



October 28, 2022

From Our Administrators

Dear West Friendship Families,

At WFES we strive to ensure that all our students and families feel included. In order to support our school system's commitment to equity and inclusion for all students, WFES will be following the parameters listed below:

- No Halloween activities will occur during the school day on Monday (i.e., parades, parties)
- No Halloween related materials will be used during instruction
- Students and staff are not to wear Halloween costumes to school

We appreciate your understanding of the decision to refrain from holding Halloween activities during the school day. Thank you for supporting our efforts to create an inclusive learning environment for all WFES students.

Please remember the WFES PTA is planning some Halloween fun for this Saturday evening. Be sure to come out for the WFES PTA Trunk or Treat tomorrow evening, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. There are a few slots still open for participants to decorate their vehicles, and for parent volunteers. Please see the information below to register your participation.

If you are decorating your vehicle, please register [here](#). It's free, but space is limited. The setup is from 4:30 -5:15 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place!

We are asking all trunk-or-treaters (who are not decorating their cars) to bring a small donation of nut-free candies or non-candy treats. Please drop it off at the check-in table in exchange for tickets to vote for your favorite trunk.

As always, the PTA is an all-volunteer organization. Click [here](#) to sign up for volunteer shifts including directing traffic and overseeing a crafting table.

Cold and flu season is officially here. Please remember if your child is sick, we ask that you keep them home. If your child has a fever of 100.1 degrees or higher, they will need to remain at home until they are fever-free for 24 hours **without** fever reducing medication. Frequent hand washing is the best practice to prevent illnesses. We continue to provide hand sanitizer in all areas of the building and to wipe down student desks. Thank you for your help in quest to keep everyone healthy.

Enjoy this fall weekend with your family!

Sincerely,

Kaye Breon, Principal
Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal



Upcoming Dates

Saturday, October 29	WFES PTA Trunk or Treat – 5:30 to 7:30pm
Wednesday, November 2	Schools Close Three Hours Early – End of 1 st Marking Period
Thursday, November 3	School Picture Makeup/Retake Day, and Candid Photos – A.M.
Thursday, November 3	WFES PTA Square 1 Art Order Deadline
Friday, November 4	School Spirit “Ravens Purple Friday” – Wear Ravens Gear or Anything PURPLE!
Monday, November 7	Gr. 2 Students In-House Field Trip – Howard County Fire Safety House
Monday, November 7	WFES PTA Event at Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar – 4:00 to 7:00pm
Tuesday, November 8	Schools & Office Closed – Election Day
Friday, November 11	Report Cards Available via Synergy at 4:00pm
November 15 – 22	WFES Scholastic Book Fair – More Details to Come!
Monday, November 21	Parent/Teacher Conferences (in Person) – Schools Close 3 Hours Early
Tuesday, November 22	Parent/Teacher Conferences (Virtual) – Schools Close 3 Hours Early
Wednesday, November 23	Parent/Teacher Conferences (Virtual) – Schools Closed for Students
Thurs & Fri., Nov. 24 & 25	Schools & Offices Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

School News & Information

WFES Celebrates Veterans

Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11th, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

WFES would like to honor the amazing veterans in our very own WFES family and community. During the month of November, we would like to display information about our veterans throughout the halls of our school.

If you have a veteran near and dear to your heart, please share them with us by completing the questions in this [survey](#) by Friday, November 4th. Please upload a picture of your hero to display with their information. And, of course, you may submit more than once if you wish to honor more than one hero! All heroes will be on display in our halls throughout the month of November for all students, staff, and visitors to see.

If you are not able to upload a photo you may send in a picture with your child. We will copy the photo and return it to you the same day. If you have any questions or need to submit this information in a different format, please contact our Principal's Secretary, Mrs. Penny Smith via Penny_Smith@hcpss.org.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are Coming!

- On Monday, November 21st, conferences will be **IN PERSON** only. Teachers will hold all conferences in person at West Friendship.
- On Tuesday, November 22nd, and Wednesday, November 23rd, all conferences will be held **VIRTUALLY**.
- On Monday, November 7th at 8:00am, ten school days before conferences begin, scheduling will open to everyone at all schools. Directions on how to schedule conferences can be found [HERE](#).

Time for the Book Fair... November 15 – 22, 2022

We are excited to announce that West Friendship Elementary will host the Scholastic Book Fair this fall! Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Please plan on visiting our Book Fair to help our children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading. What an awesome way to build your family library and find great gifts for the upcoming winter holidays! We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school. Specific dates and hours will be announced soon! Many volunteers will be required to make this event run smoothly. Watch for details!!!

Yearbook Photos

We are in the process of gathering photos for the yearbook that will be published and sold at the end of the school year, and we need your help! We need photos of all the events that will take place this year... First Day of School, Trunk or Treat, Restaurant Events, Spirit Days, and any other school-related activities. Please send photos to Penny_Smith@hcpss.org. Be sure to label the subject of your email "Yearbook". Thank you!!!

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/>

* 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 each school year**. 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.

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

HCPSS Student & Parent Handbook

Click [HERE](#) for the county's 2022-23 handbook

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](#).

When Your Child is Absent from School

Attendance Procedures

Now that our year is well underway, we would like to remind our families about our attendance procedures. If your child is going to be absent from school, or if you need to provide a note to excuse your child's absence from a previous day, please use our school absence inbox by emailing wfesabsence@hcpss.org. You may also send in a note the day your child returns to 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. We are required to have a reason for the absence in order to code absences as excused in alignment with [HCPSS Policy 9010: Attendance](#).

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.

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.

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 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 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 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 or call Food and Nutrition Services at 410-313-7134.

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



PTA Sponsored TRUNK or TREAT

Celebrate Halloween with WFES families at the PTA's Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 29 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. If you are decorating your vehicle, please register [here](#). It's free, but space is limited. The setup is from 4:30 -5:15 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place!

We are asking all trunk-or-treaters (who are not decorating their cars) to bring a small donation of nut-free candies or non-candy treats. Please drop it off at the check-in table in exchange for tickets to vote for your favorite trunk.

As always, the PTA is an all-volunteer organization. Click [here](#) to sign up for volunteer shifts including directing traffic and overseeing a crafting table.

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)!

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.

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

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.

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

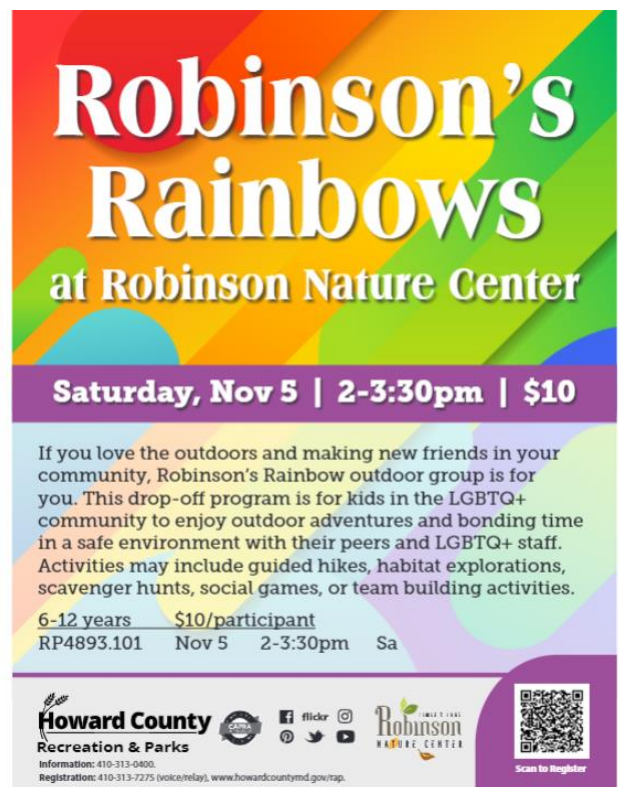
Howard Lions' Pride Second Annual Craft Fair: Sunday, November 6th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Howard High School. Our 100+ vendors will be selling crafts, books, candles, kitchen goods, jewelry, home decor, clothing, accessories, and much more! General Info link: <https://tinyurl.com/3tzxuhme>. We are still accepting craft and food truck vendors, so please spread the word and this link: <https://tinyurl.com/bdfuta49>.

Robinson's Rainbows at Robinson's Nature Center

Saturday, November 5 * 2:00 to 3:30pm *

\$10.00/Participant *Ages 6-12 years * RP4893101

If you love the outdoors and making new friends in your community, Robinson's Rainbow outdoor group is for you. This drop-off program is for kids in the LGBTQ+ community to enjoy outdoor adventures and bonding time in a safe environment with their peers and LGBTQ+ staff. Activities may include guided hikes, habitat explorations, scavenger hunts, social games, or team building activities. Learn more by [clicking here!](#)



Robinson's Rainbows
at Robinson Nature Center

Saturday, Nov 5 | 2-3:30pm | \$10

If you love the outdoors and making new friends in your community, Robinson's Rainbow outdoor group is for you. This drop-off program is for kids in the LGBTQ+ community to enjoy outdoor adventures and bonding time in a safe environment with their peers and LGBTQ+ staff. Activities may include guided hikes, habitat explorations, scavenger hunts, social games, or team building activities.

6-12 years \$10/participant
RP4893.101 Nov 5 2-3:30pm Sa

Howard County
Recreation & Parks
Information: 410-313-0400
Registration: 410-313-7275 (voice/relay), www.howardcountymd.gov/rp

flickr
Instagram
Twitter

Robinson
NATURE CENTER

Scan to Register