



September 2, 2022

From Our Administrators

Dear WFES Families,

What a wonderful week it has been at WFES! We currently have a total of 364 Tigers at our school. It is so exciting to see our students enter the building with great enthusiasm for learning. Mr. Vanisko and I have enjoyed visiting classrooms, and engaging with students during lunch, recess, arrival, and dismissal times.

The West Friendship Elementary School staff is focused on working with students and their families to promote positive behavior in all school settings. We have three school rules which are reinforced daily. The **3 R's are... Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn**. When the school rules are followed, students have an opportunity to be recognized for their efforts by receiving Tiger Tickets. Tiger Tickets can be used to "purchase" items from the PBIS School Store. Students may also be awarded the coveted Golden Ticket when they are caught going beyond and/or consistently following the 3 R's.

Back-to-School Night is a time for parents to hear from teachers. You will learn about classroom rules, schoolwork, and what your child will be learning. Administration does not want to take away from that valuable time. Click [HERE](#) for a presentation you can view at your leisure to learn more about WFES.

Your patience and understanding are appreciated while the HCPSS Pupil Transportation Office works hard to reevaluate and rework bus routes. Please understand that bus delays are caused by a domino effect. Our buses pick up and deliver students from other schools before coming to WFES. If the previous bus runs are delayed, then our bus runs are delayed. As we continue to encounter bus delays, **please be patient with the bus drivers and our school staff as transportation logistics are worked out.**

Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, September 5th in observance of Labor Day. We look forward to seeing our students on Tuesday, September 6th. Enjoy the long, holiday weekend with your family!

Sincerely,

Kaye Breon, Principal

Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal

Upcoming Dates

Monday, September 5	Schools & Offices Closed – Labor Day
Monday, September 12	Back to School Night for GT, Grades 2 and 3 (Parents only, please.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30pm ~ GT Presentation (K-5) • 6:00pm ~ Grades 2 and 3
Tuesday, September 13	Back to School Night for GT, Grades 4 and 5 (Parents only, please.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00pm ~ Grades 4 and 5
Monday, September 19	WFES PTA Restaurant Fundraiser at Chipotle – 5:00 to 9:00pm
Monday, September 26	Schools & Offices Closed – Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday, September 28	School Picture Day! More details to come!

School News



Monday, September 5th
Schools & Offices Closed – Labor Day

Monday, September 12th

Back-to-School Night for Parents (Parents only, please.)

5:30pm GT Presentation for Parents (K-5)

6:00pm Grades 2 and 3

Tuesday, September 13th

Back-to-School Night for Parents
(Parents only, please.)

6:00pm Grades 4 and 5



Monday, September 26th
Schools & Offices Closed – Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 28th
School Picture Day!



Parent Volunteers/Field Trip Chaperones

This year there will be plenty of opportunities for parents to volunteer and chaperone school field trips. According to Howard County Board of Education Policy, all volunteers must complete required volunteer trainings. Take a few 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 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](#)
- [Child Abuse Certificate](#)
- [Confidentiality Training](#)
- [Confidentiality Certificate](#)

2022-23 School Start/End Times

West Friendship's student hours are **9:15am-3:45pm**. Students who are car riders may not be dropped off at school earlier than 9:05am. All students must be in their classrooms before the late bell rings at 9:15am. If you arrive after the 9:15am bell, you will need to accompany your child into the building to sign them in at the Front Office so they can obtain a tardy slip before reporting to class.

Dismissal Changes

Please help us keep your children safe by effectively communicating dismissal arrangements. It is not possible for us to check Family File for each individual student's dismissal information every day. We have printed out the information that is now in the file. In the event your child's dismissal instructions change, **you must send a note to school with your child. Please do not email the teacher!** If the teacher is not in school that day or does not have time to check their email your communication will not be received. We also ask that you **please not call the school office** to make dismissal changes unless in a true emergency. The office is extremely busy during dismissal time, and an error could easily be made. Also, **please do not rely on your child to relay dismissal arrangements** to their teacher. Usually, the messages do not get relayed, or they are incorrect.

School Picture Day

Fall School Picture Day will be Wednesday, September 28th. Our school photographer, Strawbridge Studios will be at WFES taking individual student photographs. ALL students will be photographed at that time, as these are the photos that will be published in our school yearbook. Photo purchasing envelopes and online purchasing details will be made available in the coming weeks. Purchasing school pictures benefits our school, as it is a fundraiser. This is the perfect way to take care of some upcoming holiday gift giving needs and support our school at the same time!!!

WFES Employment Opportunities

West Friendship Elementary School is looking for people who want to join our amazing school community! We have an opportunity for you! Please see below for more information.

Temporary Employee Position

We are looking for caring and compassionate individuals to assist students with disabilities who require direct adult supervision throughout the school day. The position works under the daily supervision of the school administration and the direction of a special education teacher and/or a classroom teacher. Some experience working with children or individuals with disabilities preferred. Temporary Employee (TE) positions are with Social Service Consultants, Ltd.

- Compensation is \$15.00 per hour (up from \$14/hour)
- The position is for 6.5 hour/day (6 hours paid with an unpaid ½ hour lunch). Monday through Friday from 9:15am - 3:45pm

To apply, please email Robert Tencher at rtencher@gmail.com to request an application packet. Please specify you are interested in working at West Friendship Elementary. You may also apply using [this link](#). Please contact Brian Vanisko at bvanisko@hcpss.org or at 410-313-5512 if you are interested in learning more!

Lunch and Recess Monitor Positions

We are seeking monitors to support our students during lunch and recess. Lunch and Recess Monitors support and assist students and paraeducators during multiple lunch and recess shifts.

- Lunch and Recess Monitors are considered temporary HCPSS employees
- Lunch and Recess hours are 11:00am - 2:30pm each day. Times will vary as it will be in 3 hour - 3.5 hour shifts.
- Compensation is \$14.00 per hour

Communication, initiative, and flexibility are important attributes for those interested in the Lunch and Recess Monitor position. Interested applicants can use [this link](#) to begin the application process. Please contact Brian Vanisko at bvanisko@hcpss.org or at 410-313-5512 if you are interested in learning more!

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 [September issue of Parent Pages](#).

School Meals 2022-2023

The federal government has NOT extended waivers allowing free meals for all students this year. It is important to apply for Free and Reduced Meals if you qualify. If you do not qualify for this program, breakfast will be \$2.00, and lunch will be \$2.80. A Free and Reduced Meals application is REQUIRED to qualify. Apply [HERE](#).

If you do not qualify for free and reduced meals, please consider registering for [MySchoolBucks](#). MySchoolBucks allows parents and guardians to pay for school meals securely online and allows parents to view account activity and receive balance alerts. You may already have an account with MySchoolBucks. If this is the case, you can log in, view your account, and ensure that your child has money on their account for school meals prior to the start of the school year.

2022-2023 Calendars are Online

You can access the HCPSS calendar [here](#). You also may view and/or download printable PDFs of the full calendar and/or important dates only. Updates to the PDFs will be noted on the HCPSS calendar page. PLEASE NOTE! The calendar is subject to change. The online calendar reflects the most recent version.

PTA News

WFES PTA Night at Chipotle!

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support West Friendship Elementary PTA. Come to the **Chipotle at 9120 Baltimore National Pike Lot A-1 in Ellicott City on Monday, September 19th** between 5:00pm and 9:00pm. [Bring this flier](#), show it on your smartphone, or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that a percentage of the proceeds will be donated to West Friendship Elementary PTA. You may also **order online for pickup and use code TT7MEJP**.

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

Cub Scout Pack 333 – Please Join Us!

Is your child interested in becoming a Cub Scout? Here is a great opportunity at the **Pack 333 Meeting on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30pm**. Your entire family is welcome to join. Adult leaders will be there to answer questions and talk with you about the fun plans that are lined up for the year and have engaging activities planned for the scouts. No prior knowledge or skills required. Stop by **Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30pm at St. James United Methodist Church at 12470 Old Frederick Road**. Boys and girls K through 5th grade welcome! For more info, contact Becky Ciecka (bciecka@c-cured.com) or sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4EA8AD2FA6FA7-interested>

Connect with us:



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