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## Important Dates

December 8 - Chorus Concert 7pm at Mt. Hebron HS

December 10 - Band Concert 7pm at Mt. Hebron HS

December 11 - Orchestra & General Music Concert 7pm at Mt.  
Hebron HS

December 8-12 - Scholastic Book Fair

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 Reopen

January 13 - School Picture Retakes

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## 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

## Book Fair!

Get ready - the Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school December 8-12! Find bestselling series and characters that students love from more than 100 publishers. Plus every purchase benefits our school. We hope you can join us for the Best Week Ever!

**More information** about the Book Fair:

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

**Parent Volunteer Sign-Up Genius** for Book Fair :

Support our wonderful media team and sign up to help as a volunteer!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A44AAA823A3FEC34-60489444-book>

## Upcoming Winter Concerts – Mark Your Calendars!

The music department is excited to announce our upcoming winter concerts! All performances will take place **in the Mount Hebron High School Auditorium** and start at **7pm**. Families are encouraged to attend and support our talented student musicians and visit Yogi Castle after the performance to support the Patapsco Music Boosters.

### **Concert Schedule:**

Chorus- Monday December 8th

Band - Wednesday December 10th

Orchestra and General Music - Thursday December 11th

## 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

## 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.

## Free English Classes

The Howard County Library System's [Project Literacy](#) offers free in-person and virtual English classes to adults 18 and older not enrolled in public school. Winter Semester classes run from 1/12/26-3/20/26. [Register](#) by December 6. For more information, email [prolit@hclibrary.org](mailto:prolit@hclibrary.org).

## **PREVIOUSLY SHARED**

### **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](mailto: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.

## **ARL Career Academy Info Session - December 10 from 6:15-7:30**

Current 8-11 grade students and their parents/guardians are invited to check out ARL's Career Academies at our in-person Information Session.

Are you interested in an immersive, hands-on, and project-based learning experience?

Are you looking for real-world experience and credentials in a career field?

Schedule:

6:15-6:30 pm Walk around to explore academies and find first session

6:40-7:00 pm Session I

7:05-7:25 pm Session II

From Biotech to Health Professions, Heating, Ventillation, and Air Conditioning, Cybersecurity, Graphic Design, Animation, Automotive Technology, Agricultural Science, Construction, Finance, Aerospace and Civil Engineering and Architectural Design, our programs are designed to provide high school students with opportunities to earn college credit, scholarships, and industry-recognized credentials, participate in worksite and mentorship experiences, and become creative problem solvers by participating in hands-on project-based learning.

Come see what we offer! More information about ARL and the Career Academies offered can be found on the [ARL website](#).

## **HC DrugFree Updates**

**Teen Advisory Council:** Open to Howard County students in grades 8-12. Earn Community Service Hours and make meaningful contributions to the community. Next meeting: **Monday December 8, 2025** from **5:30-7:00pm on Zoom**. **Earn Community Service Hours.** [Register](#) to receive the meeting link. For more information, visit HC DrugFree's website: [Teen Advisory Council | HC DrugFree](#)

**Free Newsletter:** Stay up to date with HC DrugFree's free events offering Community Service Hours to HoCo students, resources, and a variety of substance use and behavioral health information! Sign up for HC DrugFree's free digital newsletter: [Newsletter Sign Up | HC DrugFree](#)

## **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.