May 5, 2023

Upcoming Dates

Now – Thursday, May 11
WFES Supports OMHS Food Pantry

Saturday, May 6
PTA Plant Sale Pickup Day (Extra Plants Available for Purchase) at WFES; 10am - 12pm

May 7 – May 13
Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week

May 8 – 12
National Teacher Appreciation Week

Thursday, May 11
Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day -- Wear Green to Show Your Support!

Thursday, May 11
Spring Concert – 6:30pm

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

Friday, May 26
Mini Tiger Beach Schoolwide Celebration – Wear Beachy/Hawaiian Attire

Monday, May 29
Schools/Offices Closed – Memorial Day

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

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 Picnic 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

**** Last Day of School *****
School News

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Did you know that May is Mental Health Awareness Month? Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week is May 7th - 13th, and on May 11th, all students and staff are encouraged to wear GREEN to show that mental health matters!

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

WFES Consideration Form

Our staff is already planning and preparing for the 2023-2024 school year. As part of our process, we would like to offer parents/guardians the opportunity to share specific information about your child that you feel would be beneficial for staff to consider when determining next year’s classes.

Please Fill Out the Attached Google Form by May 11th.

The link below is what our school staff will use to consider parent input as we engage in the articulation process. As our staff works to form thoughtful, well-balanced classes for the 2023-24 school year, we take many factors into account, including our students' academic and social-emotional needs, input from all stakeholders, and staffing needs.

Your input on this form will be considered as we plan for your child. Your response is OPTIONAL but is a valuable source of information for the school staff and for the next teacher. Please complete one form for each child. Thank you for your support.

2023-2024 WFES Consideration Form

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 and more information.

We don’t want any students who qualify for transportation to be without a bus if they rely on that to get to and from school. Please contact the school if you need help registering your child. Please contact the HCPSS Office of Transportation at transportation@hcpss.org or 410-313-6732 if you have questions related to your eligibility to receive bus service. 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.
The Tiger Talk
Today, all WFES students received a copy of The Tiger Talk, the new publication of writings and artwork submitted by WFES students. The Tiger Talk was prepared and organized by a team of fifth grade students with support provided by Mr. Haskins, WFES G/T Resource teacher. Additional information about the publication was shared with each grade via a Canvas Announcement on each grade’s lunch/team course. In the announcement, you will find a link share to color versions of the artwork in volume 1 of The Tiger Talk.

FIELD DAY IS COMING! ** Full Day Event ** Wednesday, May 17th ** Rain Date: May 23rd
Volunteers Needed * * * Volunteers Needed * * * Volunteers Needed
Field day activities require volunteers to run the activities to make it a successful day!!! The basketballs and footballs must be wrangled, equipment organized, races executed, and water replenished!!!

**IMPORTANT** You must have completed the two HCPSS volunteer training courses to be eligible to help with field day! Both the Child Abuse and Confidentiality training sessions must be on file in the school office. If you have not completed both trainings this school year, please do so now and send your completed certificates to Mrs. Penny Smith in the front office (via backpack mail or email).

1. Child Abuse Training please review then complete the Child Abuse Certificate
2. Confidentiality Training please review then complete the Confidentiality Certificate

Once you are officially trained and the school has the necessary documentation on file, then you may sign up to Volunteer during Field Day.

Here’s how to help:
1. Click the link below to volunteer your time and/or to donate.
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot you would like to volunteer. We have AM and PM spots available or if you desire you may sign up for both.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094baea82ca1fc1-wfes/

If you have any questions about volunteering please email Mrs. Rachel Butler at rachel.butler@hcpss.org or Mrs. Dana Keiner at dckeiner00@gmail.com. Thank you!

Spring MCAP Testing Grades 3, 4, and 5
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that states administer annual state assessments to all students in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and once in high school.

West Friendship students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will take the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) in both ELA and Math. The MCAP provides information to educators, parents, and the public on student progress towards proficiency on the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards. For more information, please visit https://www.hcpss.org/academics/testing/mcap/.

The MCAP assessment window is Tuesday, April 11 - Friday, May 26. Specific testing dates are below for each grade level. Please make every effort to have your child attend school on testing days and to refrain from scheduling any appointments during these times to minimize missing instruction due to make-up testing. There is no need to study for the MCAP. To prepare, have your child get a good night’s sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and arrive for school on time. Congratulations to students in Grades 3 and 5 for completing their spring MCAP Testing!

Grade 4 will continue to test May 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th. Tests will be administered from 10:20am to 12:30pm each day.
Indicators of Educational Equity Survey
As part of our school improvement process, we are asking families to provide input about their equity priorities at our school. Please use the link below to complete the HCPSS Indicators of Educational Equity Survey by May 11, 2023. Your voice is important for the process of school improvement, and we truly hope every family will complete this survey. We will use your input, along with other school data, to refine our school improvement plan for next year.

This survey is anonymous and available in multiple languages. If you have children at more than one school, please complete one survey per school.

- English survey
- Spanish survey
- Chinese survey
- Chin survey
- Korean survey

Your input is extremely important to us, and we appreciate you taking your time to assist us. If you have any questions, please contact WFES Principal, Ms. Kaye Breon at kaye_breon@hcpss.org.

WFES Supports Oakland Mills High School Food Pantry: May 1st - May 11th
This year, WFES is collecting goods to benefit the OMHS Food Pantry. In a typical month, the OMHS Food Pantry serves between 70 and 80 families (amounting to close to 400 people). While the OMHS Food Pantry receives a monthly food allocation from the Howard County Food Bank, the pantry is supported primarily through donations.

The Oakland Mills HS Food Pantry serves the Oakland Mills community and beyond. Families are not required to have a student at OMHS to access the Food Pantry. The OMHS Food Pantry distributes non-perishable foods, produce, and bread once per month to families in need.

Please ensure that donated goods are in sealed packages and have not expired. For specific donation items, please visit: WFES Supports OMHS Food Pantry. Items will be collected at WFES beginning Monday, May 1st.

Celebrating Battle of the Books Teams 2023!
Our school community is so proud of all the Battle of the Books participants! We created a bulletin board near the entrance of the school to recognize all the WFES teams. We also want to recognize Keira Murphy who participated in the competition but was accidentally omitted from our last newsletter. We’re very proud of Keira and all the 5th grade participants!
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.

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

Report Bullying
Policy 1060 Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation specifically establishes expectations for maintaining a safe and respectful school climate and workplace, where bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation are not tolerated. This policy also provides standards for identifying and preventing bullying, cyberbullying, harassing, or intimidating behavior. Additionally, the policy outlines measures to support students and employees who are either engaging in or are victims of bullying behavior.

The HCPSS Student Code of Conduct, by which all HCPSS students are expected to abide, also specifically addresses bullying. The HCPSS Bullying Reporting Form – which can be completed online or on paper (available in the main school office, school counseling office, and media center) – allows students, staff, and family members to easily and confidentially report incidents of bullying to their school administrators.
HCPSS Rainbow Conference - Register Now!
The HCPSS Rainbow Conference will be held on **Saturday, May 6th from 9am - 5pm**. The conference will be hybrid with opportunities for both virtual and in-person participation. For more information scan the QR code on the [Rainbow Conference Flier](#) or access this [link](#).

HCPSS Rainbow Conference - Register Now!
The HCPSS Rainbow Conference will be held on Saturday, May 6th from 9am - 5pm. The conference will be hybrid with opportunities for both virtual and in-person participation. For more information scan the QR code on the [Rainbow Conference Flier](#) and/or see the details below. We hope to see you there!

**9:00am-1:00pm is VIRTUAL**
- 15 virtual sessions to select from
- Register for up to four sessions.
- Target audience - high school students, educators, parents, and community members

**1:00pm-5:00pm is IN-PERSON**
- Join us at the Homewood Center for [in-person activities](#)!
- 10914 Clarksville Pike Ellicott City 21042
- ALL are welcome to join us for the children and YA book talk sessions, Pride Outside session, Exhibition Hall, and outdoor activities.
- Also featured will be "Prom wear Pop-Up" where high school students attending prom can take home party clothing, free of charge.
- Target audience - The afternoon sessions and activities have a strong family focus.

**Registration Information**
- Thanks to the *It Gets Better Project 50States50Grants* for funding this event! This conference is a FREE HCPSS event.
- Participants must register to attend.
- [Register HERE](#)

**Social Media Awareness Event for Parents**
The Howard County Health Department is offering sessions on Social Media Guides for Parents: Guide to Healthy Summer Habits. The sessions are virtual, and you can register and see more details [here](#). Each event is from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. and will start with a presentation, and end with Q & A.
- May 9 - Parents of Children ages 3-8
- May 10 - Parents of Children ages 9-12
- May 11 - Parents of Children ages 13-17

**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](#)
- [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 [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.hcpss.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.

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.

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
- Treasurer
- 1st Vice President
- Corresponding Secretary
- 2nd President
- Recording Secretary

If you are interested in being an active member of the PTA next year, please contact Kathyrn Calton at kathryn.calton@gmail.com, Penny Smith at penny_smith@hcpss.org, or Lindsay Waxler, at wfeswaxler@gmail.com.

National Teacher Appreciation Week
The PTA/Staff Appreciation Committee (SAC) is planning and preparing for National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 8-12). It is a time for all of us to pause and celebrate the amazing educators and staff that support our students throughout the school year.

We need your help to make NTAW a success and show our teachers how much we appreciate them. Please click here for the sign up list to donate items.

Thank you so very much for your support. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering to support the planning and celebrations for National Teacher Appreciation Week, please contact Glenda Hernández Tittle at glendahtittle@gmail.com.
PTA Plant Sale
Pickup for the PTA Plant Sale will be held on the school blacktop on Saturday, May 6, from 10AM to 12PM. A limited amount of extra annual plants and hanging baskets from Walnut Springs Nursery will be available for purchase that day. Please email kathryn.calton@gmail.com with any questions. Volunteers are needed to help sort plants. Let Kathryn know if you are available to help! This is an easy way to help the PTA raise funds for the upcoming Block Party and other end-of-year events. Thank you for participating in this fundraiser.

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 wifeswaxler@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.

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