WAVE NEWSLETTER September 19, 2024

Important Dates:

September 20 ~ Ice Cream Social, 6 - 8 pm (rain date: 9/27/24) October 1 ~ School Pictures October 3 ~ Schools and Offices Closed 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 ~ DolFun Run

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

On Deck With Your Administrators

Dear Dayton Oaks Families:

During the first few weeks of school, Ms. Lorch and I visited all of the grade-level teams to discuss the <u>HCPSS Student Code of Conduct</u> and review the Dayton Oaks D.I.V.E. Expectations in developmentally appropriate and child-friendly ways. The HCPSS Student Code of Conduct provides a framework to support behavioral goals and disciplinary policies. While students are expected to be aware of and abide by this code, we all play a part in ensuring our school is a safe place where all students can learn. We look to partner with our families to support the social-emotional skill development of our students. Our D.I.V.E. expectations align with the HCPSS Student, Staff, Family and Community Commitments by providing descriptors to accompany the D.I.V.E. acronym:

- D Dependable
 - Completes tasks
 - Makes trustworthy choices

I - Involved and Organized

- Pays attention to learning tasks
- Prepared materials

V - Very Respectful

- Works well with others
- Follows directions

E - Effortful

- Takes appropriate risks
- Demonstrates persistence

At DOES, we implement programs such as PBIS to help teach and reinforce school-appropriate behaviors and build community among our students and staff. We thank you in advance for your partnership to create a safe learning environment.

Educationally yours, Ms. Williams-McKinney Ms. Lorch

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 <u>Young Authors' Contest Guidelines</u> for information about the rules and guidelines. All entries must have a completed <u>YAC Cover Sheet</u> 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 <u>HCLA</u> website.

Howard County Literacy Association welcomes parents as members. Visit the <u>HCLA</u> <u>Welcome Page</u> 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!



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

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

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. or call Food and Nutrition Services at 410-313-6743.

Parent Academy Kickoff

HCPSS will be hosting a Parent Academy Kickoff on September 25, 2024, at Wilde Lake High School! The Office of Early Childhood Programs will be hosting an information session for parents of children ages PK - Grade 1. We are seeking early childhood teachers to co-present with the Office of Early Childhood Programs. Details are as follows:

- Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024
- Location: Wilde Lake High School
- Hours: 6:30-8:30
- Session Topic: Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow: Establishing Routines for School (offered 2x @ 40 min).

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.

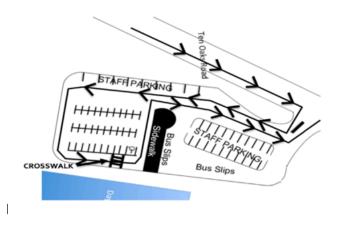
9:15 a.m. Second/Late bell rings/students should be in the classroom.

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.

Family File

It is time to update and submit your child's Family File. This must be completed for new and returning families **each year**, even if none of your information has changed.

To complete/update your family file information please see the directions below:

- Log in to <u>HCPSS Connect</u> using your parent/guardian credentials
- Select "More Options" from the left navigation
- Select "Family File" at the top of the page
- Complete each page of Family File
- On the last page, select the blue Submit button

Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to provide or update all of the following information:

- Student information
- Parent/guardian contact
- Emergency contacts
- Medical information
- Arrival/dismissal procedures
- Media release (photo approval)
- Data confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA directory

We appreciate your efforts to complete this very important task right as soon as possible.

Attendance/Reporting Absences

Parents can email <u>DOESabsence@hcpss.org</u> 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 <u>Local Discretionary</u> <u>Absence Request Form</u> 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 <u>HERE</u> for more information. Thank you in advance for your willingness to support our staff and students at DOES.

2024-2025 School Meals Information

Click <u>HERE</u> 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 <u>Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMs)</u> 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 <u>FARMs application</u> as soon as possible. Families must submit a new application every school year.

Fall Clothing Giveaways

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Community News

Please visit the HCPSS website <u>Community News and Programs site</u> for upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.