

Dr. Debra L. O'Byrne
Principal



Mrs. Sara Cox
Assistant Principal

West Friendship Elementary
12500 Frederick Road
West Friendship, MD 21794
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Website <https://wfes.hcpss.org/>

School Hours: 9:25 am – 3:55 pm

October 20, 2023

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This past week, we celebrated the West Friendship Elementary Community as one at Culture Night. This night highlighted the diverse cultures represented in our community and uplifted commonalities. The festivities included food, dances, arts, photobooths, and many happy student faces. Thank you for the partnership between the WFES PTA Culture Night Committee and the WFES DEI Staff Committee for all the planning and preparation for a memorable night. A special thank you goes out to parent volunteer, Mrs. Nicole Huber for chairing a committee that hosted an amazing event for the school. "Together, we ROAR" and achieve more as one community.

West Friendship Elementary will continue to promote belonging, inclusivity, and awareness of Bullying Prevention. Please check the dates to remember for upcoming Spirit Days.

As in the past, West Friendship **will not be holding Halloween-specific activities during the instructional day. Costumes are not to be worn or brought to school.**

The **WFES PTA is hosting a spooktacular Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 28th, from 4-5 p.m.** This event is a perfect way to kick off the Halloween festivities in a safe and fun environment. If you would like to decorate your vehicle, please register [here](#). Space is limited! Set-up will take place from 3-4 pm. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place! PTA asks all trunk-or-treaters not decorating their cars to donate nut-free candy or non-candy treats. Please drop it off at the check-in table in exchange for tickets to vote for your favorite trunk. As always, the PTA is an all-volunteer organization. Click [here](#) to sign-up to help direct traffic or work the check-in table.

Thank you to all our students, parents, and staff who helped make our **Joe Corbi's fundraiser a success!** At the close of school yesterday, we were only 19 items away from reaching our school goal of selling 500 items! I was feeling relieved thinking I had escaped being duct taped to the wall until I learned there is still time to reach the goal! We can continue to collect Joe Corbi orders all weekend! You may turn in your **paper orders along with cash or check payments to WFES on Monday morning before 10:30am!** Could this be me in a few weeks???

Always for children,

Dr. Debra L. O'Byrne
Principal



Dates to Remember

Monday, October 23	School Spirit "Be Younique" – Wear Your Favorite Outfit
Tuesday, October 24	School Spirit "You Are Not Alone" – Wear Matching Clothes w/ a Friend(s)
Tuesday, October 24	WFES Flu Clinic
Wednesday, October 25	School Spirit Unity Day! Wear ORANGE to Support Bullying Prevention Month!
Thursday, October 26	School Spirit "Put Bullying to Rest" – Wear Your Pajamas (NO SLIPPERS)
Friday, October 27	School Spirit "Teaming Up to Include Others" – Wear Sports Jersey/T-Shirt Day!
Friday, October 27	Gr. 1 Field Trip – 9:30am to 1:30pm
Friday, October 27	Kindergarten Classes Visited by Fire Fighters
Friday, October 27	PTA Sponsored Fitness Friday! (Weather Permitting)
Saturday, October 28	WFES PTA Trunk or Treat – 4:00 to 5:00pm
Tuesday, October 31	Schools Close 3-Hours Early (12:55pm) – End of 1 st Marking Period
Wednesday, November 1	School Spirit Day – Wear School Spirit Wear or School Colors, Green & White
Friday, November 3	Yearbook Cover Contest Deadline
Friday, November 3	Gr. 2 Fire Safety House Activity
Friday, November 3	PTA Sponsored Fitness Friday! (Weather Permitting)
Wednesday, November 8	Report Cards Issued
Thursday, November 9	School Photo Makeup/Retake Day! More Details to Come
Friday, November 10	School Spirit Day – Wear Red, White & Blue in Honor of Veterans Day
Friday, November 10	PTA Sponsored Fitness Friday! (Weather Permitting)

School Information

West Friendship Elementary will continue to promote belonging, inclusivity, and awareness of Bullying Prevention. Please join in as spirit days are creative ways to promote deep learning on important topics.



Bully Prevention Spirit Week

Monday 10/23	Tuesday 10/24	Wednesday 10/25	Thursday 10/26	Friday 10/27
FAVORITE OUTFIT DAY	TWIN DAY	WEAR ORANGE	PAJAMA DAY	TEAM DAY
<p>Be YOUnique!</p> <p>Wear your favorite outfit!</p>	<p>Pair up against bullying!</p> <p>Wear matching clothes with a friend or group of friends.</p>	<p>Wear orange to show we are UNITED for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.</p>	<p>Put bullying to rest!</p> <p>Wear your favorite, school appropriate pajamas! (no slippers)</p>	<p>Teaming up to include others!</p> <p>Wear your favorite team jersey or t-shirt!</p>
				

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

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.

Yearbook Cover Contest!

**WFES YEARBOOK
COVER CONTEST**

**Submit your design for the cover
of the 2023-2024 WFES yearbook**

- **All designs should be created on an 8 1/2" by 11" piece of paper.**
- **The images used in your design should be outlined with thicker, dark lines.**
- **Show your creativity and celebrate WFES!**

**ALL CONTEST ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023.**

CONTACT MR HASKINS WITH ANY QUESTIONS

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	purple	blue	orange		
		purple	blue	orange		
		purple	blue	orange		
	yellow	purple	blue	orange		
		purple	blue	orange		
		purple	blue	orange		
		purple	blue	orange		
		purple	blue	orange		
		purple	blue	orange		
		purple	blue	orange		

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			yellow	purple	blue	
			yellow	purple	blue	
			yellow	purple	blue	
			yellow	purple	blue	
			yellow	purple	blue	
			yellow	purple	blue	
			yellow	purple	blue	
			yellow	purple	blue	
			yellow	purple	blue	
			yellow	purple	blue	
			yellow	purple	blue	

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					yellow	
					yellow	
					yellow	
					yellow	
					yellow	
					yellow	
					yellow	
					yellow	
					yellow	
					yellow	
					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](#).

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.

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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 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.