

WAVE NEWSLETTER

January 23, 2025

Important Dates:

January

- 27 - 31 ~ Great Kindness Challenge/School-Wide Spirit Week (See Details Below)
- 29 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day
- 30 ~ Family Fit Night, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- 31 ~ Conference Scheduling Window Closes, 4pm

February

- 04 ~ Report Cards Available to View in Synergy at 4:00 pm
- 05 & 06 ~ Elementary Schools Close Three Hours Early - Parent Teacher Conferences
- 07 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day
- 17 ~ Schools and Offices Closed - Presidents' Day

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

As we reach the midpoint of the school year, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the importance of maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all our students. One of the most critical issues we face as a school community is bullying, which can have lasting effects on children's well-being, social development, and academic success. We believe that addressing bullying requires a partnership between students, families, and school staff.

Understanding Bullying

Bullying is more than just occasional teasing. It is intentional, repeated aggressive behavior that can be verbal, physical, or social, and it often involves an imbalance of power. While some bullying behaviors can be overt, others are more subtle but just as harmful. Examples of bullying include:

- Physical bullying: Hitting, pushing, or damaging property.
- Verbal bullying: Name-calling, teasing, and hurtful comments.
- Social/Relational bullying: Spreading rumors, excluding others, and social manipulation.
- Cyberbullying: Using digital platforms to harass or intimidate someone.

How You Can Help at Home

Parents play an essential role in preventing bullying and supporting their children through difficult experiences. Here are some steps you can take:

- Talk to Your Child: Encourage open communication with your child about their social experiences, both online and offline. Discuss how they should handle situations where they witness bullying or experience it themselves.
- Set a Positive Example: Show your child how to be kind and respectful toward others.

Modeling good behavior in your interactions will teach them valuable social skills.

- Monitor Online Activity: If your child uses social media or online platforms, make sure you are aware of their online interactions. Cyberbullying can be particularly damaging, and it's important to stay engaged with your child's digital life.
- Reinforce Respect and Empathy: Remind your child that treating others with respect and kindness is always the right thing to do, no matter the situation. Teach them how to stand up for others in a positive way, not by fighting, but by seeking help and offering support.
- Support School Efforts: Be an active partner in your child's education and in the school's anti-bullying efforts. Attend parent meetings, participate in workshops, and reinforce school policies at home.

Together, we can build a culture of respect, kindness, and safety in our school, ensuring that every student feels valued and supported. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our students safe. More information can be found on the [HCPSS Stop Bullying website](#). An online version for reporting is available and can easily and confidently be used by students, staff, and family members. If you have any questions regarding this policy or its implementation, please contact a school administrator.

Educationally yours,
Ms. Williams-McKinney, Principal
Ms. Lorch, Assistant Principal

Counselor's Corner

During the month of February, our school counselors, Mrs. Dix and Mrs. Hannan, will be facilitating career-focused counseling lessons in all grades. These lessons are an important part of our school counseling program, which aligns with the ASCA framework for School Counseling. ASCA, the American School Counselor Association, is a professional organization that supports school counselors in their role to help students develop academically, socially, and emotionally.

Throughout these career-focused lessons, students will have the opportunity to explore their strengths and interests and learn about different career fields. The larger goal of these lessons, which build upon each other each year, is to help develop postsecondary plans including college, trade school, military, career paths, etc. Throughout these lessons, as well as the many others facilitated throughout the year, the school counselors are helping to build essential skills for success in college and careers.

Mrs. Dix and Mrs. Hannan look forward to these upcoming lessons to help all students gain a better understanding of themselves and the many exciting career paths available to them. If you have any questions about these lessons, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Dix or Mrs. Hannan.

Parent Teacher Conferences

February Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held Wednesday, February 5 and Thursday, February 6, 2025. Parent-Teacher Conferences in February will focus on **MATH**.

Below, please find specifics regarding conferences:

- All elementary schools will close three hours early on Wednesday, February 5 and Thursday, February 6, for parent-teacher conferences. There is no school for students

on Friday, February 7.

- Due to the limited number of available time spots, we ask that you schedule a conference if you have a concern or have questions specific to your child's progress.
- On Wednesday, February 5, afternoon conferences (after 1:00 p.m.) will be in person only. Teachers will hold all afternoon conferences in person at their schools and parents may only attend their scheduled conferences on this day in person.
- On Wednesday, February 5, evening conferences (after 4:00 p.m.) will be virtual only. If teachers choose to hold conferences on Wednesday evening, parents will only be able to attend evening conferences virtually.
- On Thursday, February 6, afternoon conferences (after 1:00 p.m.) will be virtual only. If teachers choose to hold conferences on Thursday afternoon, parents will only be able to attend conferences on this day virtually.
- Since GT teachers met with Grade 4 families in November, they will now hold February conferences for families of Grade 5 students only.
- Our related arts teachers are offering in-person virtual office hours during the parent/teacher conference window on February 5 and 6. You can use this time to stop by and ask questions about the related arts classes and curriculum. If you have specific questions about your child, please contact the related arts teacher to set up a parent conference.
- **Conference scheduling opens in Synergy on January 23, at 8:00 a.m. and closes January 31, at 4:00 p.m.**
- [Click here for directions to schedule a conference](#). We ask that you leave at least 15 minutes between sibling conferences to allow for transition time.

Thank you, as always, for your collaboration in supporting your child's education.

Great Kindness Challenge

January 27th-31st Dayton Oaks will be participating in the Great Kindness Challenge! Students will be encouraged to increase their kind acts over the week through both individual and class acts of kindness. Teachers will support this through SEL Lessons focused on kindness within the classroom, school, and community. Additionally, staff and students are invited to participate in the fun-themed days below:

School-Wide Spirit Days for Kindness Week

Monday 1/27: Kick off kindness week by wearing mismatched or bright-colored socks!

Tuesday 1/28: Kindness makes us stars: Dress in Hollywood theme or like a famous star!

Wednesday 1/29: No School

Thursday 1/30: Kindness makes us feel chill: Wear comfy clothes today!

Friday 1/31: Color our school with kindness: Wear colorful clothes today, even if they don't match to help brighten DOES as we close out kindness week!

Young Author's Contest Winners 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 Dayton Oaks Young Author's Contest winners have officially been selected!! Many students submitted entries this year and the judging was difficult. We have so many wonderful authors here at DOES! Without further adieu, the winners in each grade-level are...

First Grade Short Story - Mila Marple

Second Grade Poetry - Keara Harriot

Second Grade Short Story - Keara Harriot

Third Grade Poetry - Fatima Zaidi

Third Grade Short Story - Shannon McFarland
Fourth Grade Poetry - Jasmine Hotrabhavananda
Fourth Grade Short Story - Evelyn Misner
Fifth Grade Poetry - Kendrix Smallridge
Fifth Grade Short Story - Angie King

Congratulations to these young authors! The winners in each grade will have their writing submitted to the Howard County Level for judging. If their writing wins at the county-level, their families will be contacted, along with myself and their teacher, and they will be invited to an awards ceremony. Good-luck to all of our DOES winners!

Road to Kindergarten Workshops

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2025? Please save the date and join us for an upcoming Road to Kindergarten parent information session. All sessions will run 6:30-7:30 p.m. and cover the same content.

- At the session, you will learn:
- Expectations for school readiness (and receive a Ready for Kindergarten toolkit);
- Details about the HCPSS kindergarten program;
- Information about HCPSS kindergarten registration and website;
- Ways that families and children can be supported during the transition to kindergarten.

Information sessions will be offered at the following times:

- January 23, 2025, Centennial High School**
- January 28, 2025, Wilde Lake High School*
- SNOW DATE: February 4, 2025, Hammond High School**

*Spanish interpreter will be present at these sites.

**Chinese, Korean and Spanish interpreters will be present at these sites

Please note the following:

- If Howard County Public Schools are delayed due to inclement weather, the session will be held as scheduled.
- If Howard County Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the session is canceled. Participants may attend another date or the snow date.
- If Howard County Public Schools close early or even activities are canceled due to inclement weather, the session is canceled. Participants may attend another date or the snow date.

Child care is available at each session for children ages 2 and older; the session is designed for adults only. Please note, the session will include information regarding Kindergarten readiness, program components, and registration that is applicable to all HCPSS schools; specific school information will be shared by schools after registration is finalized.

Large crowds are anticipated; please allow ample time for parking, childcare drop off, and check in. Doors open at 6pm.

For more information, visit: www.hcpss.org/enroll/kindergarten/ or call 410-313-5693.

Early Admissions to Kindergarten, First Grade and Pre-K

[Early Admission to Kindergarten](#) and [Early Admission to First Grade](#) open on March 1, 2025. [Early Admission to Pre-K](#) opens on April 1, 2025.

Howard County Office of Children and Families

The Howard County Office of Children and Families is offering several parent workshops this month. Upcoming topics include:

- Selecting high quality child care
- Effective parenting plans for co-parents
- Kindergarten Readiness

You can view the flyer here: [Happy New Year from the Office of Children & Families](#)

Howard County Commission for Women

Howard County Commission for Women presents the 2025 Student Essay and Poster Contest to commemorate Women's History Month and to honor the national theme of ***Moving Forward Together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations***. The poster contest is open to all Howard County elementary, middle and high school students; the essay contest is open to all Howard County middle and high school students - public, private and homeschooled. For poster/essay contest rules and to enter, go to: www.howardcountymd.gov/CFW2025contest.

Family Support & Resource Center

Assists families in advocating for their child with a disability.

Services include:

- Workshops for parents and caregivers
 - Guidance in the IEP/IFSP process
 - Lending library including disability and special education related books and DVDs
 - Facilitation of parent groups
 - Weekly emails with upcoming events for you and your student
 - Service, community and recreational resources to support the specific needs of your family
 - Services are free
- Contact FSRC@hcpss.org

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

Winter 2025 After-School Classes at Dayton Oaks

Howard County Recreation & Parks before/after-school classes provide fun, structured, educational, and enriching activities for students on site at Dayton Oaks, benefitting both the child(ren) and parents!

[Dayton Oaks ES Winter 2025 Before & After School Classes Flier](#)

[Dayton Oaks ES Registration Page](#)

Reminders About Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

To ensure a smooth and safe arrival and dismissal for our students, please read the information below.

SCHOOL HOURS: 9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

ARRIVAL TIMES:

9:00 a.m. First bell rings/students may enter the building.

9:15 a.m. Second/late bell rings/students should be in the classroom.

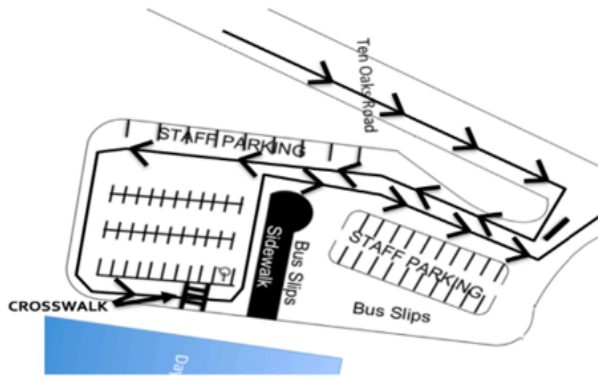
Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:00 a.m. Supervision is not available for students before this time. Before and after care is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

All children who are late must be accompanied by a parent and be signed into school in the front office.

DISMISSAL TIMES: Dismissal begins at 3:45 pm.

If you have to make a change to your student's dismissal, please send a note and/or email to their teacher, and notify the front office. If you have to make a change during the day, after your student has arrived at school, please email your child's teacher AND email the front office staff at: doesfrontoffice@hcpss.org. **No students will be released from the front office for early dismissal after 3:30pm.** This will help to ensure the safety of our students and cut down on confusion at the end of the day as afternoon dismissal begins.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures and Expectations: Please see the visual below for the flow of our car loop. Below the visual are the expectations and instructions for making arrival and dismissal of your student(s) as efficient and safe as possible.



Reminders for arrival and dismissal:

Use the car loop to drop off students. When you enter the parking lot, you must make the full loop around.

- There is NO PASSING in the carpool loop, unless directed by a DOES staff member.
- Never leave a car unattended in the carpool loop/line.
- Pull up as far as possible (to the peninsula sidewalk) before letting your child exit the vehicle. Please make sure there are no spaces between cars.
- Children will be let out of the passenger side of the vehicle only. Staff will assist children with getting in and out of the car. Parents should NOT get out of the car.
- Do not turn left to enter the bus loop area between 8:45 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. or between 3:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.
- It is extremely unsafe to walk behind or between buses in the bus loop. Take the extra minute in line to ensure everyone's safety.
- Parents should avoid parking and walking in unless they have an appointment within the building. The car loop area is safer with less pedestrian traffic and fewer cars moving within the parking lot.
- If you need to park, you must park in the larger lot by the carpool loop. This is the only area with a crosswalk to ensure safety when walking toward the building.
- The parking spots parallel to Ten Oaks Road are designated as Staff Parking during arrival and dismissal. Entering or exiting your vehicle is unsafe from these parking spaces while traffic from the car loop is flowing.
- All traffic must flow in one direction.
- If you are leaving a parking spot during arrival or dismissal, follow the directions of school staff. You may need to wait for cars to continue through the car loop before you are directed to pull out of the lot. The priority is to keep the car loop flowing.

- Please be courteous and respectful to both staff and other families.

Volunteer in the Media Center!

The Media Center is looking for volunteers to help with shelving and other small projects. Please consider signing up to volunteer by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4AAEAE29A0FE3-51264532-media/73721223#/>

Health Room Reminders

Any medications required during school hours including prescription, “over-the-counter” (OTC) and homeopathic/herbal medications require a medication order signed by an approved health care provider and are subject to the HCPSS medication policy and procedure.

Medication form

- Have a student with allergies? Learn more about [ordering an epipen and our allergic reaction protocols](#).

School health room staff administer medications, store medications in the school’s health room and keep records of when medications are taken by the student.

Approved Non-Medications:

The items below are not considered medications. Students may bring the items to school without a medical prescription. Health Services requests that a parent/guardian note accompany the item to serve as permission to bring to school.

- Sunscreen
- Chapstick
- Hand lotion
- Non-medicated cough drops
- Saline contact solution

Sunscreen must be supplied by an individual student and is not to be shared with other students due to potential allergens and skin reactions.

Please contact the health room at 410 313-1575 if you have any questions.

Immunization Clinics:

The Howard County Health Department is hosting clinics for students that are in need of immunizations for the start of the school year.

[Childhood Immunization | Howard County \(howardcountymd.gov\)](#)

Student Technology Reminder - Personal Devices

HCPSS Policy 8080 [Links to an external site.](#) - Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media states that elementary school students “will keep personal technology devices in backpacks during the school day, unless otherwise authorized by school administrators or instructional staff.”

If your child has a personal device, please review this policy with them. As stated in Policy 8080, students who bring these devices to school will be instructed to place them in their backpacks for the duration of the school day. Thank you for your partnership.

Attendance/Reporting Absences

Parents can email DOESabsence@hcpss.org to report a student's absence. Please include your child(ren)'s full name, parent's/guardian's full name and phone number, the date your child(ren) was absent and the reason. Parents may instead choose to send in a paper excuse note to their child's teacher with the same information when the student returns to school.

For families requesting local discretionary absences, please complete a [Local Discretionary Absence Request Form](#) and submit it to the front office at least one week in advance.

Volunteer Training Required for Volunteers and Visitors

Anyone volunteering at school in any capacity, including parents joining their children for lunch, are required to complete volunteer training prior to their first visit. Please visit [HERE](#) for more information. Thank you in advance for your willingness to support our staff and students at DOES.

2024-2025 School Meals Information

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about HCPSS meal information.

Pricing for school meals for 2024-25:

- Breakfast - \$2.00
- Lunch - \$2.80

Many HCPSS families are eligible to participate in the [Free and Reduced Price Meals \(FARMs\) program](#), which provides children with a wide range of benefits including free or discounted college tuition, testing and application fees, academic and athletic program fees and many others in addition to free or discounted meals. Families are urged to check their eligibility and complete a [FARMs application](#) as soon as possible. Families must submit a new application every school year.

Community News

Please visit the HCPSS website [Community News and Programs site](#) for upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.