

West Friendship Elementary

Summer Updates

Dear West Friendship Families,

Our staff returned to the building yesterday and is hard at work preparing for the 2021-2022 school year. The energy and excitement is amazing and every person engaged in dialogue designed to reconnect with each other and reestablish our shared commitment to our students, families, and each other as we return to normalized instruction. Thank you to our fabulous PTA Staff Appreciation Committee for organizing donations of a variety of snacks and beverages to sustain the staff in the coming week. We are extremely grateful for your support and partnership.

We hope you are as eager as we are to kick off a new school year! There are so many ways to stay connected to the WFES community! Be sure to read through the Tiger Tales newsletter, sent every other Friday. Tiger Tales will help you stay informed about upcoming events and important information throughout the school year. Also, be sure to follow WFES on Facebook and Twitter. We often post information and reminders on these platforms, in addition to fun posts about what's going on at school! Lastly, we encourage you to join the PTA. Our PTA is already busy organizing many wonderful events for this school year. You can join by visiting the WFES PTA website, <https://mywfespta.weebly.com/>

As we enter a school year that may cause some trepidation, please know that we are dedicated to keeping students safe and happy while they learn! Thank you for entrusting us with your most valuable possessions!

Yours in education,

Ms. Kaye Breon, Principal

Mr. Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal

[WFES Facebook Link](#)

WFES Twitter Handle: @hcpss_wfes

We are excited to welcome the following to the WFES family:

Mrs. Kendra Albert, Teacher Intern with Samantha Mathis, 4th Grade

Ms. Kellie Frey, Reading Support Teacher (1-2 days week)

Mrs. Shereima Smith, Pupil Personnel Worker

Current WFES Teachers and Staff transitioning to different roles

Ms. Sue Donaldson, 1st Grade Teacher (from 5th Grade Teacher)
Mrs. Samantha Rowe, 2nd Grade Teacher (from 3rd Grade Teacher)
Ms. Katie Donegan, 3rd Grade Teacher (from 5th Grade Teacher)
Ms. Kim Hartner, 4th Grade Teacher (from 3rd Grade Teacher)
Mrs. Cassie Greene, 5th Grade Teacher (from 4th Grade Teacher)
Mr. Michael Moriarty, .5 Kindergarten ParaEducator (from Special ParaEducator)
Mrs. Mary LaRocco, Special Education 2nd and 4th Grades
Mr. Ira Wright, Special Education Kindergarten and 5th Grade
Mrs. Andrea O'Connor, Special Education 1st and 3rd Grades

Who will be my child's teacher?

To view your child's homeroom teacher for the 2021-22 school year, it is important that you first update your Family File (see directions below). On August 25th, homeroom teacher information will be available to those who have completed/updated their Family Files. After August 25th, Family File will continue to be the only way you can view your child's homeroom teacher. Go to hcpss.org/connect to log on.

Family File & Student Emergency Card Update

It is time to update your student's Family File information in [HCPSS Connect](https://hcpss.org/connect)! Family File provides emergency contact and other important information for students within the Howard County Public School System. Completing Family File also ensures you are receiving importation information and updates for HCPSS and MRHS. **This information must be updated EACH school year for EACH student.**

A video tutorial that explains the Family File process and written directions can be found below:

Video Tutorial [at this link](#)

Family File Directions [at this link](#)

Spanish Version [at this link](#)

Please note, updating your Family File is the only way families will be able to view teacher assignments for the upcoming school year. This information will be available August 25th, 2021. **In addition, the school needs this critical information prior to the first day of school.**

If you have already completed your Family File, we thank you! If you have not completed your Family File for the current school year, please complete the following as soon as possible:

[Log in to HCPSS Connect Synergy](#) using parent/guardian credentials

Select “More Options” from the left navigation

Select “Family File” at the top of the page

Complete each page of Family File

On the last page, select the blue Submit button

Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to provide or update the following information:

Student information

Parent/guardian contact

Emergency contacts

Medical information

Arrival/dismissal procedures

Media release (photo approval)

Data confidentiality

PTA/PTSA directory

Parents who have forgotten their login credentials for Family File may click the “Forgot Password” link on the sign-in page. If you need additional assistance, please call the school or complete the [Connect Help Form](#).

Important Note: A change of address cannot be made through Family File. If you have recently moved, please call the school at 410-313-5568 to make arrangements to send updated documents to staff.

Parents new to the Howard County Public School System will receive a welcome email with instructions on how to activate an account.

Parents may also check a variety of student information and classroom instructional tools offering personalized communication and timely, relevant, and easily accessible information relating to their student through [HCPSS Connect](#)

School Supply List

The first day of school is Monday, August 30th and we know you want to get a start on school supplies. Here is the [WFES school supply list](#) for each grade level.

New Student Registration

Do you know any neighbors or friends who still have to register their child for school at West Friendship? If so, please forward the following information to them. This will help us welcome them to our school, and ensure all families receive the necessary information they need. Thank you for your assistance.

[REGISTRATION INFORMATION](#)

School Meals

Breakfast and lunch are provided at no cost for all HCPSS students throughout the entire 2021-2022 school year. Our [Food Services webpage](#) has information about menus, nutrition and more.

Employment Opportunities at WFES

Close Adult Support to some of our students with special needs. This position requires an application with an outside agency that staffs these positions in our schools. The pay is \$13.00 an hour. The position is for 6-hours each day, 9:15am - 3:45pm. Please contact Mr. Vanisko, Assistant Principal at brian_vanisko@hcpss.org to let him know that you are interested.

Lunch/Recess Monitor - This position involves monitoring students during the lunch and recess periods Monday - Friday. Lunch/ Recess Monitors will be compensated at \$12.50/hour. Please contact Mr. Vanisko at brian_vanisko@hcpss.org to let him know that you are interested.

Important Dates

Friday, August 27th

1:00-1:50pm	Kindergarten and New Student Orientation
2:00-3:00pm	Open House for Grades 1-5

Monday, August 30

9:15am – 3:45pm	First Day of School for Grades K-5
9:15am – 10:30am	PTA Coffee Social at Tous Les Jours 9380 Baltimore National Pike, Suite 111, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Monday, September 6 Schools & Offices Closed – Labor Day

Tuesday, September 7 Schools & Offices Closed – Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 13

6:00pm	Kindergarten & Grade 1 Back-to-School Night**
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Tuesday, September 14

6:00pm	Grades 2 & 3 Back-to-School Night**
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Wednesday, September 16 Schools & Offices Closed – Yom Kippur

Monday, September 20

5:30pm	Gifted/Talented Information**
6:00pm	Grades 4 & 5 Back-to-School Night**

Tuesday, September 28 School Picture Day!

**** Back-to-School Nights are for parents and guardians only.** *These presentations are designed to answer parent questions about the grade-level specific curriculum, allow time for parents to meet their child's teachers and the parents of peers in each class, and hear about the upcoming school year.*

School Vaccination Clinic

The Howard County Health Department is offering a free back to school vaccination clinic. Please find flyers in [English](#) & [Spanish](#) to provide to your school community. Thank you!

Dates: August 30 & August 31, 2021

Time: 3:00pm - 7:00pm

Location: Howard Community College Athletic Center, 5500 Dragon Place, Columbia, MD 20144

Vaccines offered:

- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- MCV4 & MenB (meningitis vaccines)
- HPV (Human Papillomavirus)
- Tdap & DTaP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis)
- Polio
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Hepatitis B
- COVID-19 (children ages 12+)

Before attending this clinic, please note:

- Check with your child's doctor to see if they have already received these vaccinations, and provide a copy of this record to your school.
- Bring a copy of your child's immunization record and any notice received from your child's school regarding overdue immunizations.