

Kaye M. Breon  
Principal

# Tiger Tales

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Assistant Principal

**West Friendship E.S.**  
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**Web Site:** <http://wfes.hcpss.org/>  
School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

**October 8, 2021**

## Mark Your Calendars

<b>Saturday, October 9</b>	WFES PTA Sponsored Community Yard Sale
<b>Wednesday, October 13</b>	WFES Flu Clinic
<b>Wednesday, October 13</b>	PTA Chipotle Fundraiser – 4:00 to 8:00pm
<b>Wednesday, October 13</b>	PTA General Assembly Meeting – 6:00pm
<b>Friday, October 15</b>	<b>No School for Students</b> – Professional Work Day
<b>Wednesday, October 20</b>	School Spirit Day – <b>Wear Orange</b> for Unity Day!
<b>Friday, October 29</b>	Grade Level Tiger Celebrations
<b>Wednesday, November 3</b>	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Marking Period
<b>Thursday, November 4</b>	<b>Schools Closed for Students</b> – Professional Work Day
<b>Wednesday, November 10</b>	Report Cards Issued

## School News Halloween

While we recognize that Halloween activities/celebrations held during the school day have been a tradition in many schools, including West Friendship, we will not be holding Halloween specific activities during the instructional day. This decision was made for several reasons, including the growing number of WFES students who have been choosing to opt-out of Halloween celebrations, and the new [HCPSS visitor/volunteer](#) protocols. Please be advised that grade levels will hold their Tiger Celebrations on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

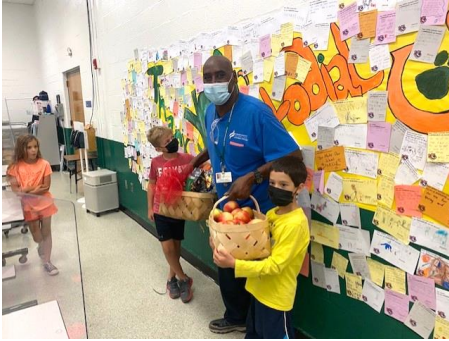
## Holiday Assistance Survey

Believe it or not, the holiday season is quickly approaching! We would love to offer support to our school families who may be in need during Thanksgiving and/or Winter Holidays. If you would like to **REQUEST** assistance for your immediate family, please complete the form below by **Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you have questions, please reach out to WFES school counselor, Mrs. Schnebly at [Leslie\\_Schnebly@hcpss.org](mailto:Leslie_Schnebly@hcpss.org).

[WFES Holiday Assistance Request Form](#)

## Custodial Appreciation Day

Mr. Custis, Mrs. Hamby, and Ms. Frimpong wish to thank everyone for making this the best Custodial Appreciation Day ever! Nearly every student participated by writing notes or drawing pictures expressing appreciation and thanks for all the hard work performed by our wonderful Custodial Staff. Thank you to the PTA Staff Appreciation Committee and volunteers for the beautiful baskets created from the many donations from our parents and students. Each custodian received a special lunch, beautiful gift basket, and a basket of apples. Thank you from the bottom of their hearts.



## School Counseling News

The HCPSS Elementary School Counseling Connection Newsletter is a great resource for students and parents to read together. Included in this latest issue you will find information regarding National Hispanic Heritage Month, National Bullying Prevention Month, Building Positive Relationships, and using Mindful Art to help relax and de-stress.

[ES Newsletter - 10/2021](#)

## From our Health Room

Thank you parents for keeping your children home when they are experiencing various illnesses. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the health room, by calling 410-313-5515 or email school nurse at [Elizabeth\\_Collora@hcpss.org](mailto:Elizabeth_Collora@hcpss.org). If you want to test your child, please don't go to the ER unless the child is having difficulty breathing.

[mobile covid testing sites](#)

## Virtual Community Academy: Navigating HCPSS

There will be a virtual session co-sponsored by HCPSS and The Council of Elders on Saturday, October 9, from 9:00-10:30a.m. This free session will focus on HCPSS resources that are available to help families support their child's education. Parents/guardians of students at all levels are invited to attend. Register [online](#) to receive a confirmation email with login information. Direct questions to [Ron Morris](#).

## Howard County GT Program Parent Academy, October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

HCPSS families interested in the Gifted and Talented (GT) Program are invited to come learn about the advanced-level offerings available and how their students can become involved. The evening will begin with an overview of GT Education Program offerings followed by a question-and-answer session with Central Office GT Education Program staff. Elementary and Secondary programs will be covered on separate days. Families may attend one or both nights. Registration is required for these events.

*Elementary Focus: Wednesday, October 13, 7 – 8:00 p.m., being held virtually via Microsoft Teams*

*Secondary Focus: Thursday, October 14, 7-8:00 p.m., being held virtually via Microsoft Teams*

For more information and to register, please visit the [HCPSS GT Program Parent Academy announcement](#).

## Gifted and Talented Advisor Council

If you are interested and available to be a Gifted and Talented Advisor Council (GTAC) Parent Representative for our school community for this academic year, please register at <https://forms.gle/9Pxkm9bvchTEwKrA8>

**Parent Representative Job Description:** Parent Representatives are the bridge between the GTAC and their school communities.

### Primary Responsibilities:

- Sharing GTAC news with your school. For example, we will send you GTAC “Highlights” for you to share at platforms, such as PTA meetings. If a GTAC update is not currently part of your PTA meeting agenda, please contact your PTA President and request to continuously share GTAC highlights at upcoming PTA meetings;
- Promoting GTAC-sponsored events at your school, like our Parent Academies and the Educator Recognition Event. GTAC will continuously share news/events and flyers to post in your PTA e-mailings and/or school display; and
- Supporting your GT Resource Teacher(s). Occasionally checking in with them to see if/how you can provide any help or assistance with routine activities and/or with special events.

### Additional Responsibilities (optional):

- Attend the Steering Committee Meetings in effort to obtain news firsthand and/or actively participate by volunteering to serve on the Steering Committee, and/or advocate for the GT Program with the Board of Education.

Our next virtual GTAC Steering Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:00 p.m. Once you are registered as a Parent Representative, you will be placed on our email list and provided with additional information closer to the meeting. If you are unable to attend, a highlights summary will be sent following the meeting.

## Update for Food and Nutrition Services

Due to national food supply chain shortages and delays, HCPSS Food and Nutrition Services currently faces a number of food and paper product delivery shortfalls. These supply chain issues force our suppliers to make unanticipated substitutions, which may result in HCPSS menu changes on little to no notice.

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to meet these challenges in order to provide healthy and nutritious meals each day.

## National Bullying Prevention Month – Unity Day on October 20<sup>th</sup>!

Did you know that October is National Bullying Prevention Month? West Friendship Elementary will celebrate Unity Day on Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>! Wear **ORANGE** to show unity for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion, and to send a visible message that we believe that no child should ever experience bullying.

## National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> is celebrated each year as National Hispanic Heritage Month. When people celebrate Hispanic American Heritage Month, they often just focus on Mexico. But Hispanic and Latin Americans come from many different nations. In fact, September 15<sup>th</sup> was designated as the starting day of Hispanic Heritage Month because it is the Independence Day of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Similarly, Mexico, Chile, and Belize celebrate their Independence Days on September 16<sup>th</sup>, September 18<sup>th</sup>, and September 21<sup>st</sup>. Each of these nations has its own unique culture and traditions, and immigrants from these countries have and continue to add value to, and enhance the evolving culture of this

county. Please join us as we highlight and celebrate the tremendous contributions and impact of our Hispanic/Latinx community.

## Mask Policy

We continue to remind our students, regularly, about wearing their masks properly. We are reminding them that their mask should cover their nose and mouth. In addition, students must wear their mask on the school bus. Please check to be sure your child has a mask each day before leaving home. It is a good idea to place an extra mask in their backpack. We just want to keep everyone safe.

## Daily COVID-19 Self-Screenings

All parents/guardians are to perform a [COVID-19 health check](#) every day before your student leaves home. Students are not to come to school if they are experiencing any [symptom\(s\) associated with COVID-19 or other communicable disease](#).

## Absence Email Reminder

- Excuses for absences from school are required by Maryland law. **Please do not send your child's absent note through Canvas.** All absent notes must be emailed to [WFESabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:WFESabsence@hcpss.org) and **include student name, date of the absence, and the reason for the absence.** You may attach any documentation from medical professionals, if needed. If this information is not included, the note will not be accepted. This email goes directly to our Attendance Secretary. Thank you in advance for adhering to our absence reporting procedures. **This email is used to report absences only.**
- Please do not send changes to transportation to this email address, as we will not see the changes. Any time there is a change in transportation, and any time your child has an after school activity, you must send a hard copy note to school with your child. Do not send an email, as it may not be seen if there is a substitute in your child's classroom.

## Dismissal Arrangements

- All students will be sent home their usual way unless they have a hard copy note with alternate arrangements, signed by their parent/guardian. Please do not expect a child to relay this important information. This often causes confusion. Do not send an email, as it may not be seen if there is a substitute in your child's classroom.
- Students will not be permitted to ride any bus other than the bus which they are assigned. Students have assigned seats on the bus, and seating is limited.

## Text Message Access

HCPSS and WFES often communicate important information that we need parents to know immediately via text messages. If you receive our texts, then you do not need to do anything else! If you do not, we highly recommend that you opt-in. Here are the instructions on how to opt-in to text messaging...

- Text the word "YES" to 67587 from the wireless device you wish to receive texts on.
- You will receive an "opt in" message from HCPSS sent from SchoolMessenger.
- Text Y and hit send.
- You will now begin receiving text alerts from WFES and HCPSS.
- [Click here for additional details & troubleshooting](#)
- Please have a close relative, family friend, and daycare provider sign up for HCPSSNews alerts. This is a helpful safeguard on unexpected early dismissal days. Community members or any non-HCPSS can sign up to receive messages [by visiting this sign-up page](#).

## Student/Parent Handbook

The 2021-2022 [Student and Parent Handbook](#) is now available on the HCPSS website. This resource is helpful for navigating the school year and includes information about HCPSS practices, policies and services available to support and enrich learning. A printed version of the handbook is no longer provided.

## Procedures for Visitors and Volunteers

We are excited that we can once again allow visitors and volunteers into the building. Teachers are planning their volunteer needs and will reach out to you in the coming weeks. Parents are asked to please read and complete the following procedures now, so you can be ready when volunteer opportunities become available.

- Parents & visitors entering the school for a brief visit to pick up or drop off their child, or for other reasons, are not required to show proof of vaccination or testing. They are, however, required to be masked regardless of their vaccination status.
- Parents are not permitted to eat lunch in the school cafeteria with students at this time.
- Parents who are [conducting classroom visits or observations](#) must provide proof of vaccination status or a negative COVID-19 test (within seven days of the current date) to school administration when they check in at the front office.
- Visitors should [perform a COVID-19 health check](#) every day before coming to an HCPSS building and should stay home if they are experiencing any symptom(s) associated with any communicable disease.
- Please be prepared, sometime after October 4 all volunteers entering HCPSS schools to interact with or support students must provide proof of vaccination status or a negative COVID-19 test (within 7 days of the current date) to school administration when they check in at the front office.
- Volunteers must be masked regardless of their vaccination status. Volunteers may be able to access the free weekly testing offered within school and office buildings, subject to availability of tests. Volunteers should [perform a COVID-19 health check](#) every day before coming to an HCPSS building and should stay home if they are experiencing any symptom(s) associated with any communicable disease.
- Additionally, all [volunteers must complete a Confidentiality Training Course](#) about protecting the privacy of our students, staff, and schools, and the [Child Abuse and Neglect Training](#) about reporting any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to Howard County Department of Social Services.

## Family and Student Support

### Parent Empowerment Virtual Conference

Families of students receiving special education services and anyone interested can register by Oct. 6 to attend this free [conference](#), being held Oct. 12-14 via Google Meet. The conference will cover topics related to supporting your child's learning and participating in the IEP process.

## Information and Application for Free and Reduced Meals (FARMs)

Yes, school lunch and breakfast are free for all students this school year. However, FARMs eligibility provides so much more than just free or reduced meals. You could be eligible for discounts for summer school, SAT, recreation programs, Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and internet programs. Please visit <https://www.hcpss.org/food-services/farms/> to see the numerous opportunities that students may qualify to receive. You may apply online or request a paper application from the school office by calling, 410-313-5512. If you have additional questions regarding the FARMs program, please review the [FAQ Section](#) or email <mailto:foodsvc@hcpss.org>.



## PTA Information

### PTA Yard Sale

Start cleaning out those closets & pull out the storage bins! We are so excited to host the FIRST EVER, WFES PTA Sponsored Community Yard Sale!

Spaces are limited, so don't miss out! The best part? You're directly supporting the amazing initiatives the PTA plans throughout the year while earning yourself some extra dollars as well!

<https://westfriendship.memberhub.com/store?category=Community Yard Sale> and see flyer for more details! (if needed, click on Community Yard Sale on the left menu).

[WFES PTA Community Yard Sale Flyer](#)

### WFES PTA Night at Chipotle!

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support West Friendship Elementary PTA. Come in to the **Chipotle at 9120 Baltimore National Pike Lot A-1 in Ellicott City on Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>** between 4:00pm and 8:00pm. [Bring in this flyer](#), show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to West Friendship Elementary PTA.

### Join the PTA

Becoming a member of the PTA does not mean you must volunteer. It simply means that you are donating to help enhance the school experience for our students. The PTA funds school-wide presentations, family fun events, teacher appreciation activities, and additional items needed by the teachers for their lessons and classrooms.

Family Membership dues is \$25, effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. Join the PTA by visiting the following link:

[https://westfriendship.memberhub.com/store/items/113487?fbclid=IwAR27qCNyWKQQ26k\\_JAz2COW-aW6KFu7xSw-Bm2ST1lllehXWc1V2et-gWsY](https://westfriendship.memberhub.com/store/items/113487?fbclid=IwAR27qCNyWKQQ26k_JAz2COW-aW6KFu7xSw-Bm2ST1lllehXWc1V2et-gWsY)

## Community Information

### New HCPSS Community News and Programs Site

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [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](http://community-programs.hcpss.org) for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss.org).

### Marriotts Ridge HS PTSA Little Caesars Pizza Kits

**Why does the mushroom always get invited to pizza parties?**

*Because he's such a fungi!*

Please place an order today -- the Marriotts Ridge HS PTSA really needs your support!

Little Caesars Pizza Kits - Go to [bit.ly/MRHS-Pizza](http://bit.ly/MRHS-Pizza)

Orders are delivered right to your doorstep via FedEx.

### Clothing Giveaway Sponsored by Grace Community Church

Clothing Giveaway for ALL Family Members! All clothing is FREE!

Saturday, October 16, 2021, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel, MD 20723 \* 410-313-0390

For questions or more information, contact Sharee Campbell, MSC Coordinator, at 410-313-0220 (voice/relay) or [scampbell@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:scampbell@howardcountymd.gov). [www.howardcountymd.gov/msc](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/msc) This information is neither sponsored nor endorsed by HCPSS or the school.