

WAVE NEWSLETTER

October 31, 2024

Important Dates:

November

- 05 ~ Schools and Offices Closed - Election Day
- 08 ~ Parent Teacher Conference Scheduling Opens at 8am
- 08 ~ Report Cards Available to View at 4pm
- 12 ~ Grade 5 Field Trip to Maryland Science Center
- 13 ~ Kindergarten Field Trip to the Library
- 15 ~ PTA-Sponsored Dance Party, 6-8pm
- 18 - 22 ~ American Education Week
- 19 ~ Grade 4 Field Trip to Museum of Natural History
- 21 ~ Parent Teacher Conference Scheduling Closes at 4pm
- 21 ~ Family Academic Night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- 25 - 27 ~ Parent Teacher Conferences
- 27 ~ Schools Closed for Students
- 28 & 29 ~ Schools and Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear DOES Families:

Yesterday, October 30, marked the end of the first marking period. As teachers prepare report cards, we want to remind families that last year, updates were made to PreK–2 report cards, and this year, report cards for grades 3–5 reflect these new changes. These shifts are part of HCPSS's implementation of the Standards Based Instruction and Reporting (SBIR) process, in accordance with [Policy 8010 – Grading and Reporting: Pre-Kindergarten Through Grade 5](#). Under SBIR, grades reflect a student's proficiency in meeting grade-level curriculum standards.

To support families in understanding these updates, the [Standards Based Instruction and Reporting Family and Community Resources Canvas course](#) provides essential information, including guides to Understanding Your Child's Report Card for [Grades PreK-2](#) and [Grades 3-5](#).

Academic Performance Codes represent what has been learned by indicating where the student stands in relation to grade-level standards and progress toward Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards for their current grade level.

For students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), detailed progress on IEP goals and objectives is provided in the Annual Goal(s) Progress Report, which is sent at the same time as the HCPSS report card. These IEP goals address skills that support progress toward grade-level standards.

Quarter 1 report cards will be available at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 8, 2024.

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

Counselor's Corner

Dear Families,

We are excited to inform you about an upcoming event called Cross-Age Buddies that will be taking place on Monday, November 11th during the school day. This 30-minute event is a critical part of the Caring School Community (CSC) program teachers utilize to support Social Emotional Learning (SEL). This event focuses on building positive relationships between students of mixed ages to strengthen the sense of belonging at Dayton Oaks.

During Cross-Age Buddies, two homeroom classes will be paired together for an engaging activity. This provides a wonderful opportunity for younger and older students to learn from each other, develop friendships, and build a sense of community within our school.

This event has been a highlight of previous years for both teachers and students, helping to create a supportive and caring school environment for all. We encourage you to talk to your child about the Cross-Age Buddies event!

Thank you for your support! Please reach out to Stephanie Dix, School Counselor, if you have any questions!

Stephanie Dix & Alyson Hannan
School Counselors

Reminders About Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

To ensure a smooth and safe arrival and dismissal for our students, please read the information below.

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.

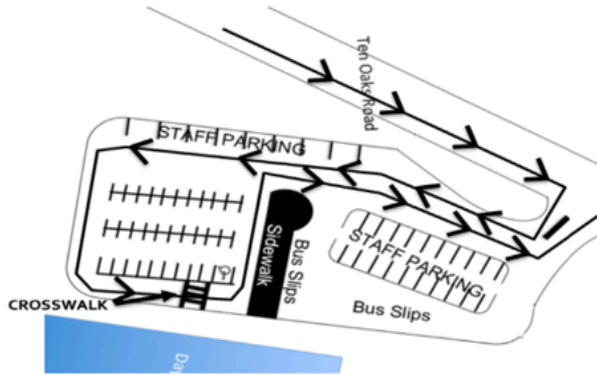
Students should not be dropped off or let out of your vehicle until 9:00 a.m. Supervision is not available for students before this time. Before and after care is available through Howard County Parks and Recreation as well as other before and after school providers in the community.

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.

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.

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.

Recognizing Our Veterans

Dear DOES Families,

Veterans Day is a time for us to recognize all those who have served our country. For one day, we stand united in respect for our Veterans.

This holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on November 11 because that is the date of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day", in order to account for all Veterans that served and currently serve in the armed forces.

Each year at DOES we have recognized our Veterans. This year we will continue this tradition. We need your help! If you, a family member, or friend has served or is currently serving, we would love to recognize these individuals. Please send us a picture of the service men or women in your family with their name and any special information that you would like to share, using the following [DOES Veterans Day Presentation link](#). By providing this information you agree to sharing it with our community. All submissions are due by Thursday, November 7, 2024.

We value the service of our Veterans and look forward to honoring them on November 11th by sending out a slide show presentation to our community.

DOES Fall 2024 Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences provide teachers and parents with a wonderful opportunity to discuss progress made through the first quarter and identify areas for growth. Conferences will be scheduled in 15-minute increments, focusing on ELA and scheduled with your child's homeroom teacher. GT Math Teachers will conference with Grade 4 families for fall conferences. Below, please find the dates that teachers will be hosting in-person and virtual parent-teacher conferences:

- Monday, November 25, conferences will be hosted **in-person**
- Tuesday, November 26, conferences will be hosted **virtually**
- Wednesday November 27, conferences will be hosted **virtually** (based on teacher schedules)

Beginning Friday, November 8, at 8:00 a.m., and continuing through Thursday, November 21, at 4:00 p.m., you can log on to HCPSS Connect at www.hcpss.org/connect to access the Synergy Conference Management System. You can then select your desired 15-minute conference time based on the teacher's availability. [Click here for directions](#) to schedule your conference. Parents needing assistance with scheduling a conference should contact the DOES front office staff at 410-313-1571.

Tips for Scheduling Conferences:

- Parent Teacher Conferences will be scheduled in 15-minute increments.
- Conferences will focus on ELA and will be scheduled with your child's homeroom teacher.
- You will use your [HCPSS Connect/Family File](#) account to schedule Parent Teacher Conferences.
- It is suggested that you include a 15-minute buffer between conferences to allow for travel time within the building for in-person conferences. Teachers will not be able to accommodate additional time beyond the scheduled 15 minutes.

More information will be forthcoming including virtual conference Google Meet Codes for virtual conference days. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact the DOES front office at 410-313-1571.

Holiday Assistance Request

Each year at this time, our community comes together in various ways to support those in need. With the holiday season approaching, we would like to extend an offer to any family in need of food, clothing, and/or gifts for children. If you would like to request assistance for your immediate family, please complete the Google form below by November 14th. Although we cannot make any guarantees, we will do our best to utilize resources in a way that best supports our families. If you have any questions, please contact our School Counselor, Stephanie Dix at stephanie_dix@hcpss.org or 410-313-1571.

[DOES Holiday Assistance Request Form 2024](#)

DOES Family Academic Night

Ready, set, GLOW! Mark your calendars for the DOES Family Academic Night on November 21st from 6:30-8 pm. Learn how to help your student shine bright like a glow stick by engaging in interactive stations and make-and-take activities to support ELA and Math learning at home. Families are invited to participate in activities with students, siblings are welcomed. Don't forget to bring an old book to exchange it at the Book Swap! Our staff is looking forward to sharing resources that will help students Glow and Grow!

Band Musicians of the Month

Congratulations to the Band Musicians of the Month for November. These students will have their names displayed on the Band Bulletin Board as well as in the Howard County Times. Keep up the hard work and awesome attitudes!

Donovan Purdon - Percussion
Bennett Peters - Trombone
Keira Huntington - Trumpet
Kendrix Smallridge - Alto Saxophone
Alexandra Kufel - Clarinet
Lucas Soepnel - Trombone
Aaron Cheng - Percussion
Jack Formica - Alto Saxophone
Hemayeth Naqvi - Flute
Amirah Alausa - Alto Saxophone
Angelo Cimini - Alto Saxophone
Liam K Visurraga - Flute
Ellie Tom - Flute
Mila Dayal - Trombone
Aiden Benjamin - Tuba
Katie Kieffer - Percussion
Paxton Mu - Flute
Emerson El Sawi - Trombone
Khizar Memon - Trumpet

Amy Bejm Syversen (she/they/them)
Director of Bands

Native American Heritage Month Celebration

Free! Fun for all ages! Celebrate Native American Heritage Month at Color Burst Park. The theme of this year's celebration is *Water Flows Together - To'ah'e'e'dli'inii*. Activities include live performances, arts and crafts, authentic vendors, and delicious Navajo tacos! Featuring Brett

Walking Eagle, as seen on *The Voice*.

Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 12 to 4pm at Color Burst Park in Columbia, MD.

[Registration Link](#)

Maryland Accreditation of Pre-K Programs at DOES

Our Pre-K program at Dayton Oaks Elementary School will participate in Maryland Accreditation during the 2024- 2025 school year.

Maryland Accreditation is...

- A way for programs to demonstrate their commitment to providing high-quality learning environments.
- A process for demonstrating and verifying program effectiveness and continuous improvement using the [Maryland Accreditation Standards](#).
- A process in which programs commit to and demonstrate continuous quality improvement to benefit children, families, and staff.

As part of this process, we are building a self-appraisal team that consists of teachers, administrators, and community members to help us take a deeper look at the quality of our program through a self-appraisal process. We will be sharing updates throughout the process with our school community.

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!

Please bring any extra unopened Halloween candy to school in a ziplock bag between Nov 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.




HCPSS Food and Nutrition Service First-Ever Taste Test Event

The HCPSS Food and Nutrition Service is holding their 1st Regional Food Taste Test Event at the Guilford Park High School cafeteria on November 14 from 6:00-7:00 pm. The food taste test would be an exciting opportunity for parents and students to try new and currently prepared foods and share their opinions. In those ways, parent and student voices and choices would be strongly represented as the food service program improves the quality of meals and services provided to students. This event is an authentic method to engage our school community to support and celebrate the value of being willing to try healthy school meals. In addition to tasting samples of food, the event will also be an opportunity to provide participants with relevant information and literature about school food service. Participants are asked to register for the event by November 7 at <https://forms.gle/Fypx58DtXWf5vhA7A> since capacity is limited to a maximum of 450 persons. Please contact Brian Ralph, Director of Food and Nutrition Service if you have additional questions.

KidsConnex - Navigating Family Changes

KidsConnex provides opportunities for students and parents navigating family transitions. See attached flier for additional information.



KidsConnex
Navigating family changes
for kids aged 8-12

Saturday, Nov 9 & Nov 16

- Coping with family changes
- How to use affirmations
- Explore & label feelings
- Find sources of support
- Meets virtually

Led by licensed NFRC counselors

TIME:
11:00 - 12:00 PM Kids Only
12:00 - 12:30 PM Parents Only

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY!

NFRCHelp.org/KidsConnex
410.740.9553

www.nfrchelp.org



WINTER Coat Giveaway

We will have new and gently used coats for children and adults.



Date: November 25 & 26
Time: From 6-8 PM

Pick Up Location:
Harriet Tubman Cultural Center
8045 Harriet Tubman Ln,
Columbia, MD 21044



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 \(howardcountymd.gov\)](#)

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.

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.