



September 30, 2022

From Our Administrators

Dear WFES Families,

Each school year we take time to remind families of [HCPSS Policies related to student responsibilities and behavior](http://www.hcpss.org/board/policies). Please take time to review this information by clicking on the above link. You may also visit <http://www.hcpss.org/board/policies> to review the complete current policies.

We find the need 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 the previous day, please use our school absence inbox by emailing wfesabsence@hcpss.org. You can also send notes with your child the day they return to school to excuse their 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](#). Emails are automatically generated to parents of absent students, even in the case of pre-arranged absences.

Fall weather is upon us! Please dress students for the weather. We go outside every day for recess. It is important 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.

West Friendship Elementary will be hosting a Flu Clinic on Monday, October 17th. The Howard County Health Department will be providing **FREE Flu shots for students and staff**. Please [click here](#) for online registration. Feel free to email our School Nurse, [Beth Collora](#) if you have questions.

This is a reminder that schools and offices are closed on Wednesday, October 5th for the annual Jewish observance of Yom Kippur, which means "Day of Atonement". To all our families, we hope you enjoy the weekend.

Sincerely,

Kaye Breon, Principal

Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal



Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, October 5	Schools & Offices Closed – Yom Kippur
Tuesday, October 11	WFES PTA Restaurant Event at Walker’s Tap & Table – 11am to 10pm
Monday, October 17	WFES Flu Vaccination Clinic
Tuesday, October 18	WFES PTA Night at Glenwood Library – 6:00 to 8:00pm
Wednesday, October 19	School Spirit “Unity Day” - Wear Orange
Friday, October 21	Schools Closed for Students – Professional Work Day
Monday, October 24	Schools Closed for Students – Professional Learning Day
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
Monday, November 7	WFES PTA Event at Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar – 4:00 to 7:00pm
Tuesday, November 8	Schools & Office Closed – Election Day

School News & Information

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

School Picture Day!



Fall School Pictures were taken this past **Wednesday, September 28th**. ALL students had their individual 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 last week. **You may still make an online purchase.** 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!!!

WFES Flu Vaccination Clinic

Every year, millions of people get sick and many die from influenza, also known as the flu. One of the best ways to prevent the flu is through vaccinations. Once again, we will work with the health department and the Maryland Partnership for Prevention (MPP) to offer flu vaccinations at your child's school.

The clinic at your child's school will be held on **Monday, October 17, 2022**. We will send a notice home the day they have been vaccinated. **If you want your child to receive a flu vaccination**, please fill out an online consent form ...

ONLINE CONSENT FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Fill out the online consent form at:

<https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/0951650652>

This is a secure, private site. This link is for WFES clinic only. You may need to copy and paste the above link into your browser.

Pre-registration is required and will close on October 12th. This clinic is **NO COST for students**.

Please email our School Nurse, Beth Collora if you have questions, elizabeth_collora@hcpss.org

We hope you will join our fight against the flu. Vaccinating your child will help keep him/her healthy and prevent the spread of flu to others. It also will cut down on missed time from work and school. We look forward to preventing the flu with you!

Volunteers for Flu Clinic

We will need several volunteers to escort groups of students during our Flu Clinic on Wednesday, October 12th. Please contact our School Nurse, [Elizabeth Collora@hcpss.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Collora@hcpss.org) if you are available to assist that morning. Please remember you must complete the required trainings to be eligible to volunteer at school.

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](#)

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. Late arrivals (tardies) will be noted on your child's report card.

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.

Help Needed for WFES Pollinator Garden

Our pollinator beds in the back of the school need weeded. These flower beds are planted with native perennials to attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators. It's a living science lab for our students! Any member of our community is welcome to volunteer. We would love to work with master gardeners, Scout troops, and National Honor Society members who might need service hours. If you are available help with the maintenance of the beds, please email Mrs. Petrilla, Amy.Petrilla@hcpss.org.

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!

School Meals 2022-2023 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 highly 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.

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](#).

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.

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 Nights

- October 11th, 11:00am - 10:00pm - Walker's Tap and Table
- November 7th, 4:00pm - 7:00pm - Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar
- First 60 people will get a special mason jar with WFES logo!!

Night at Glenwood Library – October 18th, 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 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!!! Save the date!!

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

SQUARE 1 ART

We are also really excited to be bringing Square 1 Art back again! Mrs. Schroder is working hard with our student to create their individual masterpieces to be featured on Square 1 products. More details in the coming weeks!

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](http://www.hcpss.org/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

Medication and Sharps Collection

Clean out your unwanted and expired medicines and sharps! The next convenient drive-thru collection will be held on Saturday, October 29th, from 10am to 2pm in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot (near the Swim Center). **Community service hours available. HC DrugFree and the Howard County Police invite families, student/adult groups, Scout troops, religious organizations, and sports teams, etc. to volunteer and join us. Medically trained adult volunteers are needed (nurses, EMTs, pharmacists, chiropractors, etc.) to help safely handle the medication and sharps collected.** For more information and to volunteer, please visit <https://hcdrugfree.org/drug-take-back-day-1/>, contact Admin@hcdrugfree.org, or leave a message at 443-325-0040.

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>.