

WAVE NEWSLETTER

September 18, 2025

Important Dates:

September

- 19 ~ Ice Cream Social, 6 - 8 pm (Raindate: 9/26/25)
- 23 ~ School and Offices Closed
- 25 ~ DolFun Run Kickoff

October

- 01 ~ School Pictures
- 02 ~ School and Offices Closed
- 10 ~ DolFun Run
- 16 ~ Kindergarten Field Trip to Gaver Farm
- 17 ~ Schools Closed for Students - MSEA Convention/Professional Work Day
- 20 ~ Schools and Offices Closed - Diwali

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families,

Thank you for joining us at Back to School Night last week! We truly appreciate you taking the time to connect with our teachers and staff, learn more about our academic programs, and celebrate the start of a new school year together. Your presence reflects the strong school-home partnership that makes Dayton Oaks such a special community for our students.

At Dayton Oaks, we believe that when schools and families work together, students thrive. We value your commitment and want to share a few ways you can continue to stay engaged and partner with us throughout the year:

- **Stay Connected:** Regularly check Canvas, our school website, and teacher newsletters to keep up-to-date on classroom learning, events, and important reminders.
- **Celebrate Learning at Home:** Ask your child about what they're learning, encourage them to share projects or assignments, and celebrate their efforts as much as their accomplishments.
- **Maintain Open Communication:** Reach out to teachers whenever you have questions, concerns, or insights about your child's learning. Working together helps us respond quickly to student needs.
- **Participate in School Events:** Join us for upcoming programs, performances, and family engagement nights. Your involvement shows students that learning is important both at school and at home.
- **Support Good Habits:** Establish routines for homework, reading, and healthy sleep that reinforce what's happening in the classroom.

- **Join the PTA or Volunteer:** Whether through leadership, classroom assistance, or event support, your time and talents enrich our community and provide meaningful experiences for students.

We are so grateful for your ongoing partnership, encouragement, and support. Together, we will ensure that every student **shines bright** this school year!

Educationally yours,
Ms. Williams-Kennard, Principal
Ms. Lorch, Assistant Principal

Counselor's Corner

Dear DOES families,

What a great start to the school year it has been! Over the next month, the school counselors will be visiting classrooms to facilitate classroom lessons. Check out the grade-level newsletter that will go out for grade-specific information about the lesson from the school counselor! Additionally, we will continue to support all grades as needed through lunch, recess, and SEL support!

During SEL this week, students learned what regulation is and how it helps us. **Regulation** means being able to adjust or control something so it works well. Classes discussed different things they can regulate, such as the speed of a fan or the temperature of water. Students also explored how they can also regulate their body in a variety of ways such as eating a snack to regulate hunger, taking a nap to regulate being tired, putting on a jacket to regulate temperature, and using deep breathing to regulate feelings. Some things in our body are easier to regulate, while others take more time to learn.

Teaching about regulation is an important skill that helps us manage life's ups and downs. It supports our ability to work, to interact with others, and to feel more comfortable throughout our day.

To continue this learning at home you can go on a regulation-hunt at home to find things you regulate or adjust in your home. You can also discuss ways you regulate your body.

Please reach out to one of the school counselors if you have any questions!
Stephanie Dix (Stephanie_Dix@hcpss.org)
Alyson Hannan (Alyson_Hannan@hcpss.org)

Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, from September 15 through October 15, we proudly celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. This is a special time to honor the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of individuals and families whose roots come from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

In addition to engaging in activities and classroom learning that highlight the traditions, stories, music, art, and achievements of Hispanic and Latino Americans, families are also encouraged

to continue the celebration at home by reading books, listening to music, or sharing family traditions that connect to Hispanic culture. Together, we can nurture respect, collaboration, and belonging for all. Please find additional information regarding Hispanic Heritage Month [here](#).

Registration for BSAP Saturday Math Academy

The BSAP Saturday Math Academy fall session is approaching! The program offers an in-person enrichment for Howard County Public School System students in all levels of math for grades 3-12, based on course availability. Registration will take place online Saturday, September 20, 2025 from 9:00 am until capacity is reached. Class space is limited. Families can register by accessing the [HCPSS Connect WebsiteLinks to an external site.](#) on the registration date. Please contact BSAP Supervisor, Nicole Brown if you have any questions.

For more information, please visit:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2025/09/black-student-achievement-program-bsap-saturday-math-academy-fall-2025-program/Links to an external site.>

Health & Safety Updates, Sept. 17, 2025

Health Checks

As the fall season gets underway and many activities move indoors, we often experience an increase in the spread of the flu, colds, COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

All families, students, staff and visitors should conduct daily health checks prior to entering any HCPSS building and/or school bus, and are reminded to ***stay home if they are experiencing symptom(s) associated with any communicable disease.***

Infection control prevents or stops the spread of infections, and may include standard precaution methods. [Learn more about HCPSS protocols](#), how these conditions are managed at school, and how they can be handled at home. Additional [information on keeping students healthy](#) is available online.

Vaccination Clinics

Due to extenuating circumstances, HCPSS **will not** offer in-school seasonal flu or COVID vaccination clinics this year. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their child's pediatrician for vaccination information, or consider accessing vaccinations from local pharmacies, urgent care centers, retail stores, etc. Additionally, the [Howard County Health Department will offer free flu shots](#) at various community events this fall.

Reporting Student Absences

Students who are sick and need to stay home will be given an excused absence providing a note from the parent/guardian is submitted to the school after the student's return, indicating the date and reason for tardiness or absence from a regular school session. A doctor's note is required in cases of long-term absence or excessive absenteeism due to illness. Please email doesabsence@hcpss.org to report your child's absence.

If a student needs to stay home for a prolonged period due to illness, the student or a parent/guardian can reach out to their teacher(s) for resources students can use at home to continue learning once they feel well enough. Additional [information on student absences](#) can be found online.

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

Health Room Request

The health room is seeking donations of small water bottles, individual packages of Goldfish crackers, and Clorox wipes.

Change of Address

Please note that any change of residency must be reported through the Family File within 10 school days of the move. Current residency documentation must be provided to the school each time residency changes. Please reach out to the front office team with questions or if you need assistance with updating your Family File.

Rodent Control in Schools

Food is one of the main reasons rodents try to get inside buildings. As such, HCPSS is asking families to [take several steps](#) to help decrease the likelihood of rodent infestations. Thanks for your help to ensure our schools are safe and healthy.

Policy 9400 - Student Behavior Intervention

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is committed to providing a safe, engaging, and supportive school environment that fosters the social and emotional safety, dignity, and well-being of all students. HCPSS acknowledges the need for employees to use an array of research-based positive behavior interventions, strategies, and a tiered system of supports to address student behaviors and keep students safe and free of harm to minimize the practice of exclusion from the classroom environment to minimize the use of physical restraint (which may only be used when necessary to protect a student or other person from imminent, serious, physical harm and only after other less intrusive, nonphysical interventions have failed or been determined inappropriate).

It is the expectation of the Board that HCPSS employees will be knowledgeable of and implement proactive positive behavior interventions in an effort to reduce the need for exclusion or physical restraint.

Additional information can be found at [HCPSS Policy 9400 - Student Behavior Intervention](#). If you have any questions regarding this policy or its implementation, please contact a school administrator.

Fall 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 Fall Before & After School Flier \(1\).pdf](#)

Universal Screener Notification

In accordance with Maryland's Ready to Read Act (2019), COMAR (2021) and the direction from the Howard County Board of Education, all Howard County Public School System students in kindergarten to grade 5 will participate in the 2025 - 2026 administration of the Amplify mClass with DIBELS 8th Edition universal screener to identify potential reading difficulties during the following windows.

[Universal Screener Notification \(Gr.1-5\) 25/26](#)

Policy 9460 - Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Involving Students

Parents, Guardians, and Families,

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all students. Preventing bullying is an important part of this goal. [HCPSS Policy 9460](#) states that bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation are prohibited in HCPSS. Our administration and staff have been trained and made aware of this policy as well as preventative and responsive measures.

We know how important your role is in not only supporting your children, but also reporting possible incidents as you become aware of them. The Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment and Intimidation (BCHI Reporting Form should be used to report all alleged incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation that occur at school or have a connection back to the school setting that create a risk of harm to other students while they are at school, or interfere with the educational environment. An [online version](#) is available and can easily and confidentially be used by students, staff, and family members. Hard copies of this form are available in the main office, staff workroom, school counseling office, media center, and health services office. If you believe your child has been bullied, please complete and submit this form as soon as possible and/or assist your child in doing so.

Once the form is submitted, school administrators will ensure the parent/guardian of both the alleged target and alleged offender are aware of the report and will begin an investigation within two school days of receiving the report. Parents/guardians can expect a school administrator to reach out to them during the investigation. Once the investigation is completed, parents/guardians will be provided written notice of the outcome of the investigation within fifteen days of receiving the complaint, excluding extenuating circumstances.

There are times when incidents of peer conflict or code of conduct offenses may occur that may not be bullying, but may need follow up action. If you become aware of something that falls under conflict and/or a code of conduct offense, please notify a school administrator via email or phone call so that they can become aware and follow up as needed.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to specifically lift up cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is bullying using electronic media like computers, cell phones, and game systems. Our digital interconnectedness makes bullying different and more damaging than it's ever been before. It allows hatred and publicly humiliating gossip or photos to be instantly far-reaching and inescapable as electronic media is everywhere. It can NOT simply be ignored. In October

2013, the State of Maryland enacted Grace's Law, making misuse of interactive computer services a criminal offense. Its purpose is to prohibit anyone from using electronic media (computers, tablets, phones, etc.) to maliciously engage in conduct that inflicts serious emotional distress on a minor and/or places that minor in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury. A person who is found guilty of violating this law is subject to imprisonment and/or fines.

While all of this information will be reviewed with students at school, we are asking you to do the same at home. Thank you for your partnership in ensuring all of our students feel a sense of safety and belonging in their school communities! More information can be found on the [HCPSS Stop Bullying website](#). If you have any questions regarding this policy or its implementation, please contact a school administrator.

Family File

Please assist us by completing your Family File ASAP.

- Parents/guardians must verify and/or update emergency information for each child every school year. This is completed online in Family File, which has several new updates including how and where to access. Full [details on updating your Family File](#) are available online.

One exciting new feature is that families now can submit a change of address via Family File, rather than completing a separate form and sending it to their school. Full [directions and information for families](#) on this new process can be found online.

2025 - 2026 School Supply List

Click [HERE](#) to view the school supply list for the 25-26 school year.

Transportation Information

The online HCPSS bus locator application on the [transportation web page](#) is now available to view. Eligible families can access bus stop locations and pickup/dropoff times.

Family Academy Kickoff Rescheduled

New Date: Friday, Sept. 27, 9:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: Oakland Mills High School

This districtwide event is open to all HCPSS families and will feature:

- A session with Superintendent Bill Barnes
- Resource tables hosted by HCPSS offices and local organizations
- Information on programs, resources, and services available throughout the school year
- Childcare and language access provided

For additional information, please visit the [Family Academy Kickoff HCPSS News Post](#).

Flier: [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Korean](#)

The Mental Health Community Action Council

The Mental Health Community Action Council, a group that works to remove barriers and build awareness for mental health support in Howard County has created a back-to-school newsletter. It contains mental health resources, tips to address anxiety and friendship skills, information about community events, and more.

Student Personal Device Policy

This summer, the Board of Education agreed to continue with the policy that implements strict limitations on the personal use of devices by students during the student day. Per the policy, students may be in possession of personal devices, but they must be “away and silenced,” meaning devices are not able to be seen by either the student or staff member and are set to make no noise. Additionally, devices may not be a distraction. Smart watches will be permitted to be worn to check time but may not be a distraction. More information about the [policy](#) may be found on the HCPSS website.

Free and Reduced Meals

Many 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, program fees and many others. 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. Details on the [Free and Reduced Meals Program](#), including a link to apply, are available online.

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.
- 9:10 a.m. Second/late bell rings/students should be in the classroom.

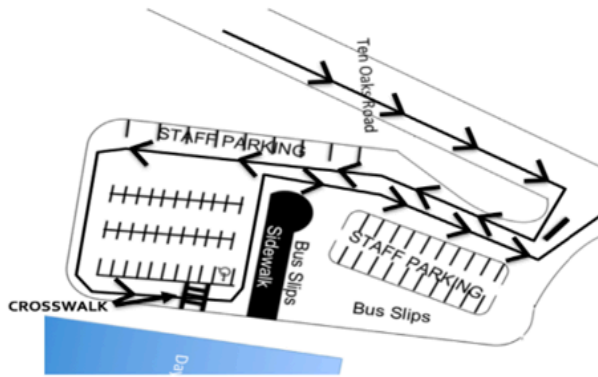
Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:00 a.m. Supervision is not available for students before this time. Before and after care is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

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://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.

Community News

Please visit the HCPSS website [Community News and Programs site](#) for upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

PTA NewsSplash

The PTA NewsSplash is linked [HERE](#).