

WAVE NEWSLETTER

September 3, 2026

Important Dates:

September

- 07 ~ Labor Day - Schools and Offices Closed
- 08 ~ Grade 1 MAP Testing (Math)
- 08 ~ Back-to-School Night for Grades 1 and 2, ESCE/PK and GT (See Details Below)
- 09 ~ Back-to-School Night for Kindergarten and Grades 3, 4 and 5 (See Details Below)
- 14 ~ Grade 2 and Grade 4 MAP Testing (Math)
- 16 ~ Grade 5 MAP Testing (Math)
- 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

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

Thank you for a fantastic first two weeks of school! It has been an amazing start to what we know will be an outstanding school year at Dayton Oaks!

As we continue to build relationships, establish routines, and strengthen partnerships with our families, we are excited to welcome families to one of our favorite opportunities to connect with staff: Back to School Night!

Back to School Night provides families with an opportunity to learn more about what their students will experience and learn throughout the school year. Families will also have the opportunity to learn more about important initiatives, classroom practices, and supports that promote student learning, well-being, and a strong, vibrant community of learners.

Below, please find the schedule for next week's Back to School Nights. Due to limited space, these events are designed for adults only.

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

We look forward to welcoming you to Dayton Oaks and partnering with you throughout the school year. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we work together to make this a GREAT year for all students!

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

Counselor's Corner

Dear DOES Families,

As we settle into the rhythm of the school year, families often ask us for advice on how to support their child's social-emotional growth at home, or how to navigate the process of finding outside counseling support. Partnering with families is one of our favorite parts of the job! Today, we want to share a few of our favorite resources with you!

We absolutely love using children's books to spark meaningful conversations at home. Books are a wonderful, low-pressure way to talk about big topics like confidence, worries, friendship, and grief.

Because learning something new can be tough, we like to focus on fostering a growth mindset or the belief that we can take on hard challenges and grow from them. Here are a few of our absolute favorite books to get you started:

- The Thing Lou Couldn't Do by Ashley Spire: A fun read for our younger students about trying again and the struggle that comes along with learning new things!
- Even Superheroes Make Mistakes by Shelly Becker: A superhero themed book about how to respond to mistakes!
- Sticks by Diane Alber: Help your child be open to new experiences and use their creativity to get "unstuck" for a negative mindset!
- The Magical Yet by Angela DiTerlizzi: A beautifully illustrated book about trying new things, working through mistakes, and accepting that new things can take practice!

If you feel your child would benefit from extra support outside of school, finding the right therapist can feel overwhelming. We highly recommend starting with [PsychologyToday.com](https://www.psychologytoday.com). This user-friendly website allows you to filter your search by location, insurance, and specific specialties, making it easy to read through provider profiles to find the right match.

Additionally, we are always happy to connect with you to discuss specific needs and additional resources that might benefit your child.

Please never hesitate to reach out if you need book recommendations or resource connections!

Warmly,

Mrs. Dix & Mrs. Hannan
DOES School Counselors

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](#)

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

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.

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.

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.

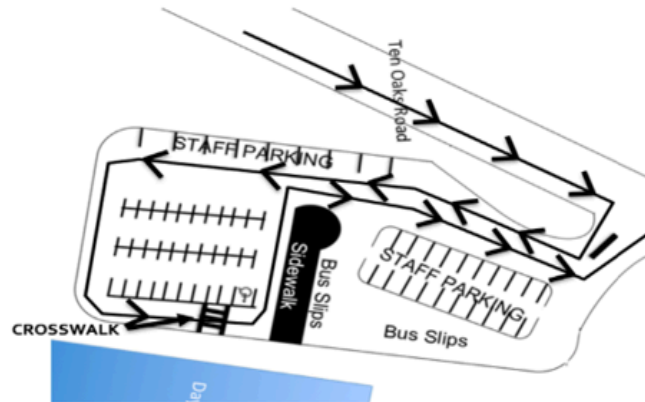
Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:10 a.m. Supervision is not available for students before this time. Before and after care is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

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.