



Bellows Spring Elementary School

BSES Values: Relationships, Respect, Kindness

Hello Bellows Families,

Welcome to the month of March! Ramadan began on February 28th and will last through March 29th for many of our BSES families, students, and staff. Ramadan is a time for reflection, family, community, and charity. Some of our students might be fasting fully or partially. If your child is fasting and you would like your child to sit outside of the cafe while they are fasting, **please email your child's teacher**. They can bring a book and will be supervised by our staff during their lunch time.

March 3rd kicks off Staff Appreciation Week throughout HCPSS. Help our administrative team recognize our amazing staff. We wanted to provide our families and students an opportunity to recognize and compliment our staff. We encourage you to take a moment to recognize a staff member who has made a positive connection and/or impact upon your child and/or family. [BSES Staff Shout Out Form](#). Feel free to submit this form multiple times for different staff members. If you wish to participate, **please do so by THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH**. Here is a link to our staff listing incase you are looking for a particular staff member to recognize: [BSES Staff Listing](#)

We will share your message with each individual staff member on March 7th. Thank you, BSES Families, for the outstanding support and encouragement you always show our staff!

Thank you,

Mrs. Julie Schruefer, Principal

Ms. Whitney Hogans, Assistant Principal

Ms. Kelly Healey, Leadership Intern

Important Dates

- March 3rd: Wild Robot Book Club started. Check your email for details on how you can join in on the phone from home.
- March 4th: 6:30 - 7:45 Family Reading Night (For families who RSVP'd)
- March 10th: 6:30 PTA Meeting
- March 14th: 3 Hour Early Dismissal
- March 17th: Fifth grade students will participate in MISA testing

- March 18th: Joe Corbi's Fundraiser begins (ends April 8th)
- March 19th: 5th MISA Testing
- March 20th: 5th MISA Testing
- March 21st: Spring Individual Pictures
- March 21st: 5th MISA Testing
- March 24th: 5th Grade ESSA testing
- March 27th: Science Fair and STEM Night
- March 27th: BSES restaurant night @ Red Robin
- March 31st: **Calendar change** School day for students
- April 4th: **New date** for the end of the third quarter

New Information

Yearbook Sale Information

Yearbooks are on sale now through April 15, 2025!!!!
Order online at ybpay.com or scan the QR Code:



Spring Individual Pictures

Spring Individual Pictures will take place on
Friday, March 21st. Pre-order on mylifetouch.com
using your Student ID or Picture Day ID: EVTCWDFGT
Or order via the following QR Code:



Testing Information

Fifth graders will be taking two tests during the month of March.

- The Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA), is administered to all students in fifth grade, eighth grade, and high school. The purpose of the assessment is to provide educators, parents, and the public with information on student progress toward scientific literacy. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a climate survey administered to students and educators. The purpose of the survey is to provide the school, the school system, and the State with valuable information about the learning environment in each school. Information gathered from the survey will ensure that schools across the State promote a climate that supports student learning, and that educators receive critical instructional feedback.

School Calendar Updates:

The Board also approved moving the end of the third marking period from March 28 to April 4, which accounts for inclement weather days and better balances the number of days in each marking

period. Barring any additional inclement weather days, the last day of school will be Wednesday, June 18, 2025. Updates to the June calendar include the following:

- Friday, June 6: Schools dismiss three hours early; No half-day pre-K/RECC
- Monday, June 9-Friday June 13: Full school day
- Monday, June 16-Tuesday, June 17: Schools dismiss three hours early
- Wednesday, June 18: Last day of school; schools dismiss three hours early

An updated [HCPSS calendar](#) can be found online.

PE Information

March is National Nutrition Month! To highlight and reinforce the importance of healthy eating, we will be celebrating ***Fruity Fridays*** with our students and staff. Beginning Friday March 7, students are invited to bring and to eat **a rainbow of fruits and vegetables during their lunchtime**. Each Friday, one color of the rainbow is highlighted and students are asked to pack in their lunch or select a fruit or vegetable from the school lunch that matches the color. Students who **eat** their fruit or vegetables will receive a **ticket**. Students will write their names on their tickets and be entered into a weekly raffle for a variety of prizes. Click on the link for more detailed information about [BSES Fruity Friday's](#).

Gifted and Talented Program Information

Click this [link](#) to learn more information about opportunities that are organized by our Gifted and Talented teachers.

Kindergarten

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2025? For more information on how to enroll your child, visit www.hcpss.org/enroll/kindergarten/ or call 410-313-5057.

Learning Together Program

The Bellows Spring Early Childhood Classes are making preparations for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year and are accepting applications for general education students to participate as peers through the Learning Together Program (LTP). These classes include general education and special education students. The program's focus is helping all children develop communication, literacy, math, problem solving, motor, and social skills. Parents of children who will be 3 by September 1st, applications are being accepted now.

In alignment with [Maryland's Blueprint for the Future](#), ***new LTP applications for students turning 4 by September 1 will not be available.*** The Howard County Public School System continues to offer Prekindergarten for income eligible children who will be 4 years old by September 1. For additional information contact the school or visit: <https://www.hcpss.org/schools/pre-k-programs/>

HCPSS is committed to providing instruction based on the statewide Early Learning Standards which are in alignment with Kindergarten Readiness. The fees listed in the application will be

collected monthly regardless of the learning model determined by HCPSS throughout the upcoming school year. If you have any additional questions, please contact Kerri Taylor at Kerri_taylor@hcpss.org.

Community Information

Howard County Recreation & Parks

Winter 2025 Before & After School Classes are coming to Bellow Springs ES. These classes provide fun, structured, educational, and enriching activities for students, benefitting both the child(ren) and parents!

- [Bellow Springs ES Winter 2025 Before & After School Classes Flier](#)
- [Bellow Springs ES Registration Page](#).

HoCo Kids: Life Skills Class

Free Life Skills Classes for HoCo Middle/High School Students

- Classes will be taught by HoCo college students with high school student assistants and adult supervision. Botvin's Evidence Based Curriculum promotes positive health and personal development for students in grades 6 to 9. (Slightly younger students will be considered especially if joining an older sibling, and students older than 9th grade may be invited to join our high school team to earn Community Service Hours while learning.) If parents/guardians have questions about the appropriateness for students, register the students and HC DrugFree's team will contact you. Siblings and friends are encouraged to take these classes together.
- Class dates: March 3, 10, 17, 31, April 7, 28, and May 5 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. on Zoom. Visit HC DrugFree's [website](#) for more information and register students.
- HoCo High School Student Leadership Opportunity to Earn Community Service Hours: Join HC DrugFree's instructional team to assist college students teaching online Life Skills classes – all while serving as a role model and mentor to younger HoCo students. This leadership experience looks good on resumes and college applications. For more information and to register to volunteer click [here](#).

Free Parenting/Grandparenting Classes

- Free! On Zoom and open to parents, guardians and grandparents residing in HoCo or with school-age children/grandchildren residing in HoCo. This evidence-based, interactive prevention program provides families with the skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will use drugs including alcohol or engage in other dangerous behaviors. The curriculum was written for families with children 9-14 years olds, but we believe it is

appropriate for K-12 families. Class dates: March 18, 21, 25, 28 and April 1 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. on Zoom. Visit HC DrugFree's [website](#) for more information and register. [+](#)

HCPSS Special Education Resource Fair

Saturday, March 15, 2024, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Cedar Lane School, 11630 Scaggsville Road, Fulton, MD

The HCPSS Special Education Resource Fair provides families with information available from the community and HCPSS to support their students receiving special education and related services (those who have an IEP or IFSP).

Get connected to: Recreational Activities, HCPSS Speech, OT, PT, Vision, and Adapted PE, Camps, Community, Groups, Service Providers, Transition to Adulthood Information, Assistive Technology, Behavioral, Health, Howard County Government Resources, And Much More!

For information, please contact FSRC@hcpss.org. Registration is not required. The event will be cancelled if HCPSS has an inclement weather closure. This event is part of the HCPSS Parent Empowerment Series including training sessions related to special education and events for families of students with an IEP or IFSP. Free

Spring Break Basketball

Are you interested in basketball and playing over spring break? Click here to learn more: [Spring Break Basketball Camp](#)

STEMVILLAGE Leadership Summer Camp

STEMVillage Leadership Summer Camp offers rising 3rd–6th graders an opportunity to dive into STEM and leadership. Through hands-on projects and fun challenges, campers boost their critical thinking, creativity, emotional intelligence, and public speaking—all while making lasting summer memories.

Session 1 (July 7–11, 2025):

- Explore simple machines and design bottle rockets
- Sharpen public speaking skills with interactive presentations and group STEM pitches

Session 2 (July 28–August 1, 2025):

- Tackle problem-solving challenges like egg drops and bridge-building competitions
- Enhance collaboration and innovation through teamwork exercises

Special Offer: Refer a friend, and if they sign up, you'll receive free aftercare!

Early bird pricing is just \$350 per week—now extended to **March 14, 2025** due to popular demand. For more details and to register, visit tinyurl.com/stemvillage25. Spaces are limited—sign up now!

Repeated Information

Morning Arrival and Dismissal

If you are driving your student to school please wait in the line, drive over the bridge and drive to the right with the flow of traffic to drop your student off at the circle. **Please do not drive over the bridge and turn into the parking lot on the left and have your child walk across where the buses are driving.** This is very dangerous and we do not want people walking between the buses. In the afternoon, please wait in the line, drive over the bridge and drive to the right with the flow of traffic to pick up your student. Some parents are parking in the lot on the left. Having them walk alone or with you where the buses are is dangerous. [Here](#) is some more clarifying information. All car riders need a sign with big bold letters in their dashboard stating child name, grade level, and teacher. This really helps us expedite the car rider line.

Student Absences

If your child needs to be absent from school, please send all absence notes to IESAbsence@hcpss.org and include the following in your email:

- Student's first and last name
- Grade level
- Date(s) of absence
- Reason for absence

Recess Equipment is Needed

We are accepting donations for students to use during indoor or outdoor recess. Donations will help encourage students to engage in active play, foster teamwork, and improve physical fitness. Additionally, having more variety in recess activities can reduce conflicts and improve social skills among students. Please do not donate games with small pieces or are not manageable to play during the recess block. Card games are great! Thank you for considering! Please reach out to kelly_healey@hcpss.org with any questions.

Clothes

Please send in weather appropriate extra clothes (labeled with your child's name) in case your child has a spill or has a bathroom accident and needs to change. Also, if your child has borrowed clothes from the health room, please wash and return them to the health room so that they are available for others. We are running low on our extra clothes available, especially long pants.

Health Room

Finally, since cold and flu season is upon us, we wanted to send a friendly reminder of when children should be kept at home. Be sure to email BSesAbsence@hcpss.org when your children do

not come to school due to illness. In your email, please include Name (first, last), Date of Absence, and Reason for Absence in your email.

Students/Staff should NOT come to school with the following:

*If they had fever reducing medication (Tylenol or Ibuprofen) in the morning before school fever 100.0 F or higher (student may NOT return to school unless they are fever free for 24 hours without medication)

*severe sore throat

*hacking and/or disruptive cough

*difficulty breathing

*diarrhea or vomiting

*new onset of severe headache (especially with fever)

BSES PTA Information

Join the Bellows Spring PTA for the 24-25 school year

Become an active part of our school community by [joining the PTA](#). The PTA plays a vital role in supporting our students and teachers through fundraising efforts, organizing school events, and advocating for the needs of our children. Your involvement, no matter how big or small, can make a significant difference. The class with the most memberships will win a popsicle party. If you haven't already [joined PTA](#), join now. If you already joined, your membership will count towards your student's class.

STEM NIGHT IS MARCH 27TH!!

Mark your calendars and get ready for a fun night of science, building and engineering!

There are three components to our evening:

***Science Fair** --- students who signed up will get a chance to showcase their experiments and projects. It's not too late to register. Click [here](#) to register. Registration ends Friday, 3/7.

***LEGO Builds** --- students will display their original creations, and votes will be cast for the crowd favorites! It's not too late to register. Click [here](#) to register. Registration ends Friday, 3/7.

***STEM activities** --- participate in family friendly hands-on STEM-based activities including Slime, Coding Activities, Spaghetti Bridge Engineering & More!

It's not too late to join the BSES PTA! Click [here](#) to become a member and support the students, staff and entire Bellows Community.

BSES PTA restaurant dates for MARCH

- WED | MAR 12, 2025 | Honeygrow
- THURS | MAR 20, 2025 | Pazani
- THURS | MAR 27, 2025 | Red Robin