Dear Fulton Families & Friends,

Happy Summer! I hope you have had the opportunity to relax and spend some time doing all the things you love this summer. We are busy getting ready for the school year and we can't wait to see everyone.

**Please take a few moments to read the information below and get prepared for the year. Yes, it's a lot to read, but the more you know, the easier the school year will be!**

We look forward to partnering with you to make this an amazing year!

Sincerely,
Deborah Holmes, Principal, deborah_holmes@hcpss.org
Meaghan Liwosz, Assistant Principal, meaghan_liwosz@hcpss.org
Erin Coleman, Assistant Principal, erin_coleman@hcpss.org

**********

**First Day of School: Monday, August 24th**
**School Start and Dismissal Times: 9:25 AM - 3:55 PM**
**Instruction starts at 9:25!**
**Please have your child/children here before that time.**

**********

Please take a moment to visit the following links:
HCPSS 2026 -2027
School System Calendar – HCPSS
FES Website
School Supplies
Transportation- This information comes from the county and should be available on August 19th.

## Want to know your child's teacher? Update your Family File!

Wednesday, August 19th - Student Class Assignment can be viewed in HCPSS Connect.

Parents/guardians must verify and/or update emergency information for each child every school year. This is completed online in Family File. Full details on updating your Family File are available online.

Families now can submit a change of address via Family File, rather than completing a separate form and sending it to their school. Full directions and information for families on this new process can be found online.

Once logged in, you will be asked to update or provide the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information
- Arrival/Dismissal Procedures and Transportation Options
- Photo Approval
- Data Confidentiality
- Student Creative Work Approval
- PTA/PTSA Directory

FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (ENGLISH)
FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (SPANISH)
FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (KOREAN)

**Classroom Teachers will be shared on August 19th!**

**School Supplies**
You can view the FES School Supply list **HERE**. If you need supplies for your student(s), please contact Ms. Holmes at deborah_holmes@hcpss.org.

**Food Services Information**
HCPSS families are urged to check their eligibility to participate in the Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMs) program, which provides children with a wide range of benefits in addition to free or discounted meals. Families must submit a new application every school year. **Details on the Free and Reduced Meals program**, including a link to apply, are available online.

**********

**Mark Your Calendars!**

- August 24th First Day of School K-5
- August 27th First Day for RECC/PreK

**Back to School Nights**

*This is an event for parents. The evening will start **promptly** at 5:00. Parents will go to the designated area, see below for the schedules. Then with the teacher to hear about the year and to meet other parents. This is not a drop in, this is an information session.*

**August 20, 2026**

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm: Kindergarten & RECC Back to School Night

**September 9, 2026- Grades 1 & 2**

5:00- 5:30 Related Arts in the Cafeteria

5:35-6:05 1st & 2nd Grade Homeroom Visits

6:10-6:30 1st & 2nd Grade Math Visits

**September 10, 2026- Grades 3,4,5**

5:00 – 5:30 Related Arts; Band & Orchestra

5:35 Intermediate Back to School Night

5:35 – 6:05

- 3rd & 4th visit Homeroom
- 5th Grade visit Math

6:10 – 6:40

- 3rd & 4th Grade Math Visits
- 5th Grade Homeroom Visits

**Open House Day~ Friday, August 21, 2026**

*This is an event for parents and kids! Bring your supplies, see your classroom and see your friends!*

**RECC: PS, PK, MINC FL, MINC PK, MINC PS**
9:00-9:30- AM & Full Day Classes
9:45-10:15 - PM Classes

**Kindergarten**
10:45 Open House (Inside)
11:15 Popsicle Party (Outside)

**New Student Orientation (This is for students in grades 1-5)**
10:15-10:30 AM (cafeteria)
10:30-10:45 Tour & Classroom Meet & Greet

**1st & 2nd Grade**
10:45 Open House (Inside)
11:15 Popsicle Party (Outside)

**3rd-5th Grade**
10:45 Popsicle Party (Outside)
11:15 Open House (Inside)

---

## News and Information

**FES Start and End Times**
Students can begin to enter the building at 9:10 a.m. and the **late bell rings at 9:25 a.m.** Breakfast is optional and available for purchase (may be at a free/reduced price - see information below about how to apply for free or reduced meals). Students will be provided adequate time to eat breakfast. Students are dismissed at 3:55 p.m. More information about arrival and dismissal will be shared in the next newsletter.

**Volunteer/Visitor Training Required Every Year - Complete Now and Be Ready for the Year**
**THIS TRAINING** **MUST BE COMPLETED EVERY YEAR** (no paperwork required). Anyone volunteering at school in any capacity, and parents joining their children for lunch, are

required to complete volunteer training prior to their first visit. Thank you in advance for your gifts of service and time.

**Technology Accounts for New Students**
Beginning today, families with students new to HCPSS and whose registration has been finalized will begin to receive emails from security_notifications@hcpss.org with the subject "Technology account information for new HCPSS student." The communication will be sent to the parent/guardian email address used during the student registration process and contains personalized and important information regarding new students' technology accounts.

Families with a child new to HCPSS that do not receive the email and/or cannot locate the email in the junk/spam folder of the email account they used during registration can use the **Forgot Password or Username** button on the **hcpss.me** student landing page to retrieve both their child's username and password.

**Food Services Information**
HCPSS families are urged to check their eligibility to participate in the Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMs) program, which provides children with a wide range of benefits in addition to free or discounted meals. Families must submit a new application every school year. **Details on the Free and Reduced Meals program**, including a link to apply, are available online.

**School Supplies**
You can view the FES School Supply list **HERE**. If you need supplies for your student(s), please contact Ms. Holmes at deborah_holmes@hcpss.org.

**Donation Event for the HCPSS Safety Net Supply Closet August 11th**
Please **see this flyer** and consider supporting this event to help families of young children with disabilities who may be at risk for wandering, elopement, or other safety concerns. We are seeking donations to help create safer home environments, such as:

- Door knob covers
- Contact lens cases (see picture on flyer)
- Wrist to wrist tethers
- Door and window alarms
- Cabinet and drawer locks

**Bus Practice for PreK Students August 20th at Cedar Lane School**
HCPSS is holding bus practice for incoming early childhood students who would like an opportunity to practice riding the bus. **See this flyer**.

**August 17, 2026**

Dear Fulton Families & Friends,
It's a big week here at Fulton! We can't wait to see you for at least one event this week.

**Tuesday, August 18**: Kindergarten Playgroup from 5 pm- 7pm.
**Wednesday, August 19**: Admin Meet and Greet from 4 pm -6pm.
**Thursday, August 20**: RECC and Kindergarten Back to School Night- 5:00 pm - 6:00pm

**Friday, August 21**: Open House Day!
*This is an event for parents and kids! Bring your supplies, see your classroom and see your friends!*

RECC: PS, PK, MINC FL, MINC PK, MINC PS
9:00-9:30- AM & Full Day Classes
9:45-10:15 - PM Classes

Kindergarten
10:45 Open House (Inside)
11:15 Popsicle Party (Outside)

New Student Orientation (This is for students in grades 1-5)
10:15-10:30 AM (cafeteria)
10:30-10:45 Tour & Classroom Meet & Greet

1st & 2nd Grade
10:45 Open House (Inside)
11:15 Popsicle Party (Outside)

3rd-5th Grade
10:45 Popsicle Party (Outside)
11:15 Open House (Inside)

Sincerely,
Deborah Holmes, Principal, deborah_holmes@hcpss.org
Meaghan Liwosz, Assistant Principal, meaghan_liwosz@hcpss.org
Erin Coleman, Assistant Principal, erin_coleman@hcpss.org
**********

# Getting Ready for the School Year

## HCPSS Calendar

Add the HCPSS online calendar to your mobile/online calendar by following the steps on the HCPSS calendar page.
PLEASE NOTE! The calendar is subject to change. The online calendar reflects the most recent version.

## Family File

The 2026-2027 Family File is now available to parents.
HCPSS requires that your Family File is completed BEFORE you can see your child's teacher on August 19th.
Every year HCPSS parents must complete a Family File for each child. HCPSS utilizes Family File for parents/guardians to complete emergency information. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information for each child, and can do so by logging in to HCPSS Connect PARENT ACCOUNT and selecting the MORE OPTIONS tab on the left and then click on Family File.
Once logged in, you will be asked to update or provide the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information
- Arrival/Dismissal Procedures
- Photo Approval Data Confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA Directory

Again, it is important that you complete the Family File in order to receive the name of your child's teacher for the upcoming school year.

https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-quick-guide.pdf
FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (ENGLISH) -
https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-user-instructions.pdf
FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE (SPANISH) -
https://www.hcpss.org/f/connect/family-file-user-instructions-spanish.pdf

## School Supplies List for 26-27

The school supply list for the 2026-27 school year can be found on the main page of our school's website
We encourage you to drop off your school supplies during your child's Open House on August 21st.

## Transportation Information

The online HCPSS bus stop locator is scheduled to be available Wednesday, Aug. 19. At that time, eligible families can access bus stop locations, and pickup/dropoff times.

## Free and Reduced Meals

Free and Reduced Meals - check your eligibility today!
Many HCPSS families may be eligible to receive benefits through the Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMs) program.
Qualifying families can take advantage of a wide range of additional resources and discounts, including free college applications, free or reduced JumpStart dual enrollment tuition, discounted internet through the Comcast Internet Essentials program, and more.
**Families must submit a new application every school year.** During the first 30 school days, students with FARMs eligibility from the prior school year will continue to receive benefits. Any student whose family has not filled out an application by the 30th school day will have their status changed to full pay until a new application is received.
Parents/guardians are highly encouraged to fill out the applications as soon as possible. It is very important that applications are filled out accurately and completely.

- Apply online

- Apply by mail: Paper applications will be available at all school front offices. Applications can be returned to the school or mailed to HCPSS Food & Nutrition Services, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Additionally, I want you to know that there are school staff available to support you and your child. We have numerous supports in place, and I encourage you and your child to take advantage of them whenever they are needed. Answers to frequently asked questions on HCPSS meals and additional meals/nutrition assistance programs can be found on the HCPSS Help site. If you have questions regarding the program, please visit www.hcpss.org/FARMs or contact Food and Nutrition Services at 410-313-6743 or foodsvc@hcpss.org.

**********

# Important HCPSS Information

## Bullying Communication- HCPSS Policy 9460

Please click here to view the bullying communication in regards to HCPSS Policy 9460

## Parent Volunteers & Classroom Observations:

As a reminder, all volunteers are required to complete the HCPSS Confidentiality Training and Child Abuse and Neglect Training prior to volunteering in the school building or on a field trip.

Additionally, parents conducting classroom visits and observations must complete the Confidentiality Agreement for visits/observations. All documents can be found on the HCPSS website

## Birthday Celebrations

We know and appreciate that families want to recognize their children's birthdays and participate in other class celebrations. However, it is important to remember that HCPSS Policy 9090: Wellness Through Nutrition and Physical Activity does not allow for parents (or staff) to bring in food for these kinds of occasions. You may bring in something special for your own child, but any food items cannot be shared with other students. If you'd like to provide a goodie bag to the class, consider including items like pencils, fidgets, or other small, non-food items

When there are class celebrations throughout the year, the community will be notified of any food items that will be provided for students. These food items will be in alignment with HCPSS Policy 9090 and meet the required nutritional guidelines. If you would prefer that your child not have what is being offered, you may choose to send in an alternate item.
Also, please note that HCPSS provides a circular to all schools each year prohibiting the presence of latex balloons in school buildings. Any balloons used for decoration or celebration in the building must be latex-free.