

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 10, 2023

From the Principal's Desk

Happy Veterans Day to all our WFES community veterans! We honor our veterans today by wearing red, white, and blue and displaying the veterans' pictures of special individuals in each of our families. Please check out the pictures on the office windows when you stop by for American Education Week next week. Students also learned a little about the history and importance of Veterans Day in classes. We have included some developmentally appropriate and child-friendly resources below to discuss and learn more at home.

- [Veterans Day by Britannica Kids](#)
- [Veterans Day Facts](#)
- [Picture Books About Veterans Day](#) (Visit our community partner - The Glenwood Branch Library.)

Next week is American Education Week. We look forward to opening the doors to all the WFES parents/families. Below is a schedule for visitation of grade levels and classrooms. I want to highlight that Monday, November 13, 2023, is a "Coffee and Conversation with Administration" in the cafeteria from 9:45 to 10:30 am. Please feel free to join us.

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
- 1st Grade - 1:45 to 2:30 pm
- 5th Grade - 2:40 to 3:25 pm

Thursday, November 16, 2023

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

Friday, November 17, 2023

- 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. No photos please!

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 13	Parent/Teacher Conference Scheduling Reopens – 8:00am
November 13 – 17	American Education Week (see schedule above)
November 13 – 20	Thanksgiving Food Drive (See Details Here)
Monday, November 13	PTA Meeting in the Media Center – 7:00pm
Wednesday, November 15	Joe Corbi's Delivery in Cafeteria – 2:30 to 3:30pm and 4:10 to 5:30pm
Friday, November 17	Parent/Teacher Conference Scheduling Closes – 12:00pm
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 reopen to parents on **Monday, November 13, at 8:00 AM**. The online conference sign-up will continue through Friday, **November 17, at 12:00 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**. 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. Parents of students now assigned to Mrs. Sturtevant's class should call the office to schedule with the student's previous teacher.

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.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

West Friendship Elementary is participating in a Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Howard County Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. Specific items are being collected based on the first letter of your last name. Please [click here](#) to see full details or you may scroll to the bottom of this newsletter. Thank you!

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.

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](#).

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.

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!