

WAVE NEWSLETTER

August 22, 2024

Important Dates:

August 23 ~ New Student Orientation/Open House (Details Below)

August 26 ~ First Day of School

August 29 ~ First Day of School for RECC/PreK

September 2 ~ Labor Day - Schools and Offices Closed

September 10 & 11 ~ Back-to-School Nights (Details Below)

September 18 ~ Schools Close Three Hours Early - Professional Work and Wellness Day

September 20 ~ Ice Cream Social, 6 - 8 pm

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

As we embark on a new school year, Dayton Oaks is bustling with excitement! Our teachers are eagerly preparing for the arrival of students and looking forward to welcoming the smiling faces of our dolphins next week. We hope your family can join us for our orientations and open house on Friday, August 23, 2024:

- **AM RECC Orientation:** 11:00 - 11:45 a.m.
- **PM RECC Orientation:** 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.
- **New Student/Kindergarten Orientation:** 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.
- **Open House for Grades 1-5:** 2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

To help everyone prepare for the first day of school on August 26, here are some tips to get the whole family ready:

1. **Re-establish a consistent sleep schedule:** Gradually adjust bedtime and wake-up times before school starts to help your child transition back to a school-friendly routine.
2. **Practice the morning routine:** Walk through typical activities like getting dressed, eating breakfast, and gathering materials. This helps children feel more confident and independent, reducing morning stress.
3. **Establish a designated homework/reading area:** Create a quiet, distraction-free space for your child to complete homework or read each evening. Let them help design or decorate the area to make it their own.
4. **Review what D.I.V.E. stands for:** Dependable, Involved and Organized, Very Respectful, Effortful. Discuss how your child can DIVE into a successful school year and acknowledge when they demonstrate these traits at home or in the community.
5. **Talk with your child about their feelings:** Acknowledge that all emotions are normal—whether they feel excited, nervous, sad that summer is ending, or a mix of emotions. Sharing your own feelings can help start the conversation.

On behalf of the entire Dayton Oaks staff, we welcome you and look forward to a very positive and productive year together!

Educationally yours,

Ms. Williams-McKinney, Principal

Ms. Lorch, Assistant Principal

Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Dix and Mrs. Hannan, the school counselors at DOES, are excited for another great school year! The 2024-25 school year will be Mrs. Hannan's third year as a school counselor at DOES. This year, she will be supporting the students on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Mrs. Dix will continue to be at DOES full-time, starting her 7th year as the school counselor at DOES!

School Counselors help all students Kindergarten through 5th grade by facilitating school-wide events, classroom lessons, small group counseling, and individual support. The focus of HCPSS school counselors is driven by the American School Counselor Association standards, supporting students with learning strategies, self-management skills, and social skill support. The counselors are also available to support families in connecting with additional resources outside of school.

During the month of September, the school counselors will be facilitating lessons in all classrooms to reintroduce themselves and their role at DOES. New dolphins will be invited to attend a New Student Lunch Bunch with the school counselors. The hope is that all students begin to feel connected to school and are excited for a great year.

Check the bi-weekly WAVE Newsletter for updates from the counseling office or reach out to one of the counselors directly if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

2024 - 2025 Open House and Back-to-School Dates/Times

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>
AM RECC Orientation	Friday, August 23, 2024	11:00-11:45 a.m.	RECC Classrooms
PM RECC Orientation	Friday, August 23, 2024	1:00-1:45 p.m.	RECC Classrooms
New Student/ Kindergarten Orientation	Friday, August 23, 2024	1:00-1:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions Kindergarten - Cafeteria New Student - Media Center
Open House (Grades 1-5)	Friday, August 23, 2024	2:00-2:45 p.m.	Grade Level Classrooms
Back to School Night (RECC/Pre-K, GT, Grades 1 and 2)	Tuesday, September 10, 2024	6:00-7:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m. Grade 1 - Media 6:00 p.m. Grade 2 - Cafe 7:00 p.m. PRECC/PreK - Media 7:00 p.m. GT - Cafe
Back to School Night (Kindergarten, Grades 3, 4, 5)	Wednesday, September 11, 2024	6:00-7:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m. Grade 4 - Media 6:00 p.m. Grade 5 - Cafe 7:00 p.m. Kindergarten - Media 7:00 p.m. Grade 3 - Cafe

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

To ensure a smooth and safe arrival and dismissal for our students, please read the information below. It is encouraged that families send their students to school the way they normally arrive and dismiss beginning on the first day of school. This establishes routines and avoids confusion for students and staff.

SCHOOL HOURS: 9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

ARRIVAL TIMES:

9:00 a.m. First bell rings/students may enter the building.

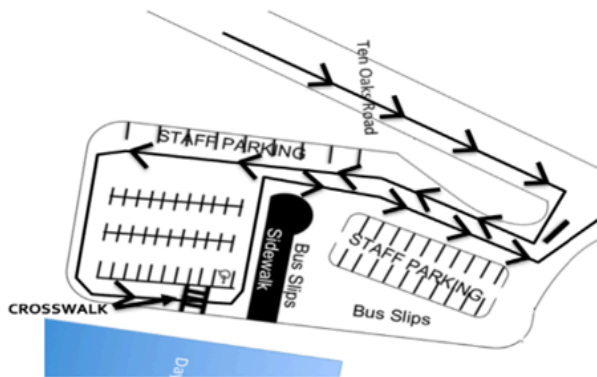
9:15 a.m. Second/Late bell rings/students should be in the classroom.

Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:00 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 3:45 pm.

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 8:45 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. or between 3:15 p.m. and 3:45 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.

Family File

It is time to update and submit your child's Family File. This must be completed for new and returning families **each year**, even if none of your information has changed.

To complete/update your family file information please see the directions below:

- Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#) using your parent/guardian credentials
- Select "More Options" from the left navigation
- Select "Family File" at the top of the page
- Complete each page of Family File
- On the last page, select the blue Submit button

Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to provide or update all of the following information:

- Student information
- Parent/guardian contact
- Emergency contacts
- Medical information
- Arrival/dismissal procedures
- Media release (photo approval)
- Data confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA directory

We appreciate your efforts to complete this very important task right as soon as possible.

Health Room News

Medications:

If your child will require medication (prescription or over the counter) in school this year, a medication order form (see below) will need to be completed by your child's health care provider and submitted with the medication to the DOES Healthroom.

[Physician's Order](#)

[EpiPen Physician's Order](#)

The health room staff will be accepting medications at your student's open house on Friday, August 23, 2024. Please make sure the medication is in the original box, has a label if it is a prescription, and that the bottle of medication is turned in unopened. The medication must be turned in with the physician's order. Please have both with you at the time of drop off. We are unable to accept the medication without the physician's order. If you have any questions, please contact the health room at 410 313-1575.

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 \(howardcountymd.gov\)](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/childhood-immunization)

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.

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.

2024-2025 School Meals Information

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

Pricing for school meals for 2024-25:

- 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.

Policy 9460 - Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Involving Students

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](#) states that bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation are prohibited in HCPSS. Our administration and staff have been trained and made aware of this policy as well as preventative and responsive measures.

We know how important your role is in not only supporting your children, but also reporting possible incidents as you become aware of them. The Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment

and Intimidation (BCHI Reporting Form should be used to report all alleged incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation that occur at school or have a connection back to the school setting that create a risk of harm to other students while they are at school, or interfere with the educational environment. An [online version](#) is available and can easily and confidentially be used by students, staff, and family members. Hard copies of this form are available in the main office, staff workroom, school counseling office, media center, and health services office. If you believe your child has been bullied, please complete and submit this form as soon as possible and/or assist your child in doing so.

Once the form is submitted, school administrators will ensure the parent/guardian of both the alleged target and alleged offender are aware of the report and will begin an investigation within two school days of receiving the report. Parents/guardians can expect a school administrator to reach out to them during the investigation. Once the investigation is completed, parents/guardians will be provided written notice of the outcome of the investigation within fifteen days of receiving the complaint, excluding extenuating circumstances.

There are times when incidents of peer conflict or code of conduct offenses may occur that may not be bullying, but may need follow up action. If you become aware of something that falls under conflict and/or a code of conduct offense, please notify a school administrator via email or phone call so that they can become aware and follow up as needed.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to specifically lift up cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is bullying using electronic media like computers, cell phones, and game systems. Our digital interconnectedness makes bullying different and more damaging than it's ever been before. It allows hatred and publicly humiliating gossip or photos to be instantly far-reaching and inescapable as electronic media is everywhere. It can NOT simply be ignored. In October 2013, the State of Maryland enacted Grace's Law, making misuse of interactive computer services a criminal offense. Its purpose is to prohibit anyone from using electronic media (computers, tablets, phones, etc.) to maliciously engage in conduct that inflicts serious emotional distress on a minor and/or places that minor in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury. A person who is found guilty of violating this law is subject to imprisonment and/or fines.

While all of this information will be reviewed with students at school, we are asking you to do the same at home. Thank you for your partnership in ensuring all of our students feel a sense of safety and belonging in their school communities! More information can be found on the [HCPSS Stop Bullying website](#). If you have any questions regarding this policy or its implementation, please contact a school administrator.

Community News

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