

Dear Patapsco Middle School families,

Welcome to the first edition of the Knightly News for the 2025-2026 school year! We hope you are enjoying a fun-filled and restful summer. As we prepare for the new school year, we are excited to welcome both returning and new families to our school community. The start of a new school year is always an exciting time, and we can't wait to see our classrooms and hallways filled with energy and smiling faces.

Please stay tuned for important updates and information in the coming weeks. We value your partnership and look forward to working together to make this school year a positive and memorable experience for every student.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer, and we'll see you soon!

Kelly Hearn, Principal  
Shannon Motsco, Assistant Principal

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### **Important Dates**

August 20 – Student Schedules Available in Synergy

August 21 – New Students and Families Orientation, 1:00pm-2:30pm

*All 6th grade and new 7th & 8th grade students and families are invited.*

August 25 – First Day of School for Students, 8:30am-3:15pm

September 1 – Schools and Offices Closed

September 4 – Back to School Knight, 6:00pm

September 17 – 3 Hour Early Dismissal (12:15pm dismissal time)

September 23 – Schools and Offices Closed

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### **New Students and Families Orientation**

*August 21 1:00-2:30pm at Patapsco Middle School*

At orientation, all 6th grade students will report directly to the gymnasium and new 7th and 8th grade who are first time students at Patapsco Middle School will report to the media center. Students will have an opportunity to follow their schedule and meet their teachers, practice with their lockers, and learn all about what Patapsco has to offer.

For parents and guardians, this will be a time for you to hear from the Patapsco administrators and staff, learn about supports for students and ask questions during a brief Q&A.

We look forward to meeting our new Knights at the New Students and Families Orientation!

### **Patapsco PTA News - We need YOU!**

As the school year dawns, the PTA is gearing up for a great year! However we are in need of two additional leaders to make this year possible.

1) Treasurer - we are in need of someone to fulfill the remaining one year of the current treasurer's term. On a rather bleak note - the treasurer role is essential to the PTA. If we do not have a treasurer, we cannot operate as an organization (which means no Fun Nights, no teacher appreciation events, no supplemental funding for teacher and staff projects that benefit the kids).

2) Hospitality Coordinator - we are in need of someone to coordinate the schedule for teacher and staff appreciation events (e.g., catered lunches, dessert days, special treats). We have volunteers to help set up, serve, etc. or meet the caterers, we just need someone to help coordinate the schedule and develop the treat/meal ideas.

Please consider serving in either of these important positions. You will have personal training and ample resources. In the treasurer role, you will have a supportive, helpful board and excellent resources, mentoring, and guidance from our county council of PTAs.

If interested or have any questions, email [patapscpta@gmail.com](mailto:patapscpta@gmail.com)

## **Student Supply List**

Please use the link below to access the student supply lists for each grade level. Whenever possible, families are encouraged to reuse or recycle school supplies from the previous year to save on costs and reduce waste.

[Student Supply List](#)

## **Update Family File**

Please assist us by completing your Family File ASAP at [hcpss.org/connect](http://hcpss.org/connect). Parents/guardians must verify and/or update emergency information for each child every school year. This is completed online in Family File, which has several new updates. Full [details on updating your Family File](#) are available online.

One exciting new feature is that families now can submit a change of address via Family File, rather than completing a separate form and sending to their school. Full [directions and information for families](#) on this new process can be found online.

## **2025-2026 HCPSS School Calendar**

For your planning needs, please see the link below to access the HCPSS School Calendar which details dates/holidays for this coming school year, including Winter break, Spring break, and professional learning days.

[2025-2026 HCPSS School Calendar](#)

## **Student Schedules**

Schedules for middle school students will be available in HCPSS Connect/Synergy on August 20.

## **Transportation Information**

The online HCPSS bus locator application is scheduled to be available Wednesday, Aug. 20. At that time, eligible families can access bus stop locations, and pickup/dropoff times.

## **Medication Information**

If your child needs medication at school this year, please visit the link below for all required forms, including EpiPen, diabetes, and general medication orders. Learn more information [here](#).

## **2025-2026 School Meals Information**

Click [here](#) to learn more about HCPSS meal information.

Many HCPSS families are eligible to participate in the [Free and Reduced Price Meals \(FARMs\) program](#), which provides children with a wide range of benefits including free or discounted college tuition, testing and application fees, academic and athletic program fees and many others in addition to free or discounted meals.

Families are urged to check their eligibility and complete a [FARMs application](#) as soon as possible. Families must submit a new application every school year.

[Details on the Free and Reduced Meals program](#), including a link to apply, are available online.

## **Rescheduled: Family Academy Kick-off**

*Saturday, Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-noon, Oakland Mills High School, 9410 Kilimanjaro Road, Columbia*  
The [district wide event](#) is open to all HCPSS families and will feature an informative session with HCPSS Superintendent Bill Barnes; resource tables hosted by HCPSS offices and local organizations; and information on programs, resources and services available throughout the school year. Childcare and language access will be provided.