

# WAVE NEWSLETTER

## April 3, 2025

### Important Dates:

#### April

- 04 ~ End of Third Marking Period
- 14 - 21 ~ Spring Break; Schools Closed for Students
- 22 - 23 ~ Grade 4 Field Trip to JA Biztown
- 23 ~ Volunteer Breakfast, 9:00 - 10:00 am
- 24 ~ Take Your Child to Work Day
- 25 ~ Reports Cards Available to View at 4:00 pm
- 26 ~ Cultural Festival, 2:00 - 4:30 pm

### **On Deck With Your Administrator**

Dear Dayton Oaks Families,

As we begin the process of determining student homeroom placements for the 2025-2026 school year, we want to ensure that we are creating environments that foster the best learning opportunities for all students. Our goal is to be responsive to the academic and social-emotional needs of each student, and we view you as essential partners in this process.

To ensure we consider all relevant factors, we invite you to share any information you believe will help as teachers and staff make thoughtful decisions for next year. Please use the following link to provide input for your student(s): [DOES Parent Consideration Form \(SY 25-26\)](#).

When making placements, our staff and administration carefully consider several factors to create diverse and balanced classrooms. These include, but are not limited to:

- The personality of the child
- Gender balance in each classroom
- Strengths and needs in math, reading, and writing
- Assessment/Test results and academic needs
- Special education and 504 Plan requirements, including specific IEP goals
- Structured versus unstructured needs
- Input from previous teachers and school counselors

While we value your input, there are certain requests that we cannot accommodate through this form. Specifically, we ask that you do not use the form to:

- Request specific teachers
- Request groupings based on siblings' experiences or friendships
- Propose groupings based on hearsay

Your input on this form will assist us in making thoughtful, balanced decisions for your child, rather than requesting a specific teacher. Participation in this process is entirely optional, but your insights are incredibly valuable to our staff and to your child's future teacher.

Please submit all consideration forms by **Friday, May 2, 2025**. Thank you for your ongoing support and for being an important part of our school community.

Educationally yours,

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

### **Counselor's Corner**

As the flowers bloom and testing season approaches, it's the perfect time to cultivate a sense of calm and focus within your family. Mindfulness practices can help children manage stress by regulating emotions, improve concentration, and build emotional resilience, all crucial skills for navigating academic challenges. Increasing self-awareness through mindfulness can foster a deeper understanding of thoughts and feelings, leading to greater self-compassion, too!

Below are some suggestions of strategies that can be practiced at home and easily implemented in the classroom:

#### **"Square Breathing" Technique**

- Have your child visualize a square.
- Instruct them to slowly inhale for a count of 4, while tracing the first side of the square.
- Hold their breath for a count of 4, tracing the second side.
- Exhale slowly for a count of 4, tracing the third side.
- Pause for a count of 4, tracing the final side.

#### **Positive Self-Talk**

- Encourage your child to replace negative thoughts with positive affirmations.
- Examples: "I am prepared," "I can do this," "I am calm and focused."
- Help them create a list of empowering phrases they can repeat to themselves before tests or during stressful moments.
- This can be practiced by writing down the phrases and repeating them out loud, or silently.

#### **Mindful Doodling or Coloring**

- Provide your child with coloring books, blank paper, or mandala templates.
- Encourage them to focus on the colors, textures, and sensations of the drawing or coloring process.
- This activity allows them to engage their senses and quiet their minds.

#### **5-4-3-2-1 Grounding Technique**

This technique is great for bringing awareness to the present moment, especially when feeling overwhelmed. Instruct your child to:

- Name 5 things they can see.
- Name 4 things they can touch.
- Name 3 things they can hear.
- Name 2 things they can smell.
- Name 1 thing they can taste.

By incorporating these simple mindfulness practices into your family's routine, you can help your children navigate testing season with greater ease and cultivate valuable life skills that will benefit them far beyond the classroom.

Stephanie Dix  
School Counselor

### **HCPSS Elementary Schools Honors Orchestra Participants**

On Saturday, March 22, we were incredibly proud to have two exceptionally talented students from Dayton Oaks represent our school at the Elementary Schools Honors Orchestra concert at Atholton High School...**Ayush Patel** and **Alina Patel**.

The Elementary School Honors Orchestra (ESHO) is a distinguished group of young musicians who embody the passion and dedication to creating beautiful music, a hallmark of Howard County students. This prestigious ensemble consists of two students from each elementary school across the county, coming together for two weeks of intense rehearsals, culminating in a stunning final performance. Through this enriching experience, students not only refine their musical skills but also collaborate with peers from diverse backgrounds to create challenging and high-quality music.

Please join us in celebrating and congratulating Ayush and Alina for their remarkable achievement in sharing their extraordinary talents with the Howard County community!

### **Field Day 2025**

Dear Dayton Oaks Families,

We are excited to announce that **Field Day 2025** is just around the corner! All Dayton Oaks students will be participating in this fun-filled day on Thursday, May 15, 2025 (rain date: Friday, May 23rd). Below is the schedule for Field Day:

- Grades 3-5: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Grades K-2: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- AM RECC/Preschool: 10:00 AM
- PM RECC/Pre-K: 1:00 PM

To build team spirit, we encourage all students to wear their team colors on Field Day! You may choose to order a Field Day shirt for your student or simply wear a shirt in their grade-level color – either option is perfectly fine. The deadline to order a Field Day t-shirt is **April 11th**.

➡ Order Field Day Shirts Here: <https://does25.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

- RECC (Royal Blue)
- Kindergarten (Gray)
- Grade 1 (Yellow)
- Grade 2 (Purple)
- Grade 3 (Red)
- Grade 4 (Orange)
- Grade 5 (Lime Green)
- Staff (Tie Dye)

We'll need many parent volunteers to help run stations for this event. The Volunteer Sign Up will be sent out next week.

Thanks for your support,  
Dayton Oaks P.E. Team

### **Band Notes from Mrs. Syversen**

#### **Come Explore the Band Petting Zoo and Find the Instrument That Speaks to YOU!**

Do you have a child entering 4th or 5th grade in the 2025-2026 school year? Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 8th and join us at the DOES Student Showcase for an exciting musical adventure at the Band Petting Zoo!

At the Band Petting Zoo, your child will get the chance to try out a variety of instruments, from flutes to trumpets, trombones to percussion, and more! Whether they're curious about the sweet sound of a flute or the bold buzz of a trumpet, this hands-on experience will help them discover the perfect instrument that speaks to them as they prepare to join the DOES Band. Our amazing feeder middle and high school band directors as well as students from Glenelg and River Hill High Schools will be there to guide your child through each instrument. Mrs. Syversen will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the band program and how to get started!

Don't miss this fun opportunity to explore the world of music—the Band Petting Zoo is waiting for YOU on May 8th at the Student Showcase. We can't wait to see you there!

#### **Congratulations to the Band Musicians of the Month for April!**

The following Band Musicians will have their names in the Howard County Times and their certificates posted on the Band Bulletin Board. Keep up the great work and awesome attitudes!

Clayton Frantz Alto Saxophone  
Muskaan Patel - Clarinet  
Victoria Francin - Flute  
Samir Asliyalfani - Percussion  
Carl Tan - Percussion  
Xaiden Beasley - French Horn  
Owen Uyehara - Trumpet  
Connor Broughton - Trumpet  
William Burke - Clarinet  
Simon Narvaez - Trombone  
Sulaiman Hassan - Percussion  
Cora Steckler - Trumpet  
Ethan Chung - Alto Saxophone  
Haya Rafiq - Clarinet  
Donovan Purdon - Percussion  
Henry Go - Alto Saxophone  
Khizar Memon - Trumpet

## **Health Room News**

Allergy season is upon us, and we just want to remind everyone to medicate their children at home with allergy medication prior to coming to school. Remember, the students do go outside for recess, and the P.E. Department takes the students outdoors for class. It is essential that children have their allergy medication before going outdoors, due to the high pollen count this time of year.

Please be sure that:

- Students take their allergy medications daily at home. Non-drowsy formulas are good choices because they won't leave your child tired and dehydrated, or have them take them before bed if they cause drowsiness.
- Wearing wraparound sunglasses which physically keep out pollen from eyes and may be a good choice for some students.
- If your child requires eye drops to be given at school, even if it is over the counter, a written prescription from your physician is required, along with the medication to be given, in its original unopened package by an adult to the school nurse.

[HCPSS medication form](#)

Happy Spring!

Rachel Tulis, School Nurse

## **Simulated Congressional Hearings (SCH) is Looking for Judges!**

SCH is the culmination of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade's Social Studies curriculum. Student teams work together to create speeches connected to the curriculum and answer follow-up questions. Judges take time to listen to the speeches, interact with the students in follow-up questions, and provide feedback to the students.

Judges are often members of the community, those who work within the law community, public servants, government officials, and ordinary citizens! You do not need to be an expert of our Constitution - training will be provided on the morning of SCH - MAY 27th. If interested, or if you know someone who would love this opportunity, please email Mrs. Lindahl at [allison\\_lindahl@hcpss.org](mailto:allison_lindahl@hcpss.org).

## **Free Chromebook for Qualifying Families**

As part of a grant from the State of Maryland's Connected Devices Program, our school is partnering with the Bright Minds Foundation and the Howard County Government to continue to provide qualifying families with one free Chromebook and charger per household. This free new HP Chromebook can be used to connect with schools, access community services, for personal work purposes or for any other reason that benefits your family. To read the full letter, please click [HERE](#). Scroll for translations in Spanish, Korean, and Chinese.

## **Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM)**

April marks National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM), a time to celebrate and honor the rich history, vibrant culture, and significant contributions of Arab Americans. Please take a moment to review [this flyer](#), which includes information about the month and ways we can recognize and appreciate the contributions of this important community.

## **The Mobile Library**

The Library is coming to a neighborhood near you! For more information about the mobile library, please click [HERE](#).

## **TCOE Community Academy: Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships**

The Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County is hosting the fourth installment of the TCOE Community Academy: Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships. This session will be held in-person on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from 9:00 - 10:30 am at Oakland Mills Middle School (9540 Kilimanjaro Road, Columbia, MD 21045). In this interactive session, participants will explore the dynamics of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, and how to start conversations with children. Families can register for the session [here](#). For additional information, please view the flyer [here](#).

## **NEWS WORTH REPEATING**

### **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!

### **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.

## **2025-2026 Kindergarten Registration Kickoff**

Kindergarten [registration](#) for families of children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2025, kicked 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.

### **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.

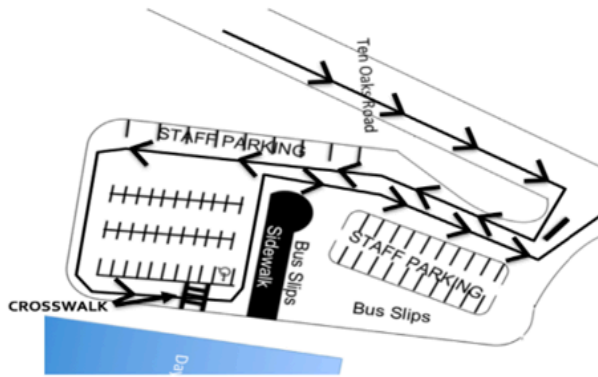
All children who are late must be accompanied by a parent and be signed into school in the front office.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.