

WAVE NEWSLETTER

February 1, 2024

Important Dates:

- February 2 ~ Synergy closes for families to schedule conferences at 4:00 p.m.
- February 5 ~ Quarter 2 Report Cards visible in Synergy at 4:00 p.m.
- February 7 ~ Three-hour early dismissal - Parent Teacher Conferences
- February 8 ~ Three-hour early dismissal - Parent Teacher Conferences
- February 8 ~ 100th Day of School
- February 9 ~ Schools closed for students - Professional Learning Day
- February 15 ~ Club Photos for Memory Book
- February 19 ~ Schools and offices closed - Presidents' Day
- February 27 ~ Spring Class/Individual Picture Day

On Deck with your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

As we embark upon the month of February, we wanted to take a moment to recognize several upcoming events in our DOES community: The Chinese Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day, as well as Black History Month.

The Chinese Lunar New Year will be celebrated February 10-15. This year marks the year of The Dragon. The dragon represents bravery, strength, and luck. During the Lunar New Year, families will honor the arrival of spring and the end of winter. It is also a time to highlight Chinese customs, eat delectable food, and make wishes for a joyous and prosperous new year. We are grateful for the families who will be decorating our hallways to mark this memorable celebration as well as sharing savory Chinese dishes with the DOES staff.

Our school will also be celebrating Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 14. This is an opportunity to highlight "friendship and kindness" among students, staff, and community members. DOES students and staff will be participating in classroom celebrations and activities on the afternoon of February 14. Teachers will be sharing information regarding Valentine's Day activities soon.

Black History Month is also celebrated during the month of February. Our PTA has planned fun and engaging activities for DOES students, staff, and families. This year's theme is "Celebrating African-Americans in the Arts." Please be on the lookout for Information in Thursday folders regarding Black History Month activities and giveaways, including the Black History Month Family Program that is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the DOES Cafetorium.

Please join us as we recognize these exciting events and acknowledge the wonderful diversity our community has to offer.

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

Counselor's Corner

Dear Families,

We are so proud of the effort towards our Great Kindness Challenge last week! The purpose of the activities were to intentionally teach and participate in kind acts to support a stronger culture of kindness at DOES. Homeroom classes tracked over 500 kind acts in just four school days! The School Counselors are excited to plan additional opportunities for school-wide events to increase kindness and acceptance in Quarter 3 such as another Mix-It Up Lunch and a Cross-Age Buddies event. Look out for more information later this month!

2024-2025 Middle School Course Registration

Middle school course selection for the 2024-2025 academic year will open for current 5-7 grade students on Thursday, Feb. 1, and run through Wednesday, Feb. 14. Beginning Feb. 1, students/families may view teachers' course recommendations, and submit course requests and alternate requests by selecting Course Request from the left panel, and following [directions available online](#). [General course registration information](#) is available online. Students or parents/guardians with any questions should contact their school counselor. Please note:

- Guides on how to [complete Course Requests](#) and [Course Placement Reviews](#) are available online.
- Students should use the [Middle School Course Catalog 2024-2025](#) to review course selections, taking careful note of descriptions and prerequisites.
- Students will select course requests and alternates.
 - Rising 6th Grade (Current 5th grade): Please choose one Selected Course Request, and two Selected Alternate Course Requests in priority order. Once you have made your course requests click the button lock course requests. Note that these are course requests and placement is not guaranteed.
 - Rising 7th/8th Grade (Current 6th/7th grade): Please choose two Selected Course Requests. One of these must meet the fine arts requirements (Band, Chorus, Dance, Orchestra, General Music, Theater, or Visual Arts Studio). Next, choose two Selected Alternate Course Requests in priority order. Once you have made your course requests click the button lock course requests. Note that these are course requests and placement is not guaranteed.
- If you do not agree with a teacher's course recommendation you can complete a [Course Placement Review request form](#). The CPR request must be submitted either electronically through the parent/guardian HCPSS Connect or to your school counselor. If a course option is not available in the drop down menu, students will need to complete the fillable CPR and submit it to their school counselor. Requests received by Feb. 14, 2024 will be given priority; requests received after this date will be accommodated if space is available.

Important Dates:

- Feb. 1, 2024: Course registration opens
- Feb. 14, 2024: Course registration closes. Requests received after this date will be accommodated if space is available.
- Feb. 1 - Feb. 23, 2024:
 - Current 5th graders will meet with their school counselors to review student course requests through scheduled counselor/student appointments.
- Feb. 1 - Mar. 1, 2024:
 - Current 6th-7th graders will meet with their school counselors to review student course requests through scheduled counselor/student appointments.

- Spring 2024: Students and parents/guardians will have access to their list of registered courses by the end of the current school year.
- August 2024: Final 2024-2025 student schedules will be available prior to the start of the school year.

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!

Band Notes

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

Darren Kim - Alto Saxophone

Jack Formica - Alto Saxophone

Mateo Viveros Santacruz - Euphonium

Owen Struve - Percussion

Arzoe Mattu - Trombone

Simon Narvaez - Trombone

Jack Ren - Trombone

Clay Bogard - Trumpet

Henry Go - Alto Saxophone

Yuvraj Mukherjee - Alto Saxophone

Braelyn Rowan - Clarinet

Brody Hensel - Euphonium

Hewan Sheferaw - Flute

Nehemiah Rajan - Percussion

Emerson El Sawi - Trombone

Cora Steckler - Trumpet

Alex Urquhart- Trumpet

Paxton Mu - Flute - In addition to being a February Musician of the Month for Band, Paxton has also earned his first set of Band Karate Belts in Book 1 and is already working towards his second set of Band Karate Belts in Book 2! Bravo, Paxton!

Congratulations to our Spelling Bee Winner

Congratulations to Owen Painter. He was the winner of the Spelling Bee with the championship word JUGULAR. Best wishes to Owen as he represents Dayton Oaks at the Howard County Library System Spelling Bee on March 15th at Hammond High School.

We would also like to congratulate the runner up/alternate speller, Anudeep Rodda!

DOES Group/Club Memory Book Photos

DOES Group/Club Memory Book Photos will be taken on Thursday, February 15, 2024. The following groups/clubs will be photographed:

- Young Author's Contest Winners

- Beginning Orchestra
- Beginning Band
- Grade 4 Chorus
- Grade 4 Mentors
- Unheard Perspectives
- Belonging Group
- Battle of the Books
- Advanced Band
- Advanced Orchestra
- Dectets
- Grades 5 Chorus
- Grade 5 FISH Ambassadors
- Grade 5 Mentors
- Library Advisory
- Spelling Bee

Students participating in group/club photos will bring order forms home on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. If you would like to order pictures, please complete and send in order forms and payment with your student on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

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>

Lunar New Year Celebration

Join the HCPSS STARTALK Program and Centennial High School for a spectacular Lunar New Year Celebration on Friday, February 9 from 5:15 to 8:30 pm at Centennial High School. Enjoy an evening filled with authentic Chinese food, student performances, professional groups, cultural activities, and Chinese New Year entertainment. Past and potential HCPSS STARTALK Chinese Language Program participants and their parents/guardians are welcome. Space is limited. RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/DhAeuaG1FiazABPd6>. Please contact startalk@hcpss.org with questions.

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

February Parent Teacher Conferences

[HCPSS Connect](#) is open for families to sign up for February conferences until **Friday, February 2, at 4:00 p.m.** To sign up for your conference through [HCPSS Connect](#), please [review the directions here](#). Note that you will need to be logged in through your parent credentials in order to access the conference availability schedule. When scheduling, the location field will note the time in which virtual conferences will begin for the teacher and conferences occurring before that time will be in person. Closer to the conference date teachers will use Canvas to post/email the room in our school where they will conduct their in-person conferences.

In-person parent-teacher conferences will be held after student dismissal on Wednesday, February 7th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Conferences after 4:00 p.m. will be in a virtual format. On Thursday, February 8, conferences will be held virtually following dismissal, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 7 and Thursday, February 8 will be a 3-hour early dismissal for students, to accommodate the time for parent/teacher conferences. Each conference will be 15 minutes in length. Please understand that teachers create their schedules within a framework. Not all teacher conference schedules will look alike. Please consider your preferred type of conference and schedule accordingly.

The focus of our winter conferences will be in the area of Mathematics. Parents of Grade 5 GT math students will have the opportunity to conference with their GT-Math teachers. If your child works with a special educator or related service provider, that individual will attend the conference with the Math teacher. Related Arts Teachers will provide office hours to answer general questions.

After February 2nd, parents will need to communicate any changes to conference schedules by emailing their student's math teacher directly. Please contact the front office if you need assistance during the scheduling window to access your child's teacher conference schedule.

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.

Cold Weather Reminder

As cold winter weather approaches, we want to remind you that students will still be going outside for recess. Please make sure you send your child to school with warm clothes. All clothing should be labeled with your child's name. Below you will find the HCPSS criteria we consider when having outdoor activities.

- Temperature and humidity
- Wind chill
- Heat index and air quality
- Age of students
- Length of time outdoors
- Adequacy of the children's clothing
- Condition of the playground
- Falling precipitation (more than a sprinkle or mist)
- Thunder and lightning

Generally, it is assumed that students will be outside for recess, physical education, or any other outdoor activity when the temperature combined with the wind chill is not less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit or the heat index reading is less than 95.

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.