

WAVE NEWSLETTER

February 6, 2025

Important Dates:

February

- 07 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day
- 10 - 14 ~ Friendship Week (see details below)
- 12 ~ PTA Meeting, 7:00pm
- 17 ~ Schools and Offices Closed - Presidents' Day
- 27 ~ Black History Month Event, 6:30pm

March

- 03 - 07 ~ Kindergarten and New First Grader Registration Kickoff

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear DOES Families:

As we begin the month of February, we would like to take a moment to recognize and celebrate several important events within our DOES community: Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day, and Black History Month.

The Lunar New Year is celebrated this year from January 29 through February 12, 2025. This marks the Year of the Snake, symbolizing qualities such as rebirth, regeneration, and the pursuit of love and happiness. During this time, families honor the arrival of spring and the end of winter. It's a wonderful opportunity to highlight Asian traditions, enjoy delicious food, and make wishes for a prosperous new year. We are so grateful to the families who have graciously contributed to decorating our hallways to celebrate this meaningful occasion and for sharing their savory dishes with our DOES staff.

Valentine's Day will also be celebrated at DOES on Friday, February 14. This day offers a chance to emphasize the values of "friendship and kindness" within our school community. Students and staff will participate in classroom activities and celebrations throughout the afternoon, with a focus on spreading kindness and appreciation for one another.

Additionally, February marks Black History Month, a time to honor and reflect on the contributions and achievements of Black Americans. This year's theme, "African Americans and Labor," explores the ways in which work and labor have shaped the experiences of Black/African American individuals. As part of our celebration, our students will engage in SEL lessons centered on being productive, persistent, proud, and prepared. We are also excited to announce that our PTA has organized a Black History Month Family Program, which will take place on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the DOES Cafetorium.

We invite you to join us in recognizing these special events and in celebrating the diverse and vibrant community we have here at DOES. Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we work together to create a meaningful, inclusive environment for all of our students.

Educationally yours,

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

Counselor's Corner

Dayton Oaks will celebrate Friendship Week February 10th-14th! The School Counselors are collaborating with classroom teachers to plan a special week of SEL activities focused on the importance of friendship by focusing on themes like kindness, empathy, and celebrating our unique qualities! Developing meaningful friendships at school helps students increase their sense of belonging by feeling more accepted, happy, and safe. When students feel more comfortable and connected, they are more likely to participate in class and take necessary risks in learning. Planning fun weeks like Friendship Week is an important part of the counseling program at DOES. Not only does it make school more enjoyable, it can boost student confidence and teach valuable skills such as sharing, cooperation, and problem solving.

If you would like to promote friendship at home, you may find these suggestions helpful:

- **Model Positive Friendships:** Show your children how to be a good friend through your own interactions with friends and family.
- **Teach Empathy:** Encourage your child to notice and understand the feelings of others. This can be done in real-life moments or through books, TV shows, or movies.
- **Practice Active Listening:** Help your child develop strong listening skills by practicing eye contact and responding thoughtfully to what others have to say.
- **Problem-Solve Together:** Talk through disagreements and conflicts with your child to find solutions that work for everyone.
- **Celebrate Differences:** Encourage your child to appreciate and value the unique qualities that make each person special.
- **Do Kind Acts:** Perform acts of kindness together, such as helping a neighbor or volunteering in your community.

We look forward to a week filled with friendship and fun! Please reach out to one of the School Counselors if you would like to discuss additional ways to promote positive relationships for your child at school!

Learning Together Program

The Dayton Oaks Early Childhood Classes are making preparations for the upcoming 2025-2026 School Year and are accepting applications for general education students to participate as peers through the **Learning Together Program (LTP)**. These classes include general education and special education students. The program's focus is helping all children develop communication, literacy, math, problem solving, motor, and social skills. Parents of children who will be 3 by September 1st, applications will be available and accepted in **mid February**.

In alignment with [*Maryland's Blueprint for the Future*](#), ***new LTP applications for students turning 4 by September 1 will not be available.*** The Howard County Public School System continues to offer Prekindergarten for income eligible children who will be 4 years old by September 1. For additional information contact the school or visit:

<https://www.hcpss.org/schools/pre-k-programs/>

HCPSS is committed to providing instruction based on the statewide Early Learning Standards which are in alignment with Kindergarten Readiness. The fees listed in the application will be collected monthly regardless of the learning model determined by HCPSS throughout the upcoming school year (virtual, hybrid, in person, or class quarantine). If you have any additional questions, please contact Christina Borgfeld at 410-313-1571 or christina_borgfeld@hcpss.org.

Maryland Accreditation Standards

Our Pre-K program has recently completed its self-appraisal using the [Maryland Accreditation Standards](#). Participating in Maryland Accreditation is a way for our Pre-K program to demonstrate its commitment to providing high-quality learning environments and continually making improvements to benefit children, families, and staff. Our self-appraisal team comprised teachers, administrators, family, and community members. As a result of our initial self-appraisal, we have developed a Program Improvement Plan that will address the following goals:

- Increase the presence of authentic child-generated art and language through displays and written dictation.
- Provide opportunities to write at each learning center with various materials and tools.
- Provide additional opportunities on the playground for students to engage with prop boxes and materials for building
- Add labels to tubs, trays, bins and baskets.
- Support diversity within the classroom with instructional materials that are authentic and accurate and reflect the students.
- Add a variety of books and text materials in multiple places in the rooms

Over the next few months, we will collect documentation and artifacts to verify the quality of our program. We're eager to make program improvements and achieve Maryland Accreditation! Please contact your child's teacher with questions about Accreditation or our Accreditation Program Improvement Plan.

Band Musicians of the Month

Congratulations to the Band Musicians of the Month for February! These students will have their names listed in the Howard County Times Newspaper and will see their names on the band bulletin board during the month of February. Keep up the hard work and awesome attitudes!

Bennett Peters - Trombone
Keira Huntington - Trumpet
Kendrix Smallridge - Alto Saxophone
Alexandra Kufel - Clarinet
Lucas Soepnel - Trombone
Aaron Cheng - Percussion
Jack Formica - Alto Saxophone
Hemayeth Naqvi - Flute
Ezra Lowy - Trombone
Jacqueline Crimmins - Clarinet
Chase Jorgenson - Alto Saxophone
Madeline Brenner - Clarinet
Haleigh Boothe - Flute

Mack Minutoli - Euphonium
Cassidy Howell - Percussion
Elise Rovito - French Horn
August Wang - Trumpet
Ethan Guzman - Trombone

Howard County Office of Children and Families

The Howard County Office of Children and Families is offering several parent workshops this month. These programs are free and geared for families with children ages Birth - 5. To view the full schedule of February's Parent Workshops, please click on this month's publication of [Parent Pages](#).

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

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#/>

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 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.

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.

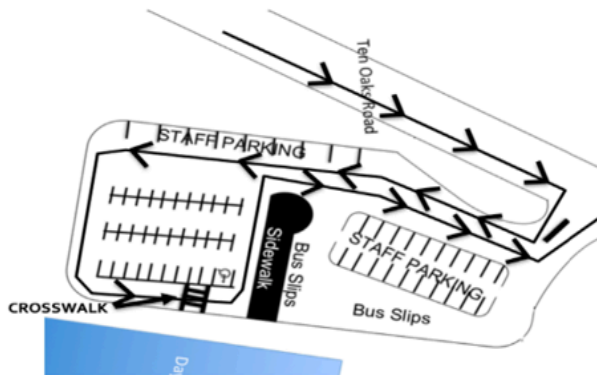
Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:00 a.m. Supervision is not available for students before this time. Before and after care is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

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.

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 \(howardcountymd.gov\)](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/childhood-immunization)

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.