

Kaye M. Breon
Principal



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.

September 29, 2020

From Our Administrators

Dear West Friendship Elementary Families,

Please know that office staff are available, should you have any school related questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We are available by email and by telephone, 410-313-5512.

Principal, Ms. Kaye Breon kaye_breon@hcpss.org

Assistant Principal, Mr. Brian Vanisko brian_vanisko@hcpss.org

Principal's Secretary, Mrs. Penny Smith penny_smith@hcpss.org

Teachers' Secretary (Registration) Mrs. Colleen Green colleen_green@hcpss.org

School Nurse, Mrs. Beth Collora elizabeth_collora@hcpss.org

School Counselor, Mrs. Leslie Schnebly leslie_schnebly@hcpss.org

Yours in Education,

Ms. Breon and Mr. Vanisko

School News

Map Testing Announcement

On Wednesday, October 7 and 14, students in grades 2-8 will take the Measured Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. The data from the MAP assessment will help schools and teachers measure where your child is starting the year academically. The HCPSS intends to also give the assessment in winter and spring to measure how your child's learning is progressing throughout the year. The MAP test does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly. To learn more about the MAP assessment, please visit: <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/>

The Reading test will be offered on October 7 at 9 am and 1 pm. The Math test will be offered on October 14 at 9am and 1pm. Students may choose to attend either the morning or afternoon session. If your child is unable to attend, makeup testing will be offered during asynchronous learning times. Teachers will share Google Meet information and your student's testing group as we get closer to the Oct 7th date. Please contact Mr. Vanisko at Brian_Vanisko@hcpss.org with any questions.

Getting Too Many Canvas Announcements in One Day?

Did you know that you can change your notification settings in Canvas to make sure you still receive all the information you need while minimizing the number of Canvas

messages in your inbox? [Click here to learn more!](#)

If you need to find a past announcement, they are all archived in the course's Canvas page. Click on "Announcements" from the list on the left side of the course homepage.

Who Do I Email When My Child Will be Absent from Virtual Learning?

WFES teachers will be taking attendance for each virtual learning session. If your child is absent or will be absent from a virtual session, please send an email to WFESAbsence@HCPSS.org with your child's full name, the date of absence, and the reason for the absence. Parents have five days to submit an absence note/excuse.

Do You Have Media Books/Classroom Books at Home?

Still have Media books at home? How about books from classroom libraries? There are collection boxes just inside the front doors of the school. Please turn in these materials before they become lost forever! The collection boxes are accessible 8am to 4pm.

A Message from the School Counselor:

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 [School Counseling Connection newsletter](#) are self-care ideas and fun activities for home. 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.

Virtual Instruction Student Tip Sheet

A [downloadable tip sheet](#) was created for students and parents or guardians to use for quick access to login information, course meeting codes, and instructions for logging in to platforms. *Students - Don't forget to check your "to-do" list area in Canvas for new announcements, Google events and assignments that are due. Once a task/event is complete, be sure to click on the "x" next to the event so that your upcoming assignments/events will appear at the top of the list.*

Virtual Instruction Responsibilities, Expectations and Best Practices

A successful virtual instruction program for the 2020-2021 school year requires [collaboration and shared responsibilities](#) among students, educators and families.

Google Meet Expectations for Students and Parents/Guardians

To ensure a positive, productive and enjoyable learning experience for all participants, it is important that all students and parents/guardians adhere to these [Google Meet Expectations](#), which include online behaviors for students and privacy guidelines for parents.

Emailing Teachers

If you need to contact your child's teacher during the school day, please email them directly. All staff email addresses can be found on our school [website staff page](#). Please be mindful that teachers will not be responding to emails during live, synchronous instruction. If you have a technology question, please visit the HCPSS [Virtual Instruction Technology Support](#) page. You may also call the West Friendship front office, 410-313-5512.

IMPORTANT -- Update Your Family File Now!

The Family File has not been completed for 34 students at West Friendship Elementary! It is required that all families, including returning families, verify or update information for every child in the family, every school year. Please Note: Although schools remain virtual through 1/28/21, it is important that we have up-to-date emergency contact information for each student, in the event that our staff need to communicate directly with our families. You can access the Family File by logging in to HCPSS Connect at www.hcpss.org/connect/. Parents who are new to the Howard County Public School System will receive a welcome email with instructions on how to activate an account. Once you have logged into the [HCPSS Connect](#), select the Family File tab on the left-hand side, and then select the blue underlined "Family File" towards the center of your screen. Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to provide, update, or confirm the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/guardian Contact Information
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information
- Media Release (photo approval)
- Data Confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA Directory
- Please note, if the section you are looking for is not allowing you to move forward, then there is a question/checkbox on that page that may still need to be addressed. Please make sure to re the prompts at the top of each tab, and click to expand each section.
- Parents who have forgotten their login credentials may click the "Forgot Password" link on the sign-in page.
- If a parent completed the Family File **prior to August 10th**, the information entered was attached to the 2019-2020 school year and the Family File will be considered incomplete.

HCPSS 2020 Seasonal Flu Vaccine Clinics – Register by September 30

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, obtaining a vaccine for seasonal influenza (flu) is even more important this year than ever. HCPSS Health Services is continuing its partnership with the Howard County Health Department (HCHD) and the Maryland Partnership for Prevention (MPP) to offer several regional seasonal flu vaccine clinics for HCPSS students and staff during the month of October. The clinic dates are October 7-14. The clinics will be held at 24 school sites, outdoors, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., and ANY HCPSS student or staff may attend ANY clinic they wish; pre-registration with appointments will be required. **Registration closes on Wednesday, September 30th.** Register at www.vaccineconsent.com ([Links to an external site.](#)) and search by location for flu clinics. The dates and sites are as follows:

Wednesday, October 7 – AHS, CHS, DLES, SFES
Thursday, October 8 – GHS, WLHS, JHES, ARL
Friday, October 9 – MRHS, HOHS, LWES, HMS
Monday, October 12 – RHS, MHHS, BWES, CRES
Tuesday, October 13 – OMHS, HCMS, LES, DRES
Wednesday, October 14 – RHHS, LRHS, GCES, LFES

The clinics will be held outside and will be drive-up clinics. Students and staff may stay in their car when they are vaccinated, or they can sit outside at a table if they walk up. All parties will be required to use appropriate PPE and all social distancing measures will be employed. Please contact our School Nurse, [Mrs. Collora](#) if you have questions.

HCPSS News

[HCPSS News emails and text alerts](#) keep families up-to-date on news and events, and delivers real-time notices of emergency closings and information. All HCPSS News subscriptions are generated from the information provided in Family File and have been automatically updated for the 2020-2021 school year. Parents/guardians new to the system are automatically enrolled for email notification, and [must opt in to text alerts](#).

School Calendar

Make sure you know important dates on the [2020-2021 academic calendar](#). There are no printed calendars; you may view the online calendar and/or download printable calendar PDFs on our website. The calendar is subject to change.

Food Services

Meals will be provided at no cost to any HCPSS student, and are available to all children 18 and under, through December 31, 2020, subject to U.S. Department of Agriculture funding availability.

West Friendship Elementary is a food distribution site. The [food services program](#) during the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year will consist of Grab-n-Go breakfasts and lunches served Monday through Friday from 8–9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Parents of students who qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMs) must submit a new application every school year. View [program details](#) and learn how to apply. HCPSS participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs which provide families with significant benefits to help save money. Qualification is based on family size and income, and enrollment is confidential. All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can get free meals regardless of income, and students from households that meet federal income guidelines are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals. Those eligible for reduced-price meals pay \$0.10 for breakfast and \$0.20 for lunch. We'd like to encourage you to participate in these programs as needed.

Change of Address

A change of Address cannot be made through Family File. If you have recently moved, please contact your child's new school as soon as possible. As we are preparing for the upcoming 2020-2021 School Year, it is imperative that we have accurate addresses on file for all of our students. If you have moved, and have not provided us with your updated information, we ask that you email the following documents to Mrs. Green at Colleen.Green@hcpss.org

- A completed change of address form
- A copy of your new lease or deed
- A copy of a current utility bill with your new address

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Mark Your Calendars

Tues., Oct. 6	WFES PTA Night at Chipotle – 5:00pm to 9pm
Wed., Oct. 7	MAP Reading Assessment for Grades 2 – 5
Wed., Oct. 14	MAP Math Assessment for Grades 2 – 5
Wed., Oct 14	Virtual PTA Meeting – 6:00pm
Fri., Oct. 16	Schools Close 3-Hrs Early – Professional Work Day
Tues., Nov. 3	Schools & Offices Closed – Election Day
Fri., Nov. 6	Schools Close 3-Hrs. Early – Professional Work Day

PTA News

WFES PTA Restaurant Night

The WFES PTA has another Restaurant Nigh coming up! Restaurant Nights are fun and easy fundraisers. Just dine at the restaurant on the given date and the WFES PTA will receive a percentage of sales! Please mark your calendars for the following date:

- **Restaurant Night at Chipotle**

Tuesday, October 6th at 10:45am to 10:00pm

A portion of sales (33 percent!!!) goes back to WFES PTA. Make sure you bring this [flyer](#), show it on your phone, or mention WFES PTA when you pay!

NEW! ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP -- Use code TGB2BVP before checkout in 'promo' field. Orders placed on Chipotle.com or through the Chipotle app for pickup using this unique code will be counted towards the fundraiser. Complete directions can be found [here](#).

Please share this information with family and friends!!!

Community News

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