

WAVE NEWSLETTER

September 17, 2026

Important Dates:

September

- 21 ~ Schools and Offices Closed
- 22 ~ Grade 3 MAP Testing (Math)
- 24 ~ Grade 4 MAP Testing (Reading)
- 25 ~ Ice Cream Social, 6 - 8 pm (Raindate: Oct. 2)
- 28 ~ Grade 5 MAP Testing (Reading)
- 29 ~ School Picture Day
- 30 ~ Schools Close 3 Hours Early - Staff Professional Learning Workday

October

- 07 ~ PTA Meeting; 7pm
- 09 ~ DoFun Run - During Recess (Raindate: Oct. 15)
- 16 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks 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](#) prohibits bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, including hate/bias incidents, and intimidation.

HCPSS recently launched a new [Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation \(BCHI\) Reporting Form](#) that allows students, staff, and families to easily and confidentially report concerns. The BCHI Reporting Form should be used to report known or suspected incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation, and hate/bias incidents. These may include physical aggression, threats, retaliation, teasing or name-calling, rumors, exclusion, threatening gestures, online/social media behavior, or conduct related to a student's identity or characteristics.

What happens after you report?

The school will address any immediate safety concerns. The targeted student's parent/guardian will be notified as soon as possible and an administrator will begin the investigation within **two school days**. Both families will receive written notice of the outcome within **15 calendar days**, excluding extenuating circumstances.

A Note About Cyberbullying

In today's digital world, bullying can extend beyond the school day. Cyberbullying can occur through social media, text messages, group chats, gaming platforms, apps, and other digital spaces. Online behavior that occurs outside of school may still require school intervention when it has a connection to the school setting and impacts a student's safety or educational

environment. Families are encouraged to talk regularly with their children about responsible online behavior and to save screenshots, messages, posts, or other evidence when concerns arise.

Not sure if it's bullying? Please still tell us. Peer conflict or other concerning behavior may not meet the definition of bullying but may still require school support and follow-up. Students and families do not need to decide whether something "counts" as bullying before asking for help.

For additional information or to submit a report, visit the [HCPSS Stop Bullying website](#) or review [HCPSS Policy 9460](#).

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

Counselor's Corner

Dear Families,

Now that our school rules and routines are established, the school counselors are spending more time at lunch and recess to help students build meaningful connections with their peers. One of the exciting ways we are doing this is through our "Mix-It Up" events!

On Tuesday, Sept. 22nd, we will host our first "Mix-It Up Recess" for 3rd-5th graders and on Friday, Sept. 25th, we will host it for kindergarten through 2nd grade students. During this counselor-led event, all students are invited to join in on fun activities that encourage them to try a new game or play with a new group of friends.

Later in October, we will host our first "Mix-It Up Lunch". For this event, students will be encouraged to sit at a different table than their usual homeroom spot. To keep things fun and comfortable, the counselors will provide engaging conversation starters to help everyone learn something new about each other!

While changing up a routine can sometimes make students feel a little nervous, our goal is to help everyone build a wider, more inclusive community across their grade level. The counselors will be there to ensure every child feels included, supported, and has an enjoyable time.

We look forward to hosting several of these connection-building events throughout the school year!

Warmly,

Stephanie Dix and Alyson Hannan

Student Personal Device Use in Schools

Families are encouraged to remind students that personal technology devices are to be away and silenced during the student day, including but not limited to phones and smart eyeglasses. More information on student personal device use in schools can be found [HERE](#).

Ice Cream Social



A vibrant poster for an Ice Cream Social at Dayton Oaks Elementary. The background shows a school playground at dusk with string lights. A cartoon dolphin holding an ice cream cone is on the right. The event title 'ICE CREAM SOCIAL' is in large, colorful letters. A pink banner shows the date and time. Below, two columns list participating food trucks: '3 SWEET TRUCKS' (Kona Ice, Mister Softee, Mike's Gelato) and '2 FOOD TRUCKS' (DMV Taqueria, Retro Grill). A large white box at the bottom states that every current student gets a free ice cream. At the very bottom, icons of an ice cream cone, a chair, and a water bottle are shown with instructions to bring items for purchase and to bring chairs and water bottles.

Dayton Oaks Elementary PTA

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Friday, September 25th
6 - 8pm

OUTDOORS ON THE BLACKTOP

3 SWEET TRUCKS

- KONA ICE
- Mister Softee.
- Mike's GELATO
ARTISAN ITALIAN ICE CREAM
SINCE 2016

2 FOOD TRUCKS

- DMV TAQUERIA
EST. - 2021
- RETRO GRILL

EVERY CURRENT STUDENT GETS A FREE ICE CREAM!

Additional sweet and savory items for purchase!

Bring your chairs & water bottles.

PTA Directory Information

HCPSS recently shared an update with PTA Presidents regarding changes to how family contact information may be accessed for school directories. Due to increased concerns related to the safety, security, and privacy of students, staff, and families, HCPSS will no longer provide family contact information from its student information system to PTAs for this purpose.

The DOES PTA may continue to independently create and maintain a school directory by voluntarily collecting contact information directly from families. Participation in the PTA directory is completely voluntary. Only families who choose to provide their information directly to the PTA will be included in the directory. Families who do not wish to participate do not need to provide any information and will not be included.

We appreciate the PTA's continued partnership in supporting meaningful connections among our DOES families while also respecting the privacy and choices of each family.

If you have questions about the PTA directory, including how information is collected or how to participate, please reach out directly to the DOES PTA.

Howard County Community Flu Shot Clinics

The Howard County Health Department will offer FREE flu shots at multiple community events this fall. For more information, please refer to the fliers linked below.

[Howard County Flu Clinic Flyer - English](#)

[Howard County Flu Clinic Flyer - Spanish](#)

Kick off LGBTQIA+ History Month with Lesléa Newman

Families and Community are invited to join HCPSS in partnership with the LGBTQIA+ Commission of Howard County and CARY to bring you this hybrid FAMILY Read the Rainbow and LGBTeaQi&A on Thursday, October 1, 2026 @ 6:00PM. The first 50 families with children in grades 5 and under who register and attend the program will receive a free copy of the book, *Rainbow Cookies* by Lesléa Newman. FAMILY Read the Rainbow is a 30-45 minute virtual program in which participants get to meet an LGBTQIA+ inclusive author to hear them read their book aloud, and have a discussion with the author and our LGBTeaQi&A is an activity to bring together families and community who are looking to connect and learn together. This special combination program will provide attendees with the opportunity and option to join us in person at the Miller Branch Library. Registration is required as space is limited.

Thursday, October 1, 2026 @ 6:00PM

HYBRID - in person at Miller Branch Library or virtual (select when registering)

[Registration](#) is required.

Here is the [link to the downloadable flyer](#).

2027 MLK Poster Contest

The Howard County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission invites Howard County elementary, middle, and high school students to participate in the [2027 MLK Poster Contest](#). This year's theme is **"Let us build the future through stones of hope."** Students are encouraged to create original artwork that visually expresses Dr. King's legacy of service, justice, equality, nonviolence, human rights, and beloved community. Digital submissions only.

Students should scan or photograph their original artwork and email it with a completed application. AI-generated or AI-produced artwork will not be considered.

Prizes:

Elementary School: 1st Place \$150, 2nd Place \$100, 3rd Place \$50

Middle School: 1st Place \$200, 2nd Place \$150, 3rd Place \$75

High School: 1st Place \$300, 2nd Place \$200, 3rd Place \$100

Submission Deadline: October 30, 2026 at 5:00 PM EST

Submit entries to: MLK@howardcountymd.gov

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/MLKCONTEST27>

Supportive Parenting for Anxious Childhood Emotions (SPACE) Program

HCPSS' Supportive Parenting for Anxious Childhood Emotions (SPACE) program, facilitated under the HCPSS Office of Social Work Services, brings together parents of anxious children and provides them with both a forum to connect and share their experiences as well as an opportunity to learn strategies to better support their anxious children.

SPACE training empowers parents to change their behavior in ways that will help reduce their child's anxiety. The program, originally developed by Yale Child Study Center Director Dr. Eli Libowitz, is specifically designed for parents of children and adolescents with anxiety issues, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), and other related problems.



Start Date: Week of October 5th



Duration: 7 weeks (*Ends mid-November through early December, depending on holiday closures like Election Day; exact end dates are listed on the registration form*)



Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Weekly)



Format: Options for both **virtual** and **in-person** groups



Registration Window: Open from **September 9th – September 23rd**



Registration Link: This link takes you to the HCPSS Landing page for the Fall 2026 SPACE groups. This page includes group information as well as links to register for all the groups:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2026/09/fall-2026-training-program-for-parents-guardians-of-anxious-students/>

Cold Weather Gear Needed

For more information, please refer to the flyer linked below.

[Coat Drive Flyer](#)

Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15th through October 15th marks National Hispanic Heritage Month! This month celebrates and honors the contributions, culture, and history of those from or with ancestors from the Caribbean, Mexico, Spain, Central, and South America. For more information, please click [HERE](#).

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) Program

Many HCPSS families may be eligible to receive benefits through the [Free and Reduced Meals \(FARMS\) Program](#).

Qualifying families can take advantage of a wide range of additional resources and discounts, including free college applications, free or reduced JumpStart dual enrollment tuition, discounted internet through the Comcast Internet Essentials program, and more.

Families must submit a new application every school year. During the first 30 school days, students with FARMS eligibility from the prior school year will continue to receive benefits. Any student whose family has not filled out an application by the 30th school day will have their status changed to full pay until a new application is received.

Parents/guardians are highly encouraged to fill out the applications as soon as possible. It is very important that applications are filled out accurately and completely.

- [Apply online](#)
- Apply by mail: Paper applications will be available at all school front offices. Applications can be returned to the school or mailed to HCPSS Food & Nutrition Services, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Additionally, we want you to know that there are school staff available to support you and your child. We have numerous supports in place, and I encourage you and your child to take advantage of them whenever they are needed.

Here are a number of administrators and support staff available at our school who can provide supports along with your child's teachers:

- Adrienne Williams-Kennard, Principal - Adrienne_Williams-Kennard@hcpss.org
- Brad Scobie, Assistant Principal - Bradley_Scobie@hcpss.org
- Stephanie Dix, Counselor - Stephanie_Dix@hcpss.org
- Ronda Lennon, PPW - Ronda_Lennon@hcpss.org

If you have questions regarding the program, please visit www.hcpss.org/FARMS or contact Food and Nutrition Services at 410-313-6743 or foodsvc@hcpss.org.

Volunteer Training Required for Volunteers and Visitors

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at DOES. We value our volunteers and the contributions they make to our students and school. Per Howard County Board of Education Policy, all volunteers must complete applicable training prior to any volunteering activities. Follow [these steps](#) to complete the necessary training prior to volunteering at your child's school.

Free Food and Fresh Produce Distribution

There will be a free food and fresh produce distribution on Monday, September 28th from 12-2pm. Sponsored by The Salvation Army, it will be held at 3267 Pine Orchard Lane, Ellicott City, MD, 21042. There is a drive-through option and attendees should bring an ID.

[September Food Distribution - Spanish.pdf](#)

[September Food Distribution - English.pdf](#)

This information is neither sponsored nor endorsed by HCPSS, but serves to extend resources for students and families.

Fall 2026 After-School Classes at Dayton Oaks

Howard County Recreation & Parks' after-school classes provide fun, structured, educational, and enriching activities for students on site at Dayton Oaks, benefitting both the child(ren) and parents! To register, please go to: [Dayton Oaks ES Registration Page](#).

[Fall 2026 After-School Classes at Dayton Oaks Flyer](#)

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 into their [HCPSS Connect PARENT ACCOUNT](#) and selecting the ONLINE REGISTRATION/FAMILY FILE tab in the upper-right corner and then clicking on FAMILY FILE VERIFICATION.

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.

FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (ENGLISH) - [Family File Quick Reference English.pdf](#)

FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (SPANISH) - [Family-File-Quick-reference spanish.pdf](#)

Please assist us by completing your Family File ASAP.

2026 - 2027 School Supply List

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

A Note About Parent Lunch Visits

As we excitedly begin a new school year, we want to take a moment to welcome our families back and share a message about our strong Dayton Oaks community and the importance of our partnership with you.

As you may have heard, parent lunch visits are no longer permitted at HCPSS schools. This information was shared yesterday in the [Howard County Public School System News](#) report. While we understand that some families may be disappointed by this change, the decision is intended to help keep our students and school community safe, secure, and focused on learning. Limiting access to the building during the school day also helps minimize disruptions and support consistent routines for students.

Most importantly, please know that our families are always welcome, valued, and an important part of the Dayton Oaks community. We never want this change to feel like a barrier between our school and the families we serve. Our children thrive when families and schools work together, and we deeply value your partnership.

There are many meaningful ways to stay connected to your child's school experience. Please continue to communicate with your child's teacher and our staff, attend school and community events, and look for opportunities to volunteer and participate in an official capacity. We will share those opportunities with you as they become available very soon.

Thank you for your understanding, partnership, and continued support. Dayton Oaks is a stronger community because of our families, and we look forward to working together to make this a wonderful year for all of our students.

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.

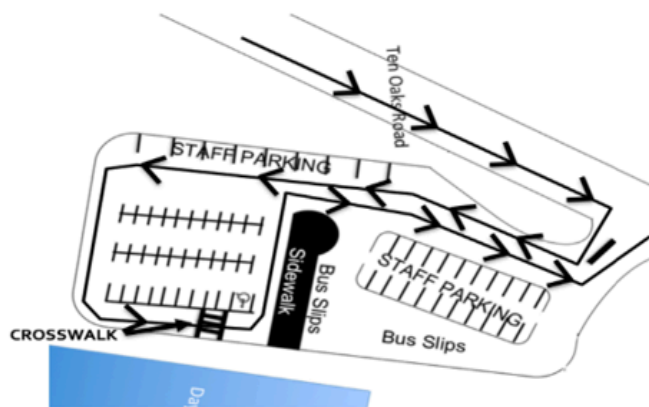
Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:10 a.m. Supervision is not available for students before this time. Before and after care is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

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.

[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.

Community News

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