

KNIGHTLY NEWS - 6/2/2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

6/2	PTA Meeting - 6pm (click here for link to virtual meeting)
6/4	General Music Showcase 7pm @Patapsco MS
6/5	8th Graders Visit to Mt. Hebron HS
6/6	3-hour Early Dismissal
6/13	8th Grade Dance 7-9pm @Patapsco MS
6/16	3-hour Early Dismissal 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony- 2pm @Mt. Hebron HS (Ticketed event)
6/17	3-hour Early Dismissal
6/18	3-hour Early Dismissal LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

From the Health Room

Attention Parents:

All medications that remain in the Health Room should be picked up by noon on the last day of school. At that time, any medications leftover will be discarded.

Attention Parents of 6th grade students:

The MCV4 and Tdap vaccinations must be received by the first day of school 8/25/25. Any student without these 2 immunizations will be excluded from coming to school on 8/25/25. If you have any questions, please contact the Health Room at 410-313-2574.

From the PTA

Please join us for the final PTA meeting (virtual) of the school year!

Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89707204293?pwd=KMRHWW49er0vqlmbYpRIWNzbNAHsC7.1>

 **Thank You for a Wonderful Year!** 

The Patapsco PTA extends a heartfelt **thank you** to all our amazing **members, volunteers, supporters, and board members** for making this school year a success! 

We're already looking forward to an exciting **2025–2026 school year** — and we'd love for YOU to be part of it! 

 **We're currently seeking volunteers** to help fill the following roles:

 **Available Positions:**

- Membership
- Teacher Appreciation / Hospitality
- 8th Grade Activities
- Spirit Wear / Miscellaneous Fundraising
- PTA of Howard County Liaison
- Fun Knights / Social Events
- Website

Whether you have a little time or a lot, there's a place for everyone to get involved. Email patapscopta@gmail.com with your interest!

Mt. Hebron 8th Grade Sports Orientation

June 10th at 6:30 PM in the Mt. Hebron Auditorium for all incoming 9th grade students and their parents/guardians.

Summer Reading 2025 Information

As part of the A+ Partnership with HCLS, schools are invited to share information and resources about summer reading with their students and families. [Promotional flyers](#) and an information session will be offered by HCLS staff. Please [see additional information](#). Direct questions to Melissa Daggett.

Viking Backers Summer Camps

The Mount Hebron High School Viking Backers are offering a number of Summer Camps for Elementary and Middle School students. There are programs for Drawing, Photography, Film, Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Football, Volleyball, Basketball (boys and girls), Lacrosse (boys and girls), Girls Soccer, and Girls Field Hockey. For more

information, visit the [website](#).

Mt. Hebron Marching Unit Color Guard Try-Outs

No prior experience required. Monday, June 2 and Monday, June 9 from 5-9 pm. Students will receive hands-on instruction on basic flag and dance techniques. Please wear comfortable/athletic clothing (including footwear) and bring water. We will provide everything else that you need. Questions? Email Dr. Fischer (Band Director) at joe_fischer@hcpss.org. For more information, click [here](#).

STEM Exploration Summer Camp at MHHS

WEngineer is a nonprofit organization run by individuals who are passionate about teaching young students about the fascinating world of engineering. The WEngineer team is delighted to announce a new STEM Exploration Summer Camp at Mount Hebron High School for rising 6th to 8th graders! Not only is this camp great for students seeking to learn skills in the field of engineering, but it is also excellent for learning important soft skills, such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, and more.

This year, we have a new set of exciting activities lined up, such as Rube Goldberg Machines, Innovative Design Challenges, and more, all of which are conducted by our experienced team members at WEngineer!

Dates: August 22nd through August 24th (Excluding Thursday, August 21st)

Location: Mount Hebron High School (9440 Old Frederick Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042)

Ages: Rising 6th to 8th Graders

Registration and Fees: [WEngineer-Sign-Up](#)

If you have any questions, please contact info@wengineer.org

FAMILY Read the Rainbow

Registration for FAMILY Read the Rainbow is now open. This VIRTUAL meeting will kick off HCPSS Pride Week and be held on Monday, June 2nd at 6:00PM. We'll be joined by Nancy Churnin, who will be reading aloud her book, *Rainbow Allies: The True Story of Kids Who Stood Against Hate*. [CARY](#) will be providing free copies of the book to the first 50 families with students in grades 5 or younger who register for the program. [REGISTRATION](#) is required.

LGBTQIA Event - Silhouette Stages

Thursday, June 26, 2025

7:00-8:30 PM

Slayton House

10400 Cross Fox Ln

Columbia, MD 21044

This program is an opportunity for families to meet, connect, and learn. In this seventh LGBTQIA, following the success of our previous event with our partners at Silhouette Stages, we're doing it again to bring you a very special evening! The theatre production company will be performing several highlights from their upcoming production, Seussical! So, feel free to bring your school age children along. After the performance highlights and Q & A, parents and students will be able to enjoy some dessert in the Slayton House lobby, meet the cast, and have an opportunity to connect with community.

Please [register](#) as space is limited.

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

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 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.*

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. 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

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

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)

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.

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 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](#)