

WAVE NEWSLETTER

March 20, 2025

Important Dates:

March

- 21 ~ World Down Syndrome Day - Rock Your Mismatched Socks!
- 21 ~ PTA Family BINGO Night, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
- 27 ~ Vision and Hearing Rescreening
- 28 ~ Grade 5 Field Trip to Annapolis
- 31 ~ Full School Day for Students and Staff - [Blue](#) Day for Related Arts

April

- 04 ~ End of Third Marking Period
- 14 - 21 ~ Spring Break; Schools Closed for Students
- 25 ~ Reports Cards Available to View at 4:00 pm

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

As we continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of all our students, Ms. Lorch and I are reaching out to ask for your support in reinforcing the expectations around recess.

Recess is an essential time for students to engage in physical activity, build social connections, and enjoy play. It is crucial that this time remains positive and safe for everyone. Our dedicated support staff, including paraeducators, student assistants, and lunch and recess monitors, work tirelessly to make sure that lunch and recess are enjoyable experiences for all students.

We ask for your help in reminding your students about the importance of following the rules during recess and respecting the adults who supervise them. Our staff is committed to creating a safe and fun environment for students, and we rely on the students to demonstrate respect for their teachers, paraeducators, lunch and recess monitors, and all adults who assist them.

Above all, our top priority during recess is ensuring the safety of all students. To achieve this, we have put in place specific routines and procedures that help maintain a secure and orderly environment. This includes carefully planned transitions as well as the thoughtful selection of games and activities that are suited for our playground and blacktop areas. While we are committed to giving students full access to these activities whenever possible, there may be times when certain activities must be carefully managed to prioritize safety.

We value your partnership in helping us ensure that recess remains a safe and positive experience for all of our students. Please continue remind your students of our Dayton Oaks **DIVE expectations**:

- **Dependable**
- **Involved and Organized**
- **Very Respectful**
- **Engaged**

By working together, we can create an environment where students feel safe, respected, and ready to return to class after recess. Thank you for your ongoing support in reinforcing these important values at home.

Additionally, the Office of Safety and Security in collaboration with the Division of Schools, reviewed county wide practices regarding school visits and it was determined that parents are not able to attend recess. Parents can plan to eat lunch with their child(ren) if they complete the following:

- Go to the [HCPSS Web site](#) to review information about the school system volunteer process.
- Review the “Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Procedures Online Training” PowerPoint.
- Sign the Certificate of Completion for the “Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Procedures Online Training” form and provide it to the school when signing in.
- Review the "Confidentiality Training for Volunteers" PowerPoint
- Sign the Confidentiality Agreement and provide it to the school when signing in.
- Sign in at the front office using the Lobby Guard sign-in system (a valid photo I.D. must be provided).

Thank you for your continued support. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Educationally yours,

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

World Down Syndrome Day is March 21st!

Show your support of the community by rocking mismatched socks tomorrow, Friday, March 21st! It is a great way for our students to feel the importance of inclusion at DOES!

Belonging Night

On Thursday, March 13, the DOES Belonging Group hosted the second annual Belonging Night, a wonderful evening filled with fun games and activities that encouraged families to connect and get to know one another. It was heartening to see dozens of families come together to engage and build a stronger sense of community.

The success of Belonging Night was largely due to the dedication of the student leaders in the Belonging Group, made up of forty-two (42) Grade 5 students. This student-led group, supported by staff members Mrs. Urban, Mrs. Dix, Mrs. Grabowski, and Mrs. Vo, meets monthly to identify areas where belonging can be fostered at DOES. Through their hard work and commitment, they've made significant contributions, including the planning of Belonging Night, which plays a key role in involving families in our mission.

A special thank you to all the students, families, and staff members who supported the event and helped make it such a success. Your involvement is truly appreciated, and together, we are creating a more inclusive environment for everyone.

Spring 2025 – After-School Classes

Attached is the Howard County Recreation & Parks - Spring 2025 Before & After School Classes flier, which markets our Spring 2025 Before & After school classes for students at Dayton Oaks.

These 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 Spring Before & After School Flier.pdf](#)

Children's Discovery Fair

On Saturday, April 5, 2025, the Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) will sponsor the annual Children's Discovery Fair, "Wiggle, Learn & Grow!". This **free event** for pre-kindergarteners (3-5 year olds) and caregivers will take place from **10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the **East Columbia 50+ Center** (6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045). For more information, please click [HERE](#).

This school readiness event, part of the Launch into Learning initiative, is in celebration of Howard County's Month of the Young Child. The Children's Discovery Fair has been very successful in past years, attracting hundreds of families. This event is an opportunity for Howard County programs and organizations to give back to the community by offering fun, hands-on learning opportunities for children. Families will learn important information about school readiness and community resources.

This year's event will include the Colgate Dental Van, which will be offering **free on-site dental screenings** for children!



DCRS

Family Pre-loved Event

The DCRS Family Pre-Loved Event is back just in time for spring and summer! Everyone knows pre-loved items are seriously the best!

Families or individuals in the community are invited to pick out items such as toys, books, kids/baby items, and clothes for all ages and much more. The event will be first come, first served and will be held at **9830 Patuxent Woods Dr. Columbia, MD 21046**.

MARCH

29

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For more information, contact Terrance Stroman III at tstroman@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-6553.

If you need this document in an alternative format, call the 410-313-6400 (voice/relay).
Should you need accommodations to participate, contact us at least one week in advance.



SPRING & SUMMER CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

FREE NEW AND GENTLY USED CLOTHES, JACKETS, & SHOES

LRHS CARES & GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025 // 9AM-11AM
LINES MAY FORM AT 7:30AM**

**LONG REACH HIGH SCHOOL
6101 OLD DOBBIN LANE, COLUMBIA, MD 21045**



SE REGALA ROPA DE PRIMAVERA Y VERANO

ROPA, CHAQUETAS, Y ZAPATOS NUEVOS Y USADOS GRATIS

LRHS CARES Y GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

**SABADO, 29 MARZO, 2025 //9A-11A
LA FILA EMPIEZA A LOAS 7:30A**

**LONG REACH HIGH SCHOOL
6101 OLD DOBBIN LANE, COLUMBIA, MD 21045**

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

Learning Together Program

The Howard County Public School System includes early childhood classes within nearly half of our local elementary schools. Our classes offer high quality programs that focus on developing kindergarten readiness skills for all children in classrooms that include children with and without disabilities.

For more information about the Learning Together Program, please click [HERE](#).

Save the Date - DOES Student Showcase

SAVE THE DATE for the Dayton Oaks Student Showcase scheduled for May 8, 2025, 6:30-8:00 pm. The DOES Student Showcase is an open house for family and community that spotlights learning at Dayton Oaks Elementary. We will be rolling out the red carpet to view the amazing work from all our star students in RECC to 5th grade! Additionally, we invite students to participate in the showcase by creating a STEAM project. Just follow the directions for creating a STEAM Project in the [packet](#). We hope to see you at our red carpet event!

Support for Federal Workers

We want to acknowledge the growing concerns shared by several community members regarding the challenges that many government employees are currently facing. These include the transition back to in-person work and the uncertainty surrounding long-term employment. We understand how difficult and unsettling these times can be, and we want to ensure we are offering as much support as possible.

Below, please find helpful resources that have been shared by the County Executive's Office and HCPSS. These community-based resources are available to all families:

Assistance is Available

If you have been affected by recent changes in federal employment, you may be eligible for state and federal assistance programs, including:

- [Unemployment Insurance](#)
- [Healthcare Enrollment](#)
- [Temporary Cash Assistance](#)

Howard County remains in close contact with Governor Moore, Senator Van Hollen, Senator Alsobrooks, and Congresswoman Elfreth to ensure that our federal workforce has access to the resources they need. Visit the links above to see if you qualify for critical support programs.

Service Navigator Resource Newsletter - March 2025 Edition

This edition of the [Service Navigator Resource Newsletter](#) provides current resources and information.

CAREAPP

Find services for food, health, housing, transportation, education, employment assistance, and more.

Community Resources and Services

The [Department of Community Resources & Services \(DCRS\)](#) addresses the needs of multiple

generations, tailor services to different cultural values, and promotes full inclusion for individuals with disabilities. Their mission is to ensure Howard County residents have the resources they need to grow, thrive and live with dignity.

We will share additional resources and information as it becomes available.

March Heritage Months

March is both Women's History Month and Irish American Heritage Month. Please help join us to uplift and celebrate the important contributions of these two groups on our nation's history. Please access [these fliers](#) provided by ODEI to learn more!

2025-2026 Kindergarten Registration Kickoff

Kindergarten [registration](#) for families of children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2025, kicks off Monday, March 3. Parents can begin the enrollment process online, after which your child's school will contact you to complete the registration process. Current HCPSS prekindergarten students do not need to be re-registered for kindergarten because they are already enrolled as an HCPSS student.

Ramadan (February 28 - March 29, 2025)

Ramadan begins the evening of Friday, February 28 and ends on Saturday, March 29, 2025. Recognizing that students who observe Ramadan may be fasting during the school day, we are offering an alternative location for any child who would prefer not to be in the cafeteria during the lunch block. Students may choose to spend the lunch shift in the media center engaged in a book or other quiet activity. If you have any questions, please reach out to the School Counselor, Stephanie_Dix@hcpss.org.

Family Supports and Resources

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) provides countless supports for students and families, and recognizes there are times when additional help is needed. Various reputable county, state and national organizations can provide assistance every day and during times of crisis. For a list of resources/organizations, please click [HERE](#).

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.

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.

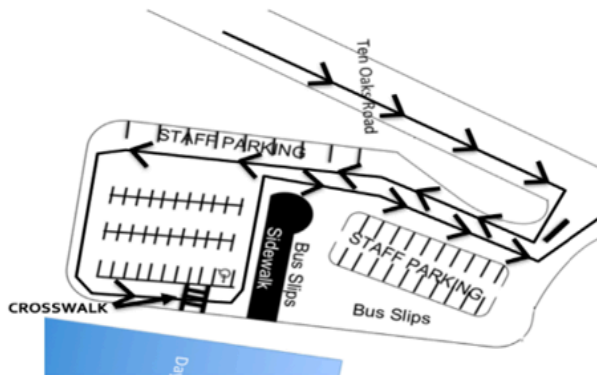
Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:00 a.m. Supervision is not available for students before this time. Before and after care is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

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)

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.