



From the Administration

Dear Tiger Families,

Thank you for your care and consideration for Dr. O'Byrne. We are in contact with her and she is feeling a little better each day!

While Dr. O'Byrne is out, Carol DeBord, retired Howard County Public Schools principal, will be at WFES as our substitute principal a few days a week. She is a former principal at Manor Woods Elementary and comes to us with over 20 years of experience as a school administrator.

Additionally, please see the message below from our WFES PTA Board.

Always for children,

Mrs. Sara Cox, Assistant Principal & Mrs. Carol DeBord, Principal Substitute

Message from the PTA

We're all wishing Dr. O'Byrne a speedy recovery! On behalf of the WFES PTA, we are having some fall mums delivered to her front porch to help brighten up her day. Thanks to Nikki Baker for putting together the wonderful get-well-soon banner! We had it available for kids to sign during lunch periods today. For anyone who would like to send a personal sympathy card too, there is a basket in the front office for well wishes. The PTA has provided a template for kids to write letters as well, if they choose.

If you're wondering how you can get involved or want to know more about how PTA supports our staff year round, please visit our website or contact us via email. westfriendshippta@gmail.com. Go Tigers!!



From the School

Dates to Remember

- 9/15-10/15 - Hispanic Heritage Month
- 9/27 - HCPSS Family Kickoff
- 10/1 - [National Principals' Month](#)
- 10/2 - Schools and Offices Closed
- 10/13-17 - [National School Lunch Week](#)
- 10/17 - Schools Closed for Students: Professional Work Day
- 10/20 - Schools and Offices Closed
- 10/22 - Unity Day - Wear **Orange**
- 10/20-24 - [National School Bus Safety Week](#)
- 10/27 - World Occupational Therapy Day
- 10/28 - K-5: Fall Picture Day
- 10/31 - Schools Close 3 Hours Early: Professional Work Day

Resources

[HCPSS 2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

[RA Color Day Schedule](#)

WFES Fridge Sheet 25-26

Nothing But Bundt Reading [tracker](#)

Amazon Gift List for Tiger Cart

Our WFES Tigers earn Tiger Tickets for being Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn. Students can use their Tiger Tickets to purchase fun prizes on our Tiger Cart and social experiences. If you would like to support our students, please consider donating from our [Tiger Cart Wish List](#) and the items will be sent directly to school.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

October is National Bullying Prevention Month!

WFES is excited to be celebrating Unity Day on Wednesday, October 22nd by wearing **ORANGE!** The goal of Unity Day is to promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to prevent bullying. Let's join together to emphasize the message that bullying is not acceptable, and that all students deserve to be safe in school, online, and in the community.

Let's unite and wear **ORANGE** to show our support for bullying prevention on 10/22!

Change of Address

Parents and Guardians: This is a reminder that any change of residency must be reported through Family File within 10 school days of the move. Current residency documentation must be provided to the school each time residency changes. Thank you for your cooperation.

Nothing Bundt Cakes Youth Reading Program

Once again, WFES will participate in the Books and Bundts Youth Reading Program. The program runs from September 2025 through May 2026. Please see the flyer below and use the [tracker](#) that you can download each month. Happy Reading!

BOOKS & BUNDT
Reading Makes Life Sweeter

Who
Pre-K through Elementary School Students

What
Students will receive a Free Bundtlet for each month that they read 400+ minutes.

When*
September, 2025 to June, 2026

Why
Reading at an early age enriches children's brains, increases vocabulary and test scores, introduces readers to the world around them and helps develop their imaginations.



Does your child want a **Free Bundtlet** every month?*

Have him or her read for at least **20 minutes a day, 5 days a week!**



JOIN OUR "BOOKS & BUNDT" YOUTH READING PROGRAM

It's easy, free and delicious!

Turning your child into an enthusiastic reader is as easy as 1-2-3!

- 1 Record child's time spent reading on the monthly tracker.
- 2 Bring the completed reading tracker to the bakery listed.
- 3 Celebrate your child's accomplishment with a **Free Bundtlet** and an award certificate he or she can hold on to long after the cake has been enjoyed!

Columbia, MD
10730 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Suite 102
Columbia, MD 21044
(410) 587-0670
bryan.pax@nothingbundtcakes.com

Nothing But Bundt Reading [tracker](#)

[Girls on the Run Central Maryland](#)

Coaches Needed! Do you have a passion for volunteerism, healthy habits, goal setting, and female empowerment? Our coaches unlock confidence through thought-provoking conversations, an intentional curriculum, and movement-based games. Girls on the Run® inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. Teams of 8-20 meet twice weekly after school from the week of September 22 through the week of December 8, 2025. West Friendship ES will meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school from 3:50 to 5:15 pm. Each season concludes with a 5K culminating event! Coaches can be men or women over 18 and do NOT need to be runners or have previous coaching experience. Free training is provided. Visit www.gotrcentralmd.org for more information. You can email Susan Gartner (susan.michel@girlsontherun.org) if you're

interested or have questions. Potential coaches should also complete the Girls on the Run online coach application at <https://www.pinwheel.us/volunteer/signup/New-Coach-App-Fall2025>.



JOIN GIRLS ON THE RUN!
FALL 2025
CONFIDENCE
that lasts a lifetime!
Girls on the Run is a girl-empowerment organization that inspires participants to be joyful, healthy, and confident using evidence-based lessons that combine relationship building, community strengthening, and goal setting with physical movement.

WHY GOTR MATTERS

Girls' self-confidence begins to drop by age 9

Girls' physical activity levels decline starting at age 10

50% of girls ages 10 to 13 experience bullying

REGISTRATION DETAILS
Registration opens Sunday, August 24 at noon!
Sign up before September 22, 2025
Registration Fee: \$210
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

SEASON DETAILS
Season Starts:
Week of September 22, 2025
Season Ends:
Week of December 8, 2025

SCAN ME!

For more information and to register, visit
www.gotrcentralmd.org

QUESTIONS?
Contact
Girls on the Run Central Maryland
✉ susan.gartner@girlsontherun.org
☎ 443.583.7740

From the PTA

PTA August-September Newsletter

Here is the [link](#) for the WFES PTA Newsletter. This newsletter and all other PTA information can also be viewed on our Website under [PTA Corner](#).

Winter Coat Drive

Make a difference by participating in the Winter Coat Drive event. Please refer to the details outlined in the flyer shown below.



The flyer has a light blue background with white snowflake patterns. At the top, the words "WINTER" and "COAT DRIVE" are prominently displayed. "WINTER" is in a white, outlined, sans-serif font, while "COAT DRIVE" is in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a dark blue rounded rectangle. Below this, the text "Which school will collect the most coats?" is written in a bold, italicized, black font. A paragraph follows, encouraging participation and listing items to donate. Three circular images are arranged horizontally: the first shows children with coats, the second shows two women smiling, and the third shows a child with a coat. Below each image is a column of text detailing the event schedule and location. At the bottom, the sponsors are listed in a small, black, sans-serif font. On the left side, vertical text provides contact information.

**WINTER
COAT DRIVE**

Which school will collect the most coats?

Make a difference by participating in our Winter Coat Drive event. Donate your new or clean gently used coats, gloves, hats, mittens, and scarves in all sizes from infants to adult! Come out and volunteer too!


Dropoff Winter Coats & Hats
Collection Dates & Times
August 26- October 7, 2026
Monday-Friday
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Howard County Multiservice Center
9900 Washington Boulevard, Ste. I
Laurel, MD 20723


Volunteer Opportunities
Help us prepare for the
Coat Giveaway
Friday, Oct. 17, 2025
4:30 AM - 7:30 PM
Hang and Set Up Coats
North Laurel
Community Center
9411 Whiskey Bottom Road
Laurel, MD 20723
&
Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025
North Laurel
Community Center
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Assist families & carry coats to cars


Coat Distribution Day
Saturday, October 18,
2025
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
North Laurel
Community Center
9411 Whiskey Bottom
Road
Laurel, MD 20723

For more information email or
text tracey_williams@hcpss.org or
(443)253-4398

SPONSORED BY
HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES
&
PTA COUNCIL OF HOWARD COUNTY
TO BENEFIT THE HOWARD COUNTY NORTH LAUREL MULTISERVICE

HCPSS Community News/Resources:

Registration for BSAP Saturday Math Academy

The BSAP Saturday Math Academy fall session is approaching! The program offers an in-person enrichment 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 on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 9:00 am until capacity is reached. Class space is limited. Families can register by accessing the [HCPSS Connect Website](https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2025/09/black-student-achievement-program-bsap-saturday-math-academy-fall-2025-program/) on the registration date. For more information, please visit:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2025/09/black-student-achievement-program-bsap-saturday-math-academy-fall-2025-program/>

Flyers for distribution:

- [BSAP SMA Fall 2025 Flyer \(English\)](#)
- [BSAP SMA Fall 2025 Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)
- [BSAP SMA Fall 2025 Flyer \(Chinese\)](#)
- [BSAP SMA Fall 2025 Flyer \(Korean\)](#)

HCPSS Family Academy Kickoff, Saturday!

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](#)

Please see the fliers below for more information:

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Chinese](#)
- [Korean](#)

Hispanic Heritage Month - September 15 - October 15, 2025



HCPSS Equity Framework

Empowered Online - Tools and Tips for Raising Responsible Digital Citizens

Join the Office of Instructional Technology & Library Media for an informative session where you will discover the HCPSS Digital Citizenship Curriculum and explore effective ways to support your student(s) as they navigate and thrive in an increasingly digital world. [Click here to view the Digital Citizenship Flyer with all the details.](#)

This virtual event is designed for families with elementary-aged students and will be held on **Wednesday, October 8, from 6:30-7:30 pm**, via Google Meet. [Click here to register.](#)

FREE Fall Event at Howard Community College - October 17, 2025

More information about the event is available at HowardCC.Edu/FallForAll or on our HCPSS Community Program Listing.



The Salvation Army Christmas AngelTree Program

The Salvation Army is hosting its 2025 Christmas AngelTree Program for Howard County. Please see the [Salvation Army Angel Tree](#) link for all the details.

A Message From Your Local West Friendship Volunteer Fire Department

[2025 Open House - West Friendship Volunteer Fire Department Community News and Programs](#)

October is Fire Prevention Month – COME VISIT US!

SUNDAY, October 19th 12 pm – 4 pm



MHCAC Back-to-School Newsletter

The Mental Health Advisory Council (MHCAC) is a group of community members who seek to remove barriers and build awareness for behavioral health support in Howard County for our children and families. HCPSS is an active member of MHCAC. Please check out the [MHCAC Fall Newsletter 2025](#) for more information.

Message from Howard County Recreation and Parks

Attached is the **Howard County Recreation & Parks - [Fall 2025 Before & After School Classes](#)** flier for West Friendship ES, which markets our Fall 2025 Before & After school classes for students at West Friendship ES.

These classes offer fun, structured, educational, and enriching activities for students on-site at WFES, benefiting both students and parents. Please [register here](#).

