

# WAVE NEWSLETTER

## October 3, 2024

### **Important Dates:**

October 4 ~ World Smile Day - Wear Smiley Faces or Bright Colors

October 9 ~ PTA Meeting; 7pm

October 11~ Kindergarten Field Trip to Gaver Farm

October 14 ~ Unity Day - Wear Orange

October 17 ~ DoFun Run

October 18 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day/MSEA Convention

October 28 ~ Flu/Covid Immunization Clinic

October 31 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work and Development Day

### **On Deck With Your Administrators**

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

Research is clear that showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic and social success, starting from kindergarten and continuing through high school. Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school, or even facing social challenges.

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days of a school year) can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- By the 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that can indicate if a student is at risk for dropping out of high school.
- In the 9th grade, regular and high attendance predicts graduation rates better than 8th grade test scores.

Student attendance is a major point of focus for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, MSDE lowered the chronic absenteeism rate from 20% to 10%, meaning that at 10%, a student should receive support and interventions to improve their absenteeism.

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) believes that attendance is key to student success. Maryland's attendance rate represents the average daily attendance rate of students in grades 1-12, including special education students. The state's proficient standard for attendance rate is 94%, and the advanced standard is 96%."

In support of achieving Exemplary Attendance for all students, we are sharing with you a comprehensive approach to attendance supports and interventions.

- If a student has missed 5% of their monthly attendance days (as few as 1-2 days a month), parents/guardians will receive a Care and Concern Phone Call and letter from their school. This step will allow staff members to coordinate with families to determine how the student can be supported for better attendance.
- If a student has missed 10% of their monthly attendance days (this is defined as chronic absenteeism by MSDE), parents/guardians will receive a 10% Chronic Absenteeism Attendance Letter. Parents/guardians and students may be scheduled for an attendance conference. Other interventions and supports may also be used in an effort to assist the student.

- If a student has missed 15% of their monthly attendance days, in addition to the interventions and support at 5% and 10%, these students may require an attendance support plan. Students may also be referred to the Central Attendance Team.
- If a student has missed 20% of their monthly attendance days, parents/guardians will receive a 20% Emergency Chronic Absenteeism Letter or Habitual Truancy Letter. Students may be referred to Project Attend and/or the State's Attorney's Office for habitual truancy.

With the collaborative effort of HCPSS parents/guardians, staff, and students, we are confident that all students can have successful attendance. This will improve student success in school and future life.

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

### **Counselor's Corner**

What a great first month of school we've had! As we kick off October, the School Counselors are focused on classroom lessons and school-wide events that promote kindness, inclusion, and anti-bullying standards. This Friday, October 4th, is World Smile Day! Students and staff are invited to wear bright colors along with their smile! Teachers will focus SEL time on the power of small acts of kindness to spread happiness at school.

Unity day is October 18th! Since this is not a school day for students, Dayton Oaks will be celebrating Unity Day on Monday, October 14th! Students and staff are invited to wear orange, the color of unity. Teachers will be focusing SEL lessons the week of October 14th-17th on positive actions that strengthen belonging for all at school. For additional fun on Monday, October 14th, Mrs. Hannah and Mrs. Dix will be hosting a Mix-It Up Lunch. During all lunch shifts, the students will be encouraged to sit in "free seating" style instead of the typical homeroom seating. The purpose is to support new connections among the grade. There will be conversation-starters on the tables to support meaningful conversation among the students. The School Counselors will be present during lunch to ensure that all students feel included.

It is important to all staff members at Dayton Oaks that the students feel that they belong at their school. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to one of the School Counselors. As a reminder, information regarding the HCPSS bullying policy can be found here: [Policy 9460 Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Involving Students - HCPSS](#) and you can report bullying with the following link: [Report an Instance of Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation | Stop Bullying | Howard County Public Schools \(hcpss.org\)](#)

Thank you,  
Mrs. Dix and Mrs. Hannan

### **Flu/Covid Immunization Clinic**

Dear Dayton Oaks Community,

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 if it is available at the time of the clinics. The clinic at Dayton Oaks will be held on 10/28/24 during school hours. If you would like your child to be vaccinated against the flu and/or Covid at this clinic, please register by **October 15th** at this

link:

[Sign up for Flu and/or Covid Vaccination at Dayton Oaks Oct 28, 2024](#)

You are not required to provide your child's insurance information. 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. If you wish to cancel your child's appointment after then, please call the nurse at your child's school. If you have any questions, please call your school's health room at 410 313-1575.

The health room is in need of volunteers for the immunization clinic 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](mailto:rachel_tulis@hcpss.org).

### **Orchestra Notes**

Last week, over 400 students from around the county auditioned for a chance to become a member of the Howard County Public School System's Gifted and Talented Orchestra and Gifted and Talented Sinfonia. Being accepted into either of these orchestras is quite an accomplishment. Ms. Sutton and Mr. Hamilton are proud to announce that Dayton Oaks had EIGHT students that were accepted into the HCPSS GT Sinfonia and GT Orchestras this year! Dayton Oaks is so proud of the students who practiced their instruments and were accepted into these illustrious groups. These students are:

Kaitlynn	Hotrabhavananda	Violinist
Sola	Garmew	Violinist
Juniper	Fulton	Violinist
Grace	Moon	Cellist
Farah	Bajwa	Cellist
Ryan	Cheng	Cellist
Jessica	Lawson	Bassist
Jahan	Kalirai	Bassist

Congratulations to these amazing DOES Orchestra Dolphins!

### **Band Musicians of the Month**

Congratulations to the Band Musicians of the Month for October! These band students have been working hard and have earned a place on the Band Bulletin Board. Be on the lookout for their names in the Howard County Times Newspaper! Congratulations Band Musicians of the Month, keep up the hard work and awesome attitudes!

Henry Go - Alto Saxophone

Ezra Lowy - Trombone

Jacqueline Crimmins - Clarinet

Chase Jorgenson - Alto Saxophone

Madeline Brenner - Clarinet

Haleigh Boothe - Flute  
Mack Minutoli - Euphonium  
Cassidy Howell - Percussion  
Elise Rovito - French Horn  
August Wang - Trumpet  
Ethan Guzman - Trombone  
Izzah Malik - Percussion  
Harrison Cole - Alto Saxophone  
Siân Kenner - Clarinet  
Hewan Sheferaw - Flute  
James Marquart - Percussion  
Owen Painter - Trumpet

### **Free Parenting Support for Parents/Caregivers!**

Learn tools to help your children handle stress and setbacks. Join the nonprofit Parent Encouragement Program's free 8-week online program for parents/caregivers of children preK to 12th grade, in English or Spanish. Learn to support your children's mental wellness and resiliency and connect with other parents. Complete at least 5 sessions and the evaluation to receive a \$50 gift card. Classes start the week of October 14, register today:

[tinyurl.com/2w4k2sxp](https://tinyurl.com/2w4k2sxp)

### **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.

## NEWS WORTH REPEATING

### 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](mailto: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.

### Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15th through October 15th marks National Hispanic Heritage Month. This month celebrates and honors the contributions, culture, and history of those from or with ancestors from the Caribbean, Mexico, Spain, Central, and South America!

✿ Students and their families are invited to a resource fair to celebrate ✿



**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

Wednesday, October 9, 2024  
Deep Run Elementary School  
6925 Old Waterloo Road, Elkridge, MD 21075  
6-8 p.m.

Consulates of Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador will offer resources and information.

In addition, local agencies and non-profit organizations will be onsite, offering resources available in Spanish to you and your family.

✿ Enjoy Traditional Hispanic Appetizers\* & Artistic Performances! ✿

For more information, contact the Hispanic Achievement Program at 410-313-6667.

\* Refreshments sponsored by the La Alianza Latina Commission and the Howard County Office of Human Rights and Equity  
Santiago Carrera Realtor Group



✿ Los estudiantes y sus familias están invitados a una feria de recursos para celebrar ✿



**EL MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA**

miércoles, 9 de octubre de 2024  
Escuela Primaria Deep Run  
6925 Old Waterloo Road, Elkridge, MD 21075  
6-8 p.m.

Los consulados de México, Guatemala, y El Salvador ofrecerán recursos e información.

Además, agencias locales y organizaciones sin fines de lucro estarán para servirle, ofreciendo recursos disponibles en español para usted y su familia.

✿ Habrá aperitivos tradicionales\* y representaciones artísticas ✿

Para mayor información contacte el Programa de Logro Hispano al 410-313-6667.

\* Patrocinados por La Comisión Alianza Latina y Howard County Office of Human Rights & Equity  
Santiago Carrera Realtor Group



### 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 News**

The health room is in need of donations of full five-gallon water jugs and individual packages of Goldfish Crackers. The health room would be grateful if you are able to assist.



## **The Salvation Army's Christmas Angel Tree Program**

For more information about The Salvation Army's 2024 Christmas Angel Tree Program, please click on the links below to view the fliers.

[Angel Tree 2024 English Flier](#)

[Angel Tree 2024 Spanish Flier](#)

## **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 \(howardcountymd.gov\)](#)

### **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](http://www.hcpss.org/FARMsLinks to an external site). or call Food and Nutrition Services at 410-313-6743.

### **Fall 2024 After-School Classes**

Attached is the Fall 2024 Howard County Recreation & Parks Before & After school classes for students at Dayton Oaks ES. These classes provide fun, structured, educational, and enriching activities for students, benefitting both the child(ren) and parents!

[Dayton Oaks ES Fall 2024 Before & After School Classes Flier](#)

[Dayton Oaks ES Registration Page.](#)

### **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.

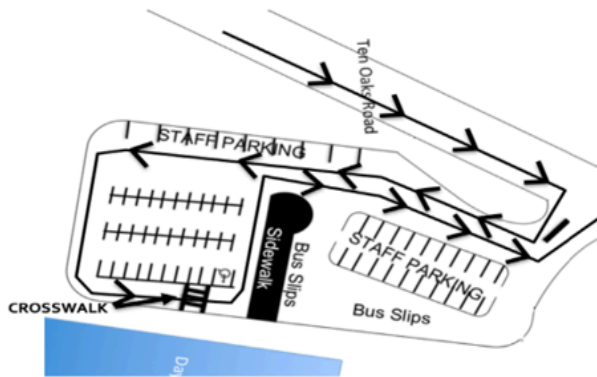
9:15 a.m. Second/Late bell rings/students should be in the classroom.

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](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.

### **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.