February 10, 2023

Upcoming Dates

February 13 – 17
- Annual WFES Kindness Challenge Week

Tuesday, February 14
- Classroom Group Photos and Individual Spring Portraits

Wednesday, February 15
- PTA General Membership Meeting – 7:00pm

Monday, February 20
- Schools and Offices Closed – Presidents’ Day

Tuesday, February 21
- WFES PTA Restaurant Fundraiser at E.W. Beck’s in Sykesville – 11:30am to 9:00pm

Thursday, February 23
- Vision & Hearing Screening for Kindergarten, First Grade & New to WFES Students

Friday, February 24
- Gr. 1 Field Trip; 9:45am to 2:00pm

Tuesday, February 28
- Vision & Hearing Rescreening for Kdgn, 1st Grade, & New to WFES Students

Mon. – Fri., March 6 – 10
- Kindergarten Registration Week

Wednesday, March 15
- Schools Close 3-Hours Early – Professional Wellness Day

Monday, March 20
- Schools & Offices Closed – Presidents’ Day

Friday, March 24
- WFES Spirit “Maryland Day” – Wear Red, Yellow, and Black

Friday, March 24
- PTA Sponsored Cultural Arts Assembly – Spectacular Science: Fire & Ice
  - 9:30 to 10:15 – Grades 3, 4, & 5
  - 10:30 to 11:15 – Kdgn, Grades 1 & 2

School News

Annual WFES Kindness Challenge Week, February 13 - 17
Each day this week is a different spirit day and a different challenge! Will you accept the challenge???

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<tr>
<th>Monday 2/13</th>
<th>Tuesday 2/14</th>
<th>Wednesday 2/15</th>
<th>Thursday 2/16</th>
<th>Friday 2/17</th>
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| **SHINE BRIGHT WITH KINDNESS!**  
**WEAR NEON or BRIGHT COLORS!**  
Brighten someone's day by saying something kind to at least 3 people! | **KINDNESS MAKES THE HEART GROW!**  
**WEAR RED and/or PINK TODAY!**  
Share a smile with at least 3 people! | **PEACE, LOVE & KINDNESS!**  
**TIE DYE DAY!**  
Greet at least 3 people using “Good Morning”, “Good Afternoon” or “Hello” | **RIDE THE KINDNESS WAVE!**  
**WEAR HAWAIIAN/BEACH ATTIRE!**  
Give a compliment to at least 3 people! | **SHARE THE SPIRIT OF KINDNESS!**  
**WEAR WFES SPIRIT WEAR!**  
How many random acts of kindness can you show today? |
WFES Valentine Celebrations on February 14th

WFES students and staff will be celebrating Valentine’s Day on Tuesday, February 14th. Each grade level will organize a time within the school day for students to participate in exchanging Valentine Cards, classroom activities and having a small snack. Closer to the date, teachers will be sending specific information about their celebration, to include the food items that will be offered.

Parents/Guardians, please keep the following important information in mind:
- Due to allergies and HCPSS Policy 9090, no Valentine cards or goodie-bags with food or candy are permitted. Please do not send in Valentine’s that contain candy. These variety of Valentine’s will NOT be distributed due to student safety. Pencils, stickers, trinkets, etc. are allowed.
- Teachers will send home class lists. If your child chooses to give out Valentine cards, it is expected that he/she will give one to each child in the homeroom class.
- Individual teachers/grade levels will be in contact with families for any specific needs.
- Celebrations are for students and staff. Parent volunteers will only be requested by the kindergarten team.

Classroom Group and Individual Spring Portraits
The school photographer will be at WFES on Tuesday, February 14th to take classroom group photos. The cost for a class group photo is $10.00 and can be purchased online by visiting www.strawbridge.net. Please click here for detailed instructions on how to make an online purchase. Purchasing envelopes were sent home on Friday. In addition, individual spring portraits will be taken the same day. No payment is needed at this time. In 3-4 weeks, a photo proof package will be sent in home for you to review. You may purchase the photos or return them to school at that time with no obligation.

WFES Hearing and Vision Clinic on February 23rd
The Howard County Health Department will be at West Friendship Elementary on February 23, 2023, for annual screening. All Kindergarten, First Grade, and students new to Maryland Public Schools will be screened. If your child wears glasses, please be sure they wear them or bring them to school that day. If you have any questions or wish to opt out, please notify Beth Collora, RN at Elizabeth_collora@hcpss.org. For more details: (English flyer) (Spanish flyer)

2022-23 Yearbooks Are Now on Sale
It is not too early to order your 2022–2023 West Friendship Elementary School yearbook! The deadline for ordering is April 14th. To make sure your child will have a yearbook when they are delivered at the end of the school year, you must order through our school photographer. Books will NOT be available for purchase after the deadline of April 14th. Do not delay, order today! Books are $20.00.

Please view this flyer for directions to order online (your student should be bringing home a paper copy next week). Click HERE to begin your order. Please reach out to Penny Smith@hcpss.org with any questions.

Winter MAP Assessment
Students in grades 1-5 will participate in the Winter administration of Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing. MAP is an untimed computer-adaptive assessment that measures student growth and achievement, independent of grade level or age. This is but one indicator of your child’s progress, providing us with an additional piece of information about achievement levels and growth in acquiring Reading and Mathematics skills. To learn more about the MAP assessment, click here. Please take a moment to see when your child will take the ELA & Math MAP testing:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>ELA</th>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>2/15 @9:20am (Wednesday)</td>
<td>2/16 @10:35am (Thursday)</td>
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Kindergarten and New HCPSS Student Registration
Registration for 2023-2024 Kindergarten begins on March 6th – 10th. Parents/Guardians of children who will be five years old as of September 1, 2023, must enroll their children in kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year. Registering for school is an online process.

- Road to Kindergarten Workshop Slideshow
- Getting Ready for Kindergarten
- Gather Documentation
- Begin Registration

Parents/Guardians without access to a computer should contact Teachers’ Secretary, Mrs. Colleen Green at 410-313-5512 for assistance in completing the registration process.

Early Admission for Kindergarten and First Grade
Applications for early admission to kindergarten and first grade are now being accepted. Applicants must submit all application materials for early admission to kindergarten and first grade by April 30 and May 31, 2023, respectively.

Pre-Kindergarten Programs
The Bushy Park Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) prekindergarten programs are making preparations for classes for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. These classes include children with and without disabilities. The program’s focus is helping all children develop communication, literacy, math, problem solving, motor, and social skills. Parents of children who will be 3 by September 1st may apply. Applications will be available and accepted in mid-February.

In alignment with Maryland’s Blueprint for the Future, new applications for students turning 4 by September 1 will not be available or accepted. The Howard County Public School System continues to offer a prekindergarten program for income eligible children who will be four years old by September 1. For additional information contact the school or visit: https://www.hcpss.org/schools/pre-k-programs/

HCPSS is committed to providing instruction based on the statewide Early Learning Standards which are in alignment with Kindergarten Readiness. The fees listed in the application will be collected monthly regardless of the learning model determined by HCPSS throughout the upcoming school year (virtual, hybrid, in person, or class quarantine). If you have additional questions, please contact Roseann Kleinschmidt at (410) 313-5500.

Gifted and Talented (G/T) Summer Institutes for Talent Development
The Gifted and Talented (G/T) Summer Institutes for Talent Development offers additional advanced-level instruction and enrichment experiences not regularly available during the academic school year for students entering grades 1-8. Rigorous instruction focusing on talent development is offered in mathematics, science, social studies, language arts, technology, and fine arts.

No testing nor prior G/T coursework is required for enrollment in these enrichment offerings.

Students may attend for Session 1, Session 2, or both sessions. While the program is half-day, before and after care is available on site via Howard County Recreation and Parks.

Also, new this year, the G/T Summer Institutes will offer limited bus transportation to area collector stops.

Financial assistance is available for students participating in the Free and Reduced Meal Program.

Families of HCPSS students may enter registration requests through HCPSS Connect until February 15 at 6pm.

For more information on how to register, please visit the HCPSS Summer Programs page.

- G/T Course Listing
- G/T Course Matrix

Contact: GTSummer@hcpss.org or 410-313-6671.
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 February issue of Parent Pages.

Inclement Weather Reminders & Asynchronous Students Days
Students, families, staff, and community members will be notified of inclement weather notifications via:

- HCPSS Status website
- HCPSS homepage
- HCPSS News email and text message alerts
- Twitter - @hcpss
- HCPSS Information Hotline, 410-313-6666

Asynchronous Student Days are as follows:
- Code Purple – Asynchronous Student Day; Buildings Open
- Code Pink – Asynchronous Student Day; Buildings Closed

Elementary school students access asynchronous tasks distributed by teachers or via the HCPSS website.

* * * February Asynchronous Learning Packets were sent home with students on 1/20/2023. * * *

* Chaperones * Visitors * Volunteers
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 and Child Abuse Certificate
- Confidentiality Training and Confidentiality Certificate

Summer Programs Registration Opens February 1
Online enrollment requests for HCPSS’ 2023 Summer Programs for currently enrolled HCPSS students will open Wednesday, February 1 at 6:00pm. Enrollment requests can be made via HCPSS Connect Synergy by a parent, guardian, school counselor, or school achievement liaison. Enrollment requests do not guarantee placement in courses.

Recess Update
The Office of School Safety and Security and Risk Management, in collaboration with School Management and Instructional Leadership, reviewed county wide practices regarding school visits and it has been determined that parents are no longer able to attend recess. Parents can continue to eat lunch with their child(ren) if they complete the following:

1. Go to the HCPSS website to review information about the school system volunteer process.
2. Review the “Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Procedures Online Training” PowerPoint.
3. Sign the Certificate of Completion for the “Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Procedures Online Training” form and provide it to the school when signing in.
4. Review the "Confidentiality Training for Volunteers" PowerPoint.
5. Sign the Confidentiality Agreement and provide it to the school when signing in.
6. Sign in at the front office using the Lobby Guard sign-in system (a valid photo I.D. must be provided).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.
**Health Room Reminders**

- Please keep all sick children at home. Any student with a temperature of 100 degrees should be kept at home for 24 hours past the last fever (without medications).
- Encourage your child to wash their hands frequently to reduce the spread of germs.
- Stay home while sick and limit contact with others.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve or tissue.
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap & warm water.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if washing is not available.
- Avoid touching your nose, eyes, and mouth.

Always feel free to email our School Nurse, Elizabeth_Collora@hcpss.org with any questions.

**When Your Child is Absent from School**

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 wifesabsence@hcpss.org. You may also send in a note the day your child returns to 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. We are required to have a reason for the absence in order to code absences as excused in alignment with HCPSS Policy 9010: Attendance.

**Family Read the Rainbow**

Join us virtually to discuss *Love Without Bounds* on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at 1:00pm. You'll get to MEET authors Drs. Chelsea Johnson, LaToya Council, and Carolyn Choi during our virtual book club. Recommended for families, students, parents, educators, librarians, community members, and supportive allies. This book club is open to all! The first 50 families with preschool and/or elementary aged children who register will receive a free copy of *Love Without Bounds*. To participate, please register by visiting our HCPSS Pride website: [www.bit.ly/HCPSSRainbow](http://www.bit.ly/HCPSSRainbow).

**PTA News & Events**

**PTA General Assembly Meeting**

The PTA invites you to our General Assembly Meeting on Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the school’s Media Center. Details for the virtual option will be forthcoming.

Two important agenda items up for discussion and vote at this meeting:

1. The PTA budget for the remainder of the school year.
2. The results of the activity interest survey sent out a few weeks ago.

Please take a few minutes to review the budget prior to the meeting. Any questions can be emailed to charurat.wfes@gmail.com. It is not too late to send in a survey response. Your feedback is important to us.

**BUDGET:**
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qgjxQmnAoZo5_SGBKU7X9Xzme_EuRugjC72mW0PhV4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qgjxQmnAoZo5_SGBKU7X9Xzme_EuRugjC72mW0PhV4/edit?usp=sharing)

**SURVEY:**
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSceEW65E0EkG_GVOUGFj9ExJ3vrvQK8yM2p1PW1ilpv2oa/viewform?usp=sf_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSceEW65E0EkG_GVOUGFj9ExJ3vrvQK8yM2p1PW1ilpv2oa/viewform?usp=sf_link)

If you have not yet joined the WFES PTA, please consider doing so now. Currently, only half of our school community are signed up as members. Even if you are not able to attend meetings or volunteer at events, your annual membership dues aids in supporting our school community. You may join the PTA by visiting this webpage, [https://mywfespta.weebly.com/supportus-992913.html](https://mywfespta.weebly.com/supportus-992913.html). Thank you for your support!
WFES PTA Restaurant Fundraisers

EW Becks Fundraiser
E. W. Beck's is located at 7565 Main Street Sykesville, MD
Enjoy lunch or dinner from E.W. Beck's on Tuesday, February 21st and earn money for the WFES PTA at the same time. Mention our fundraiser or show the flyer (coming soon) and the WFES PTA will get 10% back! The fundraiser is all day, 11:30am to 9:00pm! Hope to see you there!

Walker's Tap and Table Fundraiser
Walker’s Tap & Table is located at 2465 MD-Route 97, Glenwood, MD
Have a delicious meal at Walker's Tap and Table on Monday, March 27th and support the WFES PTA!

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.hcps.org for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss.org.

Know What’s Happening in Howard County
Sign up for HC DrugFree’s newsletter at https://hcdrugfree.org/enews-signup/ to get updates on events as well as information to keep your family safe and informed.

MRHS Music Foundation Second Annual Bingo Night!!
The Marriotts Ridge High School Music Foundation is holding its second ANNUAL BINGO FUNDRAISER on Saturday, February 25th at FOP Lodge 69 in Catonsville. Amazing prizes -- Kate Spade & Coach bags, Gift Card Extravaganza, Car Detailing, Solo Bonfire Smokeless Fire Pit, Tailgate Party, and many more!
Tickets are $30 now/$35 at the door and include 20 regular games & door prizes!
Order here: https://tinyurl.com/MRHSMusicBINGO

And here is a QR code that could be used; there is a bingo flyer below that:
MRHSMF Bingo! 2/25/23
Order Tickets Now!
https://tinyurl.com/MRHSMusicBINGO
Kids on Campus at Howard Community College
Each summer, Howard Community College offers a variety of weekly enrichment programs for youth ages 6 to 17. Below you will find a flier, or you may visit www.howardcc.edu/koc for information and updates. A limited number of booklets are available in the “WFES Brochures and Information” display located in the front hall by the office. Registration opened January 26, 2023.

Winter Wonderland Father-Daughter Dance

Winter Wonderland
A father-daughter dance

Join us for a night of winter festivities, music, fun, dancing, games, and prizes! Costumes welcome! Girls K-3 w/ one parent.

Friday, February 24th, 2023
6PM - 8PM
PATAPSCO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Make Reservations by Feb 20
EARLY BIRD TICKETS $26.50
(Adult + One Child)
Or $35 at the door
Additional children +$10

girl scouts of central maryland