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## Important Dates

February 25 - Conversation with the Principal @6pm

February 27 - 7th Grade Field Trip

March 3 - 3-hour Early Dismissal

March 13 - 6th Grade Field Trip; Wind Ensemble Adjudication

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## Conversation with the Principal

Join Mrs. Hearn for conversation about our Patapsco community. The conversation will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6pm in the Media Center. Mrs. Hearn looks forward to chatting with all who are able to attend.

## Ramadan

Happy Ramadan to our families that celebrate! If you have a student that will be fasting and/or praying during the school day, please reach out to your student's counselor so that arrangements can be made for them to engage in an alternative activity and/or an alternative location.

## Spelling Bee Winners

On Tuesday, February 10, Patapsco Middle School held our annual Scripp's Spelling Bee. Congratulations to our winner, Saideep Bikkineni, as well as runner up Dev Patel. Well done!

## Honor Roll

Congratulations to all of our students who were recognized for making the Honor Roll or being selected as a Rising Star. We are so proud of our amazing students!

## Quarter 2 Report Cards

Quarter 2 [report cards are now available](#) in HCPSS Connect Synergy.

## Help Keep Our School Community Healthy This Norovirus Season

Dear Families and Community Members,

Norovirus season is here, and we want to work together to keep everyone in our school community healthy. Norovirus is a common stomach bug that can spread quickly, especially in group settings like schools.

The best way to prevent norovirus is through proper handwashing with soap and water. Please note that hand sanitizer does not kill norovirus, so regular handwashing is essential, especially after using the restroom, before eating, and after helping a sick child.

Here's what good handwashing looks like:

- Wet hands with clean, running water.
- Apply soap and lather well—don't forget the backs of hands, between fingers, and under nails.
- Scrub for at least 20 seconds (about the time to sing "Happy Birthday" twice).
- Rinse thoroughly under running water.
- Dry with a clean towel or air dry.

By practicing and teaching good hand hygiene at home, you help protect your family, your children's classmates, and our staff. Together, we can reduce illnesses in our community and keep everyone learning and thriving.

Thank you for your partnership and care!

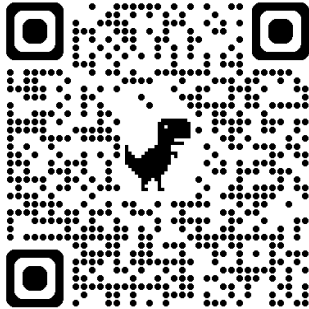
Warm regards, Tiffany Ailstock, RN, HCPSS School Nurse, Patapsco Middle School

### **PREVIOUSLY SHARED**

#### **Mt. Hebron High School Mulch Sale**

Each year, the Mt Hebron HS PTSA runs a mulch sale to raise money for our After-Prom Program. After Prom is a fun, alcohol-free/chemical-free party held at the YMCA. **Mulch Day is March 7, 2026 from 7:00AM to 1:00PM.** Please help us reach our goal of 7,000. Don't wait to order your mulch.

**Orders are due by March 2nd.** Don't forget that if you pick up your mulch you will save 10% off your order. Use the code PICKUP during checkout! Use the QR code below or click [here](#) to access our online store.



**For a discount on laying your mulch,** contact Mt. Hebron alums Ashton D'Alonzo and Jackson Williams, proud owners of [AJ's Lawn & Landscape](#), at 443-520-5258.

We are also looking for more Parent volunteers to help with delivery (sign up here: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4FACAD2DAA8-61732375-mulch#/?](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4FACAD2DAA8-61732375-mulch#/)) and Student volunteers if anyone is looking for service hours (sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4FACAD2DAA8-61732368-mulch#/?>).

**Don't need Mulch?** Consider making a [monetary donation](#) instead. Every dollar donated helps to reduce out-of-pocket cost to attend, and allows us to gift tickets to students who might otherwise not be able to attend.

### **Morning Drop-off**

Parents of car riders are reminded that students should not be dropped off before 8:15am which is the same time that students exit the buses. This gives our staff time to post at their morning duty station and be ready to receive and supervise our students.

### **Cold Weather Attire**

With the cold weather settling in, please remind your students to dress appropriately for their time outside (waiting at the bus stop, recess, etc). If they are missing a coat, jacket or hoodie, please encourage them to check the lost and found.

### **Yearbook Orders**

Have you ordered your Patapsco 2025-2026 yearbook?! It's not too late! To guarantee your yearbook, order soon at [jostensyearbooks.com](https://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](mailto:kalina_salsman@hcpss.org).

## **Expanded Online Tutoring Help**

Brainfuse HelpNow is now available 24/7 for all library users, expanding access beyond the previous 2 p.m.–midnight live tutoring hours. This means students and caregivers can connect with live online tutoring and academic support anytime that fits their schedule. Brainfuse HelpNow is available on the [HCLS website](#), and video and written instructions on how to use the resource are available [here](#). First-time users will need to create a username and password.

## **HCPSS HBCU College and Career Fair**

HCPSS will host its second annual **HBCU College and Career Fair** on **March 7, 2026, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Guilford Park High School**. Over 20 HBCU representatives will be in attendance to provide students and families with information on admissions, scholarships, and pathways to higher education. Many HBCUs offer rolling admission, making this event especially beneficial for students who have not yet applied to college.

We are expanding this event to include Careers and Trades! We have over 10 businesses registered to attend and several organizations will be on hand to share information to support students and families with their college and/or career pathway.

Students and families will have access to workshops on financing HBCU education, campus life, athletic scholarships, Career Preparation, and the application process, and can receive support on essay writing, resume and cover letters and even interview prep. Click [here](#) to visit our website and keep up with what colleges/universities, businesses and organizations will be in attendance.

For additional information, Contact Kareem Penn at [kareem\\_penn@hcpss.org](mailto:kareem_penn@hcpss.org) or Monica Stevens at [monica\\_stevens@hcpss.org](mailto:monica_stevens@hcpss.org) with any questions. Fliers [HCPSS HBCU College & Career Fair English](#) & [HCPSS HBCU College & Career Fair Spanish](#),

## **HCPSS Family Empowerment Academy**

The [HCPSS Family Empowerment Academy](#) is designed to equip parents and guardians with practical strategies, resources, and insights to support their children's academic, social, and emotional success. The academy will take place on four consecutive Saturdays- **March 7 through March 28, 2026, from 9:00-10:30 AM-** and

will feature interactive learning experiences, guest speakers, and opportunities to connect with other HCPSS families. Participation is limited to **30 participants**, and registration is **first-come, first-served**. Attendance is encouraged for all four sessions. Language interpretation and childcare will be provided. Please complete the [application form](#) to be considered for participation.

### **'Tis the Season!**

Cold and flu season is here! How can you help?

**-Donate tissues!** Please consider dropping off a box of tissues in the front office. Our supply is already running low.

**-Practice healthy habits** - get plenty of sleep, be physically active, drink plenty of fluids, wash your hands often, and eat nutritious foods.

**-If you have cold and flu symptoms, stay at home and rest!**

### **2026 Family Academy Conference**

**2026 HCPSS Family Academy Conference:** HCPSS families are invited to save the date for the **2026 Family Academy Conference** on **Wednesday, March 4, 2026**, from **6:00–8:30 pm** at **Long Reach High School**. Families can look forward to a **light dinner**, a **community resource fair**, and **interactive workshops** focused on academic achievement, well-being, and family engagement. Workshop topics will include college and career readiness, special education supports, curriculum updates, hands-on learning strategies for use at home, and more. For more information, visit [HCPSS News](#).

### **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.