



Eagle Express: *March 7, 2025*

VETERANS ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

Calendar Events:

- March 14, 2025
 - March 20, 2025
 - March 28, 2025
 - **March 31, 2025**
- 3-Hour Early Dismissal for Professional Work Day
VES - Miller Branch Library Night
Culture Night
Full day for students (make-up snow day)

Dear Veterans Families,

As we step into March, we want to remind our students of the importance of following directions and staying focused on their assignments. Historically, this time of year can bring more distractions, so it's important for students to continue making positive choices that align with the HCPSS Code of Conduct. By staying committed to their studies and demonstrating respect and responsibility, they can build strong habits that lead to success.

We encourage you to talk with your child at home about staying on track academically. Your support makes a big difference in helping them stay engaged and make positive choices in the classroom.

Upcoming Date to Remember:

Friday, **March 14** – 3-hour early dismissal for Professional Work and Wellness Day. School will dismiss at **12:55 PM**.

Monday, **March 31** - Regular school day due to a **makeup snow day**

During this holy month of Ramadan, we extend our warmest wishes to those in our school community who observe this special time of fasting, prayer, and reflection. To support our students who are fasting, we will provide an alternative space during lunch in the Media Center, where they can read or take part in a quiet activity.

Thank you for your ongoing support in making our school a welcoming and encouraging space for all students!

Sincerely,

Alexcia Redd, Keri Golibart and Jessica Legambi

Announcements

Lost and Found

Please remind your children to stop by the Lost and Found in the morning as they enter the school. There are many jackets, gloves, hats, and water bottles that need to be claimed. Any unclaimed items will be donated by the end of day Friday, 3/14/25.

Pre-K Program - Our Pre-K program has recently completed its self-appraisal using the [Maryland Accreditation Standards](#). Participating in Maryland Accreditation is a way for our Pre-K program to demonstrate its commitment to providing high-quality learning environments and continually making improvements to benefit children, families, and staff. Our self-appraisal team comprised teachers, administrators, family, and community members. As a result of our initial self-appraisal, we have developed a Program Improvement Plan that will address the following goals:

- Increase the presence of authentic child-generated art and language through displays and written dictation.
- Provide opportunities to write at each learning center with various materials and tools.

Over the next few months, we will collect documentation and artifacts to verify the quality of our program. We're eager to make program improvements and achieve Maryland Accreditation! Please contact your child's teacher with questions about Accreditation or our Accreditation Program Improvement Plan.

Attention Parents of Rising Kindergarteners: Don't Wait for Summer to Address Developmental Concerns!

If you have concerns about your child's development - whether it's their speech, motor skills, social skills or learning - it's important to act now. Waiting until the summer for a referral can delay crucial support that your child may need before starting kindergarten.

Contact us today to schedule a screening. Let's work together to ensure your child has the best possible start in kindergarten!

Call 410-313-7046 or email ChildFind@hcpss.org

On January 30, 2025, the Board of Education approved adjustments to *Policy 8080 - Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media* that changes the ability for students to use personal devices during the school day. The Board approved the following changes related to the use of personal devices by students at school:

- No students, PreKindergarten-12, will be permitted to use cell phones and other personal technology devices during the student day (first bell to last bell of the day or posted school hours) except for reasons detailed in a student's IEP, 504, or health plan. Under the prior version of the policy, elementary and middle school students were not permitted to use personal devices during the school day at any time. For high school students, this policy removes access to personal devices in between classes and at lunch. For all grade levels, the addition of consequences for violating the policy is new.
- When a personal device is used in violation of the new policy, the device will be confiscated for the remainder of the student day. Following the first violation, the student may retrieve the device at the end of the student day. For all subsequent violations, a parent/guardian must retrieve the device from the school.
- A device that is confiscated during the final period of the student day will be confiscated for the entire next student day. The student may retrieve the device at the end of the day it was originally confiscated to take home but must provide it to the front office upon arrival on the next student day.
- Students may be in possession of personal devices, but they must be "away and silenced," meaning devices are not able to be seen by either the student or staff member and are set to make no noise. Additionally, devices may not be a distraction.
- Smart watches will be permitted to be worn to check time but may not be a distraction.
- Personal laptops may be used for instructional activities in high school when permitted by the teacher.
- 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.

These new expectations will take effect on Monday, March 3, 2025. The [complete changes and expectations](#) [Links to an external site.](#) may be found online. Please take time to review these new expectations with your student to ensure they do not violate the new policy. Our school will adhere strictly to the policy with hopes that the elimination of the distractions that personal devices cause use will result in healthier and more productive learning and social environments during the school day. More information will be shared before the implementation date.

Thank you for your collaboration in the successful implementation of these changes.

Family to Staff, Feel-good Feathers

Have you been impressed with the efforts of a VES Staff member? If so, take a moment to send them a Feel-good Feather to brighten their day! Some Family to Staff shout outs will even be highlighted in each Eagle Express and shared with staff. Thank you for the encouragement! Click [here](#) to give a shout- out!

Thank you for the encouragement!

COMMUNITY EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

The Howard High School Lions Pride Athletic Boosters sponsored summer camps are open for School Year 25/26 grade levels ranging from 1st to 9th (*depending on the camp*) and are taught by Howard High School Coaches/Staff. Camp dates range from June 9th to August 1st and are typically 4 or 5 days in length. [Registration and Detailed Information can be found here](#). For more information, please reach out to Dr. Brandon Lauer, Howard HS AAM, brandon_lauer@hcpss.org.

GIRLS ON THE RUN SPRING 2025

Registration for Girls on the Run Spring 2025 Season is open! Girls on the Run® inspires participants in grades 3-5 to be joyful, healthy, and confident by using running to teach valuable life skills. Volunteer coaches facilitate lessons that blend physical activity with life skill development, including managing emotions, fostering friendships, and expressing empathy. At the end of the season, the team completes a Community Impact Project and a 5K together, which provides a tangible sense of accomplishment and sets a confident mindset into motion. **Veterans will meet on Tuesdays and Fridays from 4-5:15pm starting March 18.** The season-ending 5K for Howard County will be on Saturday, May 31 at 8:00 a.m. The program registration fee is \$185, which includes lessons, all program materials, 5K and program shirts, a water bottle, and more. Financial assistance is available! Visit www.gotrcentralmd.org to register. Questions? Call 443-864-8593

Thank you so much!!

Carrie Heath (she/her)

Program Coordinator

Girls on the Run Central Maryland

9150 Rumsey Road Suite A7 Columbia MD 21045

(P) 443-583-7740

<https://www.gotrcentralmd.org/> - CFC #54728

SPRING REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Spring 2025 After-School Classes at Veterans Elementary

Register early, programs fill quickly!



Crafts & Fine Arts



KidzArt After School

Enjoy a fun, unique, confidence-building art experience. This drawing-based curriculum delivers engaging, educationally-rich, creative classes that amaze and delight. Make a new masterpiece each week while exploring a variety of artist-grade mediums every session (ex: oil pastels, chalk pastels, watercolor, air dry clay, metal tooling, and textured papers)! The curriculum never repeats so join every session, year after year for ALL NEW projects! Bring a nut-free snack to be eaten while supervised between school dismissal and class. Info: Adam Wienckowski, 410-313-4714 or awienckowski@howardcountymd.gov.

Grades K-5 Classes: 6

RP0113.311 May 6 4-5:15pm Tu \$159

Science, Technology & LEGO®

LEGO® STEM Club After School

with Whiz Kid Academy

Magic Beans: From Jack and the Beanstalk to King Midas, bring fairy tales to life with LEGO®, language arts, and collaborative games and activities. Work together to build characters and stage props needed to act out each story. Info: Carson Nickell, 410-313-4721 or cjnickell@howardcountymd.gov.

Grades K-5 Classes: 6

RP3354.308 Apr 11 4-5pm F \$125

Music



Learn Now Music After School

Budding musicians participate in musical instruction, theory, musical games, special extension curriculum-based activities, musical listening excerpts, and more! Rental instruments and music are provided and can be taken home in between classes to enjoy. A rental agreement must be signed, and instruments must be returned in the same condition at the last class. Parents are responsible for the return cost/replacement of any unreturned/damaged instruments. Info: Carson Nickell, 410-313-4721 or cjnickell@howardcountymd.gov.

Grades K-5 Drums Classes: 6

RP3360.315 Apr 7 4-5pm M \$165

Grades K-5 Viva Violin Classes: 6

RP3360.316 Apr 7 4-5pm M \$165

Sports

After-School Basketball

School's over and it's time to play some basketball. In this once-a-week clinic, boys and girls learn and develop fundamental skills including dribbling, passing, shooting, defense and overall team play through activities and games. It is the perfect place to start or to complement one of our basketball leagues. Meet in the gym. Info: Curtis L. Gore, cgore@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-4705.

8-10 yrs Classes: 6

RP6081.304 Apr 22 4-5pm Tu \$108

CONCUSSION & SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST INFO

Read concussion and sudden cardiac arrest information online at www.hcrpsports.org/concussion and www.hcrpsports.org/sca. Your review of this information is required by law before you are allowed to register for youth sports programs.

No Class When Schools Are
Closed or Have An Early Dismissal

Apr 14-18 • Apr 21 • May 7
May 16 • Jun 6 • Jun 11-13

What To Do When Schools Are Closed
or Have Early Dismissal

tinyurl.com/SchoolsOutHCRP

Howard County
Recreation & Parks



This information is neither sponsored nor endorsed by HCPSS or the school.

Financial Aid: 25-75% financial assistance available for
Howard County residents that qualify. Information: 410-313-7275.

Registration: 410-313-7275, www.howardcountymd.gov/rap
or 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046

Refund Policy: www.howardcountymd.gov/recreation-parks/programs



STEMVillage Presents:

STEM Leadership Summer Camp



Dates: July 7 - 11 & July 28 - Aug 1, 2025



Time: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM



Location: Covenant Church, 4550

Centennial Ln, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Scan to Register!



Limited Space - Sign Up Today!

tinyurl.com/STEMVillage25

info@stemvillage.org

HOWARD HIGH STEM ROOTS PRESENTS
2ND ANNUAL

STEM Fair

April 4th, 2025 5pm - 8pm

Howard High School
(8700 Old Annapolis
Rd, Ellicott City, MD
21043)

Why attend?

- A great way for youth to gain confidence within abilities along with experience, and all participants will earn certificates and possible prizes!
 - This is an Amazing opportunity for Students to delve into STEM and expand on their skills!!
 - Opportunity to attend insightful, fun and engaging workshops on STEM Concepts!!!
- WHO?: 3rd to 8th graders in Howard County
 - COST?: Free
 - WHAT?: A fair where participants can show case their STEM knowledge through creating projects to elevate STEM experience and understanding. There are two categories: Scientific and Technical - find the guides linked in the sign-up form

We will also have many workshops hosted by student STEM experts for students to explore while their projects are not being judged. If your child would not like to create a project but would still like to attend we would really love for them to attend these fun & information STEM Workshops. No Sign-Up needed.

Create a project or attend a workshop...
Sign-Up now!!!



<https://forms.gle/F83Quc4RGxDZGfXM7>

Point of Contact

For further information regarding the event, please feel free to email: hohs.stemroots@gmail.com



Join Cub Scout Pack 305!



tinyurl.com/JoinPack305



Questions? Email kalielise7@gmail.com

Friendship | Family | Camping | Creativity | Games | Leadership | Service | Fun!



**REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN!**

**EARLY BIRD PRICING ENDS
5/1/2025**

SPACE IS LIMITED - SIGN UP SOON!



**2025
BOOSTERS
SUMMER
CAMPS**



Medication & Sharps Disposal

Convenient Drive-Thru Event

Saturday April 26 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



Safely dispose of:

- Prescription medication
- Over-the-counter medication
- Sharps (syringes, needles, EpiPens, etc.)
- Vitamins
- Pet medication
- Vapes without batteries
- Inhalers
- And more!

HCDrugFree

Wilde Lake Village Center Parking Lot
5305 Village Center Drive, Columbia 21044



Teens: Earn Community Service Hours

Seeking student, adult, and medically-trained adults volunteers. Community service hours available for students. Spend some time making a difference in Howard County!

Medication Lockbox Giveaway!

We are giving away 100
Medication Lockboxes!
First come, first served.
Limit 1 per vehicle.



HCDrugFree.org

Provided by HC DrugFree, in partnership with the DEA, MD's Office of Overdose Response, Howard County Police and Health Dept., Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board, and HCPSS.

FREE CLASS FOR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS



Taking HoCo Families to the Next Level

Guiding Good Choices® is an evidence-based, interactive prevention program that helps you build a stronger bond with your child, while also providing skills proven to reduce the risk of children engaging in substance use or other risky behaviors. Learn how to:

- Prevent Drug Use in Your Family
- Develop Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards
- Avoid Trouble and Respond to Peer Pressure
- Manage Conflict and Express Feelings Constructively
- Strengthen Family Bonds
- And More!

This series of five Zoom classes is for **parents, guardians, and grandparents** of 9-14 year olds, but will consider slightly older or younger children on a case by case basis. Adult **or** child must be a Howard County resident.

Class Dates: March 18, 21, 25, 28, April 1

(Participants are encouraged to attend all 5 sessions.)

Time: Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Spring2025GGC>

Learn more: hcdrugfree.org/currentevents



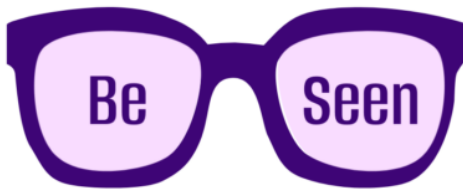
HCDrugFree
Empowering the Community

Join HC DrugFree's

Teen Advisory Council

Registration open to
Howard County
8th-12th grade
students year round

YOU can make a
DIFFERENCE



Why Join TAC?

- Gain valuable experience for job & college applications
- Earn Community Service Hours
- Volunteer opportunities all year
- Be a great role model for others!

LEARN MORE



tinyurl.com/HCDrugFreeTAC

HCDrugFree

Empowering the Community

FOOD PANTRY



HOWARD HIGH SCHOOL

8700 Old Annapolis Road Ellicott City

6:00-7:30PM

October 17th

November 21st

December 19th

January 16th

February 20th

March 20th

April 10th

May 15th

June 5th



Save the Date!

The Council of Elders Community Academy



The Council of Elders and the Howard County Public School System have partnered to sponsor the following 2024–25 parent workshop series:

October 26	Navigating HCPSS – Bullying Report, Parent Concern Process
December 14	HCPSS Career Pathways
January 11	Student Well-Being
April 5	Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships (in person)

9–10:30 a.m.

3 sessions will be held virtually

4th session – in person

Details on individual workshops will be forthcoming.

Sponsored by:



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FRIENDLY REMINDERS

2025-2026 Kindergarten Registration Kickoff:

Kindergarten [registration](#) for families of children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2025, kicks off Monday, March 3. Parents can begin the enrollment process online, after which your child's school will contact you to complete the registration process. Current HCPSS prekindergarten students do not need to be re-registered for kindergarten because they are already

enrolled as an HCPSS student.

Ramadan (February 28 - March 29, 2025):

Ramadan begins the evening of Friday, February 28 and ends on Saturday, March 29, 2025. Recognizing that students who observe Ramadan may be fasting during the school day, we are offering an alternative location for any child who would prefer not to be in the cafeteria during the lunch block. Students may choose to spend the lunch shift in the media center engaged in a book or other quiet activity. If your child will be fasting during lunch or you are able to volunteer to support the alternative lunch location, [please complete this form](#).

PreKindergarten Maryland Accreditation Standards

The VES Prekindergarten team recently surveyed families in order to seek current perspectives and requests of our PreK program. The results reflected an 85% satisfaction rate. PreK families shared similar goals for their students including a continued increase of academic, social, and fine motor independence. As we look towards the end of the school year, families can expect further information on curriculum, social/emotional intelligence, routines and transitions, self-care skills, and Kindergarten Readiness. Our PreK team is busy planning information sessions that will be offered to families this spring, as Kindergarten approaches. Families should expect to receive information on upcoming sessions as they become available. Please contact your child's teacher with any questions.

Learning Together Program

Veterans 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 will be available and accepted in mid February.

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/> If you have any additional questions, please contact Mary Jens at 410-313-1700 or mary_jens@hcpss.org.

Arrival & Carloop: The weather is getting colder and the carloop line is getting longer! Please be sure to drive up as far as possible to the front to let your children out. Students can start getting out of their cars at the top of the sidewalk. This helps the carloop move more quickly. Staff members are along the sidewalk to help students. **Adults should remain in the car.** Click [here](#) for our full arrival and dismissal procedures.

Getting to class on time: Our school day begins at 9:25 am. This means that every student should come into the school, stop and pick up breakfast, if buying, and then go directly to class. Students should know their way to class. It is not necessary for any students to walk siblings to class. If an adult is needed for this, staff will assist. It is important for everyone to be in their class and ready to go at 9:25 am.

Supplies: We've come to the time of year that we need to replenish some supplies. Our classroom is in need of tissues, pencils, glue sticks, and it would be beneficial for students to have their own headphones for use with the devices.

School Spirit Wear: Our school spirit wear is available for purchase! Wearing spirit wear is a great way for students, parents, and staff to show their school pride. This is a wonderful opportunity to get some fun and stylish gear while contributing to initiatives that benefit our students. Whether it's a t-shirt, hoodie, or cap, there's something for everyone! To order your spirit wear, please visit our dedicated website: [Veterans Spirit Wear](#).