

KNIGHTLY NEWS - 1/10/2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/14	PTA Meeting @6pm (Virtual)
1/20	Schools and Offices Closed-MLK, Jr. Holiday
1/21	Hearing and Vision Screenings (8th grade only) Incoming 6th Grade Parent Night @Patapsco MS 6pm
1/23	3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15pm) End of Quarter 2
1/29	Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

The new year has certainly started with winter showing all its splendor! The inclement weather has allowed us to successfully test our early dismissal and school closure procedures. We encourage you to discuss with your students your family's plans for unscheduled delayed openings and early closures. This will allow our staff to maintain smooth arrivals and dismissals. Also, if you need to pick up your student on any given school day, please avoid doing so during the 15 minutes prior to dismissal. This allows our buses to park without obstruction and our staff to handle end-of-the-day tasks without interruption.

We are excited to see what 2025 has in store as we continue our partnership with our families to help our students grow as successful members of our Patapsco community.

Young Authors' Contest Winners

Thank you to the students who participated in this year's Young Authors' Contest. We had many creative and wonderful submissions this year, and we are all very proud. The following students have advanced to the next round of judging at the county middle school level:

6th grade

Lana Ayara for his poem, "I Am From."

Isaac Ritterman for his short story, "An Elephant School."

7th grade

Lizzy Kolas for her poem, "Loneliness."

Bryn Mabee for her short story, "Knight."

Congratulations, young authors! Good luck at the next round!

SPELLING BEE

The 2025 School-wide Scripps Spelling Bee will be held in the Media Center, on Wednesday, January 22nd during the school day. It will be televised in classes so students can cheer on their classmates who won their ELA classroom spelling bees.

PTA NEWS

Happy New Year from the Patapsco PTA! Please join us for our quarterly meeting:

Tuesday January 14, 2025 at 6 pm

Log-in information for January PTA Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86075240462?pwd=UKavM5fUSaUfnzIrlQjPWISMnMt8wN.1>

Meeting ID: 860 7524 0462

Passcode: 228246

Community Academy: Student Well-Being, Jan. 11

Saturday, Jan. 11, 9-10:30 a.m., virtual session

Attendees at [this virtual session](#) will hear from HCPSS staff about student well-being support, strategies to manage student anxiety, and learn more about community agencies that support families with managing mental health challenges. Register online.

Free Life Skills Classes for HoCo Middle/High School Students

Classes will be taught by HoCo college students with high school student assistants and adult supervision. Botvin's Evidence Based Curriculum promotes positive health and personal development for students in grades 6 to 9. (Slightly younger students will be considered especially if joining an older sibling, and students older than 9th grade may be invited to join our high school team to earn Community Service Hours while learning.) If parents/guardians have questions about the appropriateness for students, register the students and HC DrugFree's team will contact you. **Siblings and friends are encouraged to take these classes together.**

Class dates: **February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 31, April 7, 28, and May 5 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. on Zoom.** Visit HC DrugFree's website for more information and register students at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Spring2025LifeSkills>

Free Parenting/Grandparenting Classes

Free! On Zoom and open to parents, guardians and grandparents residing in HoCo or with school-age children/grandchildren residing in HoCo. This evidence-based, interactive prevention program provides families with the skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will use drugs including alcohol or engage in other dangerous behaviors. The curriculum was written for families with children 9-14 years olds, but we believe it is appropriate for K-12 families. Class dates: **March 18, 21, 25, 28 and April 1 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. on Zoom.** Visit HC DrugFree's website for more information and register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Spring2025GGC>

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF CURRENT 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

Rising 9th Grade Course Registration

From December 16 through January 14, current 8th grade students may view their teachers' course recommendations and submit course placement requests for the 2024-2025 school year. Please use the information linked below to help guide you through the process. Families can reach out to their student's School Counselor for questions or concerns.

Links: [Rising 9th Grade Course Planning Canvas Page](#)
[HCPSS High School Registration Website](#)

Hearing and Vision Screening for 8th Grade Students

The Howard County Health Department and HCPSS School Health Services support your student's academic success by providing vision and hearing screenings at your child's school. These screenings are required by Maryland State Law. Patapsco Middle School's 8th grade students will be screened on January 21, 2025 with re-screening on January 30.

If your child has glasses, please make sure that he or she wears them on the screening day.

For more information, see [here](#). [En Español](#)

HCPSS Emergency Notifications

Families are reminded that in emergency situations (including inclement weather), information will be shared with the community only through the HCPSS website, email and text, Twitter/X and the HCPSS weather hotline. Be sure your Family File is up to date and that you have [opted into texts](#) to receive emergency messages.

Cold Weather Attire

As the colder weather settles in, please remind your students to dress appropriately for their time outside (waiting at the bus stop, recess, PE). If they are missing a coat, jacket or hoodie, please encourage them to check the lost and found.

Lost and Found

Please remind students to check the Lost and Found regularly. We have a large collection of jackets, water bottles, lunchboxes, pencil cases, and other items.

PTA News

Recess Equipment Amazon Wish List - The list is still open! The PE Department has asked for contributions to replace some of the equipment that has been worn out or ventured on a permanent safari in the back woods. You can purchase equipment through the [Amazon Wish List by clicking here!](#) In addition, the PE Department is accepting donations of gently used sports balls (basketballs, soccer balls, volleyballs) and/or equipment bags. You can bring these items to the school or let us know if you have other questions! patapscopta@gmail.com

Membership - As always, it's not too late to join the PTA and/or make a donation to our grant program! Find out how by accessing our website - <https://patapscomiddle.givebacks.com/>

Flu Prevention

The Health Department encourages people of all ages to get a seasonal flu shot from a healthcare provider, local pharmacy, retailer or big box store. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school (even virtual school) due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths. The Howard County Health Department provides a [list](#) of community immunization clinics.

Community Notices

HCPSS' [Community News and Programs](#) website makes it easy for families to find educational and recreational resources, events and after-school programs beyond the school day by non-profit organizations."

Community organizations requesting their announcements be shared in school newsletters should visit community-programs.hcpss.org for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss.org

Resources

[Patapsco Calendar](#)

[Quick Guide to Online Resources](#)

[Secondary Student & Parent Handbook](#)

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

Stay Connected

School Office: 410-313-2848

Student Services: 410-313-2850

Health Room: 410-313-2574

Follow us on X: [@hcpss_PMS](#) and Instagram: PatapscoMS

[Patapsco Middle School Website](#)