

WAVE NEWSLETTER

April 4, 2024

Important Dates:

April 9 ~ End of Third Quarter
April 10 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day
April 12 ~ Deadline to Order Field Day T-Shirts
April 27 ~ Culture Festival, 2 - 4:30 pm

On Deck with your Administrators

Dear DOES Families:

National Assistant Principals Week is being celebrated from April 1-5 this year. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and respect for our very own Assistant Principal, Shari Lorch. Ms. Lorch is an outstanding assistant principal, serving in several capacities across HCPSS. Our staff is constantly amazed by the many ways that Ms. Lorch has gone above and beyond to serve the students, staff, and families at Dayton Oaks.

Please join us in thanking and acknowledging Ms. Lorch for the myriad of contributions she has made and will continue to make at Dayton Oaks.

Below, please find a timely and poignant quote that reminds me of Ms. Lorch...

*“Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them,
who understands the power of connection*

and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.” - Rita Pierson

Educationally yours,

Ms. Williams-McKinney, Principal
Ms. Lorch, Assistant Principal

Counselor's Corner

Dear DOES Families,

All year long, we look for the many opportunities to educate and celebrate diversity and acceptance among our students, their families, and our community. Acceptance is one part of fostering a strong sense of belonging! March was Disability Awareness Month and April is Autism Awareness Month, just two of the many opportunities to recognize the beauty in our differences at DOES. Reading books with children can be a great way to foster conversations about acceptance and belonging. I am currently reading [A Boy Called Bat](#) by Elana K. Arnold with my own child and enjoying the time together while exposing her to diversity through the characters and experiences in the book. Below you will find a few of my favorite children's books that can support a conversation on acceptance:

[Completely Me](#) by Justine Green

[I am a Masterpiece!](#) by Mia Armstrong

[Acceptance is My Superpower](#) by Alicia Ortego

[Pink is for Boys](#) by Robb Pearlman

[Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You](#) by Sonya Sotomayor

[The Big Umbrella](#) by Amy June Bates

[The Skin You Live In](#) by Michael Tyler

[Perfectly Norman](#) by Tom Percival

At DOES, we have a Belonging Group that is currently made up of 5th graders. This student-led group works with a team of teachers to strengthen belonging at DOES. Please Save the Date for our upcoming Belonging Night, scheduled for the evening of Thursday, May 2nd. More information about this fun evening will be coming out soon! Please reach out to one of the school counselors if you would like to discuss other opportunities to strengthen belonging!

Stephanie Dix (Stephanie_Dix@hcpss.org)

Alyson Hannan (Alyson_Hannan@hcpss.org)

Solar Eclipse Visible in Howard County

On Monday, April 8, 2024, a partial solar eclipse will be visible in Howard County, Maryland. This partial eclipse will begin at 2:05 pm, with maximum coverage at 3:21 pm, and will end around 4:35 pm. Safety during a solar eclipse is important, as we will be dismissing our students during this time. Please review this information with your child(ren) to ensure safety at home:

- Never look directly at the Sun, especially during a solar eclipse.
- It is dangerous to look directly at the Sun and can cause permanent damage to the eyes.
- Do not look at the Sun through sunglasses, telescope, or binoculars.

We encourage you and your family to read more about [solar eclipses](#) and [safety](#) and enjoy experiencing this rare, exciting phenomenon.

Learning Together Peer (LTP) Program

The Dayton Oaks Elementary Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) prekindergarten programs are making preparations for classes for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year and are accepting applications for students to participate as peers through the Learning Together Peer (LTP) Program. These classes include children with and without disabilities. The program's focus is helping all children develop communication, literacy, math, problem solving, motor, and social skills. Parents of children who will be 3 or 4 by September 1st, can pick up an application in the Dayton Oaks Elementary School's front office.

In alignment with [Maryland's Blueprint for the Future](#), a limited number of new applications for students turning 4 by September 1 will be available. The Howard County Public School System continues to offer a prekindergarten program for income eligible children who will be four years old by September 1. For additional information, visit:

<https://www.hcpss.org/schools/pre-k-programs/>

HCPSS is committed to providing instruction based on the statewide Early Learning Standards which are in alignment with Kindergarten Readiness. The fees listed in the application will be collected monthly regardless of the learning model determined by HCPSS throughout the upcoming school year (virtual, hybrid, in person, or class quarantine). If you have any additional questions, please contact Megan Battle at Megan_Battle@hcpss.org or (410) 313-1571.

2024-2025 Bus Service Registration

To help HCPSS plan for student transportation needs for the 2024-2025 school year, bus service registration for the 2024-2025 school year will open for parents/guardians of eligible students on April 8. Families are asked to complete registration by May 31 to better inform development of routes and busing needs.

Details on [Bus Transportation Registration](#) are available on the HCPSS website.

April is National Autism Acceptance Month

April has been designated National Autism Acceptance Month! Earlier this week, local autistic children and adults with their families, friends, and advocates joined elected officials from the Maryland Senate, House of Delegates, and the Maryland Department of Disabilities in Annapolis to advocate for autistic Marylanders as well as celebrate valuable contributors of autistic individuals across the globe!

Other events this month!

[April 6 Baltimore Zoo](#)

In collaboration with Itineris, the Baltimore Zoo will offer a variety of activities throughout the day! Join this "Wildly Inclusive" event from 10-4.

[April 13 Autism in the Park](#)

Join the Autism Society of Maryland ([AUSOM](#)) (formerly known as the Howard County Autism Society) in celebrating differences (#Celebrate Differences) during the month of April. On **April 13th from 10-2** in collaboration with the Howard County Government, AUSOM will host [Autism in the Park](#) at Blandair Regional Park. Free events include fitness and Zumba classes, face painting, sensory activities, and an outdoor classroom hosted by Robinson Nature Center just to name a few! Stop by the HCPSS DSE Family Support and Resource Center table to say hello!

Did you know these Autism Fun Facts?

1. The [Autism Cares Act](#) first signed in 2006 was created to address the rising number of children and adults diagnosed with autism. It funds research on early intervention, diagnosis and treatment across the lifespan. It's currently up for reauthorization...get involved!
2. 1 in 36 children has been identified with ASD according to the CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring ([ADDM](#)) Network.
3. In HCPSS 17.89% of students ages 3-21 have Autism as their primary disability during the 22-23 school year. ([Maryland Early Intervention and Special Education Census Data](#)).
4. When referring to a person with autism - language matters. Some prefer "autistic person" because autism is part of their identity while others may prefer the term "individual with ASD". For some, being called neurodivergent is preferred. **It's ok to ask!**
[Identify First Language](#) (Autism Self Advocacy Network) [What is Neurodiversity?](#)

Thank you for joining us as we acknowledge and learn more about our community members with autism.

DOES Culture Festival 2024

We cordially invite you and your family to attend the annual PTA-sponsored DOES Culture Festival on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. Come enjoy unique and exciting musical performances, savor the tastes and smells of international cuisine, and learn more about world cultures as you come out to support your fellow classmates.

Sign up to host a booth and/or performance by April 20, 2024, [here](#).

Please contribute your favorite recipe, craft, or fable to the Cultural Recipe Book by April 13, 2024, [here](#).

Contact Amani Dadzie, Sweta Thaker, or Rachelle Pierre-Mathieu and the Culture Festival Team to volunteer and with questions: culturenight@daytonoakspta.org

Help make sure YOUR culture is represented!

A colorful poster for the DOES Culture Festival 2024. The poster is framed by a border of various national flags. At the top, it says "A Family Event Sponsored by the DOES PTA" and "CULTURE FESTIVAL '2024" in large, colorful letters. Below that, it says "Saturday, April 27, 2024 2:00pm - 4:30pm". The main text reads "Travel around the world with the many diverse cultures of Dayton Oaks!". There are three main sections: "Enjoy cultural booths from various countries represented at DOES!", "Help make sure YOUR Culture is represented!" (with two downward arrows), and "Enjoy ethnic cuisine & live performances celebrating various cultures!". At the bottom, there are two QR codes and two links: "Sign-up to host a booth and/or performance bit.ly/DOESCultureFest (Due 4/20)" and "Contribute to the Cultural Recipe Book with your favorite recipe, craft, or fable: bit.ly/DOESRecipes". At the very bottom, it says "For questions or to volunteer, please contact the Culture Festival Committee at culturenight@daytonoakspta.org".

Order Your Field Day T-Shirts Now!

Dayton Oaks' Field Day is fast approaching, and we wanted to provide the opportunity to order a field day shirt for you and your students. Field Day is May 16, so mark your calendars! We will also need volunteers for that day, and more information about that will be forthcoming.

All shirt orders will be online at <https://does24.itemorder.com/shop/home/> and the **deadline for orders is April 12, 2024.**

Each grade has a dedicated color and two styles to choose from (dri-fit or regular style tee). When ordering from the website, be sure to select each individual student's grade with

matching color from the drop-down menu on the website provided for our school (<https://does24.itemorder.com/shop/home/>). Please double check that you have the correct grade and color for each of your students as we will not be able to make any returns or exchanges.

Pre-K - Gray

K - Yellow

1 - Purple

2 - Red

3 - Orange

4 - Lime Green

5 - Royal Blue

We're looking forward to having a successful Field Day in 2024! If you have any questions, please contact the DOES PE team at: greg_bane@hcpss.org or brian_bailey@hcpss.org.

Band Musicians of the Month

Congratulations to the Band Musicians of the Month for April. These students have been working hard and will have their names displayed on certificates on the band bulletin board and also have their names listed in the Howard County Times. Keep up the great work and awesome attitudes!

Yusuf Arain - Flute

Caroline Bosmans - Percussion

Hafeez Dahya - Clarinet

James Marquart - Percussion

Ayaan Chaturvedi - Trombone

Berylla Boadu - Trumpet

Benjamin Phortand Gasga - Alto Saxophone

Colin Massie - Clarinet

Ryan Pearlman - Clarinet

Sulaiman Hassan - Percussion

Arnaaz Gill - Trombone

Sathvik Srigiriraju - Trumpet

Whittacre Scheuneman - Trumpet

Anudeep Rodda - Trumpet

Ethan Massay - Clarinet

Musically,

Mrs. Amy Bejm Syversen, Director of Bands

2024-2025 Kindergarten Registration

Do you have a relative, friend or neighbor that has a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2024? Tell them it's time to register for kindergarten!

Kindergarten [registration](#) kicked off Monday, March 4. Parents can begin the enrollment process online, after which a member of our front office team will contact you to complete the registration process. Current HCPSS prekindergarten students do not need to be re-registered for kindergarten because they are already enrolled as an HCPSS student. If you have any questions, please contact us at 410-313-1571.

SCH Judges Needed

Our 5th graders are getting ready to start preparing for their Simulated Congressional Hearings on May 10th. We are looking for volunteers/community members who would enjoy listening to and speaking with fifth graders as they present their testimonies. No experience is necessary! If you are interested or you know someone who would be perfect for this endeavor, please contact Mrs. Lindahl at allison_lindahl@hcpss.org.

Health Room News

Many thanks to Sunny Xie and Sucharita Katikala for volunteering during our Vision and Hearing Clinic. We couldn't have done it without you!

AHS Food Pantry

There will be a food distribution on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, from 2:45 - 4:00 p.m. in front of Atholton High School, 6520 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD.



ATHOLTON HIGH SCHOOL
6520 FREETOWN ROAD

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

APRIL 17TH
2:45- 4PM
FRONT OF ATHOLTON HIGH SCHOOL

FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT



Spring & Summer Clothing Giveaway

Free new and gently used clothes, jackets and shoes. Saturday, April 6, 2024, from 9 - 11 a.m. at Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Lane, Columbia, MD. Sponsored by Grace Community Church.

[SSCG-FLYER-2024-English-FINAL1.pdf](#)

[SSCG-FLYER-2024-Spanish-FINAL1.pdf](#)

Spring/Summer Grief Camps

- [Camp Kangaroo 2024](#), Seasons Hospice, Baltimore, MD - Summer Camp dates are TBD. Planning for August 2024. Camp is free for children ages 5-18 yrs old who have had a loss of a loved one within the last 2 years. Visit the website to register and the team will reach out with more information.
- [Camp Erin 2024](#) Montgomery County, MD - Children and teens ages 6-17, who are grieving the death of someone close to them. May 3rd-5th. Please visit the website to request a camper application. Contact is Eva Cowen 301-869-4673 evac@caringmatters.org
- [Summer Camp Forget Me Not 2024](#), Washington, D.C. - Ages 6-17 yrs. Three one day, day camps for different age groups this summer (June) at Capitol Hill Day School/Farren's Stable (218 D St, SE, Washington, DC). No registration fee for camp. Applications are now available. Deaths should have occurred before March 2024. Contact camp@wendtcenter.org with any questions.
- [Camp Jamie 2024](#), Hospice of Frederick County - Complete and return the entire packet (available on the website) by mail or in person to 1 Frederick Health Way, Frederick MD 21701, or scan and email to griefsupport@frederick.health.
Overnight Camp Jamie: May 17-May 19 -Skycroft Conference Center, Middletown MD, grades 1-8. Applications due April 26th *One Day:* Sept 28th Thorpewood Retreat Center, Thurmont MD, grades 1-8. Applications due Sept 13th
- [Hospice of The Chesapeake Grief Camp 2024](#), Anne Arundel County - Camp Nabi- Ages 6-18 yrs. August 9th-11th Cost: \$100 (Scholarships available). Arlington Echo Outdoor Ed Center 975 Indian Landing Rd Millersville, MD. For more information or to register, contact 888.501.7077 or griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org

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

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

Glenelg Theatre Camp

This summer, the Glenelg Theatre Camp is back (for our third summer) with a 2-week summer theatre camp at Glenelg High School presenting... Annie JR!

When: July 1-12 (no camp July 4) from 9AM-3PM.

Who: All rising 3rd-8th graders; no experience necessary

Where: Glenelg High School Auditorium

Register today at <https://www.glenelgboosters.com/summer-sport-camps/>

Spring 2024 After-School Classes at DOES

Howard County Rec and Parks provides fun, structured, educational, and enriching activities for students, benefitting both the child(ren) and parents! To register for an after-school class at Dayton Oaks, click [HERE](#).

[DOES Spring 2024 After-School Classes](#)

Health Room Reminders

Deciding when a child is too sick to go to school can be a difficult decision for parents to make. When trying to decide, use the guidelines below to help you.

Stay at Home: If your child has any of the following symptoms, please keep your child at home or make appropriate child care arrangements:

- **Appearance and Behavior** - unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused or irritable. This is sufficient reason to exclude a child.
- **Eyes** - thick mucus or pus draining from the eye or pink eye. With pink eye (conjunctivitis) you may see a white or yellow discharge, matted eyelids after sleep, eye pain and/or redness.
- **Fever** - temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Remember that a child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Greenish nose discharge and/or chronic cough** - should be seen by a healthcare provider. These conditions may be contagious and require treatment.
- **Sore throat** - especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck. (With strep throat, the child may return to school after 24 hours on antibiotics.)
- **Diarrhea** - three (3) or more watery stools in a 24-hour period, especially if the child acts or looks ill.
- **Vomiting** - vomiting two (2) or more times within the past 24 hours
- **Rash** - body rash, especially with fever or itching. Heat rashes and allergic reactions are not contagious.
- **Ear infections without fever** - do not need to be excluded, but the child needs to get medical treatment and follow-up. Untreated ear infections can cause permanent hearing loss.
- **Lice** - children may not return to school until they have been treated and are free of live lice. Make a habit of checking your child's hair for head lice once a week.
- **COVID** - Students who are positive for Covid should isolate at home through at least day 5 (day 0 is the day symptoms appeared or the date the specimen was collected for the positive test for people who are asymptomatic). They should wear a mask through day 10 while at school. Students must be 24 hours fever free to return to school.
 - The Maryland Department of Health and Maryland State Department of Education recommend that schools and child care programs follow the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs for the 2023-2024 school year.

If your child shows any of the above symptoms at school, it will be necessary to pick them up from school. Please make sure to update your emergency contacts so that you can pick up your student within an hour of notification from the health room. Please call or email if you have any questions: Rachel_Tulis@hcpss.org or 410 313-1575

Handicapped Accessible Parking Spaces

In response to our need for additional handicapped accessible parking for this year, the county offices have provided several additional spaces. These are located in our front lot adjacent to the school.

As a reminder these spaces should be utilized only by those who currently hold a State of Maryland issued plate or placard allowing for use.

DOES Student Showcase

SAVE THE DATE for the Dayton Oaks Student Showcase scheduled for May 9, 2024, 6:30-8:00 pm. The DOES Student Showcase is an open house for family and community that spotlights learning at Dayton Oaks Elementary. We will be rolling out the red carpet to view the amazing work from all our star students in RECC to 5th grade! Additionally, we invite students to participate in the showcase by creating a STEAM project. Just follow the directions for creating a STEAM Project in the packet . We hope to see you at our red carpet event!

Volunteer in the Media Center!

The Media Center is always looking for parent volunteers. Please consider signing up to volunteer by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A44A5AD2EAA8-47151726-winter>

Student Technology Reminder - Personal Devices

Recently, we have noticed an increase in the number of students bringing personal technology devices to school. These include cell phones, Apple watches, Gizmo watches, and other personal devices that include text messaging capabilities. These items have been disruptive to classroom instruction, therefore, we wanted to uplift the HCPSS Policy regarding personal technology devices in elementary schools:

[HCPSS Policy 8080](#) - Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media states that elementary school students “will keep personal technology devices in backpacks during the school day, unless otherwise authorized by school administrators or instructional staff.”

If your child has a personal device, please review this policy with them. As stated in Policy 8080, students who bring these devices to school will be instructed to place them in their backpacks for the duration of the school day. Thank you for your partnership.

HCPSS Emergency Notifications

As we head into winter weather, [families are reminded](#) that in emergency situations (including inclement weather), information will be shared with the community only through the HCPSS website, email and text, Twitter and the HCPSS weather hotline. [Be sure your Family File is up to date](#) and that you have [opted into texts](#) to receive emergency messages.

Volunteer Training Required for Volunteers and Visitors

Anyone volunteering at school in any capacity, including parents joining their children for lunch, are required to complete volunteer training prior to their first visit. Please visit [HERE](#) for more information. Thank you in advance for your willingness to support our staff and students at DOES.

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.

2023-2024 School Meals Information

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about HCPSS meal information.

Pricing for school meals for 2023-24:

Breakfast (\$2.00)

Lunch (\$2.80)

Many HCPSS 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, academic and athletic program fees and many others in addition to free or discounted meals. 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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