – 9:30am to 12:30pm

Thursday, June 8
Grade 3 End of Year Picnic – 12:30pm to 3:30pm

Friday, June 9
Kindergarten End of Year Program – 9:45am to 10:45am

Friday, June 9
Grade 1 End of Year Picnic – 12:00pm to 2:30pm

Monday, June 12
Grade 5 End of Year Picnic – 11:00am to 12:10pm

Tuesday, June 13
Grade 5 Celebration – 9:30am to 10:45am

Wednesday, June 14
Grade 5 Volleyball Game – 9:20am to 11:20am

June 12, 13, and 14
Schools Close 3-Hours Early for Students

Wednesday, June 14
***** Last Day of School *****

School News

Important Transportation Information for ALL families

Families whose children are eligible for bus transportation must register through HCPSS Connect Synergy to receive bus service for the 2023-2024 school year. Please visit https://www.hcpss.org/schools/transportation/registration/ for instructions on how to register.

We don’t want any students who qualify for transportation to be without a bus. Please contact the school if you need help registering your child. You may also find several frequently asked questions online.

Students who receive transportation as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan do not need to register.
Music Students
Congratulations to all third grade orchestra students, as well as all fourth and fifth grade band, orchestra, and chorus members on your wonderful performances for the spring concert held on May 11th. Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off. Bravi Tutti!!

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.”

If you have moved or are moving soon, please notify us immediately. Please do not wait for us to find out through other means. We can assist you with the 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 Office Staff will help make the transition as smooth as possible.

Please complete the attached fillable Address Change Form and email it back to us with your new deed or lease. We will electronically verify your school district and update your new address on file. If you have questions, please contact our registration secretary, Mrs. Colleen Green at Colleen_Green@hcpss.org.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month
Each day this month, try to do something to support your mental health. For child friendly suggestions, visit: WFES Mental Health Awareness Ideas Calendar 2023. Our mental health affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices.

We will be practicing positive self-affirmations each morning at school. Affirmations are short, encouraging statements that you can use to create a more positive frame of mind. Examples: “I am resilient,” “I am brave enough to try,” and, “I can celebrate everyone’s differences.”

Some of the many benefits of Positive Self Affirmations:
- To relieve stress
- Release you from negativity, fear, worry, and anxiety
- Have been linked positively to academic achievements
- Motivate you to act on your goals
- Changes negative thought patterns into positive ones
- Help you feel positive about yourself and boost your self confidence

For additional resources to support children’s mental health, visit: www.ChildrensMentalHealthMatters.org

Special Education Parent Involvement Survey
All Parents of students with disabilities were sent the Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey. The purpose of this survey is to hear from parents about how well they think their child’s school is partnering with them and promoting parent involvement in their child’s education. This information will provide valuable feedback for the HCPSS Department of Special Education. The last day to complete the survey is May 19. The survey can be accessed online: https://www.mdparentsurvey.com

Howard County Family Resources
Please consider signing up to receive monthly newsletters from the Howard County Office of Children and Families. Attached you will find the May 2023 issue of Parent Pages.
Free Summer Meal Program Begins June 21
HCPSS will run a free summer meal program weekdays June 21-Aug. 4. Meals will be served only on days schools are open; there will be no meal service Tuesday, July 4. There are no applications, enrollment or fees to participate in this program, but children must be present to receive free meals. Additional information, including a list of meal sites, is available online.

HCPSS Seeks Members for Policy Advisory Committees
HCPSS is currently seeking candidates for membership on several School Year 2023-2024 Policy Advisory Committees. Members of these committees will attend 3-4 virtual meetings to discuss and make policy recommendations. Committee members are expected to participate in all committee meetings. Residents interested in participating may submit a statement of interest online by Wednesday, May 24.

PETS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY REMINDER
Families, please remember that the HCPSS policy is that pets are not allowed on school property when students are present. Service animals are exempt from this policy. However, therapy and emotional support animals are not permitted in HCPSS buildings. Please see School System policy for complete details.
Circular NO. 19 FY23 Animals on School System Property
Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

School Directory Access
The school directory is now available. Please log onto the directory with the following directions. The directory can be sorted by grade or other various search options.
Go to www.hcpss.org
Click on HCPSS Connect
Click on HCPSS Connect Log In
Select Family File/School Directory from the menu on the left of the screen in the navigation bar.

* Chaperones * Visitors * Volunteers (Must complete if you have not already done so this year!)
If you plan to visit school for any events between now and the end of the year, please give this your attention. According to Howard County Board of Education Policy, all volunteers must complete two required volunteer trainings. Please take time to complete the required trainings now so you will be ready when these opportunities present themselves. You must review the trainings, print the documentation for each training, and send them to school at least 5 days prior to volunteering or chaperoning a trip. You may email them directly to Penny Smith at penny_smith@hcpss.org.
Child Abuse Training please review then complete the Child Abuse Certificate
Confidentiality Training please review then complete the Confidentiality Certificate

Kindergarten and New HCPSS Student Registration
Registration for 2023-2024 Kindergarten continues! Parents/Guardians of children who will be five years old as of September 1, 2023, must enroll their children in kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year. Registering for school is an online process.
Road to Kindergarten Workshop Slideshow
Gather Documentation
Getting Ready for Kindergarten
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 first grade are now being accepted. Applicants must submit all application materials for early admission to first grade by May 31, 2023.
Pre-Kindergarten Programs
The Bushy Park Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) prekindergarten programs are preparing for classes for the upcoming 2023-24 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 1st may apply. Applications will be available and accepted in mid-February.

In alignment with Maryland’s Blueprint for the Future, new applications for students turning 4 by September 1 will not be available or accepted. The Howard County Public School System continues to offer a prekindergarten program for income eligible children who will be four years old by September 1. For additional information contact the school or visit: https://www.hcps.org/schools/pre-k-programs/

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 additional questions, please contact Roseann Kleinschmidt at (410) 313-5500.

Summer Activities for Children
These summer programs offer children a variety of educational and recreational opportunities during the summer to learn, meet new friends and have fun:
HCPSS BSAP Summer Institute     HCPSS GT Summer Institute     Howard County Public Library System
Howard County Recreation and Parks     Howard Community College Kids on Campus

PTA News & Events
Nominating Committee Seeking Volunteers – PTA Positions for the 2023-24 School Year
The PTA is planning for next year and looking to fill Executive Board positions and Committee Chair positions. We are seeking volunteers to fill the following open Board positions:
President
1st Vice President
2nd President
Treasurer
Corresponding Secretary
Recording Secretary

The next General Assembly Meeting and voting will take place on Wednesday, May 31st at 7:00pm. Please contact one of the following members of the WFES PTA Nominating Committee if you are interested in being an active member of the PTA next year: Kathryn Calton at kathryn.calton@gmail.com, Penny Smith at penny_smith@hcpss.org, or Lindsay Waxler, at wfeswaxler@gmail.com.

PTA General Assembly Meeting/PTA Executive Board Nominations
The next and final (for this school year) PTA General Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 31, at 7PM. The meeting will be held in the school’s Media Center. We will be voting for the PTA Executive Board for the next school year. Please consider volunteering for a position because “Many hands make light work.” We are seeking volunteers to fill the following open Board positions:
President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

If you are interested in joining the PTA Executive Board next year or have any questions about position duties, please contact Kathryn Calton at kathryn.calton@gmail.com, Penny Smith at penny_smith@hcpss.org, or Lindsay Waxler, at wfeswaxler@gmail.com.
Save the Date!
Our end-of-year block party is scheduled for Friday, June 9. Want to volunteer and help make this a successful and fun event for the school? Please email kathryn.calton@gmail.com.

Community News and Events
HCPSS Community News and Programs Site
The HCPSS 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.

"The Essence of Us" Workshop Series
The Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County and the HCPSS Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion have partnered to present The Essence of Us: Chronicling the African American Experience, a workshop series geared toward middle and high school students that will provide a better understanding of African American history and how it is written. Workshops will be held virtually and in-person from 10-11 a.m. on May 13.

Free Parenting Classes (Open to Grandparents Too)
Free. Guiding Good Choices is an evidence-based, interactive prevention program that provides families with the skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will use drugs and alcohol or engage in other dangerous behaviors. Howard County parents, guardians and grandparents will learn how to encourage your child to adopt healthy attitudes and behaviors, how to communicate more effectively, how to build a relationship of trust, and much more! Classes will be held on Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. via Zoom. Learn more or register: https://hcdrugfree.org/2023/02/guiding-good-choices-free-classes-for-parents-2/

Be Kind to Your Mind Be Kind to Others
Kindness Grows Here is a Maryland non-profit with a mission of cultivating kindness in communities starting with kids. Kindness Grows Here is holding its first ever Howard County event and we are hoping for a great turnout. Please see this link for details. (FREE: Be Kind to Your Mind...Be Kind to Others Tickets, Sat, May 20, 2023 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite)

GUMC Preschool
Glenelg United Methodist Church (GUMC) is a local private preschool located in Glenelg. Several of their families move on to West Friendship Elementary each year. They have openings in their part-time Pre-K programs this fall (both 4-day and 5-day options are available). Classes are held from 9:15 AM-1:15 PM, so it works well for the bus and elementary drop-off schedules! Tuition assistance may also be available to those who qualify. For more information, please call 410-489-7702