

WAVE NEWSLETTER

September 28, 2023

Important Dates:

- October 4 ~ PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- October 6 ~ World Smile Day
- October 9 ~ Schools Closed for Students- Professional Learning Day
- October 10 ~ World Mental Health Day
- October 13 ~ DoFun Run (Rain Date - October 19)
- October 18 ~ World Unity Day
- October 20 ~ Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day
- October 26 ~ Flu 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

Dear DOES 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 is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

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

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) believes that attendance is key for student success. Per Policy 9010, HCPSS defines exemplary attendance as a final attendance rate of 96% or more of the student year.

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

- If a student has missed 5% of their monthly attendance days (as few as 1-2 days a month), parents 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 will receive a 10% Chronic Absenteeism Attendance

Letter. Parents 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 supports 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 will receive a 20% Emergency Chronic Absenteeism Letter or Habitual Truancy Letter. Students may be referred to Project Attend and may be referred to the State's Attorney's Office for habitual truancy.

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

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

Counselor's Corner

Dear DOES Families,

The school year is off to a great start! Many families have shared that they are not hearing a lot about school from their child(ren), which can be very common. Our students are very busy all day long! Try a few of these questions to prompt discussions at home about school:

- Did anyone help you today?
- Did you have a moment to be brave today?
- What is your favorite thing about your class?
- If you could change something about today, what would it be?
- How do you think your teacher felt today? Why?

By the end of next week, Mrs. Hannan and Mrs. Dix will have visited every classroom K-5th for the first classroom lesson. In October and November, the counselors will visit classes again for classroom lessons focused on kindness, inclusion, and acceptance as a way to address anti-bullying standards. Please reach out to one of the counselors if you have any questions!

In October, the counselors will be supporting a few school-wide events as well. Please see the important dates and information below!

Friday, 10/6: World Smile Day: Wear bright colors and/or clothing with smiley faces to show that we shine bright for kindness at DOES! During SEL this week, classes will discuss the power of small acts of kindness as a way to encourage a school and community full of smiles!

Tuesday, 10/10 World Mental Health Day: Wear green, the color of mental health awareness! During SEL this week, classes will practice a few deep breathing videos and vote for their favorite. The school-wide favorite will be announced during the morning announcements on Friday, 10/13.

Wednesday, 10/18 Unity Day: Wear orange, the color of unity! DOES will participate in Unity Day to promote inclusion, kindness, and acceptance. During SEL this week, classes will discuss ways to promote unity within their class, grade, and school.

Stephanie Dix (Stephanie_Dix@hcpss.org)
Alyson Hannan (Alyson_Hannan@hcpss.org)

Music Notes

Last week, a group of ten 4th and 5th grade students represented Dayton Oaks to audition for the Howard County Children's Chorus. Howard County Children's Chorus is where all the singers from Howard County come to perform together all year long. These students were nominated not only for their talent but also for their Dependability, Involvement and Organization, Respect, and Effort.

Congratulations to [David Siwajuola](#), [Ella Pulver](#), [Quinn Bogard](#), [Addison Smith](#), and [Neva Schreiber](#) for being selected to represent Dayton Oaks and participate in Howard County Children's Chorus. We also congratulate [Lolita Gegeshidze](#), [Berylla Boadu](#), [Ada King](#), [Emily Dick](#), and [Aarushi Patel](#) for their courage and best effort at the auditions. These students will continue to be leaders of the DOES choruses and will have further singing opportunities.

In addition, we also have 2nd and 3rd graders who accepted the nomination to participate in a younger group of Howard County Children's Chorus: [Quinn Dempsey](#), [Sonia Monroe](#), [Yuvim Kim](#), [Ava Allen](#), [Gold Malik](#), and [Calvin Curran](#).

Please join us in celebrating our students!

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.

Howard County Library System

Early Care and Education Conference
Kindergarten Readiness, Fact or Fiction
Saturday, September 30, 2023

Participants will have an opportunity to explore topics such as Arts-Based Assessment, Kindergarten Literacy, and Social Foundations. To register, please click [HERE](#).

Howard County Public PopUp Library

This mobile PopUP library brings preschool classes and resources to neighborhoods without ready access to library branches. The unit will also serve as a mobile hotspot, providing internet access to the nearby community during each stop.

[ORK Combined Flyer \(Bilingual\) fall23 rev 9.21.pdf](#)

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

Books & Bundts Youth Reading Program

This year, Dayton Oaks is teaming up with Nothing Bundt Cakes bakery in Columbia, MD, to support reading in our school! Reading at an early age enriches children's brains, increases vocabulary, and helps develop their imaginations. We want to encourage reading at home and celebrate your child for reaching a goal! Each month, students will be given a reading tracker to log their reading hours. If they read 400 minutes in a month, they can take their reading tracker directly to the bakery to earn a free bundtlet cake and a reward certificate! What a sweet way to reward reading at home! This program will run from September 2023-May 2024. Below you can find the "Note to Families" for more information, along with a copy of the "Reading Tracker" flyer that will come home with students. *Reading just makes life a little sweeter!*

[Note to Families](#)
[Reading Tracker](#)

G/T Instructional Seminars

This year students will have the opportunity to sign up for Instructional Seminars in school. The G/T Team visited classrooms in grades 2-5 to share information with students about instructional seminars offered to their grade. All students had the opportunity to sign up for a seminar based on personal interests. Instructional seminars take place once a week during recess. Once registration is complete, G/T teachers will notify families of their student's participation through Canvas. If you have any questions about Instructional Seminars, please feel free to reach out to the G/T Resource Team: Mrs. Sonya Billey, Mrs. Joy Mangiulli, and Ms. Madeline McErlean

BSAP College and Career Opportunities Night

The HCPSS Black Student Achievement Program invites you to attend the upcoming [BSAP College and Career Opportunities Night](#) on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at Long Reach High School. This College and Career Opportunities Night invites scholars in grades 8 - 12 countywide to network with working professionals, colleges and universities, explore post-secondary opportunities, and learn more about HCPSS pathways. The evening will highlight a variety of colleges and universities as well as local businesses and organizations. To register, please complete the Registration Form linked [here](#).

Registration for BSAP Saturday Math Academy

The HCPSS Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP) Saturday Math Academy Fall Session is approaching!

This year, the BSAP Saturday Math Academy will offer an in-person enrichment program for Howard County Public School System students in all levels of math for grades 3-12 based on course availability. Registration will take place online Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until capacity is reached. Class space is limited. Families can register by accessing the HCPSS Connect Website. For more information, please visit:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2021/09/bsap-saturday-math-academy-virtual-fall-2021-program/>

Flyers for distribution:

[BSAP SMA Fall 2023 Flyer \(English\)](#)
[BSAP SMA Fall 2023 Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)

[BSAP SMA Fall 2023 Flyer \(Chinese\)](#)
[BSAP SMA Fall 2023 Flyer \(Korean\)](#)

River Hill High School Future Hawks Band Night - Friday, September 29th

Will your child go to RHHS? This is the event for you!

5th through 8th grade students who expect to attend River Hill are invited to join the River Hill Marching Band at our September 29th football game.

We would like to have as many young guests as possible, so please plan to be there if you can! And yes - you will get to play your instrument with us in the stands during the game!

What? The cost?? No no.....it's FREE. Here are the details:

*You need to be in at least your second year of Band

*The schedule is as follows:

5:45 - arrive at the front entrance to River Hill High School and warm-up

6:00 - rehearsal with the Band

6:25 - march to the stadium - no entry fee for Future Hawks!

7:00 - kickoff! Go Hawks!!!!

8:30 (approx.) - halftime show ends, dismissal to your parents

*At least one of your parents will need to join us at the football game, and they will need to buy a \$6.00 ticket. The Future Hawks event will end after the halftime performance, at which point you will be released to your parent's care. You may go home at that time, or you may stay and watch the remainder of the football game with your parent.

So, what should you do next? Just fill out this Google form by September 24th and click the link at the end of the form to download your music. Print it out, practice it, and get excited to perform with the RHHS Marching Band! After that I'll see you on September 29th. That's it!

Form: <https://forms.gle/guGA7Jq8i27aeBeg8>

Oh - wait.....the first 50 students to sign up will receive a free "Future Hawks" t-shirt!!! (The Google form can also be accessed from the "Future Hawks" section of our Band Booster website: <https://rhhsband.wixsite.com/boosters/future-hawks>.)

I hope that you will join us. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Michael Blackman
RHHS Band Director
Michael_Blackman@hcpss.org

P.S. Mrs. Syversen will be attending this event with her family and will also be playing in the band!

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.

Outdoor Lunch Returns!!!

Beginning Tuesday, September 5, 2023, students will be able to participate in Outdoor Lunch during their lunch periods on a rotating basis. A tent is located adjacent to the background and blacktop that will support outdoor lunch. Teachers will be sharing outdoor lunch rotation schedules with families soon. As in years past, we can only offer outdoor lunch when a volunteer supports with supervision of students. Attached, please find the [DOES Outdoor Lunch Volunteer Sign Up \(SY 23-24\)](#). Please select days/times that fit your schedule. Each slot for outdoor lunch needs two (2) volunteers. In preparation for volunteering, please review updated HCPSS Volunteer Policies and Procedures [here](#). Please bring proof of the completion of the [Confidentiality Training Course](#) as well as the [Child Abuse Training course](#) that is required of all volunteers when you come to Dayton Oaks. Submission of these documents are needed each school year. When you sign-in to volunteer (please bring your driver's license), please review the "TO DO" lists for Outdoor Lunch. You will also be given a name tag that must be worn at all times while on the DOES campus. Thank you for your efforts to keep our students safe. Our paraeducators are excited to welcome you to lunch and recess and are happy to provide you with direction and support related to your volunteer role as you may find that there are a few differences in procedures for different grade levels based on the developmental needs of our students. As always, if you have any questions regarding this wonderful volunteer opportunity, please let us know.

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

