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Tiger Tales

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

September 10, 2021

Mark Your Calendars

Monday, September 13 Kindergarten & Grade 1 Back-to-School Night – 6:00 to 7:30pm

Tuesday, September 14 Grades 2 & 3 Back-to-School Night - 6:00 to 7:30pm

Thursday, September 16 Schools & Offices Closed – Yom Kippur

Monday, September 20 Gifted/Talented Information - 5:30pm
Grades 4 & 5 Back-to-School Night - 6:00pm

Tuesday, September 28 School Picture Day!

School News

Thank You, PTA

Many thanks to the WFES PTA, Staff Appreciation Committee, and our wonderful and generous community! Our school staff enjoyed a wonderful Chick-Fil-A lunch during the week they returned to set up classrooms and prepare for students. We cannot express how much the meal was appreciated during such a busy time. We are also grateful for the snacks and treats that were donated. We placed the snack on lunch carts and had them set up in various areas of the building. It was so convenient for a staff member to grab a snack when they were able to take a well-deserved break. Please know that your many acts of kindness are sincerely appreciated by each member of our staff. Thank you for your generosity and support!

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.

Back-to- School Night Information

We are looking forward to our upcoming Back-to-School Nights. During these nights, grade level teachers will share information on curriculum, schedules and expectations, along with the opportunity to see your child's classroom. Please read the following information carefully for specific logistics and expectations for the evenings.

- BTSN presentations are intended for adults only – we respectfully ask that only parents/guardians attend.

- All visitors must follow the county mask guidance and wear a mask for the entire time they are inside the building, regardless of vaccination status.
- For parents/guardians unable to attend in person, a Google Meet will be opened in order for parents/guardians to listen and watch the Grade Level PowerPoint Presentation only. This will not be interactive, so teachers will not be able to respond to questions in the virtual format. Questions can be emailed to the homeroom teacher.
- For the Google Meet option, you must log-in using your child's HCPSS credentials. A specific Google Meet Code/Link will be shared by each grade level through a Canvas Announcement.
- If attending virtually, we ask that you mute your microphone and please know the Chat feature will be disabled.

Monday, September 13 – Kindergarten and 1st Grades

Tuesday, September 14 – 2nd and 3rd Grades

Monday, September 20 – GT, 4th, and 5th Grades

5:30pm (Monday, September 20 ONLY) – GT Presentation in Media Center

6:00pm – Classroom Visit – please go directly to your child's homeroom class

6:20pm – Transition to Grade Level Presentation

- Kindergarten – Cafeteria
- 1st – Media Center
- 2nd – Media Center – Transition will occur at 6:25pm to avoid hallway congestion
- 3rd – Cafeteria
- 4th – Media Center
- 5th – Cafeteria

6:30pm – Grade Level Presentations

Back-to-School Night Presentations will be focused on academics, instruction, and expectations. Questions about COVID protocols, classroom seating arrangements, Indoor/Outdoor Lunch, Recess, and Transportation will NOT be addressed during these sessions. Please contact Ms. Breon, Mr. Vanisko, or Mrs. Collora (COVID protocols) with any questions.

MCAP Early Fall testing

As part of continued COVID-19 recovery efforts, the Maryland State Department of Education is conducting an early fall student assessment.

The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) is the overarching term used for all state assessments. MSDE will administer assessments in the Early Fall for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA/L), Mathematics, and Science (Maryland Integrated Science Assessment- MISA), as well as the Alternate Assessments in ELA, Mathematics and Science, and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA).

For more information, please visit the HCPSS website [MCAP FAQ](#).

Here at West Friendship we will be administering the Early Fall for English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA/L), Mathematics for 4th and 5th graders as well as the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). Students who take their Chromebooks home, must bring them to school on the days of testing. Please make sure all Chromebooks are fully charged.

4th Grade Schedule

September 13th and 14th English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA/L)

September 15th Mathematics

5th Grade Schedule

September 14th and 15th English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA/L)

September 17th Mathematics

Kindergarten

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) is ongoing through October 10th.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Vanisko brian_vanisko@hcpss.org

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](#).

Join the WFES Band/ Strings/Chorus This Year!!

Mrs. Clavell, Mr. Diener and Mr. Umla invite all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade WFES students to join us this year in making music together!!

At WFES, you have MANY performance opportunities this year:

THIRD GRADE: Beginning Strings choosing the violin, viola cello, or bass.

FOURTH GRADE: Beginning Band choosing flute, clarinet, alto sax, oboe, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba or percussion OR continuing in Strings OR Beginning Strings choosing the violin, viola cello, or bass AND/OR joining 4th grade chorus.

FIFTH GRADE: Advanced Band continuing on your instrument from last year OR Beginning Band choosing flute, clarinet, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, or tuba OR continuing in Strings OR Beginning Strings choosing violin, viola, cello or bass AND/OR joining 5th grade chorus.

Students can participate in up to two (2) ensembles - band AND chorus; or strings AND chorus; but NOT band AND strings. Students can also choose just one ensemble.

You can enroll into Band/Strings/Chorus by clicking on this link: <https://forms.gle/G8ud3vNhKRhQtbwe9>

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.
- Effective September 20, 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.

School Portraits – Memories that Last a Lifetime!

Our school photographer will be at WFES taking individual student photographs on Tuesday, September 28th. **ALL** students will be photographed at that time, as these are the photos that will be published in our school yearbook. Photo envelopes will be sent home with all students on Friday, September 17th. If you wish to purchase photos, please send your payment envelope in by September 28th. **You may also make an online purchase by visiting www.strawbridge.net and entering code 101821.** Purchasing school pictures benefits our school, as it is a fundraiser. Take care of some upcoming holiday gift giving needs with school photos, and support our school at the same time!!!

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](#).

Cafeteria and Lunch Survey

During indoor eating, students must wear masks when "not" eating. This includes:

- Entering and exiting the cafeteria
- Standing in the lunch line
- Leaving their seats to throw away trash, going to the bathroom, etc.
- Sitting at their table after finishing their meal
- Students will have assigned seating in the cafeteria for contact tracing purposes

There are several HCPSS updates related to lunch protocols to further reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19. All schools have outdoor eating spaces for lunch available on campus for student use as weather and

staffing permits, to lessen the number of students in the cafeteria. In an effort to maintain a healthy environment in cafeterias, the following actions are being implemented:

- We have received additional tables to help ensure outside eating areas are furnished as well as to allow maximum spacing indoors.
- Based on the availability of products from vendors, large tents that are compliant with local code will be provided to elementary schools to increase outdoor dining spaces. We anticipate a number of tents will be in place to begin the school year with additional tents being provided in September.
- Plexiglass shields for indoor cafeteria tables are being secured for grades K-6 where students are largely unable to be vaccinated. These panels will provide additional protection between students who are unable to be vaccinated while eating when masks cannot be worn.

In an effort to plan accordingly, please complete our [SURVEY](#) for each of your students to inform us if you would prefer your child to eat lunch outside when conditions and staffing permit. We are also looking for volunteers! The survey provides an opportunity to let us know if you are interested in supporting this effort for our students. Please complete this survey by Wednesday, September 15th. If you have already completed the survey when it was originally distributed, there is no need to do it again. Thank you for your cooperation!

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.

Absence Email Reminder

Please do not send your child's absent note through Canvas. All absent notes must be emailed to WFESabsence@hcpss.org and **include student name, date of the absence, and the reason for the absence.** If this information is not included, the note will not be accepted. This email goes directly to our Attendance Secretary. You may cc: your child's teacher in the same email. Thank you in advance for adhering to our absence reporting procedures.

Family and Student Support News from our School Counselor

Check out [Elementary School Counselor Newsletter - Issue 1](#) for information and resources about student well-being. You can access this newsletter and past editions through my Canvas Course entitled, West Friendship Elementary School Counseling located on your child's Canvas dashboard. If I can be of assistance to you or your child(ren), I can be reached through email leslie_schnebly@hcpss.org or by phone 410-313-5512.

A Word from our School Psychologist

September is **Suicide Prevention Month**. Social emotional well-being is essential as we transition into a new school year, which for many has presented new challenges, anxiety, and emotional distress. As we recognize these challenges, it is important that we continue to educate ourselves and empower our school communities to engage in prevention efforts. Below are resources for you to share with students, staff, and families.

Informational Resources:

- [National Suicide Prevention Week Resources](#) (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention)
 - [Self Care Strategies for Resilience](#)
 - [Simple Actions You Can Take To Help Prevent Suicide](#)
 - [2021 National Suicide Prevention Week Toolkit](#)

- [Social Media Resources](#)
- [Promote National Suicide Prevention Month](#) (Suicide Prevention Lifeline)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
 - [Risks of Suicide](#)
 - [It's Okay to Talk About Suicide](#)
- [Extreme Risk Protection Order \(ERPO\) Informational Toolkit](#) (Maryland.gov)

Crisis Resources:

- Grassroots 24 Hour Crisis Hotline/ Mobile Crisis Team – 410-531-6677
- Text NAMI to 741-741 to be connected to a free, trained crisis counselor on the Crisis Text Line.
- [The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) - 1-800-273-8255

For additional information, visit the [HCPSS Mental Health and Wellness webpage](#).

Information and Application for Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS)

Yes, school lunch and breakfasts 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

Back to School Night Treats

Greetings WFES Families,

Back-to-Nights (BTSN) start next week! We want to support our WFES staff by providing them with a meal and with some sweets and treats to keep them going on those days that are extra long for them. The meals are being purchased with PTA funds but we are calling for donations for some sweets and treats. If you are interested in donating, please click on the link below. Notice that the SignUpGenius is divided by the corresponding nights and grade levels so if you want to donate to a specific night/grade, you may do so.

Where to drop off: School vestibule (there will be a designated drop off area with a sign)

Time: Please drop off items by 4:00pm on the corresponding BTSN

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathryn Calton at kathryn.calton@gmail.com or Glenda Hernandez Tittle at glendahtittle@gmail.com. Thank you for all your support!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545A4AE2CABF49-back>

Fun PTA Event

- WHAT: WFES B2S Block Party
- WHO: All Students & their Families
- WHEN: Friday, September 17, 2021
5:30P - 7:30P
- WHERE: WFES Black Top Area

Description

The WFES PTA is proud to sponsor our very first BACK TO SCHOOL Block Party!

- Magician and Hypnotist Adam Stone - Be prepared to be amazed!
- Kona Food Truck
- Spirit Wear Sale
- Receive discounted prizes on Spirit Wear with a purchased membership to PTA.
- Win door prizes with multiple opportunities for additional raffle tickets
- Mission BBQ will be available for pre-order so families don't have to worry about dinner.

Be sure to visit PTA's new and redesigned webpage at <https://mywfespta.weebly.com/>

Since the party starts at 5:30 PM (dinner time), the PTA is offering families the convenience of pre-ordering boxed dinners for the event from Mission BBQ.

Families can order directly from our MemberHub store! <https://westfriendship.memberhub.com/store>

Here are the details:

The FIRST WFES PTA Block Party is coming up soon! If you don't want to worry about dinner, we've made it easy for you! You can pre-order a boxed dinner with Mission BBQ right on our MemberHub store! Deadline is Tuesday September 14th!

WFES PTA
PRESENTS:

BZS BLOCK PARTY

FRIDAY SEPT 17, 2021

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

FUN FOR ALL!

Magician Adam Stone
Mission BBQ *
Kona Food Truck
Spirit Wear Sale
PTA Membership Sign Up
Raffles for door prizes

VISIT OUR NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE
FOR MORE INFORMATION @

MYWFESPTA.WEEBLY.COM

*PRE-ORDER REQUIRED

Community Information

Girls on the Run

Registration for Girls on the Run is open! Girls on the Run is a program for 3rd - 5th grade girls which encourages girls of all abilities to recognize their individual strengths and celebrate connections with others. Trained coaches use physical activity and dynamic discussions to build social, emotional, and physical skills in every girl while encouraging healthy habits for life. We focus on confidence, friendship, and fun! You don't have to be a "runner" to be a part of our team. This fall we will be meeting at WFES on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:45-5:00 pm beginning September 21st. We'd love to have your daughter join us! Follow

this link for registration and scholarship information. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

<https://www.pinwheel.us/register/index/Fall2021GOTRRegistrationCentralMD>

Howard County Recreation & Parks After School Programs at WFES