

Dr. Debra L. O'Byrne
Principal



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

October 13, 2023

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Guardians,

October is National Bullying Prevention Month! We are excited to announce that October 16-20 is Digital Citizenship Week 2023. This initiative aims at promoting responsible and safe online behavior among our students. In today's digital age, our students must develop the skills and awareness necessary to navigate the online world confidently. One critical improvement point is balancing screen time and offline activities. Encourage your children to set limits on their screen time, engage in physical activities, and enjoy face-to-face interactions with friends and family. Use conversation starters like, "What's your favorite non-screen activity?" or "Tell me about a positive online experience you had recently." Additionally, explore resources such as Common Sense Media's Family Media Agreement and ConnectSafely.org for valuable tips and guidelines to help create a healthy digital environment at home.

Over the next two weeks West Friendship Elementary will continue to promote belonging, inclusivity, and awareness of Bullying Prevention. The dates and themes are listed below:

Date	Spirit Day	Purpose
October 18, 2023	Wear your new Culture Night Shirt or Something that Represents Your Culture	Help us show how many cultures are represented at WFES. Everyone is welcome here!
October 23, 2023	Wear your favorite outfit.	Bully Prevention Spirit Week - Be YOUUnique!
October 24, 2023	Wear matching clothes with a friend or group of friends.	Bully Prevention Spirit Week – You are not alone!
October 25, 2023	Wear Orange for Unity Day	Support Bullying Prevention Month by wearing orange to show we are UNITED for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.
October 26, 2023	Pajama Day! (no slippers)	Bully Prevention Week – Put bullying to rest!
October 27, 2023	Sports Jersey/Sports T-Shirt Day	Wear the jersey or t-shirt of your favorite sports team, or the team that you play for.

Please join in as spirit days are creative ways to promote deep learning on important topics.

The WFES PTA is a partner in the success of West Friendship Elementary School. We sincerely value and appreciate this partnership. The next **PTA General Assembly Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the media center.** There will be a vote on the 2023-24 school year budget and vote for a 2nd PTACHC delegate. If you have questions regarding the proposed budget, please send them to krolmobile@yahoo.com or kathryn.calton@gmail.com before the meeting. Please take time and review the following links: [September minutes](#) [Proposed budget](#) [Agenda](#)

Lastly, October 18, 2023, is the WFES Culture Night at 6:00 p.m. It will be a night of dance, demonstrations, performances, delicious food, and learning! Please come join us in celebrating our community.

Always for children,

Dr. Debra O'Byrne



Dates to Remember

Monday, October 16	Final Day of Winter Coat Drive!
Monday, October 16	WFES PTA Meeting – 7:00pm
Wednesday, October 18	Joe Corbi's Fundraiser End Date!
Wednesday, October 18	Spirit Day! Wear Culture Night Shirt or Something that Represents Your Culture
Wednesday, October 18	WFES PTA Cultural Night! – Please sign up to help!
Friday, October 20	Schools Closed for Students – Professional Work Day/MSEA Convention
Tuesday, October 24	WFES Flu Clinic – More Details Coming Soon!
Wednesday, October 25	School Spirit Unity Day! Wear ORANGE to Support Bullying Prevention Month!
Friday, October 27	School Spirit Sports Jersey/T-Shirt Day! Represent Your Sports Favorite Team!
Saturday, October 28	WFES PTA Trunk or Treat

School Information

Joe Corbi's & Claire's Gourmet Fundraiser



The fundraiser is four simple steps: 1) register, 2) share, 3) order, and 4) return summary sheet and total money due for your brochure orders. The pizza is delicious, and the pies and other sweet treats will arrive just in time for the November holiday. The fundraiser runs from October 2nd to Wednesday, October 18th with the items arriving on November 15th.

Students will have the opportunity to win exciting prizes such as the following:

- **TOP SELLING CHILD** - Principal for a half day!
- **TOP SELLING CLASSROOM** - Extra recess!
- **TOP SELLING GRADE** - Ice Cream/Popsicle Party!

IF WFES SELLS **300 ITEMS**, THE ENTIRE SCHOOL WILL EARN A PAJAMA & MOVIE DAY!

IF WFES SELLS **500+ ITEMS**, EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE FUNDRAISER WILL GET TO HELP DUCT TAPE THE PRINCIPAL TO THE WALL!

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

Winter Coat Drive

The Winter Coat Drive **continues until October 16th**. Please donate new or gently used CLEAN coats to help the less fortunate stay warm. You may place your donations in the bin inside our school foyer. This coat drive is sponsored by HCPSS Pupil Personnel Services & the PTA Council of Howard County.

WFES Flu & COVID Clinic – Tuesday, October 24th

Each year, the Howard County Public School System partners with the Maryland Partnership for Prevention to bring flu immunizations into our schools for students. This year, they will also be offering the latest Covid vaccine. Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is safe to [get a flu and COVID vaccine at the same time](#). If you have any concerns, please speak with your personal physician.

The clinic at West Friendship Elementary will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, during school hours. If you would like your child to be vaccinated against the flu and/or Covid at this clinic, please register at this link: <https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/2672438109>. You are **not** required to provide your child's insurance information.

If you have any questions, please call your school's health room at 410-313-5515.

Complete Mandatory Trainings NOW!!!

Teachers are planning for classroom volunteers, and grade levels are planning field trips! Please take time now to complete the two required trainings so you will be ready when fun opportunities present themselves. **If you plan to visit school, volunteer, or chaperone field trips this school year, please give this your immediate attention.** According to Howard County Board of Education Policy, all volunteers must complete **two** required training courses **each new school year**. All parents want to chaperone field trips and unfortunately there is always a limit to the number of chaperones we can take. Your name can only be selected to chaperone if you have completed these mandatory trainings.

Please visit <https://forms.gle/ZckhTs5QuMfyQesU6> and **follow the directions to complete and submit** both mandatory trainings. Please contact penny_smith@hcpss.org if you have questions or need assistance.



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.

October 2023

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

November 2023

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

December 2023

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

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.

Mabuhay! 안녕하세요! Hola! வணக்கம்! Buongiorno!

The PTA and WFES Proudly Present Culture Night!

WFES AND THE PTA INVITE YOU TO EXPERIENCE CULTURE NIGHT 2023

WED., OCTOBER 18TH

6-8 PM

GYM & CAFETERIA

Learn Irish dance steps,
watch a Korean martial arts
demonstration and enjoy
performances from our
Indian students!



Taste food from more than 20
countries including Hungary,
Thailand, Armenia and Ghana!

Get your "passport" stamped at 30 display
tables and meet WFES families representing
those countries!

Delicious
Valanti's Catering



Everyone who attends is entered
into a raffle for a restaurant gift
card!



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](#).

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission Student Oratory, Essay, and Poster Contests

Each year the MLK Holiday Commission recognizes students, individuals, and organizations with several contests and awards, including a Poster, Essay, and Oratory competition for grades K-12, and the "Living the Dream Award for individuals and organizations whose outreach efforts align with Dr. King's message and vision. The theme for this year is *"Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."*

The closing date for all contests is October 18, 2023.

Contest winners will be recognized at the **Celebration on January 14, 2024, at Howard Community College Horowitz Visual & Performing Arts Center.**

Please join us on January 15, 2024, at the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center for our Day of Service activities.

2024 STUDENT CONTESTS:

Honor Dr. King's Legacy & Win Cash Prizes!

Elementary, Middle & High School Poster Contest:

"Show how Howard County can be more welcoming to people of all backgrounds."

High School & Middle School Essay Contest:

Dr. King dedicated his life towards fighting for a better and more just society. Write about what makes your community great and how you've contributed towards its wellbeing.

High School & Middle School Oratory Contest:

Share a story about a time where you fought for humanity or equal rights. How did it make you feel and why did you do it?

GET AN APPLICATION:

@ [HTTPS://BIT.LY/HOCOMLK23](https://bit.ly/HOCOMLK23)

For More Information:

Call (410) 313-6430

Email: MLK@howardcountymd.gov



SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Entries must be received by
October 18, 2023 at 5:00 PM EST

Via Email: MLK@howardcountymd.gov

Via Mail: Howard County Office
of Human Rights & Equity
9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 237
Columbia, MD 21046

Office of Early Intervention Services

OEIS will host a Parent Cafe on October 24, 2023, for families of children birth to 5 years old. This is an opportunity for parents & caregivers to come together to share ideas to help take care of themselves, develop strong relationships with their children, and strengthen their families. Childcare and light refreshments are provided! Please share the [October Parent Cafe](#) flier with families--this event is free but registration is required. Any questions can be directed to EISFamily@hcpss.org.

Two Programs Offered in Partnership with HCDrugFree

FREE PARENTING CLASS

Guiding Good Choices®

Taking HoCo Families to the Next Level

Guiding Good Choices® is an evidence-based, interactive prevention program that helps you build a stronger bond with your child, while also providing skills proven to reduce the risk of children engaging in substance use or other risky behaviors. Learn how to:

- Prevent Drug Use in Your Family
- Develop Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards
- Avoid Trouble and Respond to Peer Pressure
- Manage Conflict and Express Feelings Constructively
- Strengthen Family Bonds
- And More!

This series of five Zoom classes is for **parents, guardians, and grandparents** of 9-14 year olds, but will consider slightly older or younger children on a case by case basis. Adult **or** child must be a Howard County resident.

Class Dates: Thursdays, November 2, 9, 16, 30, & December 7.
(Participants are encouraged to attend all 5 sessions.)

Time: 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Register: tinyurl.com/HoCoParentsFall2023

Learn more: hcdrugfree.org/currentevents

HCDrugFree
Empowering the Community

Medication & Sharps Disposal ^{Zoom}
Convenient Drive-Thru Event

Saturday October 28 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Safely dispose of:

- Prescription medication
- Over-the-counter medication
- Sharps (syringes, needles, EpiPens, etc.)
- Vitamins
- Pet medication
- Vapes without batteries
- Inhalers
- And more!

HCDrugFree ^{Zoom} **Wilde Lake Village Center Parking Lot**
Empowering the Community 5305 Village Center Drive, Columbia 21044

Volunteers Needed

Seeking students, adults, and medically-trained adults.
Spend some time making a difference in Howard County.
Community service hours available for students.

Medication Lockbox Giveaway!

We have 100 medication lockboxes to give away for FREE!

\$44 value. First come, first served.
Limit 1 per vehicle.

HCDrugFree.org

Proud to partner with Drug Enforcement Administration, Howard County Police, Howard County Public School System and PTAs/PTSAs, Howard County Government and Health Department.