

WAVE NEWSLETTER

January 9, 2025

Important Dates:

January

- 10 ~ Spirit Day/Purple Friday - Wear purple, your favorite Ravens gear or your favorite sports team gear/colors!
- 13 ~ Band & Chorus Winter Concert; 6 pm for Band, 7:15 pm for Chorus (Snow Date: 1/16/25)
- 14 ~ Group/Club Memory Book Pictures
- 20 ~ Schools and Offices Closed - MLK, Jr. Day
- 23 ~ End of 2nd Marking Period
- 23 ~ Schools Close Three Hours Early - Professional Work and Wellness Day
- 29 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day
- 30 ~ Family Fit Night, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear DOES Families:

This is the time of year when the winter season takes a toll on school attendance. Common illnesses such as colds, flu, fevers, earaches and Covid-19, along with unpredictable winter weather, can result in students having to miss school. These absences, even when they are excused, break the routine of daily attendance that contributes to students feeling connected and engaged in learning. Please consider these steps to keep your children healthy and in school this winter:

1. If your children get sick or you are concerned about Covid or the flu, please visit the [Howard County Health Department's \(HCHD\) website](#) or talk to your child's medical provider or the school nurse for guidance.
2. Sometimes, stomach pain and headaches can be signs of anxiety and may not be reasons for keeping a child home. If you feel that anxiety or stress is playing a role in your child's ability to attend school, talk to your child's teacher, the school nurse, counselor or your medical provider about how best to support your child.
3. Encourage children to wash their hands before and after eating and after using the restroom.
4. Avoid sharing cups and utensils with other individuals.
5. Dress your children for the cold weather. If you need help with winter clothing, please let us know. Visit the [HCHD website](#) for cold weather safety information.
6. Encourage healthy habits such as getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods, drinking fluids and getting exercise.
7. If your children need to stay home for a prolonged period due to illness, please reach out to your child's teacher to find out about resources they can use at home to keep learning once they feel well enough.

Let us know how we can help you. If you need resources or guidance, please contact the school at 410-313-1571. Thank you for partnering with us and we look forward to seeing your children in school all year long.

Educationally yours,

Ms. Williams-McKinney, Principal
Ms. Lorch, Assistant Principal\

Counselor's Corner

Dayton Oaks will be participating in The Great Kindness Challenge again this year! Join us in the nationwide kindness movement that encourages acts of kindness in schools and communities from January 27th-31st! You can find more information on The Great Kindness Challenge website here: [The Great Kindness Challenge](#) (links to external site).

The 4th Grade student leadership group, the FISH Ambassadors, are planning ideas to support all students and teachers at DOES in small acts of kindness around the theme of Kindness Moves through morning announcements this month, bright posters, and ideas for SEL time as a class. They hope that everyone will get into the action of spreading more kindness!

How to Spread Kindness at Home:

- **Write a card:** Express gratitude to a family member, neighbor, or teacher.
- **Create a Kindness Dance:** Choreograph a dance that celebrates kindness and perform it for loved ones.
- **Invite a friend to play:** Reach out to a neighbor or classmate for a fun afternoon.
- **Make a special call:** Call a family member or friend to brighten their day.
- **Helpful Chore:** Do something to help a family member or friend in need.
- **Creative Kindness:** Create something for someone else.

If you have any questions or would like to connect with one of the school counselors, you can reach out to them via email: Stephanie_Dix@hcpss.org or Alyson_Hannan@hcpss.org

5th Grade Parent Night

An event for parents to get an overview of middle school, our G/T programs, and a sense of what a day in the life of a 6th grader will be:

LKMS: January 22nd at 6:00pm (Snow date: January 30, 2025).

FQMS: January 21st at 6:00pm (Snow date: January 30, 2025)

Band Notes

Congratulations to the Band Musicians of the Month for January! These Band Students will have their names displayed on the Band Bulletin Board as well as in the Howard County Times Newspaper. Keep up the great work and awesome attitudes!

Ethan Chung - Alto Saxophone

Haya Rafiq - Clarinet

Reid Rategh - Trombone

Augusts Purdon - Trombone

Henry Cheng - Percussion

Gavin Rose - Percussion

Emily Ruiz Saravia - Trumpet

Jacob Kufel - Trumpet

Ryan Pearlman - Clarinet
Owen Interiano - Clarinet
Audrey Guzman - Flute
Yusuf Arain - Flute
Jaiden Richa - Trombone
Jack Ren - Trombone
Carter McKenna - Percussion
Warner Shipe - Percussion
Clay Bogard - Trumpet
Whittacre Scheuneman - Trumpet

Amy Bejm Syversen (she/they/them) - Director of Bands



Road to Kindergarten

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2025?

Please join us for an information session about Kindergarten ‡
in the Howard County Public School System.

At this session you will learn:

- Expectations for school readiness (and receive a *Ready for Kindergarten* toolkit).
- Details about the HCPSS kindergarten program, website and kindergarten registration process.
- Ways that families and children can be supported during the transition to kindergarten.

**Choose a session that is convenient for you.
No registration required.**

Child care is available at each session for children ages 2 and older; the session is designed for adults only.

Large crowd anticipated; please allow ample time for parking, childcare dropoff, and check in. Doors open at 6 p.m.



If Howard County public schools are closed for inclement weather, the session is canceled.

All sessions will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Tues., January 21, 2025 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Hammond High School* 8800 Guilford Road, Columbia, 21046
Thurs., January 23, 2025 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Centennial High School** 4300 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City, 21042
Tues., January 28, 2025 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Wilde Lake High School* 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, 21044
SNOW DATE** Tues., February 4, 2025 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Hammond High School** 8800 Guilford Road, Columbia, 21046

Snow date will only be held if one of the above sessions is canceled.

* Spanish interpreter will be present at these sites.

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

‡ Please note, the session will include information regarding Kindergarten readiness, program components, and registration that is applicable to all HCPSS schools; specific school information and events will be shared by schools after registration is finalized.

For more information visit ...
www.hcpss.org/enroll/kindergarten/



www.facebook.com/HoCo-Schools/



@HCPSS

Or call 410-313-5693



An early language initiative supported by the Howard County Early Childhood Learning Council

HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Howard County Office of Children and Families

[Free Family Workshops and Parent Pages Newsletter](#)

[Family Support Center - January Calendar of Events](#)

[The Basics](#)



Free Family Workshops & Parent Pages Newsletter

January 2025

[Read the Parent Pages Newsletter](#)

Managing Your Family's Schedules and Stress Levels

Start the new year off with a fresh start. Gain strategies and resources to manage your family's activities and responsibilities and prioritize, organize, and reshape your family's routine. Walk away feeling empowered to start the new year in control.

Thursday, January 9, 12:30 p.m. Free virtual workshop.

Register [here](#)

Understanding Early Intervention Services and Child Development

Concerned about your child's development? Research shows 68% of 3rd graders who received early intervention no longer need special education. Learn how to request developmental testing through the Infants and Toddlers and Child Find Programs. Discover the significant benefits of early intervention and other valuable community resources to support your child's growth. Information for children ages birth to five.

Monday, January 13, 6:00 p.m. Free virtual workshop.

Register [here](#)

Selecting High Quality Child Care

Selecting child care can feel overwhelming for parents. Everyone wants to find care that meets their needs: a safe and healthy environment, a place where their child enjoys attending, convenient hours and location, and a program that is affordable. Learn how to choose the right child care program for your family and how to apply for the Child Care Scholarship to help with tuition.

Tuesday, January 14, 7:00 p.m. Free Virtual Workshop.

Register [here](#) &

Wednesday, January 22, 1:00 p.m. Free Virtual Workshop.

Register [here](#)

Howard County Office of Children and Families

www.howardcountymd.gov/family-institute



To visit our website and register, scan the QR code

Family Workshops

Click on the Family Institute

Newsletter

Click on Parent Pages

www.howardcountymd.gov/parentpages

For questions or assistance with registering, call 410-313-2273 (voice/ relay) or email children@howardcountymd.gov

Programming questions, email Lisa Rhodes at lrhodes@howardcountymd.gov

Effective Parenting Plans: Co-Parenting Across Two Households

Creating a successful parenting plan is crucial for fostering a harmonious and supportive environment for children, especially when parenting across two households. Learn key elements of building a comprehensive parenting plan, focusing on the practical steps and strategies needed to ensure a smooth and collaborative co-parenting experience.

Monday, January 27, 7:00 p.m. Free virtual workshop. Register [here](#)

From The Womb To The Classroom: Kindergarten Readiness

It is never too early to lay the foundation for learning. Discover how early parent-child experiences shape your child's development for their success in kindergarten and beyond.

Thursday, January 30, 7:00 p.m. Free virtual workshop, Register [here](#)

[Grand Connections series](#)

Introducing the Grand Connections series: Are you a grandparent providing care for a grandchild under five? Want to learn more about how to make the most of your time with your grandchild, connect with other grandparents and catch up on the latest info on raising little ones? Join the Office of Children & Families staff and explore the unique bond between grandparents and their grandchildren! Saturdays starting in February at Elkridge 50+ Center. Workshops cover current caregiving strategies, partnering with parents, bedtime strategies, screentime, mealtimes, behaviors, and routines. To view entire series, visit [here](#)

Grandparents: The Cornerstone of Early Child Care

Discover the vital role grandparents play in shaping a child's early years. This workshop explores effective caregiving strategies, fosters stronger intergenerational bonds, and provides tools to support your grandchildren's growth and development with love and wisdom.

Saturday, February 1, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Elkridge 50+ Center, Patapsco Valley Free, Register [here](#)

Sharing the Care with Adult Children and Other Caregivers

Caring for a loved one is a team effort. This workshop provides practical strategies for collaborating with adult children and other caregivers to create a cohesive and supportive care plan. Learn how to communicate effectively, set boundaries, and ensure everyone's needs are met in a balanced and compassionate way.

Saturday, February 8, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Elkridge 50+ Center, Patapsco Valley Room. Free, register [here](#)

Good Night, Sleep Tight

Sleep is essential for health and well-being, but achieving restful nights can be a challenge for caregivers and their loved ones. This workshop explores practical tips and proven techniques to improve sleep quality, manage sleep disruptions, and create a soothing bedtime routine for you and those in your care.

Saturday, February 22, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Elkridge 50+ Center, Patapsco Valley Room. Free, register [here](#)

[The Basics Howard County | The Basics Insights text messaging](#)

Research shows that 90% of brain growth happens by age five. The Basics provide five simple things parents can do to make the most of these early years. Parents in Howard County can receive free tips directly to their phone to support their child by [signing up](#) for Basics Insights. These weekly text messages provide suggestions based on your child's developmental stage, from birth to age five (available in English or Spanish). [Learn more.](#)

To request this information in an alternate format, or accommodations to participate in these workshops, email children@howardcountymd.gov or call the CARE Line, 410-313-CARE(2273) (voice/relay).

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

Ins and Outs of Middle School for Parents/Guardians

What parents of students in 5th grade need to know about middle school.



January 15, 2025 at 10am
January 15, 2025 at noon
January 16, 2025 at noon
January 16, 2025 at 6:30pm

Presentation will be one hour. Parents/guardians should register using link below:
<https://forms.gle/oK1sT4hgebtDtcKo9>

Meeting code link will be shared on January 13, 2025.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMICS

Are the grading standards different at the middle school level? When will my child work on IEP goals? What interventions are available? What are the guidelines in communicating with the 7 teachers? What is Canvas and how do parents access?

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

How will my student navigate lockers, middle school schedule, changing classes and the new organizational demands of middle school? How will my child be involved in clubs or after school activities? Presented by Howard County Public School System Department of Special Education Staff. For further information please call the Family Support & Resource Center at 410 313-7161.

BSAP Saturday Math - Spring 2025 Program

The HCPSS Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP) Saturday Math Academy (SMA) will offer an in-person enrichment program for Howard County Public School System students in all levels of math for grades 3 through 12 based on course availability. The BSAP Saturday Math Academy has been in existence since 1992. The program was developed in response to parents seeking math enrichment for their students. The priority was to learn instructional mathematical strategies to support their children at home and to accelerate academic achievement.

- **Essential Program Information**
 - Spring 2025 Registration (Virtual)
 - Registration will take place via HCPSS Connect on Saturday, January 4, 2025, from 9:00 a.m.- until capacity is reached. Class space is limited. Instructions for registration are linked below.
 - [HCPSS Connect Instructions \(English\)](#)
 - [HCPSS Connect Instructions \(Spanish\)](#)
 - [HCPSS Connect Instructions \(Chinese\)](#)
 - [HCPSS Connect Instructions \(Korean\)](#)
- **Spring 2025 Program Sessions (In-Person): Sessions will take place on Saturdays from 9:00 AM -12:15 PM on the following dates:**
 - Saturday, January 25th
 - Saturday, February 8th
 - Saturday, February 15th
 - Saturday, February 22nd
 - Saturday, March 8th
 - Saturday, March 15th
- **Program Fee:** \$80.00 Students eligible for FARMs fee: \$40.00
- **Program Location:** Oakland Mills High School- [9410 Kilimanjaro Road Columbia, MD 21045](#)
- Students will participate in math instruction as well as enrichments including chess, choir, STEM, or coding.
- Families who register their child(ren) for the program in HCPSS Connect are requesting enrollment. Notification will be emailed to families whose request was accepted.
- Acceptance in the program will be based on a first-come first-served basis and available space in the specified class.
- **Payment Options:** Families whose enrollment request is accepted will receive information regarding payment through MySchoolBucks. Additional payment options are available below:
 - **Online:** Payments can be made through MySchoolBucks (4% service fee will be applied).
 - **Drop Box:** Payments may be dropped off at the BSAP Office Drop Box located to the right of the BSAP Office door at the Old Cedar Lane Building. Please download the [Registration Payment Form](#) and include the completed form with your payment.
 - **Old Cedar Lane Building**
BSAP Office
[5451 Beaverkill Road](#)
[Columbia, MD 21044](#)
 - A student is not enrolled in the program until the program fee is paid. If payment is not received by the requested date, the child's enrollment will be forfeited.
 - Families of enrolled students will receive an invitation to a virtual Family Orientation on **Saturday, January 18th** from noon-12:45 p.m.
 - The attached documents will provide additional information:
 - [BSAP SMA Spring 25 Flyer \(English\)](#)
 - [BSAP SMA Spring 25 Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)
 - [BSAP SMA Spring 25 Flyer \(Chinese\)](#)
 - [BSAP SMA Spring 25 Flyer \(Korean\)](#)

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.

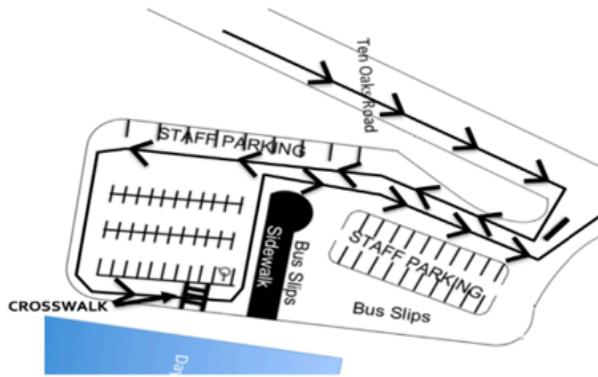
Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:00 a.m. Supervision is not available for students before this time. Before and after care is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

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>

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.