



September 23, 2022

From Our Administrators

Dear WFES Families,

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 can also send note with your child the day they return to school to excuse the absence. We are required to have a reason for the absence in order to code the absence as excused in alignment with [HCPSS Policy 9010: Attendance](#).

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 FREE Flu shots for students and staff on Monday, October 17th**. Please [click here](#) for online registration. Feel free to email our School Nurse, [Beth Collora](#) if you have questions.

This is a reminder that Howard County Public Schools and Offices are closed Monday, September 26th in celebration of the Jewish new year. To all our families, we hope you enjoy the weekend, and *Shana tovah* (pronounced shah-NAH toe-VAH), which means "good year."

Sincerely,

Kaye Breon, Principal

Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal



Upcoming Dates

Monday, September 26	Schools & Offices Closed – Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday, September 28	School Picture Day!
Wednesday, October 5	Schools & Offices Closed – Yom Kippur
Monday, October 17	WFES Flu Vaccination Clinic
Tuesday, October 18	WFES PTA Night at Glenwood Library – 6:00pm
Wednesday, October 19	School Spirit Day Wear Orange
Friday, October 21	Schools Closed for Students – Professional Work Day
Monday, October 24	Schools Closed for Students – Professional Learning Day
Wednesday, November 2	Three Hour Early Dismissal – End of 1st Marking Period

School News & Information

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 on this day, as these are the photos we will use in our school yearbook. Photo purchasing envelopes and [online purchasing](#) details were sent home with students today. Purchasing school pictures benefits our school, as it is a school fundraiser. Take care of family gift giving needs and support our school at the same time!!!

MAP Assessment

Now through October 7th our first through fifth graders will participate in MAP[®] Growth[™] testing from NWEA[®]. Your child will be assessed in reading and math. MAP Growth scores help teachers check student performance by measuring achievement and growth. Teachers use results to tailor classroom lessons and set goals for students. MAP Growth tests are unique, and it adapts to your child's responses to measure your child's skill level. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. These results will provide a more complete picture of what your child knows and is ready to learn—whether it is on, above, or below their grade level. For more information about MAP Growth, visit <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/>.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>ELA</i>
1st Grade	Tues. 9/19 @ 12:30-1:35	Mon. 10/3 @ 9:35-11:30
2nd Grade	Thurs. 9/29 @ 9:20-10:25	Thurs. 10/6 @12:30-1:35
3rd Grade	Thurs. 9/29 @ 2:25-3:40	Thurs. 10/6 @11:30-12:30
4th Grade	Tues. 10/4 @ 2:25-3:40	Thurs 9/29 @10:35-12:30
5th Grade	Fri. 9/30 @ 9:20-10:35	Mon. 10/3 @ 10:35-11:30

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 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.

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.

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 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](#)

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!

2022-2023 Calendars are Online

- [English Calendar](#)  Updated 9/23/22
- [学年行事历](#) 
- [학년도 달력](#) 
- [Calendario Año Escolar](#) 

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.

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

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](#).

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!

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