
Important Dates

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](#)

January 19 - Schools and Offices Closed

January 21 - Hearing and Vision Screening (Grade 8 only)

January 22 - Schools Close 3 Hours Early

January 23 - Middle and High Schools Only Close 3 Hours Early

January 26 - Schools Closed for Students

It's hard to believe that we are already at Winter Break. As we close out 2025, we want to thank our students for being amazing every day. Your curiosity, kindness, and hard work make our school a wonderful place to learn and grow. We are so proud of you and grateful for all that you bring to our community.

Thank you to our incredible staff. Your dedication, compassion, and hard work make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and families every day. We are truly grateful for all that you do and for the heart you bring to our school community.

A huge thank you to our amazing PTA for so thoughtfully celebrating our staff and students. Your kindness, generosity, and support mean so much and truly make a difference. We are grateful for all you do to uplift our school community.

We wish our entire school community a wonderful and restful winter break. We hope you enjoy time to recharge and celebrate with family and friends. As we head into the new year, be on the lookout for opportunities to hear more about what's happening at Patapsco Middle School—we're excited to share what's ahead. Happy holidays and best wishes for a great new year!

Kelly Hearn and Theresa Barber-Wehrman

PREVIOUSLY SHARED

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.

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.

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](#)

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

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.