

WAVE NEWSLETTER

October 1, 2026

Important Dates:

October

- 07** ~ PTA Meeting; 7pm
- 09** ~ DolFun Run - During Recess (Raindate: Oct. 15)
- 16** ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day
- 21** ~ Grade 5 Field Trip to Robinson Nature Center (Ackerman, Grabowski & Holcomb)
- 22** ~ Grade 5 Field Trip to Robinson Nature Center (Ridgley & Vandenberg)
- 22** ~ Grade 1 Field Trip to Green Meadow Farms
- 23** ~ Fall Festival; 6:00 - 8:00 pm (Raindate: Oct. 30)
- 27** ~ End of First Marking Period
- 27** ~ Kindergarten Field Trip to Gaver Farm
- 28** ~ Schools Closed for Students - Staff Professional Day
- 30** ~ Grade 3 Field Trip to Baltimore Museum of Industry

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

Regular school attendance is an important part of student success. When students are in school each day, they have more opportunities to learn, build relationships, and participate in their school community.

Research shows that missing 10% of the school year, or approximately 18 days, can have a significant impact on a student's academic success. Attendance also becomes increasingly important as students get older. By sixth grade, frequent absences can be an early indicator that a student may be at risk for not completing high school. By ninth grade, regular attendance is a strong predictor of graduation.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) defines chronic absenteeism as missing 10% or more of the school year. HCPSS is committed to working with families to address attendance concerns and provide support when needed.

As part of this effort, families may receive the following supports based on a student's attendance:

- **5% Absenteeism:** Families may receive a Care and Concern phone call and/or letter. This is an opportunity for us to connect with you and identify ways we can support your child's attendance.
- **10% Absenteeism:** Families will receive a Chronic Absenteeism Attendance Letter. An attendance conference and additional supports may also be provided.
- **15% Absenteeism:** An Attendance Support Plan may be developed, and the student may be referred to the Central Attendance Team for additional support.

- 20% Absenteeism: Families will receive additional attendance communication, and further interventions may be provided in accordance with HCPSS attendance procedures.

At Dayton Oaks, we understand that families may face challenges that affect attendance. Our goal is to partner with you, understand those challenges, and help ensure that every student has the opportunity to attend school regularly and experience success.

Thank you for partnering with us to help our Dolphins be present, engaged, and ready to learn each day.

Educationally yours,

Ms. Williams-Kennard, Principal

Mr. Scobie, Assistant Principal

Counselor's Corner

Dear Families,

The year is off to a great start! Although your child is busy all day long here at school, it is not uncommon for them to not share a lot of information when they get home from school when you ask about their school day. Below are a few suggestions to spark more meaningful conversations. Try picking just one prompt tonight to help give your child a specific part of their day to share about!

- What did your classroom feel like today--was it calm, busy, or energetic?
- Where is your favorite spot to sit or work in the classroom?
- Tell me about the story your teacher read today. What do you think about the main character?
- Can you give me a math problem and teach me the strategy you are learning in math?
- How did you show your DIVE expectations (Dependable, Involved and Organized, Very Respectful, and Effortful) at recess or related arts today?
- Did you earn any Dolphin Tickets today?
- Who did you sit with at lunch today?
- Tell me about recess, what did you do today?
- Tell me something funny that happened today. What are you looking forward to at school tomorrow?
- Was there a moment today when you felt proud of yourself?

Thank you for your partnership. Please reach out to one of the school counselors if you would like to discuss ways to work together to support your child further.

Warmly,

Stephanie Dix and Alyson Hannan

DOES Represented at Howard County Children's Chorus

Ms. Park and Ms. Whitaker are proud to announce that ten fourth- and fifth-grade students represented Dayton Oaks Elementary School in auditions for the Howard County Children's Chorus (HCCC), a countywide advanced choral program. These students were nominated not only for their musical talent but also for their Dependability, Involvement, Organization, Respect, and Effort.

The auditions were highly competitive, with a huge turnout of 260 auditionees. Of the 130 students selected, eight DOES students were invited to perform with the chorus:

Ava Allen
Caeden Hinson
Sonia Monroe
Princess Oshiyoye
Margaret (Greta) Oxenrider
Lillian Purdon
Neylah Rajan
Elim Song

Please join us in celebrating these wonderful students!

Fall 2026 After-School Classes (Session 2) 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 Session 2](#)

Student Reading Improvement Plans (SRIPs)

Maryland's Ready to Read Act requires that students at risk for reading difficulty receive timely, targeted intervention. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is putting this into practice through Student Reading Improvement Plans, or SRIPs. For more information, please see the flier linked below.

[SRIPs Flier](#)

October LGBTQ+ History Month

October marks LGBTQ+ History Month! LGBTQ+ History Month was first established in 1994 by Rodney Wilson, a high school history teacher and former Glisten (previously GLSEN) chapter leader. It was then declared a national history month by President Barack Obama in 2009. LGBTQ+ History Month is a month-long annual observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. Taking the time to uplift and celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of the LGBTQ+ community plays a significant role in creating positive school climates for LGBTQ+ students. Please find additional information regarding LGBTQ+ Month [here](#).

West Friendship Volunteer Fire Department
12535 Old Frederick Road | Sykesville, MD

OPEN HOUSE



SUNDAY

October 11, 2026

12PM - 4PM



ATV Rides
Fire Apparatus Displays
Volunteer Opportunities
Demonstrations
Food and more!

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

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](#).

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](#)

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>

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](#).

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.

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.

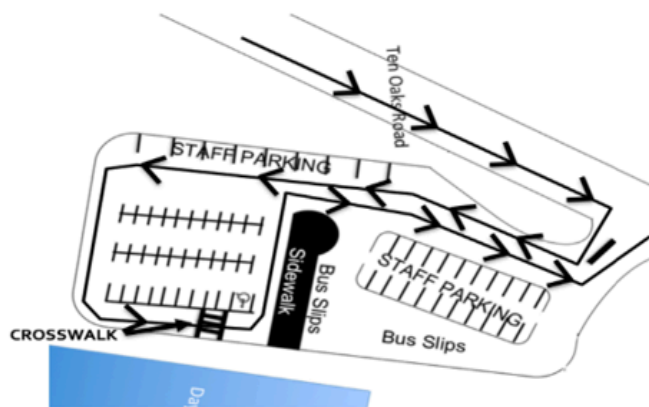
Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:10 a.m. Supervision is not available for students before this time. Before and after care is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

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.