



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harford County Public Schools and Community Partners Open New Hardtop Court at Abingdon Elementary School

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) is thrilled to announce the completion and opening of a brand-new hardtop court at Abingdon Elementary School. This community-driven project highlights a multi-year collaborative effort involving HCPS, the Harford County Health Department, Harford County Parks and Recreation, and the Abingdon Elementary School community. It was developed without the use of HCPS capital or operating budget funds.

Initially thought up during the 2018-2019 school year, Abingdon Elementary School launched a community fundraising campaign to cover the cost of construction. Prior to the campaign, there was no hard top at Abingdon Elementary School. Over the course of the campaign, the school community raised \$28,000 in donations, before the campaign was paused during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recently, the HCPS Office of Health and Wellness resumed efforts to bring a hardtop court to Abingdon Elementary School. In addition to the \$28,000 raised by the Abingdon Elementary School community, Harford County Parks and Recreation contributed \$25,000. HCPS then received a \$60,000 grant through the Harford County Health Department that supported this project, and other health and wellness efforts. The project's total cost reached approximately \$98,000 and was funded without using any of HCPS's capital or operating budgets.

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent of Schools said, "this hardtop court is an example of what we can achieve through collaboration, and it will serve as a space for students, and the community, to engage in healthy physical activity for years to come."

The hardtop court is laid out to be used as a basketball, foursquare, or pickleball court, and is open for public use outside of school hours. The hardtop court project is part of HCPS' larger initiative to support the physical and behavioral health needs of our students. In addition to the hardtop court, a path was installed from the court to the playground, making the Abingdon Elementary School playground ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible.



Abingdon Elementary Students and staff pose with HCPS staff, Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson, Director of Harford County Parks and Recreation Paul Magness, and Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly.

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