

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 13, 2019

From the Administrators

Back-to-Schools Nights are scheduled for next week. Again this year, we will host Back-to-School Night over three nights. Below you will find the schedule.

Grades 2 and 3 will present on Monday, September 16th

6:00 – Classroom Visits

6:15 – Announcements for parents to transition to grade level presentations

Grade 2 will meet in the Cafeteria

Grade 3 will meet in the Media

Grades 4 and 5 will present on Wednesday, September 18th

5:30 – Gifted/Talented Teachers will present **school-wide (K-5 program)** in the Media Center

6:00 – Classroom Visits

6:15 – Announcement for parents to transition to grade level presentations

6:20 – Grade 5 will meet in the Cafeteria

Grade 4 will meet in the Media Center

Grades K and 1 present on Thursday, September 19th

6:00 – Classroom Visits

6:15 – Announcement for parents to transition to grade level presentations

6:20 -- Kindergarten will meet in the Cafeteria

1st Grade will meet in the Media

As you can see, while these evenings will be full, they will also be valuable to you as you prepare to support your child throughout the school year. The evenings are geared to adults. If you must bring children, they must remain with you at all times.

Please look in Friday Folders for information on the new **WFES School-wide Behavior Management Program** which is based off of the program **1-2-3- Magic**.

School Portraits – Memories that Last a Lifetime!

Our school photographer will be at WFES taking individual student photographs on Wednesday, September 18th. **ALL** students will be photographed at that time, as these are the photos that will be published in our school yearbook. If you wish to purchase photos, please send your payment envelope in by September 18th. **You may also make an online purchase by visiting www.strawbridge.net and entering code FM315746.** Purchasing school pictures benefits our school, as it is a fundraiser. Take care of some upcoming holiday gift giving needs with school photos, and support our school at the same time!!!

Reminder to Complete or Renew Your FARMs Application

HCPSS participates in the Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMs) program. [Qualification](#) is based on family size and income, and enrollment is confidential.

Participation in FARMs qualifies students for a wide range of opportunities and resources beyond breakfast and lunch, including free college applications, free or reduced JumpStart tuition, discounted internet through the Comcast Internet Essentials program, and more.

Families must submit a new application every school year. During the first 30 school days, students with FARMs eligibility from the prior school year will be carried over. Any student who has not filled out an application up to the 30th school day will have their prior year status changed to full pay status until a new application is received.

Parents/guardians are highly encouraged to fill out the applications as soon as possible. It is very important that applications are filled out correctly.

- [Apply online](#)
- **Apply by mail:** Paper applications are sent home with students on the first day of school. Paper applications can also be picked up in the Food and Nutrition Service Office (5451 Beaverkill Rd, Columbia, MD 21044). Applications can be returned to your child's school or mailed to the Food and Nutrition Service Office: HCPSS Food & Nutrition Service Office, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

If you have questions regarding the program, please visit www.hcpss.org/FARMs or call Food and Nutrition Services at 410-313-6743.

Absences, Late Arrivals, and Early Dismissals

Parents are required to send a note to school explaining their child's absence when the student returns to school. The note must include the student's name, the date of the absence, and the reason for absence. In cases of three consecutive days of absence or frequent absence, a doctor's certificate is required.

When arriving to school late, **the student, accompanied by a parent/guardian, must report to the office for a late pass before he/she will be admitted to class.**

If it is necessary to pick up a student for early dismissal, please send a note in with the student that day. Early dismissals must be conducted prior to 3:30 p.m.

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 do not change dismissal plans after 3:15 p.m. 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 Volunteers/Chaperones Must Complete Training

Thank you for your interest in volunteering and/or chaperoning field trips within the Howard County School System! We value our volunteers and the contributions they make to our students and schools.

According to HCPSS Board Policy, all parent volunteers must complete a Confidentiality Training Course and a Child Abuse & Neglect Training Course. Please

visit <http://www.hcpss.org/parents/volunteer-information/> to complete both of these informative trainings. The course takes about 5 minutes to complete. Please complete the training, print the certification form, and return it to school. Thank you!

School Counselor Newsletter

New this school year! The HCPSS Elementary School Counseling Monthly Newsletter. Click here!

Save the Date!

Monday, September 16	Back-to-School Night for Gr. 2 & 3 Parents ONLY – 6:00pm
Wednesday, September 18	PTA Meeting – 9:30 am
Wednesday, September 18	Gifted/Talented Parent Information – 5:30 pm
Wednesday, September 18	Back-to-School Night for Gr. 4 & 5 Parents ONLY – 6:00 pm
Thursday, September 19	Back-to-School Night - Kdgn & 1st Gr. Parents ONLY -6:00pm
Friday, September 27	WFES PTA Outdoor Family Movie Night – 5:30pm
Monday, September 30	Schools and Offices Closed – Rosh Hashanah
Tuesday, October 8	Interim Progress Reports Issued
Tuesday, October 8	PTA Sponsored Cultural Arts Assembly, “Take Back Your Voice”
Wednesday, October 9	Schools & Offices Closed – Yom Kippur
Friday, October 18	Schools Closed for Students – Professional Work Day

Employment Opportunities at WFES!

Lunch/Recess Monitors

- Lunch/Recess Monitors support and assist students and paraeducators during multiple lunch and recess shifts
- Lunch/Recess Monitors are temporary employees and do not receive benefits
- Hours vary and will be between 11:15 AM to 1:45 PM
- Compensation is an hourly rate of \$10.50 per hour
- Communication, initiative, and flexibility are important attributes for those filling the position(s).

If you are interested in working 1 or more days per week, please contact our Assistant Principal, Brian Vanisko at brian_vanisko@hcpss.org or 410-313-5512 to schedule an interview.

Temporary Employee for Special Education Department

We are looking to hire a special education temporary employee. This is a 6hour/day, 5/days per week position. Responsibilities include working with the Special Education team to support student communication, engagement, social interaction, and independence. Pay rate is \$10.60/hour. No summer hours! School system schedule! This is a NON-benefit position. Please contact Assistant Principal, Brian Vanisko at brian_vanisko@hcpss.org or 410-313-5512 to schedule an interview.

From the PTA

PTA Proposed Budget

Attached please find the **proposed categorical budget for the 2019-2020 School Year**. We will officially vote on this budget during the September 18 PTA meeting.

Some background:

How is the PTA funded?

The WFES PTA is funded by generous donations by our families, community donors, and several fundraisers held throughout the year. Our “Hassle-Free” donations program

generates a significant income and our major fundraisers include Box Tops for Education, the Read-a-Thon, Spirit Wear, Square One Art, PTA membership dues and others.

Your support in fundraising efforts to help service the school is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

How are some of the PTA funds spent?

The WFES PTA proudly:

- Provides school wide assemblies that enhance each grade's curriculum
- Provides funds for student periodicals
- Provides funds for the Lending Library
- Provides birthday pencils and items for the PBIS cart.
- Provides staff with a disbursement amount for additional supplies for the classroom or curriculum
- Provides funds for the 5th Grade Simulated Congressional Hearing, Walking Wednesdays, and other educational events
- Provides meals for staff intermittently throughout the year
- Organizes activities for Teacher Appreciation Week and American Education Week
- Provides entertainment and snacks at Family Fun event
- Provides funds to promote beautification at WFES through student participation
- Organizes the Spring Festival

We have developed this budget with input from the administration, parent volunteers, and historical data. We hope you will agree that it meets our shared priorities - to advocate for the needs of our children, to provide relevant resources for our families and community, and provide additional support for the education and well-being of every child at West Friendship Elementary School.

Please contact Heather Campbell, the WFES PTA Treasurer, with any questions:

hcampbel@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you on September 18th.

WFES PTA Outdoor Family Movie Night

Please mark your calendar for Friday, September 27th. (Rain date – October 4th)

Please click here for more information.

WFES PTA Pokémon Club

Last year, WFES had an increasing number of students bringing the Pokémon trading cards to school to show and trade with classmates. This year, we would like to encourage and expand that interaction by forming a WFES PTA Pokémon Club for students in grades 3-5.

Please take a moment to complete a brief survey that will allow us to gauge your interest in a WFES PTA Pokémon Club. If you have a child or children who are interested in joining the club, please be sure to provide your contact information at the end of the survey.

We ask that you **submit your answers no later than September 18th**. Please let the PTA know if you have questions or concerns.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3JQ32LQ>

Thank you for your time and attention.

Girls on the Run Registration

Girls on the Run® inspires girls in grades 3-5 to be joyful, healthy, and confident by using running to teach valuable life skills. Our team of up to 20 girls meets twice weekly on Mondays and Fridays from 3:40-5pm for 10 weeks.

Each season concludes with the girls and their running buddies completing a 5K run. The fall season will start on September 23, with the season-ending 5k scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2019, in Columbia, MD. Program registration fee is \$175 and includes 20 lessons, 5K registration, water bottle, t-shirt, and all program materials. Financial assistance is available – no girl is turned away. Visit www.gotrcentralmd.org to register. Questions? Contact Ashley Royle ashleyroyle@yahoo.com