

KNIGHTLY NEWS - 1/24/2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/27	Hearing and Vision Screenings (8th grade only)
1/28	Spelling Bee Incoming 6th Grade Parent Night @Patapsco MS 6pm
1/29	Schools Closed for Students - Professional Work Day
2/4	Author Visit - Farrah Rochon Report Cards Released
2/7	Schools Closed for Students - Professional Learning Day
2/10-2/14	Book Fair
2/12	Winter Book Fair Fun Knight
2/17	Schools and Offices Closed - Presidents Day

Spelling Bee

The 2025 School-wide Scripps Spelling Bee will be held on Tuesday, January 28 during the school day. It will be televised in classes so students can cheer on their classmates who won their ELA classroom spelling bees.

Leadership Opportunity for All 6th-11th Grade Students

On March 19, 2025, HCPSS will host a convention in which student delegates from every school will nominate two finalists for the Student Member of the Board (SMOB) position, and YOU can be a part of it too! Serving as a student delegate is a great leadership opportunity which allows you to represent your school, meet and work with new people, and have a voice in the SMOB selection process. Applications will be due on Friday, February 7, 2025 and interviews will be held at Patapsco Middle School on Friday, February 14, 2025. A delegate from each grade will be selected to represent

Patapsco Middle School at the convention. [2025 Student Delegate Application Link](#)
Make sure to check out the: [Student Member of the Board Process Portal 2025 for even more information](#)

Farrah Rochon Author Visit to Patapsco Middle School

On Tuesday, February 4, our school and Park Books on Main/A Likely Story Bookstore is hosting Farrah Rochon as she shares her newest book, *Bemused*. All books ordered for this event will be delivered to the school and signed by the author. Park Books on Main/A Likely Story is bringing us this author at no charge to the school and purchases help support this local bookstore.

If you would like your own copy of the newest release, *Bemused*, or a previously released title, use [this google form](#). Orders are due by **Friday, JANUARY 31**. While we do order a few extra copies, orders placed after this date are not guaranteed to be delivered the day of the event.

Hearing and Vision Screening for 8th Grade Students - Now January 27

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 27, 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](#)

Youth Football Camp

The head football coach of the Mt Hebron Vikings, Shawn Frederick, will be hosting a youth football camp this summer at Mt. Hebron HS from June 23-27th, 9a-3pm for 1st-9th grade students (SY 2025-26). If interested, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/v1bdySFVffLUdkfw9>. For questions, please contact Coach Fred at shawn_frederick@hcpss.org.

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

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>

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.

Unclaimed items will be donated next week.

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.hcps.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

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[Patapsco Middle School Website](#)