



**October 14, 2022**

## **From Our Administrators**

Dear WFES Families,

WFES is excited to join other HCPSS schools, students, and staff in celebrating **UNITY Day on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**. To support Bullying Prevention Month, **we invite everyone to wear orange to show we are united for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion**. Please see the [Unity Day 2022 flier](#) for additional information. Our **School Counselor, Mrs. Schnebly** is currently teaching lessons about bullying. These lessons include the difference between bullying and normal peer conflict, how to report bullying, and how to respond to peer conflict. We encourage you to ask your child if Mrs. Schnebly has visited their classroom yet, and to share what they are learning.

Be sure to review the list of upcoming dates at the bottom of this page. Many things will be happening at and around West Friendship next week... flu shots, WFES PTA Night at Glenwood Library, and Unity Day! Thank you to our **School Nurse, Mrs. Collora** for organizing the **WFES Flu Clinic**. She is always looking for ways to keep our students and staff healthy and safe! Also, thank you to the **WFES PTA and our Media Specialist, Mrs. Petrilla** for arranging the **WFES PTA Night at Glenwood Library**. Sounds like a fun and informative evening!

Please take time **to label your children's clothing, coats, water bottles and lunch boxes with their names**. Our lost and found is steadily growing and the name labels are a huge help in reuniting lost items with their owners. The cooler mornings and warm afternoon recesses often leave us with discarded jackets on the playground. If you happen to be at WFES, please look at our lost & found. You may something your child has been missing.

Take time to enjoy time with your family this weekend!

Sincerely,

Kaye Breon, Principal

Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal

## **Upcoming Dates**

<b>Monday, October 17</b>	<b>WFES Flu Vaccination Clinic</b>
<b>Tuesday, October 18</b>	<b><a href="#">WFES PTA Night at Glenwood Library</a> – 6:00 to 8:00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 19</b>	<b>School Spirit “<a href="#">Unity Day</a>” - Wear Orange</b>
<b>Friday, October 21</b>	<b>Schools Closed for Students – Professional Work Day</b>
<b>Monday, October 24</b>	<b>Schools Closed for Students – Professional Learning Day</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 26</b>	<b>WFES PTA General Assembly Meeting -</b>
<b>Saturday, October 29</b>	<b><a href="#">WFES PTA Trunk or Treat</a> – 5:30 to 7:30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 2</b>	<b>Schools Close Three Hours Early – End of 1<sup>st</sup> Marking Period</b>
<b>Thursday, November 3</b>	<b>School Picture Makeup/Retake Day, and Candid Photos – A.M.</b>
<b>Monday, November 7</b>	<b>WFES PTA Event at Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar – 4:00 to 7:00pm</b>
<b>Tuesday, November 8</b>	<b>Schools &amp; Office Closed – Election Day</b>

# School News & Information

## Halloween

As in the past, West Friendship **will not be holding Halloween specific activities during the instructional day. Costumes are not to be worn or brought to school.**

The **WFES PTA will have two opportunities for you to dress in costume.**

- Dress as your favorite book character for [PTA Night at Glenwood Library](#) on **Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**.
- [Trunk or Treat](#) on **Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>** at 5:30p.m.

## Volunteers Needed – [Update School Sign](#)

We need volunteers to help with keeping our outdoor school sign updated. If you are interested in assisting us, please click on the following link, [Update School Sign](#) and complete the form. A staff member will be in contact with you soon. Please remember that you must complete the required Volunteer Trainings before you can volunteer in the school.



## Help us Celebrate **UNITY Day on October 19<sup>th</sup>**!

West Friendship is excited to join other HCPSS schools, students, and staff in celebrating UNITY Day on Wednesday, **October 19<sup>th</sup>**. To support Bullying Prevention Month, we invite everyone to wear orange to show we are united for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. Please see the Unity Day 2022 [flier](#) for additional info.

## School-Based Mental Health Services

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is expanding its school-based mental health services. Previously available in 45 schools across the county, these services will be available at all HCPSS schools by the end of the first semester of the 2022-23 school year. The services, including therapy provided at school buildings during the instructional day, are provided by HCPSS' school-based student services teams in collaboration with community mental health agencies. For more information please click on the following link:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2022/10/hcpss-to-expand-school-based-mental-health-services-for-students/>

## The Council of Elders Community Academy

Join HCPSS and the Council of Elders (TCOE) virtually on Saturday, October 15, 2022, from 9:00-10:30am for an engaging session regarding how to effectively maintain communication with your child's school. HCPSS staff will provide a parent demonstration on how to monitor student performance utilizing school system online resources. Additionally, families will receive strategies to help ensure successful parent-teacher conferences. This session is for families of students in elementary, middle, and high school. To register, please complete the registration form linked here. Please see the [TCOE Navigating HCPSS flier](#) for more information.

## Upcoming Virtual Parent Workshops

Howard County Family Institute is offering several virtual parent workshops for October and November. Topics include Friendship Skills for School and Life Success, Navigating Your Child's Mental Health Journey, Parenting with Empathy, Nothing I Do Works: A Parent's Guide to Challenging Behaviors & Worries, Concerns & Apprehension.

For more information: [Family Institute Workshops](#)

## \* Chaperones \* Visitors \* Volunteers

This year there will be many opportunities for parents to volunteer at school and/or chaperone school field trips. According to Howard County Board of Education Policy, all volunteers must complete required volunteer

trainings. Take time minutes now to complete the required trainings now, so you will be all set to go 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](mailto:penny_smith@hcpss.org).

- [Child Abuse Training](#)
- [Child Abuse Certificate](#)
- [Confidentiality Training](#)
- [Confidentiality Certificate](#)

## When Your Child is Absent from School

Excuses for absences from school are required by Maryland law. Please email [wfesabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:wfesabsence@hcpss.org) if your child is absent from school. Your message must include your child's first and last name, the date of absence, and the reason for absence. Please do not email CANVAS or the teacher regarding absences.

## Early Dismissals

If your child has an early dismissal, please arrange for them to be picked up before **3:30 pm** to avoid conflict with school buses. Please send a note to school with your child regarding early dismissals. All notes must include the child's name, the date, and parent signature.

## Dismissal Changes

Please help us keep your children safe by effectively communicating dismissal arrangements. It is not possible for us to check Family File for each individual student's dismissal information every day. We have printed out the information that is now in the file. In the event your child's dismissal instructions change, **you must send a note to school with your child. The note must include the child's name, the date, and parent signature. Please do not email the teacher!** If the teacher is not in school that day or does not have time to check their email your communication may not be received in a timely manner. We also ask that you **not call the school office** to make dismissal changes unless it is a true emergency. The office is extremely busy during dismissal time, and an error could easily occur. Also, **please do not rely on your child to relay dismissal arrangements** to their teacher. Quite often the messages are not relayed to staff, or they are incorrect.

## After School Activities

Please send a note to school with your child if they are to stay for an afterschool activity. **Please do not email the teacher!** If the teacher is not in school that day or does not have time to check their email your communication may not be read in a timely fashion. Students will be dismissed and sent home in their usual manner if notes are not received indicating other arrangements.

## HCPSS School Messages

All parents/guardians are in our system to receive HCPSS and school emails. Please do not attempt to create a new account with your child's 2022-2023 school. Additionally, unsubscribing from any HCPSS or school messages will block you from receiving all messages from the district and your child's school. **Please do not unsubscribe. To opt in to receive text messages** from HCPSS you must text "YES" to 67587.

## Harris Teeter Together in Education Rewards

If you shop at Harris Teeter, you can link your VIC card to benefit WFES. Follow these simple steps [HERE](#):

1. Enter email associated with your VIC account
2. Enter the one-time passcode sent to your email
3. Search for your school and click "add" to link

## WFES Employment Opportunities

West Friendship Elementary School is looking for people who want to join our amazing school community! We have an opportunity for you! Please see below for more information.

### Temporary Employee Position

We are looking for caring and compassionate individuals to assist students with disabilities who require direct adult supervision throughout the school day. The position works under the daily supervision of the school administration and the direction of a special education teacher and/or a classroom teacher. Some experience working with children or individuals with disabilities preferred. Temporary Employee (TE) positions are with Social Service Consultants, Ltd.

- Compensation is \$15.00 per hour (up from \$14/hour)
- The position is for 6.5 hour/day (6 hours paid with an unpaid ½ hour lunch). Monday through Friday from 9:15am - 3:45pm

To apply, please email Robert Tencher at [rtencher@gmail.com](mailto:rtencher@gmail.com) to request an application packet. Please specify you are interested in working at West Friendship Elementary. You may also apply using [this link](#). Please contact Brian Vanisko at [bvanisko@hcpss.org](mailto:bvanisko@hcpss.org) or at 410-313-5512 if you are interested in learning more!

### Lunch and Recess Monitor Positions

We are seeking monitors to support our students during lunch and recess. Lunch and Recess Monitors support and assist students and paraeducators during multiple lunch and recess shifts.

- Lunch and Recess Monitors are temporary HCPSS employees
- Lunch and Recess hours are 11:00am - 2:30pm each day. Times will vary as it will be in 3 to 3.5 hour shifts.
- Compensation is \$14.00 per hour

Communication, initiative, and flexibility are important attributes for those interested in the Lunch and Recess Monitor position. Interested applicants can use [this link](#) to begin the application process. Please contact Brian Vanisko at [bvanisko@hcpss.org](mailto:bvanisko@hcpss.org) or at 410-313-5512 if you are interested in learning more!

## Reminder to Complete or Renew FARMs Application

HCPSS participates in the Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMs) program. [Qualification](#) is based on family size and income, and enrollment is confidential.

Participation in FARMs qualifies students for a wide range of opportunities and resources beyond breakfast and lunch, including free college applications, free or reduced JumpStart tuition, discounted internet through the Comcast Internet Essentials program, and more.

**Families must submit a new application every school year.** During the first 30 school days, students with FARMs eligibility from the prior school year will be carried over. Any student who has not filled out an application up to the 30th school day will have their prior year status changed to full pay status until a new application is received.

**Parents/guardians are encouraged to fill out the applications as soon as possible.** It is important that applications are filled out correctly.

- [Apply online](#)
- **Apply by mail:** Paper applications are available at your child's school and may also be picked up in the Food and Nutrition Service Office (5451 Beaverkill Rd, Columbia, MD 21044). Applications can be returned to your child's school or mailed to the Food and Nutrition Service Office: HCPSS Food & Nutrition Service Office, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

If you have questions regarding the program, please visit [www.hcpss.org/farms](http://www.hcpss.org/farms) or call Food and Nutrition Services at 410-313-7134.

## 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 [October issue of Parent Pages](#).

## Office of Human Rights & Equity and the MLK Commission

Each year the MLK Holiday Commission recognizes students, individuals, and organizations with several contest initiatives. Our student contests include a Poster Contest, Essay Contest and Oratory Contest for ages K through 12. Contestants must generate original artwork, essays, and speeches that highlight Dr. King's visionary track record of service to human rights. The "Living the Dream Award" celebrates a student, individual, and an organization whose outreach efforts are in alignment with Dr. King's message and vision. The theme is "Promoting Peace: Within Yourself, Your Community and the World!"

Please visit <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/human-rights-equity/human-rights-contests-awards> for complete information.

### The closing date for these contests is October 31, 2022.

The Celebration will be held Sunday, January 15, 2023, at Howard Community College Horowitz Visual & Performing Arts Center, Smith Theatre, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia MD 21044. Contest winners will be recognized at the January 15, 2023, Dr. Martin Luther Celebration with a certificate and cash prize. The tribute to Dr. King continues Monday, January 16, 2023, with the Day of Service, a county-wide volunteer-effort in partnership with Volunteer Howard and community organizations. Numerous organizations will have on-site volunteer activities for individuals and families in addition to off-site service opportunities.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

To learn more please visit: <https://www.hcpss.org/diversity/#discipline-practices>

## PTA News

### Join the WFES PTA

Becoming a member of the PTA supports the programs and events that enhance your child's experience at school. The PTA also supports the needs of our teachers and shows them our appreciation! Joining does not require any further commitment, although we always welcome volunteers to help with our various events. PTA membership must be renewed each year. Please consider joining today!

<https://mywfespta.weebly.com/supportus-992913.html>

### WFES PTA Restaurant Event

- November 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm - 7:00pm - Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar
  - First 60 people will receive a special mason jar with WFES logo!!

### [Night at Glenwood Library](#) – October 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 8:00pm

Families are invited to check out the newly renovated Howard County Library Glenwood branch. Learn how to use the laser cutter, professional-grade recording studio, and other equipment at their new Makerspace, which also features a Lego area!

Contact Nicole Lozare Huber at [wfeseditor@gmail.com](mailto:wfeseditor@gmail.com) with any questions; keep an eye out for more information about this event.

### PTA Sponsored TRUNK or TREAT

We are so excited to announce that we will be having [TRUNK or TREAT](#) at WFES!!!

- October 29<sup>th</sup>
- Car decorating - 4:30pm
- Trunk or Treating - 5:30pm to 7:00pm



## Square 1 Art is back!!!



Coming home to you soon will be your child's custom catalog for the Square 1 Art fundraiser. **Get a head start and order keepsakes and gifts featuring your child's art online NOW, if you like!**

Simply search for your child's art using [Art Search](#) and

enter state, school name, and your student's name. Your student's art and code will appear, and you may order! **Be sure to place your order by November 3, 2022.** You may upload additional art if you like, using [Art Upload](#)! If you have questions, or need anything at all, [contact customer care online](#).

This is a PTA fundraiser and every child wins with free stickers of their artwork.

Thank you for supporting our school!

Lindsay Waxler

Square 1 Art Fundraiser Coordinator

West Friendship Elementary

[Square1art.com/shop](https://square1art.com/shop)!

## Spirit Wear

Are you new to West Friendship Elementary and would like to purchase school spirit wear? Perhaps you just want to update your school gear? Whatever the reason, now is the time to make your purchases! Please visit [www.westfriendshipspiritwear.com](https://www.westfriendshipspiritwear.com) to see all the great items that are available this year!

# 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](https://community-programs.hcpss.org) for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss.org).

## Howard County Library System Supports Student Success!

- Books for all ages, levels, and interests
- Free online tutoring
- Fun classes and events
- Inviting branches
- No late fees

HCPSS students have automatic library accounts through <https://hcpss.me/>

We're here to help! [hclibrary.org](https://hclibrary.org)

## 100 FREE Medication Storage Boxes at Medication/Sharps Collection

Clean out your unwanted and expired medicines and sharps! The next convenient drive-thru collection will be held on Saturday, October 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot (near the Swim Center). Free medication lockboxes will be available to the first 100 vehicles, so come early! **We invite families, student/adult groups, scout troops, religious organizations, and sports teams, etc. to volunteer together. Medically trained adult volunteers are needed (nurses, EMTs, pharmacists, chiropractors, etc.) to help safely handle the medication and sharps collected. Community service hours available.** For more information and to volunteer, please leave a message at 443-325-0040.

## Know What's Happening in Howard County

Sign up for HC DrugFree's newsletter at <https://hcdrugfree.org/enews-signup/> to get updates on events as well as information to keep your family safe and informed.

## Free Clothing Giveaways

- Please [click here](#) to learn more about this event located at 9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd. in Laurel on Saturday October 22 from 10am-12noon
- Fall Clothes Giveaway at Long Reach HS - November 5th from 9:00-11:00 am

## Marriotts Ridge Boosters Pancake Breakfast

The MRHS Boosters Club is hosting a pancake breakfast on Saturday, October 15 from 9am-12pm in the cafeteria. Students, families, staff, and community members are invited to attend. Tickets purchased in advance are \$8. Please use this link to purchase a ticket: <https://shop.mrhs-boosters.com/category.sc?categoryId=9>

## Marriotts Ridge Theatre Department Proudly Presents...MAMMA MIA!

*ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago. Don't miss the story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs, non-stop laughs, and explosive dance numbers! A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you will never forget!*

**Don't Miss it, one Weekend Only! Four Performances:**

**November 10, 11 & 12 at 7:00pm and November 12 at 2:00pm**

Discounted Tickets are now on sale live to Public at <https://hcpss.booktix.com/>

## Howard High School Craft Fair

**Howard Lions' Pride Second Annual Craft Fair:** Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Howard High School. Our 100+ vendors will be selling crafts, books, candles, kitchen goods, jewelry, home decor, clothing, accessories, and much more! General Info link: <https://tinyurl.com/3tzxuhme>.

We are still accepting craft and food truck vendors, so please spread the word and this link: <https://tinyurl.com/bdfuta49>.



## WFES Night at Glenwood Library!

The WFES PTA and Media Specialist Mrs. Petrilla invite you to celebrate the newly renovated Howard County Library Glenwood branch (2350 MD-97, Cooksville, MD 21723) on Tuesday, Oct. 18 from 6–8 p.m.!

- DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK CHARACTER
- VISIT THE NEW MAKERSPACE: 3D PRINTERS, DIGITAL MEMORY STATION, RECORDING BOOTH PLUS SPECIAL DEMONSTRATION OF LASER CUTTER ENGRAVER
- MINUTE TO WIN IT GAMES WITH LEGO
- LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNT
- BRING A SMALL DRAWING OF TUFFY – WE’LL PICK 3 AT RANDOM TO TURN INTO A WOODEN SOUVENIR!



### **RAGÙ**

**NY PIZZA & ITALIAN KITCHEN**

Join other WFES families at the library’s outdoor patio for dinner at 5 p.m.! Call RAGU NY Pizza and Italian Kitchen at 410 489-5800 by noon on Oct. 18 and mention WFES to have your food delivered with the group order – a portion of the proceeds will be donated back to the PTA! If raining, dining will be at indoor library location. [www.Ragunypizza.com](http://www.Ragunypizza.com)  
Contact: Nicole Lozare Huber at [wfeseditor@gmail.com](mailto:wfeseditor@gmail.com) with questions.



IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO DECORATE YOUR TRUNK  
PLEASE REGISTER USING QR CODE BELOW



PRIZES FOR BEST DECORATED TRUNKS



# TRUNK OR TREAT

<b>29</b> OCTOBER	TRUNK SET UP TIME
5:30-7:00 PM	4:30-5:15 PM

All guests please check-in at the desk and bring candy,  
allergy-friendly treats or non-candy contributions