

STEVENS FOREST ELEMENTARY



BOBCAT NEWS

October 28, 2016

Ernesto Diaz
Principal

(410) 313-6900
FAX (410) 313-6903
<http://sfes.hcpss.org/>

Tracey Albright
Assistant Principal

School Hours are 9:00am to 3:30pm
Doors open at 8:45am

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 31 - No School for Students, Professional Learning Day
November 4 - End of First Marking Period
November 7 - No School for Students, Professional Work Day
November 8 - Schools and Offices Closed, General Election Day
November 9 - Student Photo Retakes
November 9 - PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
November 14-18 - American Education Week

General Election

Tuesday, November 8, 2016 is General Election Day. We encourage all SFES community members to exercise their right to vote. While there will be no school for students or staff, the building will be open as a polling place. Visit the link below for polling place and election information:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Board-of-Elections>

2016 PARCC Results

We are very excited to share that last year's 3rd through 5th grade students exhibited a great deal of growth during last spring's administration of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment. ***In fact, our students led the entire school system in the percentage of growth in English Language Arts (ELA) and were third from the top in Mathematics!!***

As you may recall, PARCC is an assessment to measure student achievement in ELA and Mathematics for grades 3-8 and high school. The primary purpose of PARCC is to provide high quality

assessments of students' progression toward postsecondary readiness and success.

The PARCC tests are designed to match the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards and assess whether students are meeting grade-level expectations. In contrast to other assessments, the PARCC is an extension to regular instruction, because students experience engaging, real-life texts and solve meaningful problems based on high-quality classroom work. In addition, built in accessibility features help all students do their best and expand access for students with disabilities.

We are so proud of our staff, students, and entire school community! More information regarding PARCC can be found at this link

<http://www.hcpss.org/academics/testing/parcc/>

Help Wanted

Please consider joining the SFES School Improvement Team (SIT). This team includes staff and school community members who work together to provide input, monitor, and adjust the SFES School Improvement Plan (SIP). The team typically meets three or four times each year from approximately 3-4pm. Please contact Mr. Diaz at ernesto_diaz@hcpss.org if you are interested or if you have any questions.

Early Dismissal

We understand that circumstances may arise when a student may need to be dismissed early for appointments or other reasons. It is important to stress that parents/guardians must report to the

front office no later than 3:05pm when picking up their child for an early dismissal. Early dismissals after that time are disruptive to the afternoon dismissal procedures. Students will be called to the front office for dismissal upon the parent's/guardian's arrival. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up the child for early dismissal, the person must be granted permission as indicated in FAMILY File or by providing a signed note from the parent/guardian.

New Call Box on Front Door

We are pleased to share that in an ongoing effort to ensure student safety, a call box was installed where the front door bell was located. This new call box is similar to those in other HCPSS schools and allows communication with school visitors.

All visitors should press the button on the call box upon arrival. One of our secretaries will greet each visitor and ask how they can help. Visitors should speak directly into the box to share the reason for visiting SFES.

While our staff knows many of the school community members, please know that the protocol above will be used with all visitors. Thank you for your help and flexibility.

Child Safety Seats

We care deeply about the safety of all students and feel compelled to remind SFES families of the following points regarding child safety seats:

- Maryland's current law requires that children under eight years old ride in an appropriate child restraint, unless the child is 4'9" or taller.
- Every child from 8 to 16 years old who is not secured in a child restraint must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt, in every sitting position in the vehicle.
- This law is applicable to in-State and out-of-State vehicles.
- It is the driver's responsibility for making sure all children are correctly buckled up.
- More details on this important topic can be accessed at this link:
<http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/mhso/program-child-passenger-safety.htm>

You may notice the presence of Howard County Police officers during the year as they remind families of the information listed above.

New Webpage for Community Notice Announcements

A new Community News and Programs webpage is now available. This page contains brief announcements of upcoming events and announcements from community organizations.

Please visit the Community News and Programs page (<http://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/>) on the HCPSS website for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

This new web resource supersedes News4Schools, which will no longer be distributed.

The HCPSS Public Information Office encourages organizations to distribute notices electronically through this new resource. However, organizations may choose to distribute printed documents through student backpacks, etc. per the provisions of HCPSS Policy 10010. Please note that schools must distribute printed materials that have been pre-approved by the Public Information Office, in accordance with policy requirements.

Please contact the Public Information Office with any questions, at 410-313-6682 or publicinfo@hcpss.org.

Howard County Board of Education Policy Reminder regarding Attendance

Regular daily attendance is vital to the continuity of classroom instruction and participation in school activities. Therefore, students are required to be in school or to be attending a school activity each day school is in session. In recognition that situations do arise that necessitate absence from school, the Board of Education allows students to be lawfully absent for a death in the family, illness, a court summons, hazardous weather as determined by the Superintendent, work release, religious obligation, declared State emergencies, suspension, or for other emergencies or set of circumstances which in the judgment of the Superintendent or designee constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence.