

WAVE NEWSLETTER

January 4, 2024

Important Dates:

- Jan. 15 ~ Schools and Offices Closed - MLK, Jr. Day
- Jan. 17 ~ Schools Close 3 Hours Early - Professional Work and Wellness Day
- Jan. 19 ~ End of 2nd Marking Period
- Jan. 22 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day
- Jan. 25 ~ Band and Chorus Concert, 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 30 ~ Report Cards Issued
- Jan. 31 ~ Family Fit Night, 6 - 8 p.m.

On Deck with your Administrators

This is the time of year when the winter season takes a toll on school attendance. Common illnesses such as colds, flu, fevers, earaches and Covid-19, along with unpredictable winter weather, can result in students having to miss school.

These absences, even when they are excused, break the routine of daily attendance that contributes to students feeling connected and engaged in learning. Please consider these steps to keep your children healthy and in school this winter.

1. If your children get sick or you are concerned about Covid or the flu, please visit the [Howard County Health Department's \(HCHD\) website](#) or talk to your child's medical provider or the school nurse for guidance.
2. Sometimes, stomach pain and headaches can be signs of anxiety and may not be reasons for keeping a child home. If you feel that anxiety or stress is playing a role in your child's ability to attend school, talk to your child's teacher, the school nurse, counselor or your medical provider about how best to support your child.
3. Encourage children to wash their hands before and after eating and after using the restroom.
4. Avoid sharing cups and utensils with other individuals.
5. Dress your children for the cold weather. If you need help with winter clothing, please let us know. Visit the [HCHD website](#) for cold weather safety information.
6. Encourage healthy habits such as getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods, drinking fluids and getting exercise.
7. If your children need to stay home for a prolonged period due to illness, please reach out to your child's teacher to find out about resources they can use at home to keep learning once they feel well enough.

Let us know how we can help you. If you need resources or guidance, please contact the school at 410-313-1571.

Thank you for partnering with us and we look forward to seeing your children in school all year long.

Educationally yours,
Ms. Williams-McKinney and Ms. Lorch

Counselor's Corner

Happy New Year DOES families! The School Counselors are excited to lead classroom

lessons in grades Kindergarten - 5th during the month of January. At this point in the year, we take time to discuss goal setting and the power of a positive mindset when faced with challenges. The school counselors will also take time to review our school-wide DIVE expectations to support maintaining positive growth at school. We encourage families to talk about the expectations as a way to further their success. Our DIVE Expectations support the county-wide initiative of being a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) school. You can find more information about PBIS here: [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Initiative – HCPSS](#)

DIVE Expectations

D- Dependable

I - Involved and Organized

V - Very respectful

E - Effortful

Some helpful questions might be:

- How do you show dependability in math/reading/the hallway?
- How would you grade your organization right now?
- What area of the school day/class are you most respectful?
- How does your teacher help you show more effort?
- Which DIVE expectation is the easiest for you to follow?

Thank you for your support in the counseling program at DOES!

Stephanie Dix & Alyson Hannan
School Counselors

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.

Save the Date - Family Fit Night

Mark your calendars for our family wellness event on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, from 6 - 8 p.m. (Snow date: 2/15/24). Stations will include kid-friendly boot camp, martial arts, zumba, yoga, soccer, wellness tables, parent nutrition workshop and a dance party finale. Registration is required and will open on January 15, 2024. More information about Family Fit Night will be sent home in your child's Thursday folder next week. If you have any questions, please email: rachel.tulis@hcpss.org.

Young Author's Contest Winners

Congratulations to all of the students who had the courage and creativity to enter the contest this year. All of the teachers at Dayton Oaks were impressed by the amazing writing! And now, without further adieu, the winners of this year's contest are:

First grade Short Story:
The Zebra Family by Keara Harriot

Second Grade Short Story:
Another World by Calvin Curran

Third Grade Short Story:
Sweet Land by Inara Marple

Third Grade Poem:
The Stage by Claire Kay

Fourth Grade Short Story:
Nature is Always Beautiful by Kaitlynn Hotrabhavananda

Fourth Grade Poem:
A Good Friend by Jack Flanigan

Fifth Grade Short Story:
A Book by Nina Yukich

Fifth Grade Poem:
At the End of Time by Emma Chan

Please give a big round of applause to these Young Author's Contest winners! Their entries will be sent on to the county level and families will be contacted if they win at that level!

Band Musicians of the Month

Congratulations to the Band Musicians of the Month for January! These students will

have their names displayed on the Band Bulletin Board and will see their names in the Howard County Times!

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
Noah Choi - Clarinet
Zach Soldavin - Clarinet
Aarushi Patel - Flute
Warner Shipe - Percussion
Ethan Guzman - Trombone
Colin Lloyd- Trumpet

PTA After School Activities - Sign up NOW available!!!

A few of the PTA sponsored After School Activities still have available spots for registration. Register now to secure your spot!

Black Belt Institute

Learn basic martial arts and understand self discipline. Students will learn and practice: fitness, coordination, flexibility focus, discipline and confidence respect and self confidence Korean language and culture

Grades K-5 Session I: 4 classes Mondays starting January 8

Session II: 4 classes Mondays starting Feb 26

\$109 per student per Session

3:20 to 4:20PM at DOES mini auditorium

Register at: [DOES After School Application\(Session I\)](#)

Contact: bbiglenelg@gmail.com

Chess Wizards*

Chess Wizards is a premier chess education company providing fun, informative and challenging chess lessons to students. Students will be divided into groups according to their chess experience. At the end of this session, each student would have had the chance to participate in a mini-chess tournament. One parent/adult for each student must volunteer to attend one class. See additional details below.

Grades 1-5

8 classes Tuesdays starting January 23

\$168 per student

3:20 to 4:20PM at DOES art room

Register at: www.chesswizards.com

iSTEAM*

Students will experience science interactively and will connect with STEAM knowledge to everyday events. Students may explore chemical engineering, molecular gastronomy, and static electricity. All supplies included. All equipment, supplies and food is included. One parent/adult for each student must volunteer to attend one class. See additional details below.

Grades K-5

10 classes Thursdays starting January 11

\$220+ processing fee per student

3:20 to 4:20PM at DOES art room

Register at: www.isteamafterschool.com

Contact: info@isteamafterschool.com

iCook*

This class is fully booked, but please fill out the form in this [link](#) if you are interested in being placed on a waitlist/interest list for a potential second class

Learn culinary skills, nutrition and cultural awareness. Students will cook and taste 2 recipes per week! All equipment, supplies and food is included. One parent/adult for each student must volunteer to attend one class. See additional details below.

Grades K-5

9 classes Fridays starting January 12

\$198 + processing fee per student

3:20 to 4:20PM at DOES art room

Contact: info@icookafterschool.com

***Due to the PTA's policy of requiring two adults at each class, an adult (18+ years) must sign up to attend one of the classes with their student. This applies to Chess Wizards, iSteam and iCook. Alternatively, if one parent is available to attend all the classes, these organizations will provide a 100% scholarship for the student! Sign up through each vendor. Financial assistance is also available to families who qualify through the PTA's scholarship fund. Please contact treasurer@daytonoakspta.org for the scholarship fund. For questions on the After School Programs, email afterschoolprograms@daytonoakspta.org**

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

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.

Folly Quarter Rising 6th Grade Family Information Evening

Folly Quarter's Family Information Evening is January 23, 2024, 6:00-7:00 pm. Families can learn about middle school, the academic schedule, and the Gifted and Talented program. We cannot wait to meet our future Falcon families!

Road to Kindergarten Workshop, January 2024

Save the date for an upcoming Road to Kindergarten [parent information session](#), providing information on expectations for school readiness, the HCPSS kindergarten program, and more. The first session will take place on Thursday, January 18, 2024, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Centennial High School.

Board of Education Coffee & Conversation

Community members are invited to meet informally with Board of Education members on Saturday, Jan. 6 from 9:30-11 a.m. at Oakland Mills High School. Register by emailing boardoffice@hcpss.org.

Winter 2024 After-School Classes at DOES

For more information about Howard County Rec and Parks' after-school class at Dayton Oaks, please see attached flier:

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

Registration for BSAP Saturday Math Academy Spring Program

This year, the Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP) Saturday Math Academy will offer an in-person enrichment program for Howard County Public School System students in all levels of math for grades 3-12 based on course availability. Registration will take place online Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 9:00 a.m.- until capacity is reached. Class space is limited. Families can register by accessing the HCPSS Connect Website.

For more information, please visit:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2023/12/black-student-achievement-program-bsap-saturday-math-academy-spring-2024-program/>

[BSAP SMA Spring 2024 Flyer \(English\)](#)

[BSAP SMA Spring 2024 Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)

[BSAP SMA Spring 2024 Flyer \(Chinese\)](#)

[BSAP SMA Spring 2024 Flyer \(Korean\)](#)

Howard County Family Support Center is Now Open!

The Howard County Family Support Center is now open! The [Family Support Center \(FSC\)](#) offers comprehensive, family-centered, community-based programs for parents and caregivers of children from birth to age five. Center staff promote the full development and well-being of children, enhance the quality of parent and child interactions, and are the link to services for overall parent and family self-sufficiency and sustainability.

- **Location:** 9790 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046
- **Operating Hours:** Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- **Questions:** email Kristin Reel at kreel@howardcountymd.gov

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.