

KNIGHTLY NEWS - 3/28/2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/31	FULL DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
4/1	Chorus Assessment at Howard High School
4/4	End of 3rd Quarter
4/7-4/11	Spring Spirit Week
4/14-4/21	Spring Break
4/25	Q3 Report Cards Issued

2024-2025 School Year Calendar Updates

In order to meet the State-mandated 180 days for students and account for the six inclement weather days used this school year, the Board of Education approved making [Monday, March 31 a full day for students](#). (Schools had previously been slated to be closed for students that day.) The Board also approved moving the end of the third marking period to April 4 and issuing report cards on April 25. Barring any additional inclement weather days, the last day of school will be Wednesday, June 18.

MCAP Testing

At Patapsco Middle School, the following dates have been scheduled for the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) testing:

All Grades:

ELA: April **8th** and April **9th**

Math: May **20th** and May **21st**

MCAP Social Studies Assessment (8th Grade Only):

May 5th-9th during students' social studies class

It is essential that students come to school on time on testing days and we ask that you not schedule appointments or early dismissals on testing days. Additionally, students

should bring their charged Chromebook and power cord as well as wired headphones to use during ELA testing. Students should continue to bring all classroom materials. Please contact Shannon_motsco@hcpss.org or call 410-313-2848 with any questions. As always, thank you for your support and flexibility!

Immunizations Due for 7th Grade Students

Please submit to the Health Room a copy of updated immunizations when your student goes to the doctor for immunizations this Spring. They need the Tdap and MCV4 before they can enter 7th grade. If you have any questions, please call the Health Room at 410-313-2574. Thank you.

Casey Cares Pajama Drive NOW-April 8

Casey Cares is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of critically ill children and their families by providing opportunities for family fun and engagement outside of doctor appointments and hospital stays. One of the major needs for Casey Cares is donations of New Pajamas for infants through young adult sizes. They provide fun pajamas to children on their birthdays, in the hospital and during in-home treatments to cheer them. They work with regional hospitals to provide pajamas throughout the year and give out over 60,000 pairs each year.

This year, Patapsco Middle School is participating in the Casey Cares Pajama Drive. We are asking students to bring in new pajamas sizes infant through young adults sizes now through April 8. There are prizes for individuals, homerooms and grade levels if the goals for each are met.

Student Service-Learning 6th Grade Project Completion!

The state of Maryland requires that 75 hours of Student Service Learning (SSL) be completed, as a requirement to obtain a high school diploma. This year, 25 Service-Learning hours are being offered to our 6th grade students through their Science course. SSL hours are awarded by participation in meeting course objectives, by completing the course work of Climate Knowledge and by completing the Validation Form. Please check Canvas to ensure that your student has completed all activities contained within this unit of study. Students must pass this unit to obtain their 25 hours of 2024- 2025 credit. If you have questions, please contact Sherri Ross (sherri_ross@hcpss.org)

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Parent Help for The Little Mermaid Jr.

This year's production of The Little Mermaid Jr. is swiftly approaching! The show dates (May 2nd and 3rd) will be here before we know it. The directors, cast, and crew are working very hard and they need your help!

If you are available to help with the SHOWS (ie. ticket and/or concession sales, backstage help) please fill out [THIS FORM](#) by 4/9 at the latest. Ms. Wardlaw will be back in touch with assignments by 4/11 (before spring break).

If you are available to help chaperone THE CAST PARTY on May 3rd or can donate a food or drink item to the cast party, please fill out [THIS FORM](#) by 4/11. Ms. Wardlaw will provide assignments by 4/22 (after break).

You absolutely can fill out both forms if you are interested in helping with it all! Thank you in advance for all your help!

Heart & Sole

Heart and Sole (Girls on the Run program for 6th - 8th graders) helps girls (this includes any female-identifying and non-binary young people) unleash their potential by focusing on five key things: body, brain, heart, spirit, and connection. Participants work on setting goals geared toward physical, emotional, and relational health, and actualize those goals through exercise, community building, and connection.

The spring season runs from Tuesday, March 25th (first practice) to Tuesday, June 3rd (end-of-year celebration). Each season ends with a noncompetitive 5K (Saturday, May

31st) where participants celebrate who they are, how far they have come, and where they want to go. The program will run after school on Tuesdays from 3:15 pm to 5:15 pm and will meet in Ms. Ruly's room (A4).

Participants must register through Girls on the Run of Central Maryland and can do so using the following link - [Heart & Sole Registration](#)

If you have any questions/concerns about the program, registration process/fees (financial assistance is available!!), or anything else, please contact the intramural sponsor: Grace Ruly (grace_ruly@hcpss.org).

2025 Recognized Carson Scholar

Bryn Mabee is being named a 2025 Recognized Carson Scholar! She was previously honored with a scholarship award and will now be receiving a commemorative pin and certificate to acknowledge their continued academic and humanitarian achievements.

National History Day

Congratulations to all participants at the Howard County History Day Competition on March 22, 2025. Kimberly Mueth, Sanjay Shenoy, and Olanna Ezeji placed 1st and 2nd and will represent Patapsco at the State Competition.

Individual Exhibit:

Vera Sawhney

Faith Ringgold: A Visual and Verbal Fight for What's Right

Group Exhibits:

Anwitha Ayyamgari and Laxitha Vonteru:

W.E.B. Du Bois: A Fight for Equality

Aahna Dhannawatt and Bryn Mabee

The Trail of Broken Treaties: The Fight to Gain Native Rights

Individual Documentary

Alexandra Claiborne

Express Yourself: Lennon Walls in Prague + Hong Kong

Group Documentary;

Kimberly Mueth and Sanjay Shenoy(**1st Place: Advances to State Competition**)

Patriot or Traitor: The Release of the Pentagon Papers

Ben Kingsley, Matthew O'Shea, Ryan Moschel and Ridvik Singh **(3rd Place)**
War and Humanity: How the Hague Conventions Redefined Conflict

Individual Performance:

Olanna Ezeji **(2nd Place: Advances to State Competition)**
The Declaration of Sentiments

Group Performance

Aditi Nambiar and Kate Min **(Council of Elders Special Award)**
The Sound of Justice: Coretta Scott King's Freedom Concerts

Inspirit Artificial Intelligence Summer Program

This summer, Inspirit AI is partnering with Howard County Public Schools to offer an in-person project-based artificial intelligence program. [Inspirit AI](#) is an AI education program developed and taught by Stanford and MIT alumni and graduate students. The program will consist of ten (10) 3-hour sessions taking place from July 14-25, 2025 at Hammond High School. The program fee is \$1,500 and some financial assistance is available through Inspirit AI. Interested families should fill out this [short interest form](#). The [program brochure](#) includes information about the curriculum, schedule, projects, and teaching team.

ReIMAGINE the Rainbow Event

All students, staff, parents, and community members are invited to join us for an evening of advocacy on Friday, April 25 from 5:00PM - 9:15PM at Centennial High School. Headlining the evening will be Ellen Oh ([author](#) and founder of [We Need Diverse Books](#)) and Phil Bilder ([author](#)). Following the keynote session, participants will have the opportunity to select from 14 different sessions to attend in two consecutive time blocks. Sessions are informational, interactive, and in some cases, hands-on. Childcare will be provided for students in grades K-5. While this event is FREE, all participants must register. More information can be found on our [webpage](#), along with the [registration form](#).

Lost and Found

Please have your student check the lost and found. There are coats, jackets, water bottles, lunch boxes, hats, and many other items. Any items left behind will be donated on Friday, April 11.

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

Yearbook

Have you ordered your 24-25 yearbook yet? There is still time! Scan the QR code on the [attached flyer](#), or visit: jostensyearbooks.com

Order soon to guarantee a yearbook! Yearbooks will be distributed at the end of the school year. If you are unsure whether or not you have purchased a yearbook, please check your email for a receipt from Jostens from this school year, or reach out to Ms. Salsman: kalina_salsman@hcpss.org

SPRING CLEANING? Clothing to Cash- easy donation!

Please donate to our Clothing to Cash fundraising program! [Clothing to Cash](#) is a textile recycling program that donates money to the school for every pound of donated items. Look for the white donation bin in the parking lot. Clothing to Cash will accept items in ALL conditions: new with tags, or torn, stained, worn-out knees, shoes with holes or only one shoe, backpacks, old sheets, towels, blankets, stuffed animals and more. What a great way to help the school and clean out your closets! All donations must be bagged and put in the collection bin.

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.

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.

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/>

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

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[Patapsco Middle School Website](#)