
Important Dates

December 12 - Book Fair Family Fun Knight

December 16 - [Scheduling Night](#) at Mt. Hebron HS for Rising 9th Grade Students 6pm

December 24-January 2 - Schools Closed for Winter Break

January 5 - School Reopens

January 13 - School Picture Retakes

January 13 - Patapsco Rising 6th Grade [Parent Night](#)

Book Fair Updates

One More Day!

The Book Fair will remain open for purchases through Monday, December 15.

It's NOT too late to order!

You have until December 21st to shop our online book fair! Discover an expanded selection of exclusive books, new releases, value packs, and more.

You can access the fair and support our school through this link:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/patapscomiddleschool>.

For every order placed, Patapsco Middle School earns 25% in free books for our school! All online purchases will be shipped directly to you, making it easier than ever to enjoy new books.

Family Fun and Book Knight Tonight

Please join us from 5pm to 8pm for our Family Fun and Book Knight! Come and enjoy the festivities! There will be the following:

- Scholastic Book Fair!
- Quiet Reading Room
- Ticket Raffle
- Glitter Tattoos
- Chess

- Card Crafting
- Board Games
- Bead Jewelry
- Movie in Cafeteria(Home Alone)
- Food Trucks: Antojitos Express and Amazonian Berry Acai, possibly more!

Family Fun & Book Knight

Dec. 12, 5pm - 8pm



Activities

Chess Tournament	Glitter Tattoos
Jewelry Making	Card Crafting
Board Games	Quiet Reading

Yearbook Orders

Have you ordered your Patapsco 2025-2026 yearbook?! It's not too late! To guarantee your yearbook, order soon at jostensyearbooks.com. Yearbooks will be distributed during the last week of school. If you would like to check if you have already ordered, please look in your email for a receipt from Jostens, or email kalina_salsman@hcpss.org.

Attention 8th Grade Families

The deadline to submit "Before We Were Knights" photos of our 8th graders for the yearbook has been extended to Tuesday 12/23. It can be a baby photo, or any age photo prior to this year. Submissions can be emailed to kalina_salsman@hcpss.org. Photos can also be dropped off to be scanned and returned. Please clearly label with the student's name.

Academia De Padres 2026

The Hispanic Achievement Program is now accepting applications for the 2026 Academia de Padres (Parent Academy) that will be held fully in Spanish starting January 21 through June 10, 2026. This educational opportunity will be offered virtually one evening per month, with two sessions scheduled for May. For more information click [here](#). For questions, contact Gaston Gamez, Hispanic Achievement Program Supervisor, Gaston_Gamez@hcpss.org or 410.313.6667.

Navigating Howard County Housing Programs

Thursday, 12/11/2025 at 1pm: Receive helpful, easy-to-understand information on renting and accessing affordable housing in Howard County. The session covers local housing choices, financial assistance opportunities, and vital support resources to guide you through today's housing market. Click [here](#) for more information and registration link.

FAMILY Read the Rainbow

Registration is now open for our next FAMILY Read the Rainbow scheduled for Tuesday, January 27th @ 6:00PM. This is a FREE and VIRTUAL event and open to all. Participants will engage in a read aloud of the book, *Like THAT Eleanor: The Amazing Power of Being an Ally* by Lee Wind followed by a discussion with the author. The first 50 families with children in grades 5 and under who register for the program will receive a free copy of the book, courtesy of our partner, CARY.

[Flyer](#)

Register [HERE](#)

PREVIOUSLY SHARED

13 Days Before Winter Break Spirit Days

Let's all get in the spirit as we make our way to Winter Break!

December 5 - 6,7 Day! (67th day of school)

December 8 - Crazy Sock Day

December 9 - Flannel or Fleece Day

December 10 - Throwback Day (Pick a Decade)

December 11 - Neon Day

December 12 - Flip Day (Teachers dress like students, students dress like teachers)

December 15 - Hat Day

December 16 - Jersey Day

December 17 - Ice Out Day: Blue and Silver

December 18 - Crazy Sweater Day

December 19 - Random Act of Kindness Day

December 22 - Student Choice

December 23 - Pajama Day

Message from the Health Room

This is a friendly reminder from the Health Room regarding the Howard County Public School System's illness policy. As we enter flu season, it is especially important to help keep our school community healthy and safe.

Please be mindful of the following guidelines when deciding whether your child should attend school:

- **Children must be fever-free for 24 hours** (without the use of fever-reducing medication) before returning to school.
- **Vomiting or diarrhea:** Students should remain home until symptom-free for **24 hours**.
- **Contagious illnesses** such as strep throat, conjunctivitis (pink eye), or influenza often require staying home for at least 24 hours after starting treatment or as directed by your healthcare provider.
- If your child is experiencing **persistent cough, significant fatigue, chills, body aches or symptoms that interfere with learning**, please consider keeping them home to rest.

With flu and other seasonal illnesses circulating, we appreciate your help in preventing the spread of germs within our classrooms. Keeping children home when they are sick protects not only your child but also classmates, staff, and our wider school community. Thank you for your attention to these guidelines and for helping us maintain a healthy school environment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Health Room.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Ailstock, BSN, RN

HCPSS cluster nurse

Patapsco Middle School

Mt. Hebron High School Parent Night

Rising 9th-12th grade families are invited to attend Mount Hebron High School's [Scheduling Parent Night](#) on Tuesday, December 16 (snow date 12/18). This event will

be held in the MHHS auditorium starting at 6:00. Families will hear a presentation from 6:00-6:30. They will then be invited to visit with staff members from a variety of content areas from 6:30-8:00pm in breakout sessions. Contact Andy "AJ" Johnson, School Counselor, Andrew_Johnson@hcpss.org, with any questions.

Patapsco Rising 6th Grade Parent Night

Click [here](#) to view a flyer for the Rising 6th Grade Parent Night (Current 5th Grade Students)

Date: 1/13/26

Time: 6pm

Location: Patapsco Middle School 8885 Old Frederick Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21043

Come and learn about:

- 6th grade courses
- Creating balance for your student
- Middle school schedule
- GT, extracurriculars, and seminar offerings

Register for the BSAP Saturday Math Academy Spring 2026 Program

[Registration](#) for the HCPSS Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP) Saturday Math Academy will open on Saturday, January 10, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. until capacity is reached. The program offers an in-person enrichment program for HCPSS students in all levels of math for grades 3 through 12.

Food Pantry Extended Hours

The [Howard County Multi Service Center](#) Food Pantry is open to serve the community with extended service hours in November and December, Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm at 9900 Washington Blvd, Suite I, Laurel, MD 20723 Food, diapers, and toiletries are available. To protect both clients and staff, food items are pre-packaged in "grab and go" bags.

PTA and Music Boosters

Please consider joining 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!

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.

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.