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November 13, 2020

School News

First Quarter Report Cards

The 2020-2021 quarter one report cards will be available online via Synergy beginning at :00 p.m. on Monday, November 16. Print report cards will not be issued.

[How to Access Report Cards](#)

Access MAP Scores

Detailed fall reports are now available in PDF form in Synergy. Parents can follow the directions here <https://help.hcpss.org/grades-testing/fall-2020-MAP-scores> to download and access their child's report.

Celebrating American Education Week

Each year in November, we celebrate American Education Week prior to Thanksgiving week. Every year we look forward to honoring public education and the many individuals who make a difference in ensuring that every student receives a quality education. American Education Week is a wonderful opportunity to encourage our collaboration and partnership with families. Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold all of our traditional American Education Week activities during this time of virtual learning.

During this incredibly unusual and often stressful school year, it is even more important that we celebrate the team of people at our schools, including our teachers, administrative and support staff, food and nutrition employees, substitute/guest teachers, and so many more. At the same time, our families are working closer with us to ensure our students succeed with virtual learning. As part of American Education Week, Wednesday, November 18 is **Educational Support Personnel (ESP) Day**. ESP staff includes secretaries, health room staff, para-educators, custodians, and food service staff. We are encouraging families to email a message of thanks to the West Friendship Elementary School ESP staff. You can locate all ESP staff on our staff listing: <https://wfes.hcpss.org/school-staff> We look forward to our families getting involved in the spirit of the week. Together, we can move forward in empowering each of our students to achieve and thrive.

CogAT Information

The Office of Assessment and Reporting shared that HCPSS will not deliver the CogAT for grades 3 and 5 this December. As plans are finalized for the second semester, HCPSS will explore options for administration and we will share updates with you.

Thanksgiving Break Meal Service Adjustments

To ensure children have access to essential nutrition over the holiday period, families may pick up meals in advance to cover the holiday break. Pre-ordering will not be available for meals picked up on Monday, November 23 or 30. [See all service and schedule adjustments.](#)

WFES Upcoming School Spirit Days

Thanks for demonstrating your School Spirit and participating in today's Crazy Hair Day! Our next Spirit Day is next Friday. We hope you will join in the fun:

November 20th -- Sports Jersey/T-Shirt Day

We encourage students 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!

Parent Permission Needed for Google Play

In an effort to continue expanding our authorized set of digital tools for virtual instruction, HCPSS has curated a new set of supplemental digital tools that are available only through Google's menu of additional services. These supplemental digital tools are approved by HCPSS and comply with federal, state, and Howard County Board of Education student data privacy policies. Due to Google's settings, students must access this set of tools by utilizing Google's menu of additional services, which requires consent by a parent or guardian.

To provide consent:

1. Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#).
2. Select **More Options** from the left panel.
3. Select **HCPSS Google Menu** from the middle of the page.
4. Click the check box to provide consent. Changes are saved automatically.

A parent or guardian must provide consent for each student by selecting the student's name at the top of the page.

The digital tools currently included are: [Book Room](#), [Word Work](#), [Scratch BluBot](#), [Scratch JR](#), [Sketch-Up](#), [Collector Classic](#), [JamBoard](#), [Google Earth](#) and [Minecraft: Education](#). After a parent/guardian provides consent, students using a HCPSS Chromebook can access the tools through the Google Play Store icon on the Chromebook when logged in with an HCPSS account. There may be a delay of up to three days before the apps appear in the Google menu and some tools may automatically appear on the Chromebook once consent is provided by a parent or guardian without the need to install them. If your child has not been issued a Chromebook, please make the request following the [information found online](#).

Please note:

- HCPSS cannot guarantee that apps are available on devices other than HCPSS Chromebooks.
- Teachers may or may not choose to use any or all of these apps during instruction. Students will be notified when a particular app will be used for instruction.
- If you do not provide consent for your student's access to these digital tools, your student's teacher will provide alternative enrichment activities.
- In addition to these Google tools, HCPSS has approved a robust set of [supplemental digital tools](#). Your child's teacher will notify you of the particular supplemental digital tools being used in each class via email or on their Canvas course page.

Please reach out to our Technology Teacher, Tracey_McDonald@hcpss.org, or Media Specialist, Amy_Petrilla@hcpss.org for additional information.

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.

Mark Your Calendars

Mon., Nov. 16	Report Cards Issued
Nov. 16 – 20	American Education Week
Nov. 18	Educational Support Personnel (ESP) Day
Fri., Nov. 20	School Spirit Sports Jersey/T-Shirt Day
Fri., Nov. 20	PTA Square 1 Art Fundraiser – Deadline to Place Orders!
Fri., Nov. 20	Gift Card Drive End Date
Nov. 23 – 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences – Schools Close 3-Hours Early
Wed., Nov. 25	Parent/Teacher Conferences – School Closed
Nov. 26 & 27	Happy Thanksgiving – Schools & Offices Closed

PTA News

Gift Card Drive: The Season of Thankfulness and Giving

This holiday season is going to be a much different experience for all of us, but especially for those that are in need. This year, WFES is hosting a school wide gift card drive **now through, Friday, November 20th**.

If you would like to help support our West Friendship families this holiday season, here is a quick, convenient, and easy way for you to help! Please visit <https://westfriendship.new.memberhub.store/store?category=Donations> and click on “WFES Gift Card Drive. You will indicate the amount of your monetary donation (\$5 minimum), then use the drop-down menu to choose from the gift card selection (Walmart, Target, Giant, Safeway, or Weis Market).

You may also purchase gift cards and drop them off at the school. Go to the front entrance of the school and ring the doorbell for instructions for contactless and secure drop off.

Each of us giving a little will hopefully assist all our WFES families to have a joyous holiday season!

Square 1 Art Fundraiser

Be sure to shop for your special holiday keepsakes! Square 1 items make great holiday gifts for those hard to shop for relatives, and kids love having items (like a journal!) with their art on it. This has been a super popular fundraiser for our PTA for the past several years, and we hope you'll consider having your kids participate again this year. Here are all the details. Thanks for supporting your PTA!

<https://docs.google.com/.../1LVjbhOPvZM4uNJd.../edit...>

You may begin to shop for keepsakes right away at square1art.com/shop!

Important Deadline -- Parent Order Deadline is: November 20, 2020

Troubleshooting

Uploaded your Child's Art but cannot find it? Just click [Art Search](#) to find your child's art.

Need assistance? Click [Customer Care](#) or call 1.888.332.3294 square1art.com

Thank you so much for your support of the WFES PTA!

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's spelled wrong on Amazon's page. Unfortunately, we can't change it.

Community News

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