

# WAVE NEWSLETTER

October 12, 2023

## Important Dates:

October 13 ~ DoFun Run (Rain Date - October 19)  
October 18 ~ World Unity Day - Wear Orange  
October 20 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day  
October 26 ~ Vaccine Clinic  
October 28 ~ PTA Fall Festival, 3:00 p.m. (Rain Date - November 4)  
October 31 ~ Three-Hour Early Dismissal - End of Marking Period

## On Deck with your Administrators

Greetings DOES Families:

On September 19, Ms. Lorch and I hosted a Pre-K to Grade 2 Standards-Based Instruction and Reporting (SBIR) Parent Night. During the presentation, we shared that starting this school year, HCPSS will be reporting student academic progress in grades Pre-K to 2 using standards-based reporting.

In addition to providing an overview of the new procedures for standards-based reporting, we also shared:

- New grading codes (M, P, L)
- Revised report cards
- Clearer alignment to standards
- Updated Canvas gradebook information
- Rubric-based grading
- Parent support resources

As a reminder, there are no changes to Grade 3-5 report cards. Intermediate grades will transition to standards-based reporting in 2024-2025.

For those families who were unable to participate in the parent night or if you'd like more information on SBIR, please access the following [link](#) that will take you to Family and Community Resources on the Elementary Standards-Based Instruction and Reporting Canvas page. A screencast of the presentation along with additional resources are available there for your review.

We are excited about this new opportunity to use SBIR to communicate with families regarding student progress as it relates to the standards that they are learning each quarter.. If you have questions regarding SBIR, please contact your student's teacher.

Educationally yours,

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

## **Counselor's Corner**

During the month of October and into November, the School Counselors will be facilitating classroom lessons to meet bully prevention standards through increasing conversations around kindness and inclusion. Additionally, we will review strategies for handling peer conflicts and bullying behavior. This includes using powerful words to make a difference, being an upstander, and identifying trusting adults they can report to, if needed.

DOES will also be participating in Unity Day on Wednesday, October 18, 2023! Students and staff are encouraged to wear orange to help show we are unified against bullying at DOES! Supporting students through these classroom and school-wide activities are a critical part of increasing belonging at school. This can be a great time to ask your child(ren) about their sense of belonging by asking questions like:

- Who did you play with at recess?
- Who did you sit with at lunch today?
- Who might you sit with at lunch if those friends were all absent?
- Who was kind to you today?
- Which classmate do you like to work with in class?
- What might you do if you see someone walking alone at recess?

Teaching about inclusion and acceptance can be a powerful way to promote a positive culture that will positively impact our school and community. Books are a great tool for helping to initiate conversations at home that encourage children to embrace the differences and celebrate the strengths in others. Below are a few of my favorite books on inclusion that you can enjoy as a family:

- Just Ask! by Sonia Sotomayor
- Same, Same But Different by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw
- All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman
- Speak Up by Miranda Paul
- You Are Enough: A Book About Inclusion by Margaret O'Hair

Please reach out to the school counselors if you have any questions or would like additional resources.

Stephanie Dix (Stephanie\_Dix@hcpss.org)  
Alyson Hannan (Alyson\_Hannan@hcpss.org)

## **Fall Vaccine Clinic**

Each year, the Howard County Public School System partners with the Maryland Partnership for Prevention to bring flu immunizations into our schools for students. This year, they will also be offering the latest Covid vaccine. The clinic at Dayton Oaks Elementary School will be held on October 26, 2023, during school hours. If you would like your child to be vaccinated against the flu and/or Covid at this clinic, please register at:

<https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/2713296062>. You are not required to provide your child's insurance information. It is perfectly fine to receive both vaccines on the same day. If you have any concerns about the new Covid vaccine, you are advised to speak with your child's pediatrician. All in-school clinics will be closed to registration one week before the clinic date to allow our health room staff time to review and prepare the consents and make

sure enough vaccines are ordered. **Registration closes October 18, 2023**, Dayton Oaks. If you have any questions, please call the school's health room at 410 313-1575. If you would like a hard copy of the Consent Form sent home with your student, please email [rachel\\_tulis@hcpss.org](mailto:rachel_tulis@hcpss.org).

### **Young Author's Contest**

The Howard County Literacy Association invites students in grades **1-5** to submit their original poems and/or short stories to the annual writing contest called **The Young Authors' Contest**. Please see the attached [Young Authors' Contest Guidelines](#) for information about the rules and guidelines. All entries must have a completed [YAC Cover Sheet](#) sent as a PDF. Submissions may be emailed to [jennifer\\_hipp@hcpss.org](mailto:jennifer_hipp@hcpss.org) by **December 11, 2023**. Contact Jennifer Hipp with any questions at [jennifer\\_hipp@hcpss.org](mailto:jennifer_hipp@hcpss.org). All Young Authors' Contest information can be found on the [HCLA website](#).

Howard County Literacy Association welcomes parents as members. Visit the [HCLA Welcome Page](#) for information about joining.

### **Music Notes**

Congratulations to October's Band Musicians of the Month! These students will have their names in the Howard County Times and a certificate displayed on the band bulletin board. Keep up the great work and awesome attitudes!

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
Agastya Krishna	Alto Saxophone
William Burke	Clarinet
Clara Brooks	Euphonium
Evie Herbert	Flute
Eli Kraemer	French Horn
Kellen Edmonston	Percussion
TJ Smith	Percussion

JB Brown	Trombone
Paxton Mu	Flute

### **Digital Citizenship Week 2023 (October 16-20)**

We are excited to announce the upcoming Digital Citizenship Week 2023 (October 16-20). This initiative aims at promoting responsible and safe online behavior among our students. In today's digital age, our students must develop the skills and awareness necessary to navigate the online world confidently. One critical improvement point is balancing screen time and offline activities. Encourage your children to set limits on their screen time, engage in physical activities, and enjoy face-to-face interactions with friends and family. Use conversation starters like, "What's your favorite non-screen activity?" or "Tell me about a positive online experience you had recently." Additionally, explore resources such as Common Sense Media's Family Media Agreement and ConnectSafely.org for valuable tips and guidelines to help create a healthy digital environment at home.

### **HCPSS and The Council of Elders (TCOE) Community Academy - Navigating HCPSS**

On October 14 from 9-10:30 a.m., parents and families are invited to attend a virtual session regarding how to effectively maintain communication with your child's school. HCPSS staff will demonstrate how parents can monitor students' performance by utilizing school system online resources. Additionally, families will receive strategies to help ensure successful parent-teacher conferences. This session is for families of students at elementary, middle or high. To register, please complete the registration form linked [here](#). Please see the [TCOE Navigating HCPSS flyer](#) for more information.

### **Howard County's Annual MLK Contest and Days of Service**

Save the Dates for the 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration and Days of Service!

The MLK Holiday Commission, the Howard County Office of Human Rights & Equity, County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball and community partners invite you to join us celebrating and honoring the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Sunday, January 14, 2024, we're hosting a family-friendly, multi-cultural event that includes musical performances, dramatic presentations, a keynote address and recognition of the 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Living the Dream" Award recipients and student oratory, essay and poster contest winners.

Monday, January 15, 2024, join us at the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center for an interactive Day of Service that includes an MLK tribute room, a Read-In with community members reading books about Dr. King and service activities for all ages! For more information, click [HERE](#).

## **NEWS WORTH REPEATING**

### **HCPSS and The Council of Elders (TCOE) Community Academies**

HCPSS and The Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County (TCOE) have

partnered to sponsor the following parent workshops series:

- October 14: Navigating the Howard County Public School System
- December 16: Social Emotional Well-Being and Substance Abuse
- January 27: Processes for Parent Empowerment
- March 9: Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships

Each engaging session is held virtually on Saturdays from 9-10:30 a.m. Please see the [save the date flyer](#) for more information.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Attendance/Reporting Absences**

Parents can email [DOESabsence@hcpss.org](mailto: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.