

Kaye M. Breon
Principal

Tiger Tales

Brian Vanisko
Assistant Principal

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

School News

Happy New year to you all! It has been a great start to 2019. It was wonderful to see our students enter school smiling and ready to learn. We are excited for the student growth and learning that will occur this year. I wanted to kick off the new year with a couple of key reminders, reaffirming the importance of safety and security of our school community. From our family to yours, we wish you a very healthy and happy year.

Dismissal Arrangements

Please be advised that notes are needed if you want your child to follow a different dismissal arrangement. Telling a student of a dismissal change is not satisfactory. **Notes must be sent to school if you wish for your child to be dismissed to Circle Drive or attend an afterschool activity.** Please **do not email** this information. If our Internet is not working or if a teacher has a substitute, your message will not be received in a timely manner. Arrangements via telephone will only be honored in the event of an emergency. Please remember that students are not permitted to ride any bus other than their assigned bus. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe.

All Visitors Must Have a Driver's License or State Issued Identification

All visitors to West Friendship Elementary, who are not employees of HCPSS, must bring their driver's license to sign into the LobbyGuard system. LobbyGuard uses visitors' driver's licenses or state issued identification to complete background checks. In the event of an emergency, it is crucial that we account for every visitor in the building. This is for student, staff, and visitor safety. Staff at Central Office are able to access our LobbyGuard visitor list should we have to evacuate the building. Thank you for ensuring that you bring your license with you when you visit WFES!

Weather Updates

The winter weather season is fast approaching, and while winter has commenced with relatively mild temperatures, we all know the possibility of snow could be right around the corner. When schools are closed or open late due to inclement weather, announcements are shared by 5:30am through the following:

Text message/email alerts * HCPSS homepage * HCPSS Twitter * HCPSS Facebook

HCPSS TV – Comcast 95/Verizon 42

Information Hotline – 410-313-6666

Please make sure all emergency information is current and updated in your Family File. In the event of an early closing, this information may be critical.

Outdoor Recess

As we head into our winter months, now is the perfect time to share our school system's policy regarding outdoor recess. As you are aware, we take students outside each day for recess. This is a great opportunity for students to get some exercise and a much needed break from their academics. With that being said, we want to make sure that we keep students healthy so that they can be in school each day. If the wind chill (AKA "Feels Like") temperature is 20°F or above and no falling precipitation (no more than a sprinkle or mist) we will go outside for recess.

As the temperatures drop, please make sure students are dressed appropriately for the bus stops, as well as for recess. Please make sure students have winter coats with them for recess. We want to keep students safe and healthy. Please be sure all student clothing (coats, sweaters, hats, gloves) are labeled with your child's name. If you need assistance providing a winter coat please contact our Pupil Personnel Worker, Farah Evans at Farah_Evans@hcpss.org or 410-313-6823.

Message from the WFES Staff

Dear WFES Families:

We sincerely thank everyone for all of the gifts, treats, snacks, kind words, cards, help, and support during the winter holiday season, and throughout the school year! We are grateful to the WFES PTA for once again organizing the Gift of Thanks Program for our staff! We thank the WFES PTA Staff Appreciation Committee for a wonderful holiday lunch on December 21st! We are so thankful to be part of such a kind, caring, and generous community. We hope that everyone had a safe, relaxing, and fun winter break.

With much appreciation,
The WFES Staff

Upcoming Spirit Days

Our Student Leadership Team consulted with their peers to come up with many ideas for spirit days. Student leaders shared the ideas at our last meeting.

Our spirit days are as follows:

- January 25 – Sports Jersey/Shirt Day
- February 21 – Crazy Hat Day
- March 1 – Book Character/Dr. Seuss Day
- April 9 – Crazy Hair Day
- May 23 – Decade Day

Home & School Connection

Please view the attachments to read the September issue of Home & School Connection. The publication is available in both, English and Spanish.

January – English

January – Spanish

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, January 8

Gr. 5 Parent Puberty Education Meeting in Room #123 – 5:30pm

Wednesday, January 9

Band/Strings Concert – Performance for Students – 9:30am

Due to limited space, this performance is just for WFES students.

Wednesday, January 9

Band Concert – 6:00pm

Wednesday, January 9

Strings Concert – 7:30pm

Thursday, January 10	Gr. 3 Publishing Party – 10:45 to 11:30am
Friday, January 11	Kdgn In-House Field Trip – 9:15pm
Wednesday, January 16	PTA Meeting in Media Center – 6:30pm
Thursday, January 17	PTA Sponsored “Realize Anything’s Possible” Assembly
Friday, January 18	Grades 4 & 5 Spelling Bee – 2:05pm
Monday, January 21	Schools & Offices Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Thursday, January 24	Math Night at WFES K, 1, and 2 – 5:30 to 6:30pm 3, 4, and 5 – 6:30 to 7:30pm
Friday, January 25	School Spirit “Sports Jersey/Shirt” Day
Monday, January 28	3-Hour Early Dismissal (12:45pm) – End of Marking Period

PTA News

The WFES School Spirit Store is Live!!

The West Friendship Elementary School on-line spirit store is in full operation! Enjoy up to 50% off items and shipping on items for the whole family, including the expanded ladies and youth sections. Don't miss out on polos, gym bags, sweatshirts, t-shirts, shorts, hats, and more.

Please visit https://spiritstore.olinesports.com/index.php?school_url=wfesgear.com

A portion of each sale goes directly back to West Friendship Elementary School and is sold by O-Line Sports only with the express permission of WFES.

Please Join the PTA

If you have not already, please join the WFES PTA! Membership supports all the amazing programs at WFES such as cultural arts, the school dance, skate night, movie night, Spring Festival, and in-school field trips. The cost is \$15 per family for the year. For that price you get access to the PTA directory, and satisfaction of knowing you are supporting all of the great events your kids love. Please take a second and join by visiting <https://www.wfespta.com/join/pta-member-registration/>

Family Fun Skate Night!!!

When: Sunday, January 20, 2019 (no school the following day!)

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where: Wheels Skating Center in Odenton

Skate Rental - \$3.00 for quad skates - \$4.00 for in-line skates

ADMISSION IS FREE!

Questions? Contact Alicyn Hodges at asampsonhodges@gmail.com