

## KNIGHTLY NEWS - 4/29/2025

### UPCOMING EVENTS

4/30	Student Member of the Board Election during Knight Time
5/2 & 5/3	<i>The Little Mermaid Jr.</i> presented by the Patapsco Players
5/3	National History Day-Statewide Competition MESA Day-Statewide Competition
5/5-5/9	Staff Appreciation Week MCAP-Social Studies (8th Grade Only)
5/7	3-Hour Early Dismissal
5/16	3-Hour Early Dismissal Music Department-Hershey Park Field Trip
5/20 & 5/21	MCAP-Math (all grades)
5/22	Enrichment Fair 5:30-7:30pm
5/26	Memorial Day - Schools and Offices Closed
5/27	Spring Orchestra Concert - 7pm @Mt. Hebron HS
5/29	Rising 6th Grade School Visit Spring Band Concert - 7pm @Mt. Hebron HS
TBD	Spring Chorus Concert - 7pm @Mt. Hebron HS

### Report Cards

Quarter three report cards are now available. Please click [here](#) to access HCPSS Connect.

### NEW - Late Arrival Kiosk

Last week, a change in the process for late arrivals was implemented. When a student is late to school, the student will use the new late arrival kiosk to capture their arrival. At the kiosk, students will enter their username and password (same one used to log in

into their Chromebook) to log their arrival. A late pass will be automatically generated and the timestamp will be captured directly into Synergy. The late arrival kiosk will be in the lobby daily until 9:00am. Students arriving after 9:00am will be able to access the kiosk in the office.

As a result of this change,

- Parents no longer need to come into the school office to sign their child in.
- Parents can view time of arrival via [HCPSS Connect](#) by navigating to the Attendance tab>clicking on the day of concern in the calendar display>reviewing the timestamp under Attendance Detail.
- Late Arrivals/Tardies are recorded as *unlawful/unexcused* until the school receives notification from the parent.
  - Please send all such notifications to [PMSAbsence@hcpss.org](mailto:PMSAbsence@hcpss.org) and include your student's full name, grade and date of absence/tardiness.
  - Students can still hand a parent's or doctor's note to the attendance secretary upon arrival.

Thank you for your patience as we learn our new system and as our students get used to the changes.

Please note, per [Policy 9010-IP](#): *The school must receive notification from the parent or physician explaining the absence/tardiness of a student within five (5) school days of the student's return or the absence/tardiness will be unlawful/unexcused.*

## **Student Art Exhibit**

The 52nd Annual HCPSS Student Art Exhibit at The Columbia Mall is on display! The middle school art displays are on the second floor around the center of the mall overlooking the court. There are 40+ artworks from Patapsco in drawing pencil, colored pencil, chalk pastel, oil pastel, ceramics, mixed media, printmaking and more! The exhibit runs through 4/30.

**The Patapsco Players Presents...**



**Join us for one or all three performances!**

May 2nd @ 7 pm

May 3rd @ 1 pm

May 3rd @ 7 pm

**Tickets can be purchased two ways:**

**In Person**

***During PMS Lunch Shifts***

**Price: \$7 each (one price!)**

**Payment Method: Cash or Check (made out to Patapsco Drama Club)**

**Online**

**Prices: \$10 adult, \$7 student, \$5 senior (55+)**

**Payment Method: credit/debit card**

**(processing fees are added to ticket price)**

## Teacher Appreciation

Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up from **May 5–9**, and we're planning a week full of themed treats, surprises, and heartfelt gratitude for our amazing teachers and staff. Each day brings a new celebration — and we'd love your help to make the week extra special!

Here's what's planned:

- **Monday (5/5) – Taco 'Bout a Great Staff** 🌮  
We're kicking off with a festive Cinco de Mayo lunch featuring tacos, nachos, and all the fixings!
- **Tuesday (5/6) – May the 4th (on the 6th) Be With You** 🌌  
It's a Star Wars snack showdown! We'll set up a **Light Side vs. Dark Side snack table** — sweet and salty treats inspired by both sides of the Force.
- **Wednesday (5/7) – Thanks a Latte** ☕  
We're brewing up appreciation with coffee, pastries, and breakfast treats for our hardworking staff.
- **Thursday (5/8) – Summer Survival Kit Day** ☂️  
Every staff member will receive a fun summer-themed kit to help them relax, recharge, and slide into break mode.
- **Friday (5/9) – You Make Us Bloom** 🌸

We'll end the week with flowers, sweet notes, and floral-themed treats to show how much they help our school grow.

### 🎁 How You Can Help:

Check out our

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4DA4AD23A6FB6-56341587-teachers> to sign up to donate snacks, drinks, gifts, or supplies for any day that works for you. Whether it's one item or five, we're so grateful for your support!

Let's work together to shower our teachers with the appreciation they deserve! ☀️

Warmly,

**Patapsco Middle School PTA (Hospitality and Teachers' Appreciation Committee)**

## PTA News

April showers ☔ bring May flowers 🌺 - and May elections for the PTA ✅!

Please consider running for a board position with the Patapsco PTA. The following positions are up for nominations:

President  
Vice Presidents (2)  
Treasurer  
Secretary

No experience is needed - the only requirement is to be a member of the PTA. It's a fun experience and not terribly time intensive, we promise!

On a more sour note, the president and treasurer positions are essential for the PTA. Without those positions filled, the PTA is forced to dissolve. Without a PTA, we have limited ability to show appreciation for our teachers and staff, provide grant funding for curricular activities, and provide our kids a bit of fun with Fun Night.

If you have any questions about a position, we'd be happy to connect you with the current board member who can tell you about their work and responsibilities.

To nominate, please send the name and email address to [patapscopasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:patapscopasecretary@gmail.com).

## **SJLES May Day is Almost Here!**

Join us for our beloved **SJLES May Day celebration** on **Saturday, May 10th from 1 PM to 5 PM**

*(Rain date: Saturday, May 17th)*

We're calling on all volunteers—especially **students**—to help make the **Games** a blast for our Jaguars! 🐾 Your energy and time will help create unforgettable memories for our school community.

👉 **Middle school students volunteer sign up is below!**

[Middle School Student Volunteer May Day GAMES Sign Up](#)

👉 **Adult or high schooler volunteer sign up is below!**

[May Day GENERAL Volunteer Sign Up](#)

🎓 **Students: Want service hours?**

Bring your **Student Service Verification Form** to the event and drop it off at the **Volunteer Tent** during your shift. We'll sign it before you leave.

Don't worry if you forget—we'll have extra copies at the event!

 [Download the Student Verification Form](#)

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at [sjles.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:sjles.volunteer@gmail.com)

Let's make May Day amazing together! 🌸

Warmly,  
Jane Fisher  
SJLES Volunteer Coordinator

## NEWS WORTH REPEATING

### 2025 Spring Testing

Dear Families,  
Our students have been working hard all year and this will be their opportunity to show what they know in regards to the standards they have been taught. Please see the testing dates below for grades 6-8.

Math	4 sessions	40 minutes each
Social Studies (SS) <b>8th grade ONLY</b>	4 sessions	40 minutes each

Testing week	Test being taken
5/5-5/9	8th Grade MCAP SS <b>*Starting @ 8:30 am</b>
5/20 and 5/21	MCAP Math <b>*Starting at 8:45 am</b>

Just a few reminders:

- Please try to have students here and on time on testing days so they do not need to be pulled out of class instruction for make-up sessions.
- Please avoid coming to sign students out early during testing sessions. Once a student leaves, they are not able to restart that test session.
- Personal electronic devices (cell phones, ipads, smart watches, etc.) are not permitted in the testing areas.

- Routine is important when calming any nerves when it comes to testing. Keeping to normal routines both at home and at school will help students to do their best.
- Students need plenty of sleep in order to maintain the stamina needed to do their best.

## Free Chromebook Program

As part of a grant from the State of Maryland's Connected Devices Program, our school is partnering with the Bright Minds Foundation and the Howard County Government to continue to provide qualifying families with one free Chromebook and charger per household. This free new HP Chromebook can be used to connect with schools, access community services, for personal work purposes or for any other reason that benefits your family.

In order to qualify for a free Chromebook and charger, you must meet the following criteria:

- Your family has not already received a free device from one of these organizations: Community Action Council of Howard County, Howard County Office of Children and Families, or Making Change;
- You are the parent or legal guardian of a student currently enrolled in HCPSS;
- You meet one of the income qualifications outlined on the application form; and,
- The application form is fully completed.

If you qualify for a Chromebook and have completed the Google Form application, you will be notified by school staff when the device is available for pick up. At that time, an adult family member will need to come to the school to receive the device. When you pick up the device, you will receive information about setting up the device and how to access technical support. These are not HCPSS devices, and will not come loaded with any HCPSS educational applications. HCPSS is not responsible or liable for the operation, loss, or repair of your Chromebook or charger. Families will be responsible for their own internet service. Families will have 5 days to exchange any non-functioning devices.

[Please read the instructions and complete the Free Chromebooks for Eligible HCPSS Parents or Guardians Google Form at this link.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Motsco, Assistant Principal, at [shannon\\_motsco@hcpss.org](mailto:shannon_motsco@hcpss.org).

We look forward to partnering with the Bright Minds Foundations, Howard County Government, and you for this incredible opportunity!

Sincerely,

Shannon Motsco, Assistant Principal

## **Drawing Camp**

Mt. Hebron's Viking Backers are sponsoring a Drawing Camp for rising 6th-9th graders June 23-27 from 9-3pm, taught by MHHS art teacher Jen Johannes. Practice observational, figure, and gesture drawing. Play drawing games and complete detailed works of art in a variety of media. Have fun and make new friends! See this [flier](#) for more information.

## **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](http://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](mailto:kalina_salsman@hcpss.org)

## **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](mailto:sherri_ross@hcpss.org))

## **Student Service-Learning 7th 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 7th grade students through their Science course. SSL hours are awarded by participation in meeting course objectives, by



completing the course work of Eco-Systems Dynamics 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)

## 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](mailto:grace_ruly@hcpss.org)).

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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>

## 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.

## 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](http://community-programs.hcpss.org) for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto: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](#)