



## THE INFORMANT

THE VOICE OF THE HISTORIC FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Fall 2024

www.hfdhsaainc.net

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



On behalf of the Executive Board of the historic Frederick Douglass High School alumni association Inc. I extend my sincere gratitude for your support,

commitment and dedication to the Alumni Association. Our school is in a temporary location as the Gwynn Falls location undergoes a huge rebuilding program. Students are currently reporting to the former Northwestern High School location at Fallstaff and Park Heights Aves. We want to continue to support the students at our Alma Mater during this relocation as they prepare to go back to a state of the art facility in approximately two years. Remember, our goals are to sponsor events and activities for the Alumni. These activities will enhance our school's environment, perpetuate its legacy of "Pride, Dignity and Excellence", and provide a voice for the alumni and friends of Frederick Douglass High School in City and State government. Additionally, we raise revenue for scholarships and for assisting students in need. Finally, the Association focuses on providing our Alumni with social and cultural events that will immortalize the Spirit of Frederick Douglass High School.

Johnnie Foreman, Jr.  
Interim Chairperson

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

(Updated)

President	Kevin Jackson
1st Vice Pres.	Yolonda Scott
2nd Vice Pres.	Torreantoe Smalls
Corresp Secretary	Rhonda Kershaw
Recording Secretary	Dorne Lyles
Financial Secretary	Patricia Cherry

#### Move To Swing Space

Douglass' original site-building at 2301 Gwynns Falls Parkway, is being renovated and students are learning in a swing space. The Northwestern Building at 6900 Park Heights Avenue will serve as the temporary home of Frederick Douglass High School while their permanent building undergoes a full renovation to improve the quality of education for its students. Douglass will occupy the Northwestern Building during the 2024-25 & 2025-26 school years (Aug 2024-June 2026).

Significant improvements and updates were made to the Northwestern Building such as:

- \*Expanded parking to accommodate Frederick Douglass faculty and students.
- \*Designated a school police officer to be on-site to support school safety.
- \*Restoration of the fields to playable condition and use of the school's pool.

A decision was made in late 2023 to use Northwestern Building instead of the former Garrison Middle School building because it

### ***Move To Swing Space (continued)***

was more suitable for the needs of a high School.

**For more information on the 21st Century Project timeline and the swing space visit**

[113023douglass-garrisonmeeting.pdf](#)

### **Back to School Bash**

Just before the first day of school, volunteers from HFDHSAA greet students when they arrive, welcome the students, provide uniforms and school supplies for needy students and assist the principal and staff with a variety of tasks. This year was no different as alumni participated in the Back to School Bash on August 21, 2024 at the new location



### **New School Administration**

Principal David Verdi

Assistant Principal Laura Schulz,

lschulz@bcps.k12.md.us

Assistant Principal Maceo Cooper,

mcooper@bcps.k12.md.us

Assistant Principal Christopher Cash,

ccash@bcps.k12.md.us

Community SchCoordinator

Thomas Downs, tdowns@bcps.k12.md.us

### **Maryland State Supreme Court Judges visit FDHS**

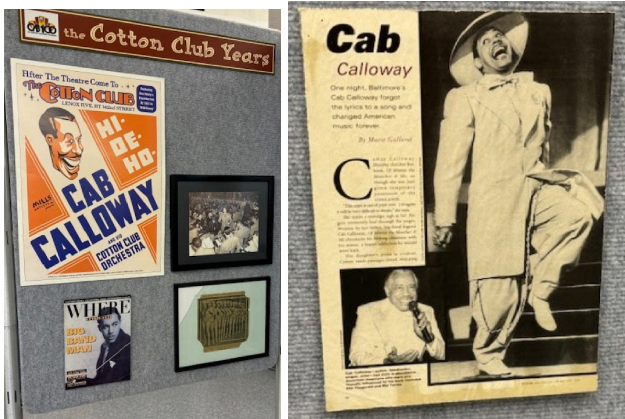
On October 2, 2024, Frederick Douglass High School hosted the Supreme Court of Maryland's oral arguments at their temporary home in the Northwestern Building. This special event marked the third time in recent history that the Supreme Court has held oral arguments outside the City of Annapolis and is part of an ongoing outreach effort to educate students on the Maryland court system. Frederick Douglass High School was chosen by Justice Shirley M. Watts in recognition of the high school's historical significance and her connection to the school's neighborhood.

In addition to Douglass students, 15 other Baltimore City public and private schools, and universities participated. After observing two oral arguments in the morning, students had the opportunity to ask questions of the Maryland Supreme Court Justices in the afternoon. Leading up to the event, Nick McDaniels, Law and Leadership instructor at Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School, created lesson plans to support teachers at the participating schools in preparing their students. Baltimore City Schools Chief Legal Officer Josh Civin and his legal team visited the participating schools to provide additional student preparation for the event.



## Cab Calloway Artifacts

Our Frederick Douglass High School Alumni, the late Cabell Calloway III, known throughout as “Cab Calloway”, left us with a legacy of music, entertainment, acting and sports. Many artifacts have been donated to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum and others have been donated to the FDHS Alumni Association. We will plan an appropriate way to display some of these artifacts at the school when it reopens at the Gwynn Falls location. Visit the Alumni Gallery on our website at [HFDHSAAINC.net](http://HFDHSAAINC.net) to see more:



### FALL RAFFLE EXTENDED

Tickets are still available for the current raffle to benefit the HFDHSA. The drawing for the raffle has been extended until December 14, 2024 (6:30pm at Reisterstown Rd Applebees). To purchase tickets please call or text Kevin Jackson at (443) 453-7568.

## Membership Renewal Reminder

If you have not sent in your membership dues, please take the time to renew your membership now. The Association’s fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. We encourage you to send in your dues, as well as remind your classmates to join the Alumni Association. The work of the Association depends on membership dues and contributions.

Your membership dues enable us to continue working toward the restoration of ‘pride, dignity and excellence’ at our beloved alma mater, as well as to provide graduating seniors with scholarship funding.

If additional information is required, please contact Pat Rhodes at (443) 254-0420 or [pawrhodes@comcast.net](mailto:pawrhodes@comcast.net). Membership dues should be sent to the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc., P.O. Box 25151, Baltimore, Maryland 21229.

## Ways to Stay Involved

Remember, you are part of a legacy of educational history in the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland. Here is a list of opportunities to meet, work with the officers of the Alumni Association and support our mission.

**\* Encourage classmates to join the Alumni Association**

**\* Support the Scholarship Committee**  
GREAT NEWS! - In June 2024, 12 Seniors earned scholarships of \$2,000 and 3 Juniors received merit scholarships of \$1,000!!

**Ways to Stay Involved (continued)**



**\* Attend Upcoming Association General Meetings**

- Thursday, January 16, 2025
- Thursday, February 20, 2025
- Thursday, March 20, 2025
- Thursday, April 17, 2025
- Thursday, May 15, 2025

**\* Attend future Back to School Bash**

**\* Join Classmates at Alumni Table at Homecoming Football Game**

**\* Attend our Alumni December Holiday Gathering to be held at the School**

\*\*\*\*\*December 19, 2024\*\*\*\*\*

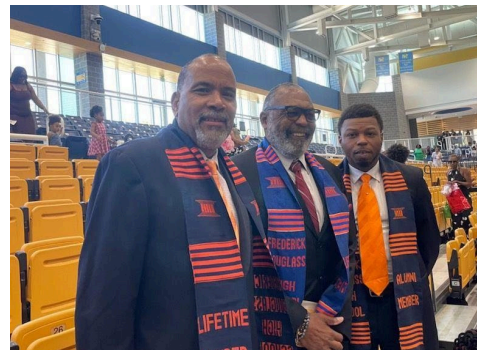
**\*Participate in Alumni Weekend each May**

- Alumni Day Convocation/Luncheon
- Alumni Social Activity
- Alumni Worship Service



Alumni Weekend Committee

**\* Represent alumni at the Douglass High School Graduations**



2024 Graduation