
Important Dates

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

September 23 – Schools and Offices Closed

September 30 - Last day to withdraw from a full year high school credited course without penalty

Note from the Nurse

As we enter flu season, this is a reminder that good hand washing and covering sneezes and coughs with tissues and sleeves are essential steps to preventing the spread of "germs." Also, remember that despite concerns about school attendance, your children's health (and the health of all others at school) is MOST important. For this reason, we ask you to please:

- Inform the school to let us know if your child is absent with a contagious illness such as strep throat, the flu, COVID, etc. Please provide any documentation from your physician about the diagnosis and release to return to school. (Ear and sinus infections, while often a reason for keeping a child home, are usually NOT contagious.)
 - Keep your child home if he/she has a fever OF 100 OR HIGHER. A fever indicates that your child has an infection that could be passed to other students. If you give your child Motrin or Tylenol, the fever will, of course, disappear, but he/she will still be contagious to others. Children must be fever-free for 24 hours (WITHOUT MEDICATION) before returning to school!
 - Encourage your children to wash their hands properly, with soap and water, frequently throughout the day, especially after using the restroom, being in public places, and before eating. Handwashing is one of the easiest ways to keep germs at bay!
 - If the doctor prescribes medication for your child, please make sure he/she takes it as directed-which means the right amount at the right time and without missing doses.
- Thank you very much for helping keep all our students healthy!

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 fall season runs from Tuesday, September 30th (first practice) to Tuesday, December 9th (end-of-year celebration). Each season ends with a noncompetitive 5K (Saturday, December 6th) 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 (E8).

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).

From the PTA

Calling all Knights!

Consider joining or donating to the PTA Today! With your support, we were able to present our teachers and staff with a well-deserved lunch for their first week back. To continue these and other great activities, we need your support! Please join the PTA today - it's quick and easy by clicking this link

<https://patapscomiddle.givebacks.com/shop>.

We depend on our members to support our student and teacher services - there is no time commitment or requirements to be a member. Membership is as low as \$35 for a two-adult household - plus we offer tiered memberships that include Sir Knight Store credits and even Fun kNight entry passes!

Not up for membership? No problem - we gladly accept donations in any amount you see fit. No strings attached! <https://patapscomiddle.givebacks.com/shop>.

FUN kNight!

Our first Fun Night is in the planning stages - stay tuned for more details!

The flyer features a background of faint, overlapping text related to food and community. The main title "DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE" is prominently displayed in a stylized font. Below it is a realistic image of a burrito wrapped in foil. The text "CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR PATAPSCO MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA" is centered, followed by the donation percentage "25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE". The event details "WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH | 4-8PM" and the location "9120 BALTIMORE NATIONAL PIKE LOT A-1, ELLICOTT CITY, MD, 21042" are listed. At the bottom, there is a section for ordering online with code "PXMRV6Y" or showing the flyer in the restaurant, and the Chipotle logo.


**DO GOOD
WITH CHIPOTLE**

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
**PATAPSCO MIDDLE
SCHOOL PTA**

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH | 4-8PM
9120 BALTIMORE NATIONAL PIKE LOT A-1, ELLICOTT
CITY, MD, 21042

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **PXMRV6Y**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

 **CHIPOTLE**

For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

Guac On! PTA Restaurant Night at Chipotle on October 15!

Visit Chipotle on Route 40 between 4pm and 8pm and mention Patapsco PTA. If ordering online, use code PXMRV6Y.

Knights Basketball

The Patapsco Knights will hold tryouts for the HCYP middle school basketball league in late September. The first tryout will be a joint JV and Varsity tryout on September 18th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders). JV will host its 2nd tryout on September 22nd at 6:00 pm (limited to 6th and 7th graders) and Varsity will host its 2nd tryout on September 23rd at 6:00 pm (limited to 8th graders). All tryouts will be held at the Patapsco Middle School gym. Please bring a ball and water bottle!

To pre-register for the tryout, please e-mail both Varsity Head Coach Pete Mirabito at pete.mirabito@gmail.com and JV Head Coach Brendan Dunne at

Brendan.dunne@outlook.com. Please include your child's name/grade, your name (parent/guardian), and your contact information (e-mail and phone number). Pre-registration is not required to tryout but is encouraged to help us better prepare. Last year, the boys JV team made it to the county championship and we look to build on that success and grow the program this upcoming season. Go KNIGHTS!!!! For more information on the league, please visit HCYP Middle School Basketball . Thank you.

Pete Mirabito – Varsity Head Coach

Stanley Rajakumar – Varsity Assistant Coach

Brendan Dunne – JV Head Coach

Tim Kelley – JV Assistant Coach

Patapsco MS Girls Basketball Tryouts

Tryout Dates: Thursday September 11 & Wednesday September 17, 6-8pm

@Patapsco MS

Coach: Kevin Sharpe ksharpe45@gmail.com 443-623-6643

Local travel team of 6-8th grade girls who are in the Patapsco MS School District

Games: Saturdays starting in December-Late February against other Howard County middle schools.

PREVIOUSLY SHARED

PTA and Music Boosters

At the Back to School Knight, you will have the opportunity to join our PTA and Music Boosters. Each parent-led organization does so much for our school. We appreciate your membership and donations as they directly support the students and staff at Patapsco Middle School. Please consider joining the [PTA](#) and/or [Music Boosters](#) as we could not do a lot of the exciting initiatives for our kids without these organizations!

Update Your Family File

Thank you to families of 574 students who have already completed your Family File. If you have not already done so, please assist us by completing your Family File ASAP at 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.

MHCAC Back-to-School Newsletter

The Mental Health Advisory Council (MHCAC) is a group of community members who seek to remove barriers and build awareness for behavioral health support in Howard County for our children and families. HCPSS is an active member of MHCAC. Please click the link below to access their fall newsletter.

[MHCAC Fall Newsletter 2025](#)

Career Cafe

Patapsco is excited to host a monthly Career Cafe this year during grade level lunch shifts for our 7th-8th graders to expose students to a variety of careers.

Once a month, an adult from our community is invited to speak with interested students about the responsibilities, rewards/challenges, required skills, and pathway(s) to their job.

[Sign-up here](#) to be part of our directory of parents, guardians, family friends, and/or community members that would be willing to volunteer time once this school year to speak with a group of students while they eat lunch and engage. The speaker would need to be available from 12:00pm - 1:30pm to meet with students.

Feel free to reach out to Patapsco's Career Readiness Advisor with any questions:

Brett_Moore@hcpss.org

Thank you for your consideration!

Student Schedules

Students and parents/guardians can [log in to HCPSS Connect Synergy](#) to view schedules including courses, teachers, and room numbers. After logging in, select Class Schedule from the left menu.

****Please note that we are actively monitoring the school schedule. Student schedule changes could occur for class balancing due to shifting enrollment.**

Meals

Lunch and breakfast are available for all students to purchase. Information about menus, prices, online payment and Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) can be found on the [HCPSS Food & Nutrition](#) website. Please note that LINQ Connect is now used for meal payments. You can find more information [here](#).

Cell Phones

Cell phones should not be seen or heard during the school day. Reminders about the HCPSS Policy 8080-Student Personal Device Use in Schools were shared with students on the first day of school.

Safety Protocols for Visitors

Please be aware of the following procedures for any visitor to a school/office:

- The front door is the only entrance point for all visitors.
- Please ring the bell and look into the camera.
- Be prepared to state your name and purpose for visiting.
- All visitors must walk directly into the front office with a **valid photo I.D.** and sign in using our LobbyGuard system.
- A visitor's sticker will be given to visitors following the above procedures and must be worn and prominently visible.
- Any visitor in the school without a visitor sticker will be escorted directly to the front office by a staff member.

The [Secondary Student & Parent Handbook](#) includes the HCPSS [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Forgotten Items

We are happy to accept lunches, instruments, homework, school projects, keys, or other items as long as they are brought to school before 10:30. All items can be put on the table in the foyer and labeled with student's name and grade. Lunches that are brought in late are taken to the cafeteria and a general announcement is made.

We cannot accept items for delivery to students after this time period, with the exception of emergency situations, as we are committed to minimizing classroom interruptions throughout the school day. We know homework, projects and instruments are important to our students, so we ask for your help in assisting students prepare for the day the night before, or the morning of, to ensure they have everything they need.

Student Absences

If your student has to be absent from school, please submit a note to pmsabsence@hcpss.org or send a note in with your child to submit to the Attendance Secretary in the front office.

If your child has been lawfully absent from school and a note has been submitted, they will have the opportunity to make up missed work.

When emailing a note, you will receive an automated message to verify that your email was received.

If you have any questions about your child's attendance, please email pmsabsence@hcpss.org.

If you would like to submit a [Discretionary Absence Form FILLABLE.pdf](#) form, please fill it out and email it to pmsabsence@hcpss.org.

Please review the [HCPSS Attendance Policy](#) for further information.

Late Arrivals

Students will report to the Attendance Kiosk to sign in and receive a pass when arriving late to school. Parents may send students in with a note. Students who arrive late due to lawful reasons (i.e. doctor's appointment, etc.) will be considered Tardy Excused.

Early Dismissals

Parents/ Guardians will sign students out from the front office for early dismissals.

Parents/Guardians are to show their **photo ID** upon arrival to confirm their eligibility to pick up the student in the family file.

If you know that your student will have an early dismissal ahead of time, you may send in a note with your child or call the front office to let them know when you will be picking them up and who will be picking them up.

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](#)

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.