



September 16, 2022

From Our Administrators

Dear WFES Families,

It was great to see all of you at the back to school night events this week! We enjoyed the opportunity to connect with our parents again, and hope that you found the evenings informative. If you were not able to attend Back-to-School Night, please take a few minutes to view the appropriate grade level and Administrator presentations. They are available on our school website, <https://wfes.hcps.org/news/2022/08/back-school-night-presentations>.

It is not too late if your 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader is interested in playing a musical instrument. If you were not able to join the virtual Parent Information Meeting this past Wednesday evening, please reach out to [Mr. Diener](#), our Orchestra teacher, or to [Mr. Marini](#), our Band teacher. It is important that you do this by Tuesday, September 20th as classes are being formed and instruction will begin soon.

As fall weather approaches, please remember to label your child's jackets and coats with their names. Our lost and found is already 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. Also, please label lunchboxes and water bottles as they too, are often misplaced.

The Howard County Health Department will be coming to WFES to provide Flu shots for students and staff on Monday, October 17th. A link for online registration will soon be shared with you.

Each year, Americans observe [National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.

Happy Independence Day to our students of Hispanic origin!

Sincerely,

Kaye Breon, Principal

Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal



Upcoming Dates

Monday, September 19	WFES PTA Restaurant Fundraiser at Chipotle – 5:00 to 9:00pm
Friday, September 23	WFES PTA Back to School Block Party – 6:00pm
Monday, September 26	Schools & Offices Closed – Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday, September 28	School Picture Day! More details will be sent home next week!
Wednesday, October 5	Schools & Offices Closed – Yom Kippur

School News & Information

School Start and End Times

*** Drop Off Time 9:05am *** Late Bell Rings 9:15am *** Dismissal Time 3:45pm ***

When Your Child is Absent from School

Excuses for absences from school are required by Maryland law. Please email 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.

Late Arrivals

If you arrive at 9:15 AM or after, you MUST park your car and walk your child into the building. You must sign them in at the office and obtain a late pass. This is for the safety of your child.

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.

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. 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.

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

2022-2023 Calendars are Online

You can access the HCPSS calendar [here](#). You also may view and/or download printable PDFs of the full calendar and/or important dates only. Updates to the PDFs will be noted on the HCPSS calendar page. PLEASE NOTE! The calendar is subject to change. The online calendar reflects the most recent version.

Parent Volunteers/Field Trip Chaperones

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 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](#)

Volunteers Needed

We need a few volunteers to help us with some tasks. Training will be provided for these short-term projects. If you are interested in assisting us, please click on the specified project and complete the form. A staff member will be in contact with you soon. Please remember that you must complete the required Volunteer Trainings as noted above before you can volunteer in the school.

- [Organize the Reading Closet](#)
- [Update School Sign](#)

School Picture Day

Fall School Picture Day will be Wednesday, September 28th. Our school photographer, Strawbridge Studios will be at WFES taking individual student photographs. ALL students will have their picture taken at this day, as these are the photos we will use in our school yearbook. Photo purchasing envelopes and online purchasing details will be shared with you next week. Purchasing school pictures benefits our school, as it is a fundraiser. This is the perfect way to take care of family gift giving needs and support our school at the same time!!!

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 hour - 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!

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 [September issue of Parent Pages](#).

School Meals 2022-2023

The federal government has NOT extended waivers allowing free meals for all students this year. It is important to apply for Free and Reduced Meals if you qualify. If you do not qualify for this program, breakfast will be \$2.00, and lunch will be \$2.80. A Free and Reduced Meals application is REQUIRED to qualify. Apply [HERE](#).

If you do not qualify for free and reduced meals, please consider registering for [MySchoolBucks](#). MySchoolBucks allows parents and guardians to pay for school meals securely online and allows parents to view account activity and receive balance alerts. You may already have an account with MySchoolBucks. If this is the case, you can log in, view your account, and ensure that your child has money on their account for school meals prior to the start of the school year.

BSAP Saturday Math Academy Registration Opens September 24

[Online registration](#) for the Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP) Fall Saturday Math Academy will begin Saturday, September 24, at 9 a.m. and continue until capacity is reached. The program is open to HCPSS students in grades 3-12 in all levels of math. Sessions will take place online on Saturdays in October and November from 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

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>

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 to see all the great items that are available this year! Take advantage of **FREE SHIPPING** now through September 19th!

WFES PTA Night at Chipotle!

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support West Friendship Elementary PTA. Come to the **Chipotle at 9120 Baltimore National Pike Lot A-1 in Ellicott City on Monday, September 19th** between 5:00pm and 9:00pm. Bring [this flier](#), show it on your smartphone, or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that a percentage of the proceeds will be donated to West Friendship Elementary PTA. You may also **order online for pickup and use code TT7MEJP**.

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

Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run is an afterschool program like no other! Twice per week for 10 weeks, girls will have fun, make friends, increase their physical activity levels, and learn important life skills. Trained and caring coaches lead 3rd – 5th grade girls through interactive lessons and movement activities. The season ends with a celebratory 5K event. Please [click here](#) for complete details on how to register.

Cub Scout Pack 333 – Please Join Us!

Is your child interested in becoming a Cub Scout? Here is a great opportunity at the **Pack 333 Meeting on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30pm**. Your entire family is welcome to join. Adult leaders will be there to answer questions and talk with you about the fun plans that are lined up for the year and have engaging activities planned for the scouts. No prior knowledge or skills required. Stop by **Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30pm at St. James United Methodist Church at 12470 Old Frederick Road**. Boys and girls K through 5th grade welcome! For more info, contact Becky Ciecka (bciecka@c-cured.com) or sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4EA8AD2FA6FA7-interested>