

WAVE NEWSLETTER

October 17, 2024

Important Dates:

October

- 18 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day/MSEA Convention
- 26 ~ Fall Festival - Trunk or Treat; 3 - 5pm
- 28 ~ Flu/Covid Immunization Clinic
- 29 ~ School Picture Retakes
- 30 ~ End of First Quarter
- 30 ~ Grade 1 Field Trip to Sharps Farm
- 30 ~ Grade 3 Field Trip to Baltimore Museum of Industry
- 31 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work and Development Day
- 31 ~ Deadline to Complete or Renew Your FARMS Application

November

- 05 ~ Schools and Offices Closed - Election Day
- 08 ~ Report Cards Issued at 4pm
- 12 ~ Grade 5 Field Trip to Maryland Science Center
- 13 ~ Kindergarten Field Trip to the Library
- 19 ~ Grade 4 Field Trip to Museum of Natural History

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

Today's DoIFUN Run was an incredible success! We are so grateful to our dedicated PTA for their hard work in making this event both enjoyable for all our students and beneficial to our school community. A special thank you to Ms. Dick and the Fundraising Committee for their outstanding efforts in planning and coordinating the event.

The students had a blast, from the warm-up activities to the run itself. We were also thrilled to have a special appearance from Dani the Dolphin, which made the day even more exciting! Every student received a t-shirt, a medal, and a snack to celebrate their accomplishment after completing the run.

The funds raised from the DoIFUN Run will go towards supporting our PTA and enhancing our school community. We deeply appreciate the continued support from our students, families, and community members, who make this highly anticipated event such a success each year.

Educationally yours,

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

Counselor's Corner

Hello families,

This week, we are excited to spotlight our PBIS system at Dayton Oaks again, with an additional focus on how it can be used at home! Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a 3-tiered system that includes consistent reteaching, supports, praise, and opportunities for reflection as needed. We teach students what is expected to support learning and success at school through the DIVE expectations: Dependable, Involved and Organized, Very Respectful, and Effortful. These DIVE Expectations can be used at home, too! Similarly to what we do at school, you can ask your child what DIVE Expectations might look like, sound like, and feel like at home. Below are a few ideas to help guide the conversation:

Home DIVE Expectations

- **D - Dependable:** Completing chores, following routines, being responsible for materials and actions, and doing your part to help the family be on-time for activities.

Setting consistent routines for homework, bedtime, meals, and activities can be helpful for establishing dependability. You can support your child in being dependable by showing them how to break down tasks into manageable, organized parts! Checklists can be a helpful tool for supporting dependability.

- **I - Involved and Organized:** Completing homework, staying present in family activities, taking care of belongings, and keeping room clean

You can support your child by helping them establish a quiet workspace for homework that limits distractions and identifying an organized space for belongings. Together, you can set achievable goals for school and other activities with actionable steps to stay involved!

- **V - Very Respectful:** Using kind words, listening carefully, and following the rules established at home

Reinforcing positive language towards themselves and others can promote respect. Adults can model active listening, empathy and kindness. Working together to establish family rules, where each person has a voice, can be a way to support the following of rules since each person feels valued!

- **E - Put Forth Your Best Effort:** Taking chances, trying new things, and celebrating effort made towards goals

With a focus on effort over winning or achievement, our children can feel more confident taking risks and trying new things. At home, families can encourage each other to overcome challenges by having a positive mindset around mistakes and effort.

Since our DIVE Expectations are familiar language to our students, it can be used at home to support positive behavior and redirection at home, too!

On Friday, November 1st, we are excited to celebrate our first school-wide Dolphin Day of the school year! This is another aspect of our PBIS system, where students and staff celebrate success with DIVE Expectations as grade-wide teams. This celebration is held the last 40 minutes of the day, where students will have the opportunity to choose a structured activity led by one of our teachers. Be sure to ask your child which activity they participated in during

Dolphin Day.

If you have any questions about our PBIS program, you can reach out to Mrs. Dix, our PBIS coach.

Stephanie Dix (**she/her**)
School Counselor
Dayton Oaks Elementary

October is National Bullying Prevention Month

October is National Bullying Prevention Month! We are spending time this month and throughout the year reminding our staff and students about the importance of preventing and reporting bullying. The role of our parents, guardians, and families is essential in addressing this issue with our students. StopBullying.gov has many great resources for adults and children related to preventing and responding to bullying. Please remember to reach out to your child's administrator or counseling if you'd like to discuss anything further, and any acts of bullying can be reported through this form [Report an Instance of Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation | Stop Bullying | Howard County Public Schools \(hcpss.org\)](#). Thank you for being our partners in this important work!

Changes in Afternoon Dismissal Procedures

If you have to make a change to your student's dismissal, please send a note and/or email to their teacher, and notify the front office. If you have to make a change during the day, after your student has arrived at school, please email your child's teacher AND email the front office staff at: doesfrontoffice@hcpss.org. **No students will be released from the front office for early dismissal after 3:30pm.** This will help to ensure the safety of our students and cut down on confusion at the end of the day as afternoon dismissal begins.

Candy for the Courageous

Please bring any extra unopened Halloween candy to school in a ziplock bag between November 4-8, 2024. We will be giving the candy to the USO at BWI airport, so that they can give it to our troops before they travel overseas. Feel free to also write letters/cards to the troops, which will be given to our military.

CANDY FOR THE COURAGEOUS



Donate your extra wrapped Halloween candy to our military troops worldwide!

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Health Room News

The health room is in need of volunteers for the flu/covid immunization clinic on October 28, 2024, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. If you are available to volunteer, or if you have any questions, please contact our school nurse, Rachel Tulis, at: rachel_tulis@hcpss.org.

In addition, the health room is in need of bottled water. We are grateful for your donations.

Glenelg Theatre Department Presents Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Don't miss the magic on stage as the Glenelg Theatre Department presents Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. Bring the whole family to enjoy the next chapter of Harry Potter on stage. Whether you're a fan or new to the magic, it's fun for everyone!

Performances are:

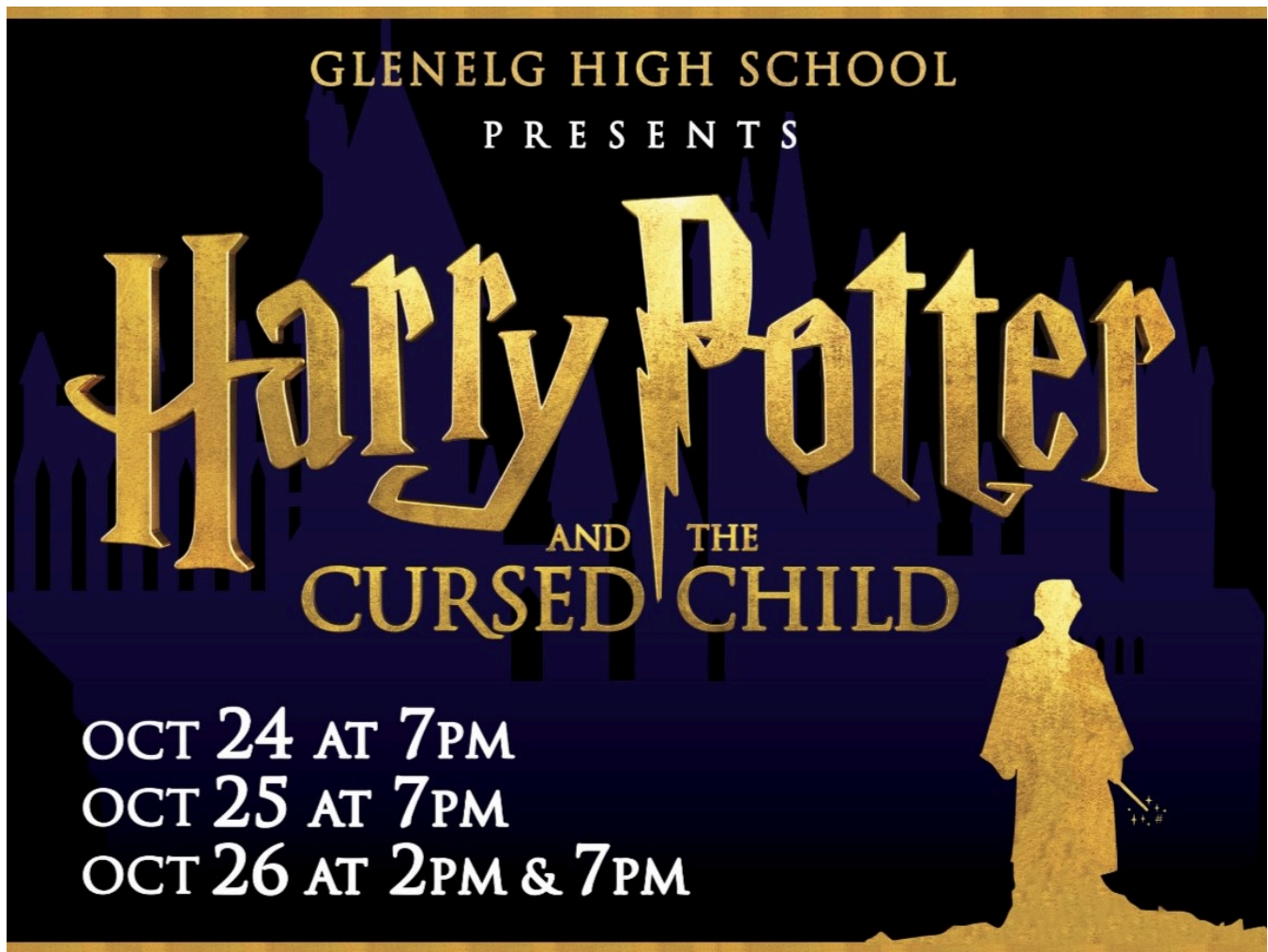
October 24 at 7pm

October 25 at 7pm

October 26 at 2pm and 7pm

All tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or online at

<https://osp.osmsinc.com/HowardMD/BVModules/ProductTemplates/Bvc2013/Product.aspx?productid=DA006-234!>



Attention Parents of Rising Kindergarteners: Don't Wait for Summer to Address Developmental Concerns!

If you have concerns about your child's development - whether it's their speech, motor skills, social skills or learning - it's important to act now. Waiting until the summer for a referral can delay crucial support that your child may need before starting kindergarten. Contact us today to schedule a screening. Let's work together to ensure your child has the best possible start in kindergarten! Call 410-313-7046 or email ChildFind@hcpss.org.

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

2025 MLK Jr. Holiday Commission Contests

This year, there will be several exciting opportunities for students to engage with Dr. King's vision of equality, justice, and community service. Additionally, all the awards come with cash prizes.

The contests include:

Oratory Contest: Open to Middle and High School students, this contest challenges participants to express their understanding of Dr. King's message through the art of speech.

Essay Contest: Also, for Middle and High School students, this competition invites students to articulate their thoughts and reflections on Dr. King's impact and teachings in essay form.

Poster Contest: Open to Elementary, Middle, and High School students, participants can visually express their interpretation of Dr. King's dream through creative poster designs.

Additionally, we are hosting a Living the Dream Award Contest for individuals and organizations that have significantly contributed to making Howard County a better place, embodying the principles that Dr. King championed. We believe that these contests not only honor Dr. King's legacy but also inspire our students to think critically about their roles in serving the community.

For more information, including deadlines and submission guidelines, please visit <https://bit.ly/2025MLKContests> Thank you for your support in promoting these meaningful contests.

Together, we can inspire our students and community to reflect on Dr. King's dream and vision for a better tomorrow.

The Young Authors' 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 by December 20, 2024. Contact Mrs. Jennifer Hipp with any questions. 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.

Volunteer in the Media Center!

The Media Center is looking for volunteers to help with shelving and other small projects. Please consider signing up to volunteer by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4AAEAE29A0FE3-51264532-media>

Health Room Reminders

Any medications required during school hours including prescription, “over-the-counter” (OTC) and homeopathic/herbal medications require a medication order signed by an approved health care provider and are subject to the HCPSS medication policy and procedure.

Medication form

- Have a student with allergies? Learn more about [ordering an epipen and our allergic reaction protocols](#).

School health room staff administer medications, store medications in the school’s health room and keep records of when medications are taken by the student.

Approved Non-Medications:

The items below are not considered medications. Students may bring the items to school without a medical prescription. Health Services requests that a parent/guardian note accompany the item to serve as permission to bring to school.

- Sunscreen
- Chapstick
- Hand lotion
- Non-medicated cough drops
- Saline contact solution

Sunscreen must be supplied by an individual student and is not to be shared with other students due to potential allergens and skin reactions.

Please contact the health room at 410 313-1575 if you have any questions.

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 \(howardcountymd.gov\)](http://www.howardcountymd.gov)

Student Technology Reminder - Personal Devices

[HCPSS Policy 8080 Links to an external site.](#) - 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.

Reminder to Complete or Renew Your FARMS Application by Oct. 31

HCPSS participates in the Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) program.

[QualificationLinks to an external site.](#) is based on family size and income, and enrollment is confidential.

Participation in FARMS qualifies students for a wide range of opportunities and resources beyond breakfast and lunch, including free college applications, free or reduced JumpStart tuition, discounted internet through the Comcast Internet Essentials program, and more.

Families must submit a new application every school year by Oct. 31. During the first 30 school days, students with FARMS eligibility from the prior school year will continue to receive benefits. Any student whose family has not filled out an application by the 30th school day will have their status changed to full pay until a new application is received.

Parents/guardians are highly encouraged to fill out the applications as soon as possible. It is very important that applications are filled out accurately and completely. Families can:

- [Apply onlineLinks to an external site.](#)
- Apply by mail: Paper applications can be picked up in the Food and Nutrition Service Office (5451 Beaverkill Rd, Columbia, MD 21044). Applications can be returned to your child's school or mailed to: HCPSS Food & Nutrition Service Office, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

If you have questions regarding the program, please visit www.hcpss.org/FARMSLinks to an external site. or call Food and Nutrition Services at 410-313-6743.

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.

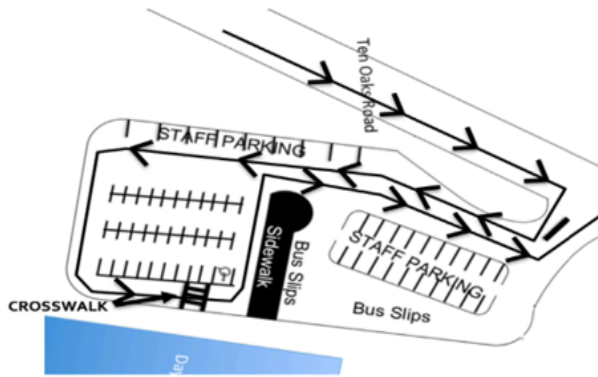
9:15 a.m. Second/Late bell rings/students should be in the classroom.

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.

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.

Community News

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