

**Welcome to  
Laurel Woods  
Elementary School  
Back to School Event  
August 2021**





**VISION:** Every student and staff member embraces diversity and possesses the skills, knowledge and confidence to positively influence the larger community.

**MISSION:** HCPSS ensures academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps.



More information: [www.hcpss.org/scta](http://www.hcpss.org/scta)

# Looking Within Every Student



# Restorative Practices



Circles

PBIS

Discipline  
Practices

Building  
Relationships

## LWES Restorative Community

# Supporting Our Students

- Our school-wide plan is guided by PBIS—Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.
- Our school expected behaviors:
  - Be Respectful
  - Be Responsible
  - Be Safe
  - Show Effort
- We also use 123 Magic to help students focus on start behaviors.
- Students will have access to a Calm Down Space when needed to restart and refocus. Staff will communicate with families to ensure student support.
- If additional support is needed, students may have conversations with other staff in the building.

# School and System News and Information



## Email

School news, HCPSS News,  
emergency notices



## Text

urgent/emergency notices  
only



## HCPSS website

[www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org)

Systemwide news and  
information resource



## School website

[lwes.hcpss.org](http://lwes.hcpss.org)

School news, calendar, sports  
and clubs, staff directory; more

- School system news and announcements
- Upcoming events
- Opportunities to share input on HCPSS policies and decisions

# Social Media

LWES Twitter: [@hcpss\\_lwes](https://twitter.com/hcpss_lwes)

HCPSS Twitter: [www.Twitter.com/HCPSS](https://www.Twitter.com/HCPSS)

HCPSS Instagram: [instagram.com/hocoschools](https://instagram.com/hocoschools)

HCPSS Flickr: [flickr.com/photos/hcpss](https://www.flickr.com/photos/hcpss)

Superintendent Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mjmsuper>

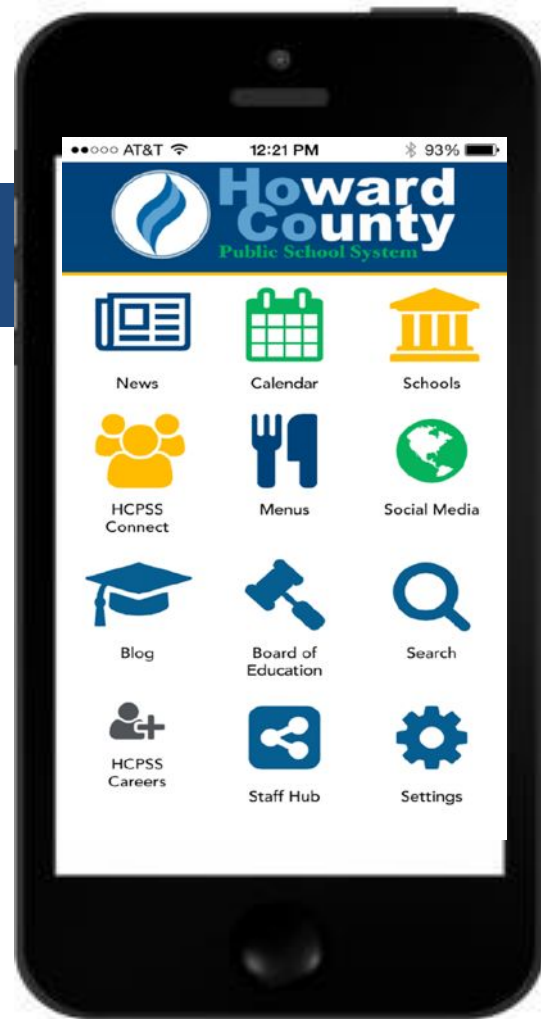




# HCPSS Mobile App

Free download on App Store:

- iPhone
- iPad
- Android



# School Closings/Delays



[www.HCPSS.org](http://www.HCPSS.org)



@hcpss



HCPSS News



Hotline

410-313-6666



HCPSS Status

[status.hcpss.org](http://status.hcpss.org)



HCPSS TV

42 Verizon / 72 Comcast

# Mental Health – School-Based Supports

School Counselor: Susan Wilmes, [susan\\_wilmes@hcpss.org](mailto:susan_wilmes@hcpss.org), Kristin Ingram, [kristin\\_ingram@hcpss.org](mailto:kristin_ingram@hcpss.org)

School Psychologist: Amber Jacobs, [amber\\_jacobs@hcpss.org](mailto:amber_jacobs@hcpss.org)

BSAP Liaison: Tiffani Peguese, [tiffani\\_peguese@hcpss.org](mailto:tiffani_peguese@hcpss.org)

Hispanic Liaison: Sandra Cusick, [sandra\\_cusick@hcpss.org](mailto:sandra_cusick@hcpss.org)

Pupil Personnel Worker: Heather Graham, [heather\\_graham@hcpss.org](mailto:heather_graham@hcpss.org)

More information:

[www.hcpss.org/supports/mental-health-wellness](http://www.hcpss.org/supports/mental-health-wellness)

# Mental Health Resources

Network of Care

Howard County Resources

Community-based Wrap-around Services

Foreign-Born Support Services/Bilingual Support Services

Howard County Health Department

[Guide to Community Services in Howard County:](https://www.acshoco.org/resources/guide-to-community-services/)

<https://www.acshoco.org/resources/guide-to-community-services/>

More information:

[www.hcpss.org/supports/mental-health-wellness](http://www.hcpss.org/supports/mental-health-wellness)



**Synergy Student  
Information System**

**Canvas Learning  
Management System**

**Family File**

**[www.hcpss.org/connect](http://www.hcpss.org/connect)**

# Update Student Information



- Parent contact information
- Medical data and contacts
- Transportation
- Data privacy preferences



[www.hcpss.org/connect](http://www.hcpss.org/connect)

# HCPSS Connect: How to Get Help

## Login Assistance:

Contact the school office  
410-880-5960



## Guides and Resources:

[hcpss.org/connect](https://hcpss.org/connect)



## Password Reset Guide:

[hcpss.org/f/connect/synergy-parent-access.pdf](https://hcpss.org/f/connect/synergy-parent-access.pdf)

# Canvas: What to Expect



Course Homepage:



Overview



Student privacy information



Resources



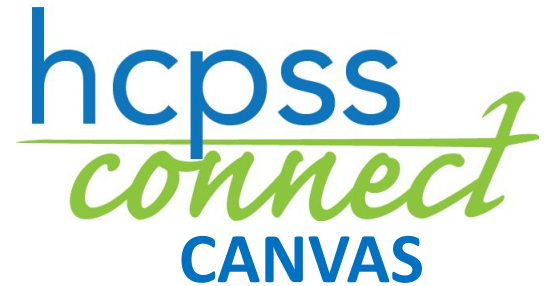
Calendar dates/events



Assignments & Gradebook

Announcements

Student skill building (grade appropriate)



**New! Updated Interface**

Have Canvas Questions? Click the **Orientation** box on the Canvas homepage to access Parent Guides



Orientation



# Assessments at the Elementary Level

- MCAP (Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program)
- MAP (or Measures of Academic Progress)
- CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test)
- MISA (Maryland Integrated Science Assessment)



# Title I Schools

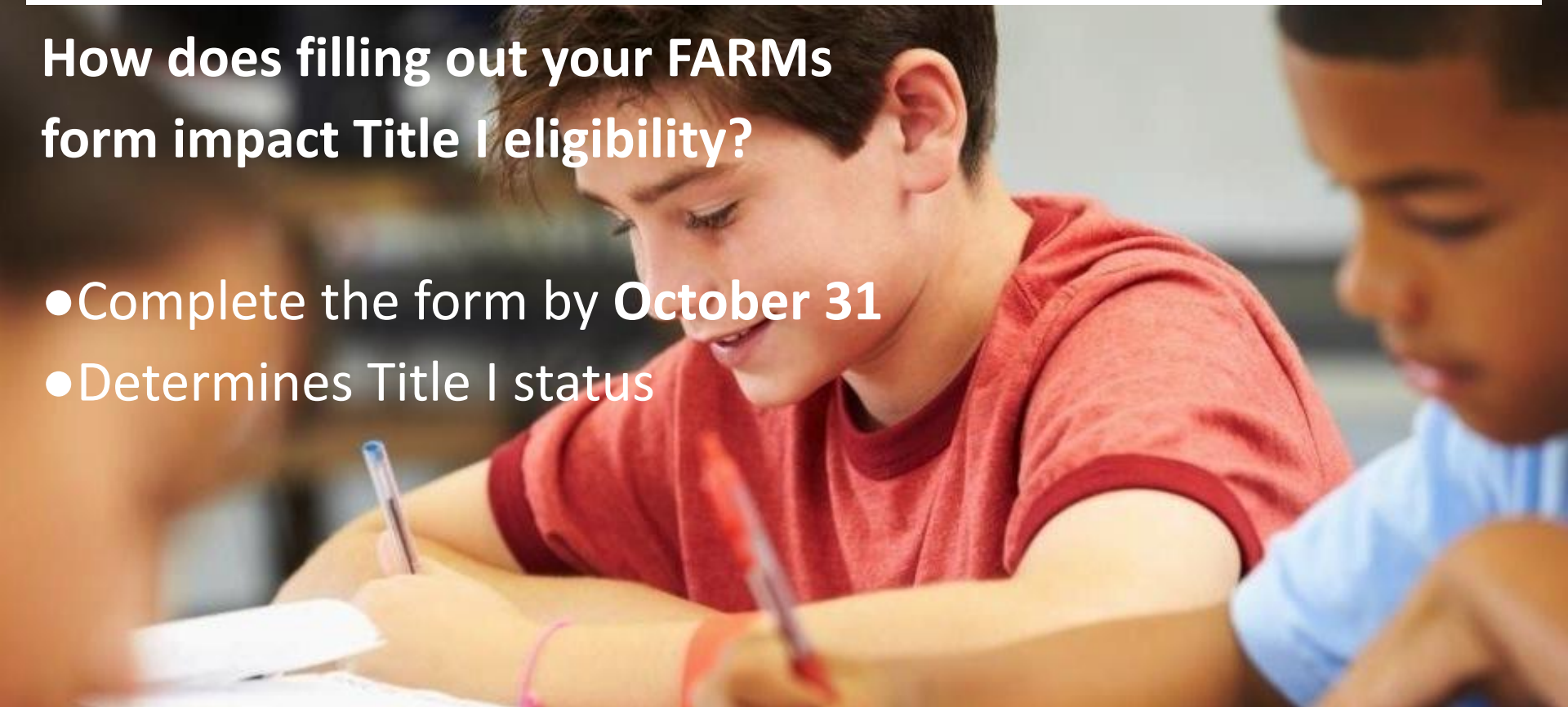


- Schoolwide enhanced programs, services and enrichment
- Available to all students in our school
- Family involvement for all families

# Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMs)

**How does filling out your FARMs form impact Title I eligibility?**

- Complete the form by **October 31**
- Determines Title I status



# Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMs)

Qualifying families can receive free or reduced-cost:



## HCPSS - FAMILY FILE (EMERGENCY FORM)

### MAIN NAVIGATION

- Students
- Parents/Guardians
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical
- Arrival/Departure
- Media
- Data Confidentiality
- Student Creative Work
- PTA Directory / School Directory
- Submit

Thank you. You have successfully submitted the family file information.



Click the below link to download the printed emergency procedure card:

[\[ Download \]](#)

### Free and Discounted Benefits

The FARMs program provides families with significant benefits to help you save money. Eligibility is based on family size and income, and enrollment is confidential.

[Log out](#)

- School meals
- Health insurance
- HCC tuition
- SAT, ACT and AP exam fees
- Camps, sports, child care
- Many other benefits



# Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMs)

**Step 1:** Visit [www.hcpss.org/farms/](http://www.hcpss.org/farms/)

**Step 2:** Click “Apply Online” to **begin** the online application process

## How to Apply

Please submit only one application per household. Families that need computer or language assistance to apply online, please contact your child’s school.

View the [federal income eligibility guidelines](#).

## Online

APPLY ONLINE

(ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES AVAILABLE)

- After the online application has been submitted and reviewed, eligibility notifications will be sent via email/mail.

HCPSS WEBSITE



Howard County Public School System

Getting Started

Household Information

Students

Children (Non-Student)

Signer's Information

## Getting Started

**What you will need to provide during the application process:**

- The name and **current** income of every member of your household
- The school and grade of every student in your household
- Your electronic signature
- (Optional) A valid email address or phone number for district communication about the status of the application.

If you are ready to get started, click the button below to begin the online application process.

BEGIN ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION

# Interactive School Menus on Nutrislice



- Food descriptions
- Nutrition and allergens
- Carb counts
- Pre-payment links
- FARMS application link
- Breakfast and lunch menus

- <http://hcpss.nutrislice.com>
- Free iPhone or iOS app
- HCPSS Mobile App

# Student Technology Use in Elementary School

Students may use their personal technology:

- When permitted by a teacher or administrator
- Before and after school

Devices must remain off and in backpack at all other times

Personal devices are *not* required for school

**\*\*As of Sept 13th, there will be a fee collected for broken or damaged devices. More information to come.**

## HCPSS-Issued Laptops

- **Pre-K – Grade 1:** Devices will not be assigned to students at the start of the school year. Students will have access to Chromebooks in school when needed for instruction.
- **Grades 2-5:** All students are issued a school system laptop.

*HCPSS Policy 8080: “Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media” <https://policy.hcpss.org/8000/8080/>*

# The School Day

**8:45 am** Students enter, Unpack, and Eat Breakfast

**9:00 am** Content Area Instruction Begins - Tardy Bell Rings

- Language Arts Block (2 hrs.)
- Math (1 hr 15 min)
- Social Studies/Science /Health (45 min)
- Related Arts Each Day (PE, Art, Media, Music, Technology)
- Community Circles and SEL learning (15 min)

**3:30 pm** Afternoon Announcements

**3:30 pm** Dismissal Begins - ***\*All students should be picked up by 3:45 pm.***

- 3:30 p.m. - Car Riders, After Care, Bus Riders and Daycare Vans
- 3:33 p.m. - Walkers





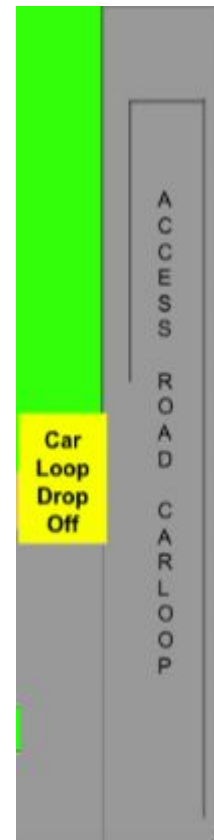
# Arrival and Dismissal Procedures



- PreKindergarten will enter via the cafeteria.
- Kindergarten, First and Second Grades will enter through the rear of the building with designated places to stand.
- Grades 3, 4 and 5 will line up outside of designated doors.
- The carloop is located on the side of the building. Students will walk from the unloading area to the designated entrance.
- The bus loop is in the front of the building.
- **If you have any transportation dismissal changes for your child, please call the office by 1 pm to inform school of change.**

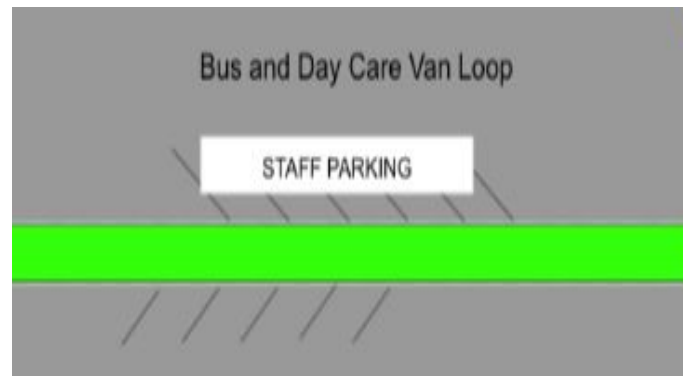
# Car Riders

- Ensure that each child has a face mask prior to leaving the vehicle for their school day.
- **Please have an 8x11 piece of paper with your child's name and grade written on it and displayed in the front windshield of your vehicle.**
- Everyone must remain in their vehicle.
  - Do not let students out of the vehicle until a staff member has signaled you.
- Enter the car loop and go ALL the way up the hill and come back down to form a single file line. **DO NOT PASS OTHER CARS WITHIN THE LINE.**
- **LWES staff will check in with each car as you pull up to pick up your student.**



# Bus and Day Care Van Riders

- Students will arrive by bus or van in the front bus loop and head to their assigned area.
  - **PreKindergarten will enter via the cafeteria.**
  - **Kindergarten, First and Second Grades will enter through the front doors and be escorted to team area by a staff member.**
  - **Grades 3, 4 and 5 will line up outside of designated doors.**
- Students will be given a bus tag the first day of school. Please leave this tag on their backpack.
- At the end of the school day, your child will be dismissed to the bus loop through the front doors.



# Before and After Care

- Students will be in the cafeteria until the arrival bell rings. Students will be escorted to the areas by the Before and After Care staff.
- Students will be walked back to after care at dismissal time by our LWES Staff.
- The Before and After Care staff will allow parents to enter and exit through the side cafeteria door.



# Walkers

- Students who walk to school will line up at their assigned area.
  - **PreKindergarten will enter via the cafeteria.**
  - **Kindergarten, First and Second Grades will enter through the rear of the building with designated places to stand.**
  - **Grades 3, 4 and 5 will line up outside of designated doors.**
- At the end of the school day, students will be dismissed from the assigned areas.

**Transportation Survey**



# Masking Requirements

**Masks MUST be worn** by all students, staff and visitors:

- In school buildings
- On buses

**Masks are NOT required:**

- Outdoors on school grounds  
(but are recommended for unvaccinated individuals)
- While eating/drinking indoors

Learn more at  
**[help.hcpss.org](https://help.hcpss.org)**  
under “Health &  
Safety”

# Lunch at LWES

- Beginning the first day of school, LWES will offer outdoor eating for students every day, weather and staffing permitting. **There will be limitations and will not be available to every student, every day** due to:
  - Available space
  - Staffing limitations
  - Limited tables/seating
- We will be getting a 20x30 tent and 9 tables for students to use while outside. This tent will be near the portable on our property.
- Students will be able to choose outdoor seating on a rotational basis. If students do not wish to sit outside, they can remain in the cafeteria.
- For the month of September, each class will have an assigned day to access outdoor seating. If a student does not wish to go outside, they can remain at their assigned seat inside. We will continue to adjust and communicate with families.
- Plexiglass will be on all of the cafeteria tables that remain inside the building.
- Students will be expected to wear masks when they are not eating.
- Students will have assigned seats to help with contact tracing.

LUNCH SURVEY  
PLEASE  
COMPLETE



# Attendance

- Howard County policy states: *students are expected to be in school or attending a school function each day that school is in session.*
- If absent, a note from the parent/guardian explaining the absence or tardiness of a student should be received within two days of the student's return to school. Please send notes to [lwesabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:lwesabsence@hcpss.org)
- We will work with families to ensure students are attending school every day they are not ill or have a scheduled appointment. We want students in school each and every day.



# Staying Healthy - We Need Your Help

- Parents/guardians should keep their children home if they are experiencing [symptom\(s\) associated with any communicable disease](#), including COVID-19. In addition, parents/guardians are to perform the COVID-19 health check every day before the student leaves home. These can be found on the [HCPSS](#) and [LWES](#) website.
- If your child presents with any of the symptoms, please keep them home and contact our Health Office at 410-313-5658 for further directions.
- More information related to COVID illnesses and protocols related can be found on the HCPSS website, <https://covid.hcpss.org/>

# 2021-2022 Fall Instruction

Information and updates:  
[www.hcpss.org/2021-2022/](http://www.hcpss.org/2021-2022/)

Answers to frequently-asked questions:  
[help.hcpss.org](http://help.hcpss.org)

# Volunteers

- Teachers will share opportunities for classroom volunteers and schedule parents/guests ahead of time.
- All volunteers must complete the volunteer training linked on the Laurel Woods Elementary School website.
- Visitors must be buzzed into the building and proceed into the front office to show identification and sign in.
- Please make sure to bring a form of identification each time you visit Laurel Woods.

# Volunteers

- One-to-One work with a child
- Work with small groups during instructional times
- Chaperone field trips
- Assist with special events
- Prepare instructional materials
- *GET INVOLVED WITH THE PTO!*



# PTO

PTO - Parent/Teacher Organization

Our PTO Executive Board Members are:

- Danyelle Blackwell - President
- ISO - Vice President
- AJ Hussain - Treasurer
- Courtney Groff - Secretary

Always looking for help and hoping you will join! More details to come!

# LGBTQIA+ Youth



New web page:

<https://www.hcpss.org/supports/lgbtqia-youth/>

Optional pronoun settings:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2021/04/optional-pronoun-settings-in-canvas/>

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
information:

<https://www.hcpss.org/diversity/>

# Community News and Programs

Find activities and resources for students and families offered by many community non-profits and agencies

- Search by keyword, ages or topic



[community-programs.hcpss.org](https://community-programs.hcpss.org)