

The Waterloo Wildcat

[En español](#)

September 11, 2026

Dates to Remember:

September 14- PTA Restaurant Night: Coal Fire

September 14- PTA General meeting (in person or virtual) 7pm

September 15- School picture day!

September 21- School is closed

September 30- School closes 3 hours early

October 16- School is closed.

October 19- PTA General meeting (in person or virtual) 7pm

October 28- School is closed.

October 30- PTA Trunk or Treat; 5:30pm

November 3- School is closed.

November 6- Synergy opens for families to schedule Fall conferences; 8am

November 11- School picture make ups

November 13- Turkey Trot! (Rain date: 11/20)

November 16-20- American Education Week

November 16- PTA General meeting (in person or virtual) 7pm

November 19- Synergy closes for families to schedule Fall conferences; 4pm

November 23- School closes 3 hours early; Fall Conferences

November 24- School closes 3 hours early; Fall Conferences

November 25-27- School is closed.

We had a Wonderful Dental Clinic!



Our smiles are even brighter thanks to our dental clinic this week! We appreciate this amazing partnership with local dentists! Thank you <https://mobiledentists.com/>

Access All BTSN Presentations Now!

Thank you for attending this year's Back to School Night presentations! We look forward to a wonderful year of student learning and growth! If you missed any information or simply want to review what was shared, please go to our school website to see them all here:
<https://wates.hcpss.org/news/2024/2024-07/2026-2027-family-resources>

HCPSS Attendance Information

Attendance is crucial for student success from kindergarten to high school. Missing school impacts academic and social achievements.

- Significance: Missing 10% or more can harm academic success. In 6th grade, absenteeism signals a higher risk of dropout. By 9th grade, regular attendance is a strong predictor of graduation.
- Maryland Focus: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) set a 10% absenteeism threshold for intervention, starting 2023-2024.
- Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) aims for 94-96% attendance for all students.

HCPSS Attendance Interventions:

1. 5% Absence: Care and Concern Call or letter sent to parents/guardians to improve attendance.
2. 10% Absence: Attendance conference may be arranged. Additional supports deployed.
3. 15% Absence: Attendance support plan may be required.
4. 20% Absence: Attendance Commitment Agreement may be required. Potential referral to the Central Attendance Team or State's Attorney's Letter may be sent.

With parents, staff, and students working together, we can improve attendance and student success.

HCPSS Bullying Information

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all students. Preventing bullying is an important part of this goal. [HCPSS Policy 9460](#) prohibits bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, including hate/bias incidents, and intimidation.

HCPSS recently launched a new [Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation \(BCHI\) Reporting Form](#) that allows students, staff, and families to easily and confidentially report concerns. The BCHI Reporting Form should be used to report known or suspected incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation, and hate/bias incidents. These may include physical aggression, threats, retaliation, teasing or name-calling, rumors, exclusion, threatening gestures, online/social media behavior, or conduct related to a student's identity or characteristics.

What happens after you report?

The school will address any immediate safety concerns. The targeted student's parent/guardian will be notified as soon as possible and an administrator will begin the investigation within two

school days. Both families will receive written notice of the outcome within 15 calendar days, excluding extenuating circumstances.

A Note About Cyberbullying

In today's digital world, bullying can extend beyond the school day. Cyberbullying can occur through social media, text messages, group chats, gaming platforms, apps, and other digital spaces. Online behavior that occurs outside of school may still require school intervention when it has a connection to the school setting and impacts a student's safety or educational environment. Families are encouraged to talk regularly with their children about responsible online behavior and to save screenshots, messages, posts, or other evidence when concerns arise.

Not sure if it's bullying? Please still tell us. Peer conflict or other concerning behavior may not meet the definition of bullying but may still require school support and follow-up. Students and families do not need to decide whether something "counts" as bullying before asking for help. For additional information or to submit a report, visit the [HCPSS Stop Bullying website](#) or review [HCPSS Policy 9460](#).

Trunk or Treat is October 30th 5:30-7pm!

Join us for one of our favorite PTA events of the year! [Sign up now to decorate a trunk](#), or, simply join us to trick or treat amongst cars in the school lot. Dinner is covered- Tasty Empanadas will be present, and the book fair will be OPEN!

Girls on the Run Needs Volunteer Coaches!

We need **1 more** volunteer coach to help run Waterloo's Girls on the Run team! If we do not have 2 coaches, unfortunately, the Fall session cannot proceed. Waterloo will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-5:15pm starting Thursday, September 17. The program registration fee is \$210, which includes lessons, all program materials, 5K and program shirts, a water bottle, and more. Financial assistance is available! Visit www.gotrcentralmd.org for a list of program sites and to register. Questions? Email info@gotrcentralmd.org

REGISTER: [CLICK HERE](#)

Waterloo is open "Pending Coaches" Please reach out to keep the team running this season! COACH: [CLICK HERE](#)

Say Cheese! Picture Day is September 15th!

Picture Day envelopes are coming home soon! To order online now, go to www.strawbridge.net and enter code: [PX522432](#)

Lunch Volunteer Information

We are looking for parent volunteers to help during lunch! The role of a lunch volunteer is to support the Waterloo staff by assisting with tasks that help lunch run smoothly, such as opening food items, guiding students, and keeping the cafeteria environment safe and organized. Please note that this volunteer role is not intended for visiting or socializing with your child, but rather to provide valuable support to the school community as a whole. [Please review these guidelines before you sign up.](#)

Please note, we will not have lunch volunteers on half days and unplanned school closures or delays. Additionally, we want as many families as possible to have an opportunity to volunteer if they wish, so please be mindful of the number of times you sign up per month.

[Click here to sign up to volunteer](#)

When you arrive for your volunteer shift, please sign in through the front office. Please note, you must complete [required volunteer trainings](#) prior to your shift (Confidentiality Training and Child Abuse and Neglect Training) and print or email your certificate to: Brooke_ONeill@hcpss.org

Please Help Stock Our Kindness Cupboard!

Our Kindness Cupboard helps ensure that students and families in our school community have access to everyday essentials when they need a little extra support. We're asking our generous school community to help keep the cupboard stocked by donating items from our Amazon Wish List!

Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference and helps us continue spreading kindness throughout our school community. Thank you for supporting our students and families!
[Shop the Amazon Wish List](#)

HCPSS Seeks Advisory Committee Members by TODAY!

HCPSS is seeking community members to serve on curriculum advisory committees, which provide a forum to share ideas and support continuous academic excellence. Interested stakeholders should submit an online interest form by September 11. Please [click here](#) for more information and to submit your application.

PTA News

Join The PTA and Get Connected!

Volunteer!

Interested in getting more involved in the PTA? We are always looking for parents and families to help volunteer, join one of our amazing committees, or take on a leadership role. You can fill out our [PTA Interest Survey](#) or email ptawaterloo@gmail.com to let us know how we can best engage with you.

"How do I join?"

Just fill out the dues payment form for your desired membership type! We only need your name, email, and phone number. Waterloo PTA will not sell or share your contact information and will use it only for PTA communications.

- [Family](#) - \$20
- [Parent/Guardian](#) - \$12
- [Community](#) - \$12
- [Grandparent](#) - \$12

Find us on Facebook [@waterloopta](#) and Instagram [@waterlooelementarypta](#) for regular updates about upcoming events and ways to get involved!

NEW! 2026-2027 After School Programs - [Register Today!](#)

[Click this link to see all the Fall classes!](#)

More Than Karate has been added! [See the link!](#)

The Okinawan Karate Dojo's More Than Karate Program is thrilled to announce that our after-school karate program is back this Fall! This after-school favorite is the perfect activity to introduce your child to the benefits of martial arts while allowing them to burn some energy and learn critical skills like confidence, focus, discipline, respect, safety & control, and strength & agility. All classes will be held at Waterloo ES on Wednesdays immediately after school. Fun and structured....the classes are facilitated by a team of well-trained, patient, and friendly black belt instructors, led by Owner Sensei Stanley Crump – 7th degree Black Belt. Students will leave classes smiling, focused, more respectful, and skilled with sound self-defense basics! Karate uniforms (optional) are available for students.

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Upcoming Events

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PTA General Meeting – Monday, September 14th at 7pm in the Waterloo Media Center or virtually using a session code (code will be sent at 3pm)

Join us for our first PTA meeting of the year! If you [become a member](#) ahead of time, you will have voting privileges as we approve our 2026-2027 budget and discuss other upcoming initiatives for the school year.

PTA Restaurant Night- Coal Fire Pizza! - September 14th

Please plan to support our first [PTA restaurant night](#) on September 14th! Remember to mention Waterloo at check out!

Trunk or Treat- October 30th 5:30-7. Join us for one of our favorite PTA events of the year! [Sign up now to decorate a trunk](#), or, simply join us to trick or treat amongst cars in the school lot. Dinner is covered- Tasty Empanadas will be present, and the book fair will be OPEN!

Clothing Bin

Please keep the Waterloo Clothing Bin in mind for donations as you clean out last year's school clothes! You can find the bin in the school parking lot. Accepted items include new and gently used clothing, footwear, textiles (sheets, bedding, blankets, towels), and accessories (handbags, backpacks, wallets, scarves, jewelry, gloves). Items must be clean, dry, in bags, and tied closed. Please do not donate mattresses, electronics, books, perishable items, or anything too large to fit into the bin. Waterloo PTA makes money for every pound donated, and we greatly appreciate your donations!

Join the Waterloo Wildcat Team at the Autism Walk & 5K!

Help us represent our families at Centennial Park on Saturday, October 3rd (9 am to noon) as we support the Autism Society of Maryland! Options include a 5k run, 4k walk, and 1k stroll, plus tons of superhero-themed family fun. Kids under 11 are free!

See the [flyer here](#) and register under the "Waterloo Wildcat Team" at <https://autismsocietymd.org/walk-5k-run/>.

HCPSS Community News

In alignment with Howard County Board of Education, the following announcements have been approved by the Public Information Office for distribution. To view upcoming events click: <https://community-programs.hcpss.org>