

West Friendship Elementary School

PROFILE

12500 Frederick Road • West Friendship, MD 21794 • 410-313-5512 • wfes.hcps.org/



West Friendship Elementary School's mission is for every student to be inspired to learn and empowered to excel. WFES offers an inspiring, engaging, and supportive environment to cultivate a learning community that prepares children to thrive in a dynamic and diverse world.

"I am respectful, I am responsible, I am ready to learn. I will always be a friend at West Friendship!" These are the ideals students proudly demonstrate daily, creating a close community of learners. WFES staff provides personal attention, encouragement, and consistent support to foster perseverance and creative/critical thinking. The staff works to develop risk-taking, stamina, and deep thinking that successful students demonstrate when encountering challenges or unfamiliar topics. In addition to rigorous and engaging academic activities, staff are committed to educating the whole child and ensuring that every child feels a sense of belonging at WFES. Students participate in daily social-emotional learning, which includes community-building activities and class meetings. Staff teach and positively reinforce students to be respectful, responsible, caring, and show integrity.

The WFES PTA is a collaborative partner, providing support to school programs. Parents serve on committees and support cultural arts, parent education workshops, family fun nights, green school awareness, community drives, staff appreciation, and more.

WFES is committed to ensuring each student's academic success and social-emotional well-being in an inclusive and nurturing school environment that embraces diversity.

Fast Facts

Facility opened: 1925

Additions/Renovations

1950 (A), 1962 (A), 1971 (R/A),
1978 (R/A), 2004 (R), 2005 (R)

School Capacity: 414

(This does not include additional capacity provided by one portable classroom.)

Total Enrollment (K-5): 370

Official count 9/30/23

Ethnicity FY24

American Indian/Alaskan	≤5.0%
Asian	21.9%
Black/African American	6.0%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	≤5.0%
Hispanic/Latino	7.6%
White	56.8%
Two or more races	7.6%

Students Receiving Special Services FY23

Free/Reduced Meals	9.9%
English Learners	≤5.0%
Special Education	9.9%

Administrators:

Debra O'Byrne, Principal
Sara Cox, Assistant Principal

Educational Partnerships

- Howard County Library, Glenwood Branch
- Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education, Green Schools Program
- Trout Unlimited, Trout in the Classroom
- West Friendship Volunteer Fire Department

Updated December 2023

Academic Achievement

WFES Performance on State Tests*

Measure	2022 Results	2023 Results
Percent Proficient English Language Arts	79.1%	82.6%
Percent Proficient Mathematics	60.0%	64.3%
Percent Proficient Science	65.3%	77.3%

State accountability information can be accessed at <https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/>

Special Programs

- 2nd Grade Author Share
- 3rd Grade Publishers Parties
- 4th and 5th Grade Chorus & Band
- 5th Simulated Congressional Hearings
- After School Programs provided by Howard County Recreation and Parks
- Art Exhibits
- Career Day – 5th Grade
- Chess Club
- Community Circles
- Culture Night
- PTA Cultural Arts Program
- Family Informational Nights
- Field Day
- Fitness Fridays
- Girls on the Run
- Hour of Code
- Howard County Library Programs – Battle of the Book, Spelling Bee, Summer Reading Program
- Inclusive School Week
- Maker Space – Media
- Maryland Engineering Challenge
- Night of Excellence
- Peer Mentor Program
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- PTA After-school Enrichment Programs
- Read-a-thon – school-wide
- Restaurant Nights – PTA
- Rainbow Run - PTA
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Schoolwide Community Outreach Programs
- Spring Festival – PTA
- Spirit Days
- Student Leadership Team
- Tiger Cub Club – incoming kindergarten students
- Toys for Tots Drop-Off Location
- Trout in the Classroom
- Unheard Perspectives
- WFES Night at the Glenwood Branch of the Howard County Public Library - PTA
- Yearbook

Accomplishments

- PBIS Recognition
- Healthy Howard Gold School
- Maryland Green School Certified
- Certified Monarch Waystation
- Community Outreach recognition
- CS100 Awards - Commitment to Computer Science Education
- The Council of Elders Celebration of Academic Achievement
- Participation in Howard County Library programs: Battle of the Books, Spelling Bee
- Recognized for funds raised through Hoops for Heart and Jump Rope for Heart
- Participation in GT/Enrichment Band and Orchestra
- Participation in Howard County Children's Chorus
- Participation in Music Solo and Ensemble Festival
- Participation in Unheard Perspectives