

# *The Waterloo Wildcat*

[En español](#)

September 5, 2025

## **Dates to Remember:**

TODAY- PTA Back to School Picnic: 6pm

September 9- Grade 1 and 2 Back to School Night: 5:30-6:30pm

September 9- Primary (K-2) GT Information Night: 6:30-7:15pm

September 11- Grades 3, 4, and 5 Back to School Night: 5:30-6:30pm

September 11- Intermediate (3-5) GT Information Night: 6:30-7:15pm

September 15- Coal Fire Pizza PTA Restaurant Night!

September 15- PTA General Meeting (Hybrid) 6:30pm

September 17- Schools close 3 hours early. Students dismiss at 12:55pm

September 23- School is closed

October 2- School is closed

October 7- Fall school pictures

October 13- PTA General meeting (Hybrid) 6:30pm

October 16- Vision and Hearing Testing

October 17- School is closed

October 20- School is closed

October 24- PTA Trunk or Treat! 5:30-7pm

October 29- School wide Q1 Rockin' Recess celebration!

October 31- Schools close 3 hours early. Students dismiss at 12:55pm

**Our Students are Doing an Amazing Job Learning!**



We are so thankful for our amazing teachers and staff at Waterloo! Even though it's the second week of school, our students are already learning a tremendous amount every day! Keep up the excellent work! Families, we truly appreciate your support of your children!

[We'll See you Tonight at 6pm for our PTA Picnic!](#)

Please add your candid pictures from our event tonight [here](#)

Join us for this FREE event for the Waterloo community to welcome everyone back! Bring your own dinner and picnic blanket for an evening of DJ music, entertainment, free popsicles for the kids, and lots of family fun.

For those interested in helping out at this event, please sign up [here](#)

### Afternoon Dismissal Changes

From time to time, parents may need to change their child's dismissal plans. *Please call the school directly at 410-313-5014 and inform our secretaries of the change.* A courtesy email to the homeroom and Math teacher should also be sent to complete a parent's communication. Please note that teachers may not be able to check email or may have a substitute for the day. Thank you for helping our staff to follow your dismissal changes accurately.

### HCPSS Student Behavior Intervention Policy

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is committed to providing a safe, engaging, and supportive school environment that fosters the social and emotional safety, dignity, and well-being of all students. HCPSS acknowledges the need for employees:

1. to use an array of research-based positive behavior interventions, strategies, and a tiered system of supports to address student behaviors and keep students safe and free of harm
2. to minimize the practice of exclusion from the classroom environment
3. to minimize the use of physical restraint (which may only be used when necessary to protect a student or other person from imminent, serious, physical harm and only after other less intrusive, nonphysical interventions have failed or been determined inappropriate).

It is the expectation of the Board that HCPSS employees will be knowledgeable of and implement proactive positive behavior interventions in an effort to reduce the need for exclusion or physical restraint.

Additional information can be found at [HCPSS Policy 9400 - Student Behavior Intervention](#)

### Waterloo's BOOK Drive!

Do you have books that your children have outgrown? Don't let them collect dust any longer, drop them off at Waterloo! We are collecting picture books and chapter books for all levels. Book donations will be used to provide books for Waterloo students at home & classroom libraries. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Gardner & Mr. McClellan. Keep Reading!

### A Message from our Music Team

Registration is now active for Orchestra, Band and Chorus for students in grades 4 and 5. Please read about our program offerings below and register your child to join Waterloo's ensembles!

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mtiKOU4JiN8aUm6YNIIdpZYpfdteCa9uSptJCLxVatsY/edit?usp=sharing>

Orchestra, Band and Chorus are voluntary curricular courses in addition to the General Music curriculum. Students will receive additional information during the first few weeks of school on their musical options. Please contact the music directors with questions.

We look forward to making music with your child this year!

Ms. Showalter and Mr. Velsey

### **PTA News**

Sign up to become a member now on our [PTA website!](#)

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:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9jGNygf46PaTMnqnE1a1hmmDDE23sRDwIkRw9UXYYoZxWhw/viewform> or email [ptawaterloo@gmail.com](mailto:ptawaterloo@gmail.com) to let us know how we can best engage with you!

### Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming PTA events:

#### Welcome Back Picnic! – Friday, September 5 from 6pm-8pm at Waterloo

Join us for this FREE event for the Waterloo community to welcome everyone back! Bring your own dinner and picnic blanket for an evening of DJ music, entertainment, free popsicles for the kids, and lots of family fun.

For those interested in helping out at this event, please sign up [here](#)

#### PTA General Meeting – Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30pm in the Waterloo Media Center or virtually using a session code

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 2025-2026 budget and discuss other upcoming initiatives for the school year! You will also get added to the Waterloo Elementary School PTA WhatsApp Community, which offers a communication venue for announcements to the entire Waterloo community as well as grade specific groups!

#### Restaurant Night– Monday, September 15th, 11:30 am-9pm at Coal Fire Pizza

Throughout the year a business donates a portion of their sales for that date to the Waterloo PTA when you mention you are dining there to support the Waterloo. We call these our "Restaurant Nights." First up is Coal Fire Pizza - who will donate 20% of all their sales on September 15th when patrons mention Waterloo PTA.

#### Trunk or Treat– Friday, October 24th, 5:30-7pm at Waterloo Elementary

Save the date for one of our most anticipated events of the year! More details to follow!

### 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!

## 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.

[Click here to 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 week/month.

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](mailto:Brooke_ONeill@hcpss.org)

## **HCPSS Community News**

**HCPSS Family Academy Kickoff:** Please be sure to include the Family Academy Kickoff in your back-to-school presentations and communications to families. Thank you for helping ensure all families are aware of this valuable event!

**Date:** Saturday, Sept. 27, 9:00 am–12:00 pm

**Location:** Oakland Mills High School

This districtwide event is open to all HCPSS families and will feature:

- A session with Superintendent Bill Barnes
- Resource tables hosted by HCPSS offices and local organizations
- Information on programs, resources, and services available throughout the school year
- Childcare and language access provided

For additional information, please visit the [Family Academy Kickoff HCPSS News Post](#).

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>