

# WILDCAT PRESS



May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

## WORTHINGTON CALENDAR

### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES [HCPSS Approved Calendar 23/24](#)

- May 6-9: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade MCAP Testing (*morning*)
- May 7: Evening Chorus Concert 7 pm at Worthington
- May 10: Field Day (*see message below for grade specific t-shirt colors*)
- May 13: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> MCAP Math Testing (*afternoon*)
- May 14: Schools Closed *Primary Election Day*
- May 15: 1<sup>st</sup> grade MAP Testing (*afternoon*)
  - Deadline to Submit Parent Input for SY 24/25
- May 16: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade MCAP Math Testing (*afternoon*)
- May 17: 3 hr Early Dismissal at 12:55 pm *Staff Professional Learning Day*
- May 20 & 21: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> MCAP Math Testing (*afternoon*)
  - PTA Restaurant Fundraising at Neo Pizza (all day)
- May 22: 1<sup>st</sup> Grade MAP ELA Testing (*morning*)
- May 27: Schools Closed for Memorial Day
- May 28: SCH
- May 30: 5th Grade Middle School Visit
- May 31: PTA End of Year/Multicultural Fair 5:30 pm on the blacktop

## NOTES FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Dear Worthington Community,

As we gear up to finish the school year strong, it's important to address student

interactions that can affect both individual students and/or our school community. Peer conflict is something that most students will experience at some point in their school career. However, it is essential to understand the difference between conflict and bullying, should bullying occur. By understanding the differences, we can better navigate challenging situations and foster a positive school environment where everyone can thrive. We look forward to continuing to work together to end the school year on a strong and positive note. Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Conflict	Bullying
<p><b><u>Mutual Disagreement:</u></b> Conflict typically involves a disagreement or difference of opinion between two or more individuals.</p> <p><b><u>Equal Power:</u></b> Those involved in the conflict usually have relatively equal power or standing.</p> <p><b><u>Occurs Occasionally:</u></b> Conflicts arise occasionally and may be resolved through communication, negotiation, or compromise.</p> <p><b><u>No Intention to Harm:</u></b> While emotions may be involved, there is no deliberate intent to harm or exert control over the other party.</p>	<p><b><u>Power Imbalance:</u></b> Bullying involves an imbalance of power, where one individual seeks to assert dominance or control over another.</p> <p><b><u>Repeated Behavior:</u></b> Bullying often consists of repeated actions or behaviors aimed at causing harm, either physically or psychologically.</p> <p><b><u>Intentional Harm:</u></b> The bully intentionally seeks to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim, often deriving satisfaction from the victim's distress.</p> <p><b><u>One-sided Aggression:</u></b> Unlike conflict, bullying typically involves one-sided aggression, where the victim feels targeted and unable to defend themselves adequately.</p>

More information can be found on the [HCPSS Stop Bullying website](#). If you have any questions regarding this policy or its implementation, please contact a school administrator. Here is the online link to report an [Instance of Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation](#) and a link to the [Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form](#) to fill out and return to your students school administrator. More

information on HCPSS Policy 9460 can be found at [Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Involving Students - HCPSS](#).

Fifth grade parents: We will send each family (2) tickets to attend our Simulated Congressional Hearing (SCH.) Each family will also receive (2) tickets to attend the Closing Assembly for fifth grade at a later date. If any family knows they will only use 1 ticket or not attend at all, we ask that extra tickets be returned to Mr. Bruce for any special accommodations requested. Please note that Mr. Bruce will only be able to address accommodations for which space is provided by returned ticket(s).

*\*Space is an issue at many elementary schools. Please realize there will be multiple opportunities during your child's school years to attend special events.*

In May, the staff will begin the articulation process and placing children in classes for next year. The process is on-going and will continue throughout the summer. Staff primarily group students based on reading and mathematics needs. We also look at the make-up of the class. Of course, another guiding factor will be the special needs of our students. We welcome communication from parents who want to make sure we have certain information about your child. This information should be shared with the principal by a written letter or an email sent [to the principal](#). If sending a hand-written letter, please include your email address for confirmation of receipt. While we will make every effort to address your concerns, there are no guarantees of specific requests. Often, we are limited by the number of staff assigned to each grade level. Our plans at the moment are to make class assignments available to parents on Weds. August 21st by 4:00 pm. **The deadline to send this communication to the principal is Weds. May 15, 2024.**

Robert Bruce  
Principal

## FROM THE PTA

### **Contents:**

- ***Sponsor a Staff Meal for Staff Appreciation Week!***
- ***Create a Poster for a WoES Staff!***
- ***Field Day Volunteers Needed - May 10 (Rain Date: May 15)***
- ***Save the Date: Neo Pizza + Taphouse - May 20th from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM***
- ***Multicultural Spring Fair - May 31, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm***

- **PTA Needs New Board Members for the 24'-25' School Year**

### **Sponsor a Staff Meal for Staff Appreciation Week!**

Staff Appreciation Week is NEXT WEEK (May 6-10) and we are so excited to shower our wonderful staff all week long. There is still time to donate and if you would like to sponsor a staff meal or two, we would greatly appreciate it and you can do so here.

<https://worthingtonespta.memberhub.com/store/items/1016555>

### **Create a Poster for a WoES Staff!**

On Tuesday, May 7th, we will be displaying posters for each staff member. Please use this sign-up to create one or more posters for any staff member of your choice. These posters are something that both the teachers and students anticipate and enjoy.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4EA5AA22A4FD0-woes>

### **Field Day Volunteers Needed - May 10 (Rain Date: May 15)**

Mr. Mitchell is gearing up for the WoES Field Day and is inviting parent volunteers to come and join the fun! There are still spots if you want to enjoy the day or a few hours with the kids!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4CA8A82CAIFCI-49161842-woes#/>

### **Save the Date: Neo Pizza + Taphouse**

Mark your calendars and spread the word about our upcoming Worthington PTA Restaurant Night at Neo Pizza + Taphouse (8872 McGaw Road, Suite A) on Monday, May 20th between 11:00 am and 10:00 pm. Worthington PTA receives 20% of sales. We look forward to another successful event!



### **Multicultural Spring Fair - May 31, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

Planning is in full swing and we have some great things lined up for the Multicultural Spring Fair on Friday, May 31 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm!

If you would like to represent your culture, region, or country by having a display, providing food samples, doing a performance, teaching an activity, etc., please sign up! We encourage all cultures and regions, from both the United States (New England, Creole, etc.) and internationally, to join us. As our schedule is becoming full, we will stop taking performance signups by 5/10.

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/cGfJTCZKet9oSAi9>

We would love more volunteers to help us sign up and make this last event of the school year grand! If you can help, we would very much appreciate it, please sign up here to volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E44A9AB22AAF85-48533117-multicultural#/>

### **WoES PTA Needs New Board Members for the 24'-25' School Year**

We are still looking for interested people to be PTA board members for next school year! The current board has put the PTA in great shape for the new board to take over. We hope to keep supporting the students and staff next year, and we can only do that with a PTA. Please reach out to Kristie to learn more!

WorthingtonPTAPresident@gmail.com

## **INSIDER INFORMATION**

### **Get ready for Field Day on May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Students should wear grade level colors:

RECC: Purple

K: Red

1st: Navy Blue

2nd: Orange

3rd: Yellow

4th: Green

5th: Light Blue

### **Kindergarten End of the Year Calendar Date**

Please save the date for our Kindergarten End of the Year picnic and brief student performance. These events will be held on Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:40-11:20. This event is for immediate adult family members only, no siblings please. You are invited to have lunch with your child for an outdoor picnic (weather permitting), followed by a brief performance. Please direct any questions to your child's teacher.

### **Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey**

Parents of students receiving special education services are encouraged to complete a [Maryland State Department of Education survey](#) no later than May 24.

### **Register for Kindergarten**

[Kindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 school year](#) is open. Parents/guardians of children who will be five on or before September 1, 2024, must enroll their children in kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. Current HCPSS prekindergarten students do not need to register for kindergarten.

## HCPSS NEWS

### 2024-25 School Year Bus Transportation Registration

Parents/guardians whose children are eligible for bus transportation are [asked to register](#) to receive bus service for the 2024-2025 school year. Details on bus transportation registration, including a guide to register and scenarios families may see when registering, can be found online [Details on bus transportation registration](#)

**\*You do not need to take any action if:**

- Your child is not eligible for bus transportation
- Your child receives transportation as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan

### HCPSS 2024 Free Summer Meal Program

HCPSS' [free summer meal program](#) will run weekdays June 24-Aug. 2, on days schools are open, with no meal service Thursday, July 4. Meals will be provided to any HCPSS students, any children aged 18 and under, and to students participating in HCPSS summer programs. Site locations will be available across the county.

## COMMUNITY

### ARL Plant Sale

Monday, April 29-Thursday, May 9, 3-4:30 p.m. (weekdays only)

Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Applications and Research Laboratory will host a [plant sale](#) at the ARL greenhouse April 29-May 9, featuring plants grown by ARL Agriscience Academy students. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the ARL Agriscience Academy and the Howard County Future Farmers of America.

The Elkridge Youth Organization (EYO) is holding tryouts for its 2024/2025 Girls Travel Soccer Team on May 7<sup>th</sup> & May 9<sup>th</sup>. The tryouts are open to all girls with 2014/2015 birth years. Please contact Peter Palmieri to register your child [pete.palmieri@gmail.com](mailto:pete.palmieri@gmail.com) or 202-744-3095

For more information, please visit the [Elkridge United Travel Soccer](#) web page.