

WAVE NEWSLETTER

March 6, 2025

Important Dates:

March

03 - 07 ~ Kindergarten and New First Grader Registration Kickoff

11 ~ Picture Day

13 ~ Belonging Night, 6:00-8:00 pm

14 ~ Pi Day

14 ~ Professional Work and Wellness Day - Schools Close Three Hours Early

19 ~ Vision and Hearing Screening

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

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

Each February, the Elementary Social Studies Office, Black Student Achievement Program, and the Gifted and Talented Office collaborate to host the annual Unheard Perspectives Showcase. This program, open to students in grades 3-5, encourages those who volunteer to explore the often-overlooked perspectives of innovators in American history. Students conduct research and then share their findings through a PowerPoint, display, or performance.

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, DOES was incredibly proud to be represented by three outstanding teams of fourth-grade students at the Unheard Perspectives (UPs) competition at MRHS. These teams, composed of highly motivated and dedicated students, worked collaboratively to research innovators who have made significant contributions to our world. Their hard work, enthusiasm, and teamwork were truly inspiring, and they showcased the spirit of curiosity and learning in the best possible light.

Please join me in congratulating these teams for earning GOLD, the highest honor awarded to UPs participants!

- **Zora Neale Hurston** - Zadie Johnson, Katherine Tom, Yuvim Kim
- **Dorothy Vaughn** - Madeline Brenner, Madeleine Mulligan, Anayah Mathieu, Abigail Hensley
- **Mary Jackson** - Harnoor Chauhan, Kathryn Grace Medina, Evelyn Misner, Mantra Vishal, Swarnika Mulpuri

In addition to the three teams that represented Dayton Oaks at the Unheard Perspectives Showcase, we also had 5 other teams that participated in the Unheard Perspectives instructional seminar:

- **Oprah Winfrey** - Caroline Stowers, Jasmine Hotrabhavananda, Eliza Lackrone, Evey Weeks, Mihika Sharma

- **Kamala Harris** - Nimi Ayankoya, Emersyn Hucht, Abigail Kuczynski, Cassidy Howell
- **Fredrick Douglass** - Sameer Gaddam, Mack Minutoli, Jake Kufel
- **Louis Armstrong** - Rory McArdle, Carl Tan, Christopher Bozarth, Henry Cheng
- **Katherine Dunham** - Annabelle Barclay, Alex Kufel, Claire Kay, Haleigh Booth

Many thanks to Ms. Mangiulli for facilitating and supporting this instructional seminar and for accompanying our students to the showcase on February 22, 2025. Congratulations to all the students involved for their dedication and impressive work!

Educationally yours,

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

Counselor's Corner

Dear Families,

SEL Day was this past Monday, March 3rd! Social Emotional Learning (SEL) highlights the importance of skills like empathy, collaboration, and self-awareness. SEL has a dedicated time in our Master Calendar for all grades to support class connection and problem-solving skills. At Dayton Oaks, we celebrated SEL all week with morning announcements written by students that highlighted the importance of SEL and with 5th graders reading to younger students during the SEL Block. Ask your child what they learn about during the SEL block at school each day! If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to the School Counselors: Stephanie Dix and Alyson Hannan.

Second Annual Belonging Night

The DOES Belonging Group is excited to announce the second annual Belonging Night, being held at Dayton Oaks Elementary School on Thursday, March 13th from 6:00-8:00pm! This is an evening of fun games and activities where families are encouraged to mix and mingle while getting to know each other! Please join us for this meaningful event! To help the group prepare for the event, please submit your RSVP by Wednesday, March 12th! [You can find the RSVP Google Form here \(linked\).](#)

To build excitement for this event, we will be having a Belonging Spirit Week. Please see the details below:

- Monday, March 10th: We Dream of Kindness! Wear your pajamas
- Tuesday, March 11th: Color the World in Kindness! Wear your grade level color:

5th - **Green**
4th - **Orange**
3rd - **Red**
2nd - **Purple**
1st - **Yellow**
K - **Blue**
PreK - **Light Blue**

- Wednesday, March 12th: Uniquely You Day! Wear your favorite style

- Thursday, March 13th: Show Kindness around DOES! Wear something with kind words
- Friday, March 14th: You Belong Here! Wear blue or DOES gear.

What is the Belonging Group? The Belonging Group currently consists of forty-two (42) Grade 5 students. This student-led group, which is supported by several staff members including Mrs. Urban, Mrs. Dix, Mrs. Grabowski, and Mrs. Vo, meets monthly to openly discuss and identify areas of need when it comes to belonging at DOES. Together, the group has worked hard on several action items including the planning of events of the Belonging Night with the main purpose of involving families in our mission. We hope to see you on Thursday, March 13th!

School Pictures

School Pictures, Inc. will be at Dayton Oaks on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, to take class pictures. They will also take individual pictures if requested on the order form. The [order form](#) will be coming home in your child's Thursday Folder.

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!

Vision and Hearing Screening

The Howard County Health Department will be coming to DOES for our annual vision and hearing screening on Wednesday, March 19, 2025. All kindergarten and first-grade students and those new to Maryland Public Schools will be screened. If your child wears glasses, please make sure they bring their glasses to school on screening day. If your child is absent, the rescreening date is March 27, 2025. The health room is in need of volunteers for screenings between 9:00 am and 1:00 p.m. If you are available to volunteer, or if you have any questions, please contact our school nurse, Rachel Tulis, at: rachel_tulis@hcpss.org.

Band Musicians of the Month

Congratulations to the Band Musicians of the Month for March. These students have been working hard and will have their names displayed in the Howard County Times Newspaper and on the Band Bulletin Board. Keep up the great work!

Kenzie Townsend - Trombone
Trenton Bahen - Percussion
Ari Adler - Alto Saxophone

EJ Breland - Clarinet
Amirah Alausa - Alto Saxophone
Angelo Cimini -Alto Saxophone
Liam K Visurraga De Leon - Flute
Ellie Tom - Flute
Mila Dayal - Trombone
Aiden Benjamin - Tuba
Katie Kieffer - Percussion
Paxton Mu - Flute
Emerson El Sawi - Trombone
Izzah Malik - Percussion
Harrison Cole - Alto Saxophone
Siân Kenner - Clarinet
Hewan Sheferaw - Flute
James Marquart - Percussion
Owen Painter - Trumpet

Musically,
Amy Syersen, Band Director

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!

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

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](mailto:Stephanie_Dix@hcpss.org).

Glenelg High School Presents *Cinderella*

Come see the magical musical Cinderella at Glenelg High School! Performances are:

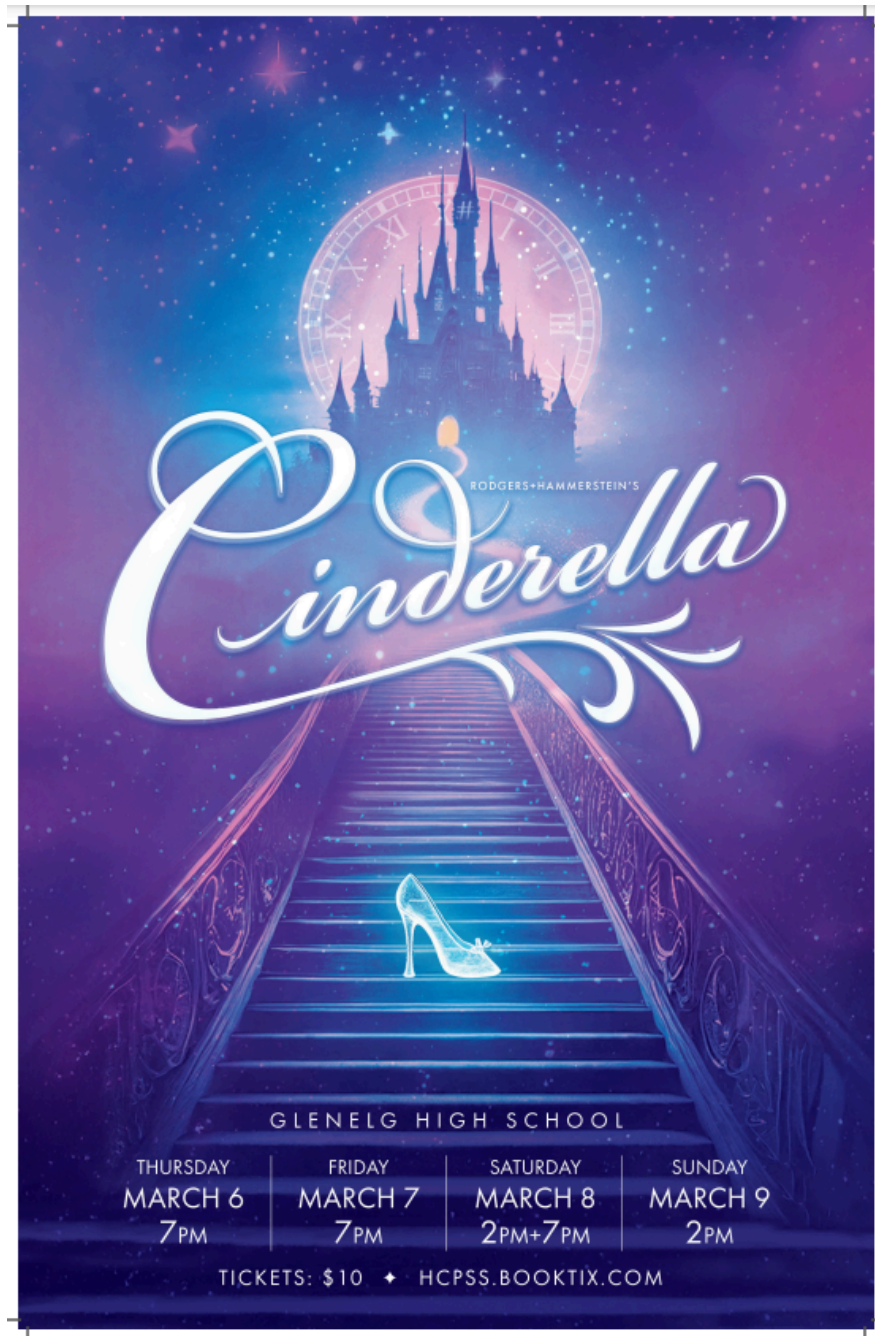
March 6 at 7pm

March 7 at 7pm

March 8 at 2pm & 7pm

March 9 at 2pm

All tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online, in the GHS front office, or at the door. We are anticipating sell-out shows. So, get your tickets in advance! Online ticket purchase link: <https://tinyurl.com/2neerbzs>



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](#).

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.

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.

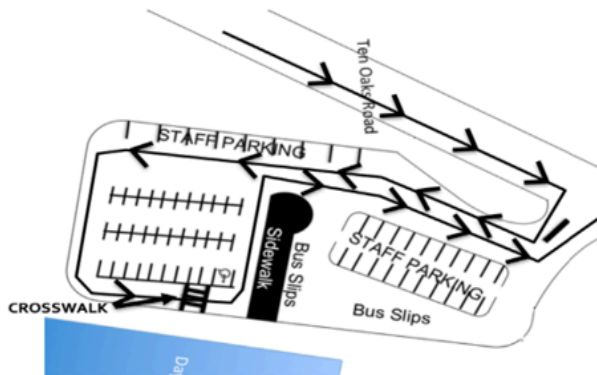
All children who are late must be accompanied by a parent and be signed into school in the front office.

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 \(howardcountymd.gov\)](#)

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.