

WAVE NEWSLETTER

May 1, 2025

Important Dates:

May

- 02 ~ Kindergarten Field Trip to Baltimore Zoo
- 02 ~ Deadline to Submit Parent Consideration Forms
- 02 ~ Deadline for Submissions for Memory Book Cover Contest
- 05 - 09 ~ Staff Appreciation Week
- 07 ~ Professional Work and Wellness Day - Schools Dismiss Three Hours Early
- 08 ~ Fifth Grade Panoramic Picture - 10:30am
- 08 ~ Student Showcase, 6:30pm
- 09 ~ Grade 2 Field Trip to Science Center
- 14 ~ Deadline to Submit Orders for Memory Books
- 15 ~ Field Day (Rain Date: 5/23)
- 21 ~ Band and Chorus Spring Concert; 6:00pm (Chorus) and 7:15pm (Band)
- 22 ~ Kindergarten Storybook Plays
- 26 ~ Memorial Day - Schools and Offices Closed

On Deck With Your Administrator

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

This year, Staff Appreciation Week will be celebrated from May 5–9, 2025. It is a special opportunity to recognize the outstanding efforts of our teachers and school staff who give so much of themselves each day in support of our students, families, and school community. As we prepare to honor these remarkable individuals, we invite you to consider supporting our PTA in their efforts to acknowledge and celebrate our staff throughout the week.

Our teachers and staff embody dedication, compassion, and resilience. They go above and beyond—often behind the scenes—to create learning environments where students feel safe, supported, and inspired. Their influence reaches far beyond the walls of the classroom, shaping not only academic success but also the confidence, character, and aspirations of every student they serve.

From the classroom to the front office, from custodial staff to support staff, each member of our school community plays an essential role in cultivating the minds and hearts of our future leaders. Their collective impact is both profound and lasting.

Please join me in expressing heartfelt gratitude to these tireless professionals. Let's take this opportunity to celebrate their invaluable contributions and remind them just how deeply they are appreciated.

Educationally yours,

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

Counselor's Corner

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! With the help of Mrs. Dix, the 4th Grade leadership group, FISH Ambassadors, will be informing students about the importance of our mental health through morning announcements and an optional activity calendar. You can find the activity calendar linked here: [DOES Recognizes Mental Health Awareness Month](#) (links to Google Drive). On Monday, May 5th, students and staff are encouraged to wear green, the color of mental health awareness, to kick off Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

As the days get longer and the weather warms up, this is a great time to nurture not just our children's bodies, but their minds too! Here are a few simple ways to support their mental well-being this spring:

- Get Moving Outdoors: Fresh air and sunshine are natural mood boosters! Think family walks, bike rides, or even just playing in the backyard.
- Listen and Connect: Make time for open conversations. Ask your child how they're *really* feeling and actively listen without judgment.
- Practice Mindfulness Together: Try simple breathing exercises or quiet moments of observation in nature. It can help everyone slow down and manage stress.
- Encourage Healthy Habits: Ensure they're getting enough sleep, eating nutritious foods, and staying hydrated – these are foundational for good mental health.

Reach out to Mrs. Dix or Mrs. Hannan if you would like to discuss additional mental health supports for your child or family. Happy Spring!

Dayton Oaks Memory Books - Now on Sale!

What an unforgettable year at Dayton Oaks Elementary! All the fun traditions, events, and memories are captured in this year's Memory Book. You don't want to miss out on getting your copy! Place your order on our digital storefront: [DOES Yearbook Site](#). The deadline to order is Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Memory Books will be sent home with students the last week of school.

Memory Book Cover Contest

CALLING ALL DAYTON OAKS ARTISTS. . .

Your child has the opportunity to design the front and back cover of our 2024-2025 Memory Book! The Memory Book cover sets the tone for our yearbook and the design should represent our school's identity. Some theme ideas: *Watercolor Waves, The Year of the Dolphin, Making a Splash, It's a Dolphin Thing, Dolphinatly Making Waves, Ride the Wave of Success.*

Cover art requirements:

- Created on an 8.5 x 11 inch sheet of paper (portrait layout)
- Include the words "Dayton Oaks Elementary School" big and bold
- Include the dates "2024-2025"
- Include your name and grade in the bottom right-hand corner

How to submit:

- Send the original to school in a folder or envelope marked "PTA Memory Book" with your child's name and grade written on the outside.
- Email a clear scan to: memorybook@daytonoakspta.org.

Submission deadline: Friday, May 2, 2025.

Band Notes from Mrs. Syversen

Spring Band and Chorus Concert

Our Band and Chorus Spring Concert is on Wednesday, May 21st at DOES in the Cafeteria. The chorus will perform at 6pm and the band at 7:15pm. Band students should arrive at 6:45pm to warm up and tune.

May Band Musicians of the Month

These students will have their names listed in the Howard County Times and on the Band Bulletin Board. Keep up the great work!

Alex Urquhart - Trumpet
Reid Rategh - Trombone
Augustus 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
Jack Ren - Trombone
Carter McKenna - Percussion
Warner Shipe - Percussion
Clay Bogard - Trumpet
Vivien Moss - Clarinet
Whittacre Scheuneman - Trumpet

Help Spread the Word - Kindergarten Registration is Open!

Kindergarten [registration](#) for families of children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2025, is now open. 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 Read the Rainbow with Nancy Churnin

Join us virtually on Monday, June 2nd 2025, at 6:00pm to meet author Nancy Churnin who will read aloud and discuss *Rainbow Allies: The True Story of Kids Who Stood Against Hate*. This program is part of our HCPSS Pride Week and is open to all who would like to attend. To participate in this FREE event, please be sure to [register](#). The first 50 registered families with students in grades 5 or younger receive a free copy of the book.

[Family Read the Rainbow Flier](#)

May is Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM) and Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AANHPI).

[JAHM and AANHPI Flier](#)

STEMVillage Summer Camp

Howard County parents of rising 3rd–6th graders, do you want your kid to build a robot and present how it works? STEMVillage Summer Camp teaches 3rd–6th graders real STEM skills and how to present their ideas clearly and confidently.

- **Session 1 (July 7–11):** Simple machines, bottle rockets, and STEM pitches
- **Session 2 (July 28–August 1):** Egg drops, bridge-building, and high-energy teamwork challenges

They'll come home smarter, more confident, and better at solving problems — in tech and life. **Free aftercare** if you refer a friend. Space is limited!

Register here → tinyurl.com/stemvillage25

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

Parent Consideration Form

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.

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



Volunteer Opportunities:

We need your help to make Field Day a success! There are many slots available for volunteers to help run the exciting stations we have planned for the students. If you're available to assist, please sign up using the link below:

[Field Day Station Sign-Up](#)



Volunteer Training Reminder:

All volunteers are required to complete the two HCPSS volunteer trainings prior to coming in. If you haven't already done so, please bring your printed volunteer certificate with you on Field Day. Volunteer information and training can be accessed at: [HCPSS Volunteer Information](#).



Team Colors:

To build team spirit, we encourage all students to wear their team colors on Field Day! .

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



Safety Reminders:

For the safety of all Field Day participants:

- All volunteers and visitors **must check in at the front office** to receive credentials before heading to the activity areas.
- Please, no siblings at Field Day.

Thank you in advance for your continued support in making this day memorable for the students. We look forward to a fun and active Field Day!

Best regards,
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!

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 5th 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.

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.

The Mobile Library

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

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.

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.

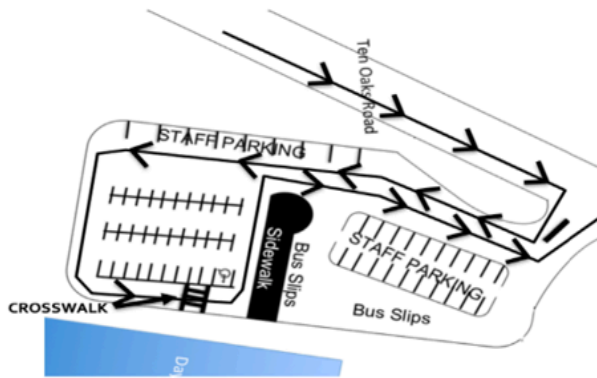
Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:00 a.m. Supervision is not available for students before this time. Before and after care is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

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 \(howardcountymd.gov\)](#)

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.