

Dr. Debra L. O'Byrne Principal	Tiger Tales 	Mrs. Sara Cox Assistant Principal
West Friendship Elementary 12500 Frederick Road West Friendship, MD 21794 Phone 410-313-5512 Fax 410-313-5514		Website https://wfes.hcpss.org/ School Hours: 9:25 am – 3:55 pm

November 3, 2023

From the Principal's Desk

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK 2023

"Together for Safe, Just, and Equitable Schools"

What is American Education Week

During American Education Week, November 13-17, 2023, Americans nationwide will join the National Education Association (NEA) in raising awareness about the need to provide every child with a quality education. The celebration highlights the importance of bringing together educators, parents, guardians, students, and communities in a unified effort to build great public schools. It also reflects NEA's vision calling upon America to provide public school students with quality schools to grow and achieve in the 21st century.

Invitation to Visit Your Child's Class During American Education Week.

As part of the celebration, we invite parents and guardians to visit their child's classroom during the week. Below are the designated days and times for each grade level's visitation day. If you cannot visit on the specified day your child's grade level event is scheduled, you are welcome to visit any day during the week.

WFES Master American Education Week Visitation Schedule

Monday, November 13, 2023

- Coffee and Conversation with Administration - 9:45 to 10:30 am

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

- 2nd Grade - 12:50 to 1:45 pm

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

- Kindergarten - 9:40 to 10:40 am
- 5th Grade - 2:40 to 3:25 pm

Thursday, November 16, 2023

- 4th Grade - 1:40 to 2:30 pm

Friday, November 17, 2023

- 1st Grade - 9:40 to 10:40 am
- 3rd Grade - 2:30 to 3:25 pm

What to Expect When You Arrive

When you visit WFES, please be prepared to sign in at the front office or a designated sign-in table with your driver's license. You must complete the [volunteer and visitation trainings](#) and turn in the certificates prior to your visit. If you have already completed these forms this school year, you do not need to complete them again. **Younger children or siblings** are not permitted in the classrooms when parents/guardians visit. Additionally, we ask visitors to refrain from using cell phones in the classrooms.

We look forward to continuing our partnership in your child's education and are excited to see you at school during American Education Week.

Always for children,

Dr. Debra L. O'Byrne
Principal

Dates to Remember

Monday, November 6	Parent/Teacher Conference Sign Up Begins
Wednesday, November 8	Report Cards Issued
Wednesday, November 8	PTA Fundraiser at Yogi Castle – 12:00 to 9:00pm
Thursday, November 9	School Photo Makeup/Retake Day! More Details to Come
Thursday, November 9	Gr. 5 SCH Kick-Off (Students Only) – 2:45 to 3:45pm
Friday, November 10	School Spirit Day – Wear Red, White & Blue in Honor of Veterans Day
Friday, November 10	PTA Sponsored Fitness Friday! (Weather Permitting)
November 13 – 17	American Education Week
Monday, November 13	PTA Meeting in the Media Center – 7:00pm
Thursday, November 16	Parent/Teacher Conference Sign Up Closes
Monday, November 20	3 Hr. Early Dismissal (12:55pm) – In Person Parent/Teacher Conferences
Tuesday, November 21	3 Hr. Early Dismissal (12:55pm) – Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences
Wednesday, November 22	Schools Closed for Students
Thurs./Fri., Nov. 23 & 24	Schools & Offices Closed – Happy Thanksgiving!
Wednesday, December 13	Schools Close 3-Hours Early (12:55pm) – Professional Work & Wellness Day
December 25 – January 1	Schools & Offices Closed – Winter Break

School Information

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conference scheduling will open to parents on **Monday, November 6, 2023, at 8:00 AM**. The online conference sign-up will continue through **November 16, 2023, at 4:00 PM**. **Conferences with ELA teachers and the 4th grade GT math teacher** will take place during this window.

On **Monday, November 20, conferences will be in person only**. Teachers will hold all conferences in person at school, and parents may only attend their scheduled conferences in person. All conferences scheduled for **Tuesday, November 21, and Wednesday, November 22 will be held virtually**, via Google Meet.

First-grade parents will schedule conferences with the quarter one homeroom teacher, Mrs. Braswell, or Ms. Donaldson.

Related arts teachers will hold office hours. Conferences with related arts teachers are optional. If you would like a conference with related arts, please contact the teacher directly to meet during their office hours. Below are the emails of the related arts teachers:

Mrs. McCoy, General Music & Chorus	Christen_McCoy@hcpss.org
Mrs. Petrilla, Media	Amy_Petrilla@hcpss.org
Mrs. Schroder, Art	Michele_Schroeder@hcpss.org
Mrs. Bennett, Physical Education	Meghan_Bennett@hcpss.org
Mrs. McDonald, Technology	Tracey_McDonald@hcpss.org
Mr. Marini, Band	Nicholas_Marini@hcpss.org
Ms. Hagee, Orchestra	Rachel_Hagee@hcpss.org

Please note this is the first of two conference periods for the school year. There will be conferences following the end of the second quarter in February. The focus of those conferences will be math. Parents, please note

how your conferences will be held, in person or virtually. We encourage you to use the following resource on how to schedule your conferences, [QRC for parent teacher conferences](#).

Tips For Accessing HCPSS Connect to Sign Up for a Conference:

- It is recommended that you use a personal computer (not a mobile phone or tablet) and either the Google Chrome or Firefox web browser.
- If using a shared, family computer, confirm that you are **NOT** logged in as your child.
- Parents, please remember that you will need to use your own login and password, not your child's. Also, using a computer is the best way to access [HCPSS Connect](#).

Quarter 1 Report Cards Accessible on November 8

- Report cards will be posted in HCPSS Connect Synergy on 11/8 after 4:00 pm.
- For additional information regarding the HCPSS Elementary Report Cards please visit <https://www.hcpss.org/report-cards/>
- [Click here](#) for directions to access your child's report card.

MAP Reports

Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) home reports are available in HCPSS Connect. The MAP assessment was given to students in grades 1-5 in reading and mathematics. To view a running record of your child's standardized assessment scores:

- Go to <http://www.hcpss.org/connect/>
- Login and click on "Standardized Test Scores" on the left menu

WFES Celebrates Veterans

Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11th, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

WFES would like to honor the amazing veterans in our very own WFES family and community. During the month of November, we would like to display information about our veterans throughout the halls of our school.



If your child is sharing information about the Veterans in their family, please help them create a mini-poster (8 ½" x 11"), see [Mrs. Penny Smith's sample](#). The students can do this electronically or they may hand-draw and add scanned photos. Please note that these will be on display and may not be returned, so please do not use original photos. If you do not have access to a color printer, and your child creates an electronic submission, please email to penny_smith@hcpss.org. Include your child's name and homeroom teacher and **email by Tuesday, November 7th**, to ensure printing time.

If you have questions or need to submit this information in a different format, please contact our Principal's Secretary, Mrs. Penny Smith via Penny_Smith@hcpss.org.

School Pictures - Make-Up & Retakes - November 9th

School pictures were sent home with students today. Our school photographer will be at WFES on Thursday, November 9th to take photos of students who were absent on our original picture day. Our goal is to have a school picture of EVERY student for the yearbook.

The photographer will also do retakes for any student that is dissatisfied with the portrait that was taken in September. **Students requesting a retake must bring the original portrait package with them to school and return it to the photographer.** Next week, students who were absent on our original "picture day" will be given a flyer with school photo ordering information.

Please [click here](#) if you wish to view the photo packages that are available for purchase. You may also visit www.strawbridge.net and enter code **FM429461** if you wish to pay online. Purchasing school pictures benefits our school financially, as it is a fundraiser. Please consider school photos for your upcoming holiday gift giving needs.

Candy for the Courageous

Donate your extra wrapped Halloween candy to our Military Troops worldwide! Please separate the meltable candy from the non-meltable, put the separated candy in plastic zipper closed bags, and place the bags in the marked bins in the front lobby between November 1-7, 2023. We also encourage students to write letters or cards to the troops, which will be included in the shipment.

Impact Aid Forms Due December 14

Parents/guardians who work on a federal property in Maryland and/or are a member of a uniformed service can qualify HCPSS to receive federal funding by [completing the Impact Aid form](#) online by December 14. Impact Aid supplements the HCPSS operating budget to enhance the teaching and learning that takes place in Howard County classrooms.

After-School Activities at WFES this Fall

Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks offers a variety of after-school programs at West Friendship Elementary School. Parents may register students directly with HCRP. Please [click here](#) for complete details or see the full flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Weis 4 Schools

Do you shop at Weis? If so, please link your Weis Rewards card to WFES! Please see [this flier](#) for more information, including a QR code to link your Rewards card.

Harris Teeter Together in Education Rewards

If you shop at Harris Teeter, you can link your VIC card to benefit WFES. Follow these simple steps [HERE](#):

1. Enter email associated with your VIC account.
2. Enter the one-time passcode sent to your email.
3. Search for your school and click "add" to link.

Related Arts and the Color Calendar Schedule

Students participate in Related Arts daily for one hour. There are five related arts classes: Art, Media, Music, Physical Education, and Technology. The rotating schedule is called the Related Arts Color Calendar. We rotate days using the color calendar because there are a disproportionate number of days off on Mondays and Fridays. You can refer to the color calendar below. It is important to make sure your child dresses appropriately for the classes he/she has for related arts, especially for physical education.

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			yellow	green	blue	
	red	orange	yellow	green	blue	
	red	orange	yellow	green	blue	
	red	orange	yellow	green	blue	

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					yellow	
	green	blue	red	orange	yellow	
	green	blue	red	orange	yellow	
	green	blue	red	orange	yellow	

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	yellow	green	blue	red	orange	yellow
	yellow	green	blue	red	orange	yellow
	yellow	green	blue	red	orange	yellow

PTA News & Information

Join the PTA!

Remember that PTA membership must be renewed each school year. Please visit <https://westfriendshippta.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true> to join or renew.

Community Information

HCPSS Community News / Events

Families can quickly discover educational and recreational resources, events, and after-school programs offered by community non-profits on HCPSS's new Community News and Programs [website](#).

MARRIOTTS RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL MATTRESS SALE! Saturday, November 18th; 10 AM - 5 PM

The Marriotts Ridge Music Department is excited to announce our 4th Annual Mattress Sale Fundraiser to be held in the high school Commons on November 18th. Come try out one of 25+ brand name mattress models on display and place your order for a brand new mattress! In addition, there will be premium bedding accessories including weighted blankets, luxury pillows and sheets, and more for sale.

EVERY purchase benefits the music programs of Marriotts Ridge. Plus, we offer --

10% discount for HCPSS staff and community heroes! * Price Matching! * Financing Available!

For more info [click here](#) and please share the [FACEBOOK LINK](#) with all your family and friends!

Community Health Fair

This is a free event, and everyone is welcome; Saturday, November 11, 2023; 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Location: Glen Mar Church, 4701 New Cut Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043

[Click here](#) for more information.