

Kaye M. Breon  
Principal

# Tiger Tales

Brian Vanisko  
Assistant Principal

**West Friendship E.S.**  
12500 Frederick Road  
West Friendship, MD 21794  
P: (410) 313-5512



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

November 1, 2019

## School News

### Federal Impact Aid Forms

**Parents/guardians who work on a federal property in Maryland and/or are a member of a uniformed service can qualify HCPSS to receive additional federal funding.** Parents who completed Family File and who identified themselves as working on federal property in Maryland or as active duty military will receive pre-filled Impact Aid forms TOMORROW in your child's Friday folder, to confirm the information and provide a signature. Signed forms returned to your child's school will help ensure that the school system receives applicable funding. If you did not indicate that you work on a federal property or are active duty military, please let the front office know, and we will send a form home with your student. Please visit <https://www.hcpss.org/enroll/impact-aid/> to learn more about the Federal Impact Aid programs.

### Worries, Concerns & Apprehension Parent Event

In the elementary years, many parents report about the anxiety and stress that their children are experiencing. In this workshop, participants will identify, understand, and learn techniques to help your child process and work through their worries. Emotional resiliency is crucial as it helps with both academic and personal life skills. **Please mark your calendars to attend this event which will take place in the Media Center at West Friendship Elementary School on November 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** Childcare will be provided. Registration is required. For more information, see the flyer. Please click [here](#) to register online by November 6<sup>th</sup>.

### School Pictures

All WFES students were photographed on September 18<sup>th</sup>. If you ordered school pictures the portrait packages were sent home with students two weeks ago. These are the photos that will be used in our school yearbook that will be sold and published in late Spring. Please contact Mrs. Penny Smith ASAP if you have not received your child's portrait package.

**A makeup/retake photo session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.** If you are not satisfied with your portraits, please return your ENTIRE portrait package to the photographer when they are at WFES on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Your retake photo will be done at that time. Students who are new to WFES will also be photographed at that time and have the opportunity to order photos.

### Upcoming School Spirit Day

Our next School Spirit Day will be on **Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>!** WFES students and staff may participate in **Stuffed Animal Day**. Bring a stuffed animal to school.

### School Counselor Newsletter

Click here to read the HCPSS Elementary School Counseling monthly newsletter, *The Advocate*.

## Time for the Book Fair

Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Please plan on visiting our Book Fair to help our children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading. What an awesome way to start your holiday shopping!

Book Fair dates: November 18 – 26, 2019

Book Fair location: Conference Room (Main Office)

Shopping hours: 8:45am to 4:15pm

Extended hours: Monday, Nov. 25 & Tuesday, Nov. 26, 8:45am to 7:00pm

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair!

Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

## Volunteers Needed for the Book Fair!

The West Friendship Elementary Book Fair is an event that students look forward to, year after year. Many middle school students return to WFES to support the Book Fair. Volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Please visit <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EKcQsHzt6kJcQEfcUN6mFZUC7PPZIOPhf5Cjhr-cEJk/edit#gid=0> to select a time you are available to help our school. Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated.

## Young Authors' Contest

Students in Grades 1-5 are encouraged to participate in the Young Authors' Contest, which is sponsored by the State of Maryland Literacy Association. Poems or short stories may be entered into the contest. The deadline for entries is December 4, 2019. Attached you will find complete contest guidelines and an entry cover sheet.

[Contest Guidelines](#)

[Entry Cover Sheet](#)

## Notes from the Nurse

As we enter into flu season, this is a reminder that frequent handwashing with soap and water or hand sanitizer is the best way to prevent the spread of disease. Many people catch the flu from infected people who are coughing and sneezing. Please teach your child to use a tissue or a sleeve when they have these symptoms.

<b>Cold: Develops over a few days</b>	<b>SYMPTOMS:</b>	<b>Flu: Develops very quickly</b>
May sneeze more often	Sneezing	
Sometimes	Headache	High Probability
High probability	Sore Throat	Not common
Not common	Fever	High probability
Not common	Chills	High probability
Minor	Aches	Severe
Mild	Fatigue	Severe
Heavy/moderate mucous	Cough	Small amount of mucous
Common	Nasal Congestion	Uncommon
Mild	Chest Discomfort	Severe

- **Fever policy:** Keep your child home if she/he has a fever over 100.0. If your child has a fever at school, they must be picked up. Students may not return to school until their temperature is less than 100.0 for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. A fever indicates that your child has a contagious infection.

- Please notify your child's teacher and/or the school nurse if your child is absent with a contagious illness such as strep throat or the flu.
- If the doctor prescribes medication for your child, please make sure he/she takes it as directed-which means the right amount at the right time and without missing doses.
- Make sure your child is getting enough sleep. 9-11 hours of sleep is recommended for school age children.
- We encourage you to send in a refillable water bottle labeled with your child's name every day. Please remind your child not to share.
- You may send in cough drops with a parent note. They will be kept in the health room.
- Students may keep lip balm in their backpacks for use during the school day. Please remind your child not to share.

Please contact the Health Room with any questions or concerns.

Phone: 410-313-5515 or Email: [elizabeth\\_collora@hcpss.org](mailto:elizabeth_collora@hcpss.org)

## HCPSS New Attendance Procedures

Research is clear that showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic and social success starting from kindergarten and continuing through high school. Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school or even facing social challenges.

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days of a school year) can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- By the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that can indicate if a student is at risk for dropping out of high school.
- In the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8<sup>th</sup> grade test scores.

Student attendance is a major point of focus for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Starting in school year 2018-2019, MSDE lowered the chronic absenteeism rate from 20% to 10% which means that at 10% a student should be receiving support and interventions to improve their absenteeism.

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) believes that attendance is key for student success. Per Policy 9010, HCPSS defines exemplary attendance as a final attendance rate of 96% or more of the student year.

In support of achieving Exemplary Attendance for all students, we are sharing with you a comprehensive approach for attendance supports and interventions.

- If a student has missed 5% of their monthly attendance days (as few as 1-2 days a month), parents will receive a Care and Concern Phone Call and letter from their school. This step will allow staff members to coordinate with families to determine how the student can be supported for better attendance.
- If a student has missed 10% of their monthly attendance days (this is defined as chronic absenteeism by MSDE), parents will receive a 10% Chronic Absenteeism Attendance Letter. Parents and students may be scheduled for an attendance conference. Other interventions and supports may also be used in an effort to assist the student.
- If a student has missed 15% of their monthly attendance days, in addition to the interventions and supports at 5% and 10%, these students may require an attendance support plan. Students may also be referred to the Central Attendance Team.
- If a student has missed 20% of their monthly attendance days, parents will receive a 20% Emergency Chronic Absenteeism Letter or Habitual Truancy Letter. Students may be referred to Project Attend and may be referred to the State's Attorney's Office for habitual truancy.

With the collaborative effort of HCPSS parents, staff and students, we are confident that all students can have successful attendance. This will improve student success in school and in future life.

## Visitation/Lunch

Parents are invited to visit our school; however, the instruction of the students is the primary purpose of the school and no other activity should interfere with this basic purpose. For the protection of the children and staff, **all visitors must report to the school office before going to any other area of the building, including outside recess.** Visitors must sign-in with a driver's license or state issued identification card in order to obtain a badge from the office. Visitors who are not listed on a student's emergency procedure form, must have written permission from the student's parent in order to visit/volunteer in our school. **Anyone wishing to tour the school or visit a class must call the school and prearrange a visit.** Please understand that **younger siblings are not permitted during visits/lunch/recess/volunteer time.** Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## All Volunteers/Chaperones Must Complete Training

Thank you for your interest in volunteering and/or chaperoning field trips within the Howard County School System! We value our volunteers and the contributions they make to our students and schools.

According to HCPSS Board Policy, all parent volunteers must complete a Confidentiality Training Course about protecting the privacy of our students, staff, and schools, as well as the abuse and neglect training. **If you have only sent in one certificate, please take time to complete the other mandatory training. Please complete these courses before registering to volunteer at our school.** Please follow these steps by clicking these links:

- 1) [Complete the Confidentiality Training Course](#)
- 2) [Download and print the first parent volunteer certification Form](#)
- 3) [Complete the Abuse and Neglect training](#)
- 4) [Download and print the second parent volunteer verification form](#)
- 5) Put **both** certification forms in your child's folder to be sent to the front office. We will keep them on file for the duration of the school year.

Thank you in advance for your participation in our school, and helping to ensure that our students remain safe under the care of our volunteers.

## Save the Date!

Wednesday, November 6	Absentee/Makeup Photos & Yearbook Candida
Thursday, November 7	Kindergarten Field Trip – 9:30 to 11:45 a.m.
Friday, November 8	School Spirit <i>Stuffed Animal Day</i>
Friday, November 8	Unheard Perspectives Meeting – 8:30 a.m.
Friday, November 8	Kindergarten Tiger Celebration – 2:30 p.m.
Monday, November 11	Report Cards Issued
Wednesday, November 13	Worries, Concerns & Apprehension Parent Event in Media – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
November 18 – 22	American Education Week
November 18 – 26	WFES Book Fair
Wednesday, November 20	PTA Meeting – 9:30 a.m.
November 22	Unheard Perspectives Meeting – 8:30 a.m.

## From the PTA

### West Friendship Elementary School PTA News

The overall purpose of PTA is to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

Be informed about the goings on with WFES PTA:

PTA Website: [www.wfespta.com](http://www.wfespta.com)

PTA Facebook page: **West Friendship Elementary School PTA**

## WFES PTA Membership Committee

By becoming a PTA Member, not only will you help your child, you'll also help other students, parents, school staff, and our community work together to share ideas that benefit our children.

The WFES PTA sponsors many wonderful programs and activities, such as Movie Night, Cultural Arts Assemblies, Science Fair, Staff Appreciation, School Dance, Spring Festival, and much more!

Despite rising costs we have been able to keep our membership fee at \$15 per family.

Our online PTA registration is now open:

<https://www.wfespta.com/join/pta-member-registration/>

## WFES PTA Walking Wednesday

Walking Wednesday is an integral part of our school's commitment to promote Wellness for All Students!! We are gathering volunteers to log laps and to be an encouragement to all of our students!! Please just come to WFES, sign in at the office, and join us on the blacktop during your child's recess time! We look forward to seeing you there!! Any questions, please email Kendra Albert at [jalbert2276@yahoo.com](mailto:jalbert2276@yahoo.com)

### Recess Schedule

Kindergarten 11:00-11:30

1st Grade 11:00-11:30

2nd Grade 11:30-12:00

3rd Grade 11:45-12:15

4th Grade 12:45-1:15

5th Grade 12:15-12:45

## Community News

Visit the Community News and Programs web-page for all announcements of events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

### Clothing Giveaway

FREE Clothing for All Ages, Infant to Adult

- **Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.** (Line starts at 7:00 a.m.)  
Long Reach High School Cafeteria  
6101 Old Dobbin Road, Columbia, MD

This information is not sponsored by, nor endorsed by HCPSS or the school. Clothes donated by Grace Community Church.



**Address**

12500 Frederick Road  
West Friendship, MD 21794



**Phone**

410-313-5512



**Website**

[wfes.hcpss.org](http://wfes.hcpss.org)



**Twitter**

[@hcpss.wfes](https://twitter.com/hcpss.wfes)