

WAVE NEWSLETTER

August 5, 2026

Important Dates:

August

- 21** ~ Kindergarten Orientation, ECSE/PreK Orientation, New Student Orientation/Open House (Details Below)
- 24** ~ First Day of School
- 27** ~ First Day of School for ECSE/PreK

September

- 07** ~ Labor Day - Schools and Offices Closed
- 08 & 09** ~ Back-to-School Nights (Details Below)
- 21** ~ School and Offices Closed
- 25** ~ Ice Cream Social, 6 - 8 pm (Raindate: Oct. 2)
- 29** - School Picture Day
- 30** ~ Schools close 3 hours early - Staff Professional Learning Workday

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

We hope you're having a wonderful summer and are as excited as we are for the upcoming school year! We've been hard at work getting everything ready for our Dolphins' return and can't wait to welcome our staff back later this week!

A heartfelt **WELCOME** to all our Early Childhood, Pre-K, and Kindergarten families, as well as families of students in Grades 1-5 who are new to Dayton Oaks — we're so thrilled to have you join our school community!

Please take a few moments to dive into this edition of the WAVE, where you'll find important dates and helpful information to guide you as we gear up for the new year. The next edition will be shared on August 20, 2026, and the WAVE will continue bi-weekly throughout the school year to keep you connected and informed.

Educationally yours,

Ms. Williams-Kennard, Principal
Mr. Scobie, Assistant Principal

Family File

Please assist us by completing your Family File ASAP.

Every year HCPSS parents must complete a Family File for each child. HCPSS utilizes Family File for parents/guardians to complete emergency information. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information for each child, and can do so by logging in to [HCPSS Connect](#) PARENT ACCOUNT and selecting the MORE OPTIONS tab on the left and then clicking on Family File.

Once logged in, you will be asked to update or provide the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information
- Arrival/Dismissal Procedures
- Photo Approval Data Confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA Directory

Again, it is important that you complete the Family File in order to receive the name of your child's teacher for the upcoming school year.

<https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-quick-guide.pdf>

FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (ENGLISH) -

<https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-user-instructions.pdf>

FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (SPANISH) -

<https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-user-instructions-spanish.pdf>

Transportation Information

The online HCPSS bus locator application on the [transportation web page](#) is scheduled to be available August 19, 2026. At that time, eligible families can access bus stop locations and pickup/dropoff times.

2026-2027 School Supply List

Click [HERE](#) to view the school supply list for the 26-27 school year.

2026 - 2027 Open House and Back-to-School Dates/Times

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>
AM ECSE & Full-Day PK Orientation	Friday, August 21, 2026	11:00-11:45 a.m.	ECSE Classrooms
PM ECSE Orientation	Friday, August 21, 2026	1:00-1:45 p.m.	ECSE Classrooms

New Student/ Kindergarten Orientation	Friday, August 21, 2026	1:00-1:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions Kindergarten - Cafeteria New Student - Media Center
Open House (Grades 1-5)	Friday, August 21, 2026	2:00-2:45 p.m.	Grade Level Classrooms
Back to School Night (ECSE/Pre-K, GT, Grades 1 and 2)	Tuesday, September 8, 2026	6:00-7:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m. Grade 1 - Media Ctr 6:00 p.m. Grade 2 - Cafeteria 7:00 p.m. ECSE/PK - Media Ctr 7:00 p.m. GT - Cafeteria
Back to School Night (Kindergarten, Grades 3, 4, 5)	Wednesday, September 9, 2026	6:00-7:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m. Grade 4 - Media 6:00 p.m. Grade 5 - Cafeteria 7:00 p.m. Grade K - Media 7:00 p.m. Grade 3 - Cafeteria

Staffing Updates

Below, please find updates regarding new staff, staff that have left DOES, as well as staff moves:

<u>New Staff to DOES</u>	<u>Farewell to Staff Leaving DOES</u>	<u>Staff Moves at DOES</u>
-Brad Scobie (Assistant Principal) -Reva Coleman (.5 Health Assistant) -Mayra Guzman (PreK Teacher) -Elise Shoemaker (.6 Band Teacher) -Jennifer Harper (Strings Teacher) -JJ Blazek (.4 Physical Education Teacher) -Lauren Phillips (Special Education Teacher) -Kimberly Gerber (.4 Speech & Language Pathologist) -Alyssa Miller-Lair (.2 School Psychologist)	-Shaela Gibson-Deychakiwsky from TE to SA at Clemens Crossing Elementary School -Theresa Wildman to Harford County Public Schools -Carol Reynolds to Folly Quarter Middle School -Erin Robinson to Waterloo Elementary School -Jocelyn Forrest retired -Tamatha Sutton retired -Charlene McDaniel retired -Cindy Arenburg retired -Maham Abbas is pursuing a Masters of Arts in Teaching degree -Heather Verron to Manor Woods Elementary School -Rebecca Peifer to Resource Teacher with DSE --Erin Lally has decided to pursue other professional opportunities outside of HCPSS -Shari Lorch to Instructional Facilitator for OT with DSE	-Kelsey Reid from SpEd-ALS to SpEd-UL -Cherise Isaac from SpEd to PreK -Sonya Billey from Grade 2 to Grade 4 -Jessica Gieselman from Grade 4 to Grade 2 -Jennifer Ludwig from Grade 3 to Grade 2 -Maryna Sklarenko from ECSE to Kindergarten para -Donna Romero from SA-PL/UL to SA-MINC-EL -Kulwant Gill from SA-PL/UL to SA MINC-EL

Student Personal Device Policy

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: 9:25 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.

ARRIVAL TIMES:

9:10 a.m. First bell rings/students may enter the building.

9:20 a.m. Second/late bell rings/students should be in the classroom.

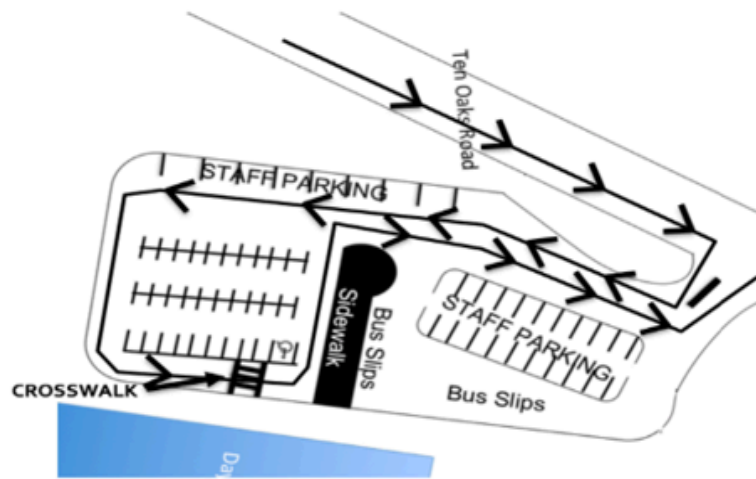
Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:10 a.m. Supervision is not available for students before this time. Before and after care is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

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 3:55 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 3:40pm.** 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 8:55 a.m. and 9:25 a.m. or between 3:25 p.m. and 3:55 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. Please find the [Medication form](#) for your reference.

- 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.

Community News

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