

Kaye M. Breon
Principal

Tiger Tales

Brian Vanisko
Assistant Principal

West Friendship E.S.
12500 Frederick Road
West Friendship, MD 21794
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Web Site: <http://wfes.hcpss.org/>
School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

May 21, 2021

School News

Parent Consideration Form 2020/21 School Year

We are in the process of determining student homeroom placement for the 2021/22 school year. As partners in your child's education, we would like to provide you the opportunity to share information that you would like considered as we make classroom placements for next year. Your input is optional and remains confidential as it is submitted directly to Ms. Breon, Principal.

Please click on the following link to provide input: <https://forms.gle/Lnu9V4oyMB9Daxb27>

Classes are made based on a number of factors, with the foundational goal of ensuring students' instructional needs are appropriately met, and suited for maximum learning. This thoughtful process also takes into account the need to create classes that support a collaborative community of learners.

All consideration forms are due by **Friday, June 4th**. Thank you for your continued support and input.

West Friendship Yearbook

The 2020-2021 WFES Yearbook is now on sale for \$20! Capture your memories in this full-color yearbook. Please order your copy now, as copies will not be available for purchase during distribution. Place your order by visiting the following link:

<https://strawbridge.fotomerchanthv.com/cart/01F2M5JPCNZE7CNNP1WYPZBM0Q/catalog>

Fifth Grade Celebrations!

Mark your calendars and we hope you can join us for these two occasions.

Fifth Grade Promotion Celebration

June 9th at 1:30pm

Please join us for a virtual "watch party" to honor and celebrate our fifth graders! Each student will be represented in the presentation as we wish them good luck moving on to middle school.

Fifth Grade Drive thru Celebration

June 10th at 2:00pm

We welcome each family to decorate their vehicle and drive thru our school parking lot to receive the promotion certificate and more. We would love the opportunity to give our fifth graders a big send off!

More specifics to come about each event as we get closer.

Upcoming Spirit Days!

Show your school spirit and join in the fun! Here are our final Spirit Days for the rest of the school year!

- **May 28th**: Wear Red, White & Blue Day! Let's wear Red, White & Blue in honor of Memorial Day!

- **June 4th:** Hawaiian Day! - Wear your Hawaiian/beach themed attire (**no swim suits**). (Ex: Flowers, leis, beach colors, water scenes, beach names, surfboards, sunsets, etc.)

We encourage families to email pictures so we can tweet them out. Please email photos to Kathleen_Donegan@hcpss.org, then look for all the awesome WFES School Spirit on Twitter! In addition, please email photos to Penny_Smith@hcpss.org for possible publication in the WFES Yearbook!

WFES Supports Grassroots: May 24th is the Deadline for Donations

Please help support our community! This year, West Friendship will collect goods to benefit Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center in Columbia, MD.

Grassroots depends upon the generosity of individuals, organizations, and businesses in the community to support its free services to anyone in crisis, to help provide the 24-7 hotline and suicide prevention efforts, round-the-clock personal counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, the shelter programs, and other activities to help people achieve a positive resolution to their crisis situation.

Please help by donating from the items below:

Kindergarten: Baby Wipes

1st Grade: Paper Towels

2nd Grade: Toothpaste and/or Dental Floss

3rd Grade: Canned Soups or boxed macaroni and cheese

4th Grade: Containers of Peanut Butter and/or Jelly

5th Grade: Individual instant oatmeal variety packets or Individual packets of Cream of Wheat

Virtual Students: there is a box in the WFES vestibule where you can place your donations.

The grade level with the most donations will receive a certificate for 1 hour of free game play at [The Main Event](#) at Columbia Mall! WFES would like to thank [The Main Event](#) for providing our school with these incredible incentives for our students!

“Helping others is the way we help ourselves.” –Oprah Winfrey

Please contact WFES School Counselor, Leslie Schnebly with any questions. Thank you for your support!

Did you move? Are you moving?

According to **HCPSS Policy 9000** - Student Residency, Eligibility, Enrollment, and Assignment, "A student attending a public school in Howard County will attend the designated school serving the school attendance area in which the parents have bona fide residence unless reassignment is granted or administrative placement occurs."

If you have moved or are moving soon, please notify us as soon as possible. Please do not wait for us to find out through other means. We are available to assist you with transitioning to your child's new school. Whether it be another HCPSS school, a private school, or a school out of the HCPSS district, we are here to help. If you are transferring to another HCPSS school, our registrars will partner to make the transition as smooth as possible.

If you have an address change, please fill out the attached fillable **Address Change Form** below and email it back to us with your new deed or lease. This way we can electronically verify your school district and update your new address on file. If you have any questions, contact our registration secretary, Colleen Green at Colleen_Green@hcpss.org.

It is very important for us to have the most accurate information about your residency.

[Fillable Change of Address Form](#)

May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

It is important to recognize the importance of our emotional and mental health. Although we may be 6 feet apart physically, we can still come together as a community to lift up activities and practices that help us be at our best. Small positive changes in your life can benefit your mind and your body!

Here are some fun mental health activities for families to do together for May and June: [WFES ABC Mental Health Countdown to Summer!](#)

These will also be highlighted for our students in our weekly Morning Announcements. Enjoy, and Happy Mental Health Awareness Month!

HCPSS Elementary School Counseling Connection Newsletter

The HCPSS Elementary School Counseling Connection Newsletter is a great resource for students and parents to read together. Included in this latest issue of the [May School Counseling Connection](#) you will find information regarding Mental Health Awareness Month and the importance of taking time for your feelings and self-care. Also included is information about National Tell a Story Day, a fun Color by Numbers website and more! I implore you to look through this edition with your student(s)! 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.

When should my child stay home and what health checks should families conduct?

To ensure students are healthy enough to attend in-person instruction, parents/guardians should keep their children home if they are experiencing [symptom\(s\) associated with any communicable disease](#). In addition, parents/guardians are to perform the following COVID-19 health check every day before the student leaves home.

Any ONE of the following:

- fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- sore throat
- cough
- difficulty breathing
- diarrhea or vomiting
- new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or
- new loss of taste or smell

For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline. Children exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 may not attend school. These students need to be evaluated for COVID-19 or an alternate medical diagnosis. They may not return to school until medically cleared. In addition, students with symptoms of any [communicable disease](#) may not attend school until evaluated and medically treated.

Staff and students who travel out of state should review and follow the most recent travel advisories in Maryland.

Beth Collora, BSN, RN, NCSN

School Nurse

Phone: 410-313-5515 ** Fax: 443-973-5518

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.

Kindergarten Registration Continues

Online Registration for students entering Kindergarten in fall continues. Please share this information with your friends and neighbors. **There will be no in-person registration appointments at this time.**

Kindergarten is mandatory in Maryland, so if your child turns 5-years old by September 1, 2021, you must register your child for the 2021-22 school year. Parents or guardians are to register students at the school serving the address where the child's parent or guardian resides. Information on neighborhood schools can be found through School Locator <https://hcpss-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b1d3153921514f92090217> on the [school system web site](#) or by calling the Public Information Office at 410-313-6682.

Step 1: Register Online Here: https://sisparents.hcpss.org/PXP2_OEN_Login.aspx

Step 2: Complete registration online by providing the documents listed below. ***The registration process is easier if you upload them during online registration. Otherwise, you will be asked to submit them via email as pdfs. I-phone users can scan documents through your notes app. (Images must be clear.)***

The following documents are needed for registration:

- Child's evidence of birth (i.e.: birth certificate, baptismal certificate)
- An authorized record of immunizations
- Proof of residency in the form of a signed lease or deed including signature pages
- Current utility bill
- Photo ID of parent/guardian
- Proof of custody (if applicable)

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Colleen Green at 410-313-5512 or colleen_green@hcpss.org.

Food Services - Student Meals

Students returning in-person may choose to receive meals any day they are in school. For all other families, meals will be available for pickup from 7:45-8:45 a.m. at elementary school locations and 9-10 a.m. at middle and high school locations on the following:

- Mondays – Students in Group V and/or non-HCPSS students age 18 and under
- Wednesdays – Students in Groups E, A or B
- Thursdays – Students in Group V and/or non-HCPSS students age 18 and under

Full [details on student meals](#) can be found on the HCPSS website.

Mark Your Calendars

Monday, May 24	Final Day to Support the WFES Food Drive to Benefit Grassroots
Friday, May 28	School Spirit "Wear Red, White & Blue Day" in honor of Memorial Day
Monday, May 31	Schools & Offices Closed – Memorial Day
Friday, June 4	School Spirit "Hawaiian Day" – Wear Hawaiian/Beach Themed Attire
Wednesday, June 9	Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony Virtual "Watch Party" – 1:30pm
Thursday, June 10	Fifth Grade Drive Thru Celebration – 2:00pm
June 10, 11, 14 & 15	3-Hour Early Dismissal for Students

Tuesday, June 15

Last Day of School

County Information

Early Admission for First Grade

Applications for early admission to [first grade](#) are now being accepted. Applicants must submit all application materials for early admission to first grade by May 31, 2021.

PTA News

WE HAVE MASKS!!!

We now have adult and child-sized masks IN STOCK and ready for pickup! Adult \$6 and Child \$4. Please visit <https://westfriendship.memberhub.store/store> to place your order. Stay safe while supporting the PTA!

5th Grade Memory Book Orders - Deadline Extended

Attention fifth grade parents: The deadline to order a 5th Grade Memory Book is being extended to Friday, May 28th for online orders.

WHERE TO ORDER: <https://westfriendship.memberhub.store/store/items/721316>

COST: \$30 per book

DEADLINES: May 28th (online orders)

****Books will be delivered to WFES by June 10th****

If you prefer to pay by check, please return a check made payable to WFES PTA along with this completed order form: <https://drive.google.com/.../1ndB7IDsM4IMqgFueLSq.../view...>

The WFES PTA is dedicated to ensuring that every 5th Grader receives a memory book!

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact wfes2021@gmail.com.

PTA Board Nominations for 2021-2022

Do you want to get involved in the WFES community, meet people and make a difference? The PTA Nomination committee is looking for volunteers to serve a variety of positions on our 2021-2022 PTA Board. For more information please contact Courtney Douglass at courtney702@gmail.com, Penny Smith at Penny_Smith@hcpss.org, or Stacy Perrier at sta1434@yahoo.com.

Amazon Smile

Help support West Friendship Elementary Schools PTA by shopping on Amazon through Amazon Smile. You get the same great deals and benefits offered by Amazon while supporting our school! Just go to smile.amazon.com, and login to Amazon using your regular username and password. Search for and select West Friendship Elementary School PTA under charitable organizations, and you are ready to shop! And yes, we know it is spelled wrong on Amazon's page. Unfortunately, we can't change it.

Family and Student Support

HC DrugFree Updates for Parents/Guardians

Free Parenting Classes:

HC DrugFree and the Howard County State's Attorney's Office, partnering with HCPSS and the Health Department, will once again provide evidence-based classes for families to gain skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will engage in risky behaviors including using drugs. **The remaining sessions of this 4-class series for parents will be held on Zoom from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, June 1 and 8.** Parents/guardians must register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCDrugFreeSpring2021>. If you have questions, email Joan Webb Scornaienchi, HC DrugFree's Executive Director at Admin@hcdrugfree.org.

Community News

Please visit the HCPSS website [Community News and Programs page](#) for upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

High Quality, Affordable Dental Hygiene Care at HCC

[Click Here](#)

Covid Vaccine Clinics

Get your vaccine today. Vaccines available for ages 12+ at The Mall in Columbia.

The Health Ministry Team of Ellicott City Church will be hosting a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic on June 10th from 4:00pm – 7:00pm at 3291 St. John's Lane Ellicott City MD 21042. The Moderna vaccine, will be administered by Giant Pharmacy.

[Ellicott City Church Vaccine Flier](#)

[Sign Up Here](#)

Columbia Orchestra Presents Peter and the Wolf

The Columbia Orchestra returns to the Chrysalis on May 22 at 11am and 1pm for Peter and the Wolf! A smaller ensemble from the Orchestra, dancers from Dance Connections, and narrator Greg Jukes perform Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, music from *Moana*, *Wizard of Oz*, and more! Children of all ages will enjoy this fun-filled introduction to the orchestra! Tickets: \$15/Adult, \$10/Children (ages 2 & up). Children under 2 are free but need a ticket! Click [here](#) to purchase tickets. Click [here](#) to read about the safety guidelines that will be followed for this concert.

Howard County Arts Council's Camps

Spring has sprung, flowers are blooming, and it's time to start planning for summer which means - camp! Register today for Howard County Arts Council's Visual & Performing Arts camps. From June 28-August 27, camps will be offered in one-week, full-day sessions for students entering Grades K-7.

We've developed rigorous COVID-19 health and safety protocols for this year's program, enabling us to offer fun and engaging arts camps while minimizing risk for our campers and staff. Individual camps will be structured as learning pods consisting of one instructor, one counselor, and up to 8 campers. The use of face masks, physical distancing, and health screenings are among the other safety precautions that will also be in place.

With limited enrollment, our summer arts camps are filling up fast with several camps already at full enrollment. So don't miss out – register now and get ready for a summer filled with art adventures!

Visit hocoarts.org/camp for more information and to register.

Howard County Arts Council

8510 High Ridge Rd

Ellicott City, MD 21043

info@hocoarts.org

410-313-ARTS (2787)

hocoarts.org