

[En Espanol](#)

Dear Families,

On behalf of our entire staff, we extend a warm Waterloo welcome to our new and returning students for the 2025-2026 school year! At Waterloo, we value the unique contributions that each child makes to our school. Our school is amazing because of you and your children! Much planning and hard work has gone into preparing for a successful year. We can't wait to see the smiles of our students again as old friends reconnect and new friendships are made. We love to hear students exchange stories about summer and see their favorite teachers and friends!

Our amazing staff are returning later this week, and will be working diligently to plan engaging academic and social/emotional lessons for your children. All teachers and support staff will spend hours engaging in professional development curriculum meetings and student data review meetings. Secretaries and office staff continue to register new students and support families with HCPSS connect. Additionally, we would like to offer sincere thanks and appreciation to our incredible custodial staff members! They worked diligently throughout the summer to clean and ready the school for our return to a safe, clean, and sparkling learning environment!

We are excited to welcome our newest staff members, each of whom bring many outstanding talents and skills to Waterloo!

|                                 |                                         |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <i>~~ Patrice Powe</i>          | <i>Grade 1 Teacher</i>                  |
| <i>~~ Caroline Komisarek</i>    | <i>Grade 2 Teacher</i>                  |
| <i>~~ Lauren Comber</i>         | <i>RECC Speech Language Pathologist</i> |
| <i>~~ Monica Muia</i>           | <i>Health Assistant</i>                 |
| <i>~~ Lauren Atkinson</i>       | <i>Paraeducator</i>                     |
| <i>~~ Christin Bryant</i>       | <i>Student Assistant</i>                |
| <i>~~ Rachel Wafle-Tabacchi</i> | <i>Long Term Counselor Substitute</i>   |

**On August 14th at 10:15-10:30am, meet our staff at your nearest listed Bus Stop!**



Our teachers and staff are excited to kick off the school year visiting families to welcome students to the new year **on August 14th from 10:15-10:30am!** The bus stops are combined, so please go to your family's nearest listed stop to say hello! We can't wait to see you!

### **A Message from our PTA**

The Waterloo PTA is looking forward to being a part of your child's learning experience this year!

Please consider joining the PTA. Doing so helps us to continue to support the many programs and events at our school, including our book fairs, Trunk or Treat, and Spring Carnival! PTA members are eligible to vote at all PTA general meetings about topics such as PTA budgets, events, and officer elections. You can sign up to be a member now through the [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 email [ptawaterloo@gmail.com](mailto:ptawaterloo@gmail.com) to let us know how we can best engage with you!

You can also take part in our Restaurant Nights throughout the year or donate clothing to the Clothing Bin (located in the Waterloo parking lot). Waterloo PTA receives funds through both of these activities!

### **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.

**PTA General Meeting – Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30pm in the Waterloo Media Center on virtually using a session code (code will be sent)**

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.

**Homeroom Teacher Information & Family File Updates**

Update Your Student/Family Emergency Information Today! Parents/guardians must verify and/or update emergency information for each child every school year. This is completed online in Family File, which has several new updates including how and where to access. Full [details on updating your Family File](#) are available online. It is very important that parents update their child's information before the start of the school year on August 25th. *Homeroom classes will be available in HCPSS Connect/Synergy on August 20th at 8am.* Please do your child's [Family File information](#) today!

**Related Arts Color Calendar for 2025-2026**

For your planning purposes, please view the HCPSS Related Arts Color calendar [here](#)

**Elementary Student Cell-Phone Usage Policy**

Families are reminded that students must abide by Board of Education Policy 8080 Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media, and specifically Standard E. Technology includes any non-HCPSS device that may be used to send or receive data via voice, video or text. This includes, but is not limited to, mobile phones, e-readers, tablets, personal computers, wearable technology, video recorders or other devices equipped with microphones, speakers and/or cameras.

The [2025-2026 Policy](#) is below:

- Students will keep personal technology devices away and silenced and ensure they are not a distraction during the student day.
- Smart watches may be worn during the student day but may not distract instruction or be used for reasons other than checking the time.
- A staff member on a school-sponsored field trip may permit the use of a personal technology device by a student in limited situations where capturing a picture or video may be appropriate or contacting a parent/guardian is necessary.

- School administrators and school administrators' designees may authorize use of a personal device in rare instances such as an emergency for communication purposes, and when allowed as described in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or Health Plan.

### **School Communication and Family Resources this year**

Every Friday, we will send The Waterloo Wildcat community newsletter. You can also check our school's website at <http://wates.hcpss.org/> for notices and updates throughout the year.

Throughout the year, families can learn of upcoming school event dates, and view all of our archived community messages [here](#)!

### **HCPSS Student Code of Conduct**

At Waterloo, our students show their B.E.S.T! Please review these expectations with your child:

**B-** Be Respectful

**E-** Embrace Differences

**S-** Spend Time Learning

**T-** Take Responsibility

The Howard County Public School System is committed to providing a safe, engaging and supportive learning environment where all policies are enforced fairly and consistently. HCPSS policies and regulations emphasize instruction and rehabilitation rather than punishment and are designed to foster and reward appropriate behavior and keep students connected to school so they can graduate college and career ready. An updated copy of HCPSS' Student Code of Conduct will be shared with families in the coming weeks.

### **Every Elementary Student will have access to a HCPSS Device**

All students in HCPSS will have access to a chromebook; parents/guardians do not need to do anything to request this device. Devices will be stored at school.

### **Summer News**

We had a blast hosting families on the blacktop! Thank you to all who were able to attend, reconnect, and make some new friends!

*Here are some important reminders:*

Remember, the **First day of school is Monday, August 25th, 2025!**

**School hours:** 9:25 am – 3:55 pm

\*Doors open at 9:10am

Save the Date for these upcoming events!

TODAY- PTA School-wide (RECC-5) Summer Playdate; 6pm

August 12- A Peek at Kindergarten (9am-1pm) Please call the school to schedule a time\*

August 14- Meet our staff at your nearest bus stop! 10:15-10:30am

August 20- RECC/PreK/Kindergarten Back to School Night; 6pm

August 22- RECC/Pre Kindergarten Open House: 9:30-10am

August 22- Kindergarten Open House: 10-10:30am

August 22- New Student Orientation (1st-5th grades) 1-2pm

August 22- Welcome Back Open House (1st-5th grades) 2-3pm

August 25- The First Day of School! Doors open at 9:10am

August 28- The First Day of School for RECC/PreK!

September 1- School is closed.

September 5- 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- PTA General meeting (in person or virtual) 6:30pm

This will be a FANTASTIC year! We'll see you soon!

Sincerely,

Dr. Rachel Edoho-Eket, Principal

Ms. Alayna Lynam, Assistant Principal