WILDCAT PRESS

April 21st, 2023

WORTHINGTON CALENDAR

2022-2023 IMPORTANT DATES

- April 21 ~ All HCPSS schools closed *Professional Learning Day for Staff*
- April 28 ~ Battle of the Books
- May 1-5 ~ Mobile Science Lab
- May 8 ~ In School Chorus Concert & 7 pm Concert at Centennial HS
- May 10 ~ 5th Grade Panoramic Photo
- May 19 ~ No School for Students *Professional Learning Day for Staff*
- May 22 ~ Field Day

RELATED ARTS COLOR SCHEDULE

April 2023

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*Colors represent various activities and events planned for the month.*

*Disclaimer: Dates and events may be subject to change. Please check school announcements for updates.*
Car Loop Safety Reminders

Students should never be walking/running through the parking lot.

Do not let your children out of your cars until they can safely exit (from the PASSENGER SIDE) onto the sidewalk. This may require moving the positions of car seats and other equipment. There are cars and buses that travel along the DRIVER SIDE. Students are not permitted to exit on this side and our staff have been trained to have students exit on the PASSENGER SIDE. Thank you for your support with this significant safety matter.

Quarter 3 Report Cards

Quarter 3 report cards are available in HCPSS Connect Synergy as of 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18. Directions on how to access report cards can be found online.

Indicators of Educational Equity Survey (IEES) 2023

As part of our school improvement process, we are asking families to provide input about their equity priorities at our school. Please use the link below to complete the HCPSS Indicators of Educational Equity Survey by May 31st. We will use your input, along with other school data, to refine our school improvement plan for next year. This survey is anonymous and available in multiple languages. If you have children at more than one school, please complete one survey per school.

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

Spring MCAP Testing Dates:

*If able, please send wired headphones with students on testing days*

Parents/Guardians, below is a schedule of upcoming spring testing dates. To avoid disruptions on testing dates, please help to ensure your student arrives at school on time and minimize early dismissals during these dates.

- 5th Grade
  - April 25-28: Math 10:40-11:50 am
Take Your Child(ren) to Work Day
The fourth Thursday in April of each year has been designated as Take Our Children to Work Day. The program was created as an educational experience for children. It provides an opportunity for children to become more aware of their parents’ work day and encourages them to think about their futures.
If you choose to have your child participate, please send an email to woesabsence@hcpss.org stating your child will be participating in Take Your Child to Work Day.
A student in our school system that is participating in this program will be considered to be on a field trip and will not be marked absent for the day.

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

The weather is changing quickly, and the pollen count has already been affecting our students causing frequent itchy & watery eyes, congestion, runny noses, sneezing etc. Please encourage your child to wash their hands frequently, especially when coming in from outside, to avoid touching their faces and mouths, and to take the time to sneeze/cough into their elbows.
**If your child has allergy medication/nasal sprays, please make sure they are using them as prescribed**

Also, the warm weather and increased outdoor activity can lead to dehydration. Please encourage your child to increase their water intake during the day and remind them they can refill their water bottle at the refill station located in the cafeteria as needed. Staying hydrated can help prevent headaches, fatigue and dizziness therefore keeping students engaged in class.
FROM THE PTA

Contents:
- WoES PTA Board Members for 2023-2024 School Year
- Earth Day Gift
- 5th Grade Graduation Yard Signs
- Volunteers Needed for Decorating
- Staff Appreciation Week Poster Sign Up

WoES PTA Board Members Needed!
We are looking for more folks to join our PTA Board for the 2023-2024 school year!
Vice President(s) - We need more support for the WoES PTA President. The VP(s) would support the President and the PTA by helping with communications and helping the event leads when needed.

We will vote on incoming board members at the next PTA meeting on May 10, 2023.

Earth Day Gift
Students received an Earth Day gift yesterday from the PTA. Each small envelope contains an earth-shaped plantable seed paper and an instruction card. Students should soak the seed paper in water or a wet towel before planting. Once they plant the seed paper, please speak to them about the importance of recycling and have them recycle the envelope and instruction card. Happy Earth Day!

5th Grade Graduation Yard Signs
5th Grade families have the opportunity to purchase a yard sign congratulating their 5th grader on their graduation! If you would like to purchase a yard sign, please do so at this link by May 5: 5th Grade Yard Sign Orders

Volunteers Needed for Decorating - 5th Grade Simulated Congressional Hearing
The Simulated Congressional Hearings (SCH) are happening at Worthington in May. This is a countywide-sponsored Social Studies event that gives our students the opportunity to work in teams to write speeches about curriculum topics they’ve studied and present them to a panel of volunteer judges. The teachers need our help to make this as authentic and memorable for our students as possible. Please see the sign-up link below to volunteer to help set up and decorate the classrooms for the event. We have a small window of time to set up and several classrooms and the stage. Note: You don’t have to be a 5th grade parent to help us out, we welcome all who would like to assist! Thanks so much for your help!
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B48AFAE2FAAF49-simulated

Staff Appreciation Week Poster Sign Up
Please see the sign up sheet for posters for Staff Appreciation Week. We would love it if all the staff could have a poster this year! Staff Appreciation week is May 8-12. Deadline for the posters is May 7. Please consider having your student make a poster for a staff member!
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4ea5aa22a4fd0-woes#

Register by June 1 for 2023-2024 Bus Service
Families whose students are eligible for HCPSS-provided transportation are required to register by June 1 to receive bus service for the coming 2023-2024 school year. Families who reside in non-transportation areas and those who have students who receive transportation as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan do not need to take any action.

Register for Summer Programs
Online enrollment requests for current HCPSS students are open for the following programs.

- Gifted and Talented Summer Institutes for Talent Development (Entering Grades 1–8) has availability for four middle school classes; all other classes can be requested for the waitlist.
- Innovative Pathways High School (Entering Grade 9 and Current Grades 9–12) has availability for most courses. Credit recovery and Gear Up for Grade 9 course requests may only be made by a school counselor.
- Summer Math Scholars Program (Entering Grades 6–8)
- STARTALK Chinese Language Summer Camp (Entering Grades 6–8)

Enrollment requests can be made by a parent, guardian, school counselor or school achievement liaison via HCPSS Connect Synergy.

**INFORMATION WORTH REPEATING**

Attendance Reminders

- Absences - Absence notes must be received in writing (email or note) from a parent/guardian within 5 days of an absence. Please send all attendance correspondence to: WOESabsence@hcpss.org.
- Early Dismissal - If you have to take your child out of school early, please email WOESabsence@hcpss.org, send your child in with a note for the front office, or call in advance. You must present your driver’s license when you arrive.

**COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS**

Join us at Centennial High School on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 6:00–8:00 pm for a viewing and panel discussion of Our Turn To Talk, a film that features teens sharing the impact of social media, sexual identity, gender identity, racism, and the pandemic on their mental health. The film is sponsored by National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Howard County, the Howard County Public School System, Horizon Foundation, One Voice, Active Minds, and the Howard County Health
Department. Families and staff may access the trailer and registration form for more information.

The event will feature the following panelists:

- Jennifer Marshall (Executive Producer, Principle Pictures)
- Peace Williams (WLHS student, Active Minds member)
- Stephanie Reid (Youth and Family Support Services, Howard County Health Department)
- Ivan Croft (Instructional Facilitator for Psychological Services, Howard County Public School System)
- Oliver Song (President, Howard County Association of Student Councils)

HCPSS Rainbow Conference – Register Now!
The HCPSS Rainbow Conference will be held on Saturday, May 6th from 9am - 5pm. The conference will be hybrid with opportunities for both virtual and in-person participation. For more information scan the QR code on the Rainbow Conference Flier or access this link.