

# KNIGHTLY NEWS - 4/4/2025

## UPCOMING EVENTS

4/4	End of 3rd Quarter
4/7-4/11	Spring Spirit Week
4/8	Last Day to Donate to Casey Cares Pajama Drive
4/14-4/21	Spring Break
4/25	Q3 Report Cards Issued
4/30	Student Member of the Board Election during Knight Time

## 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.

ELA	4 sessions	70 minutes each
Math	4 sessions	40 minutes each
Social Studies (SS) <b>8th grade ONLY</b>	4 sessions	40 minutes each

Testing week	Test being taken
4/23 and 4/25	MCAP ELA <i>*Starting @ 8:45 am</i>
5/5-5/9	8th Grade MISA SS <i>*Starting @ 8:30 am</i>
5/20 and 5/21	MCAP Math <i>*Starting at 8:45 am</i>

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.

## Spring Spirit Week April 7-11

We look forward to having some Patapsco fun as we get ready for Spring Break. Here is the calendar for our Spring Spirit Week! Students must adhere to Patapsco Middle School and HCPSS rules and policies during Spirit Week.

# Spring Spirit Week

April 7-April 11



Mon., April 7

## Team Day

Wear t-shirt, jerseys, or uniforms to represent your favorite team or group



Tues., April 8

## Wacky Tacky Day

Mix and match your clothes, shoes and accessories



Weds., April 9

## Dress Alike Day

Find one or a group to dress alike



Thurs., April 10

## Anywhere, but Maryland

Wear clothing that represents a place you want to visit or a place you've visited



Fri., April 11

## PJs and Stuffies

Get cozy and comfy to start Spring Break

## 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

## **Attn: 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents**

Be on the lookout for a bright orange piece of paper coming home in the U.S. Mail. If you receive one, this indicates that your student needs two immunizations before they start 7th grade. Please call and make an appointment with your pediatrician soon, as appointments for these book up fast. Thank you from the Patapsco MS Health Room.

## **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.

## **Girl Up Leadership Summit**

On Sunday, April 6, the Centennial Girl Up campaign will be hosting a Regional Girl Up Leadership Summit for students in the greater Howard County area at the Miller Branch Library (in the Ellicott meeting room) from 1:15 PM to 4:15 PM. This event aims to bring together passionate youth advocates to learn from influential speakers, share relevant opportunities, and network with student leaders and organizations in their community. There will also be several workshops and fun activities! Come meet our representatives Delegate Natalie Ziegler and Councilwoman Walsh, learn about the medical field, and how to get into tech! FREE pizza and goodies will be provided. RSVP [here!](#)

# NEWS WORTH REPEATING

## 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.

## 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.

## 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)

## **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)

## **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](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.

## **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](#).

## 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>

## 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](mailto: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](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](#)