
Important Dates

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

March 18 - 8th Grade Field Trip

March 20 - Schools Closed for Students

March 27 - U-Knighted Day and Night

March 30 - April 3 - Spring Break

April 6 - Full Day of School for Students

April 15 - 3-Hour Early Dismissal

Semester 2 Reminders and Expectations

During Knight Time on Wednesday, March 4th, students were reminded about the expectations for the following topics: Academic Dishonesty, Dress Code, Electronic Devices and Tardies (to school and class). These topics are addressed in the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Lost and Found

Our lost and found is once more overflowing with coats, hats, gloves, hoodies, umbrellas, lunchboxes, water bottles, pencil cases, and even shoes! Please remind your student to check the lost and found for things that belong to them - even if they don't think anything is missing. Items that remain in our collection by spring break will be donated or discarded.

MCAP Testing

We are beginning our state testing season which kicked off with our 8th graders on March 5th.

Our students have been working hard all year and this will be their opportunity to show what they know in regards to the standards they have been taught. Please see the testing dates below for grades 6-8.

Science 8th grade ONLY	4 sessions	40 minutes each	<i>Testing Days</i> <i>March 5, 6, 9, 10</i>
ELA	4 sessions	70 minutes each	April 27, 28
Social Studies 8th grade ONLY	4 sessions	40 minutes each	May 7, 8, 11 & 12
Math	4 sessions	40 minutes each	May 19, 21

****In the event that testing dates need to be changed, we will communicate that information to families.***

****Testing for Science, Social Studies and Math will take place in student's general class***

Just a few reminders:

- Please try to have students here and on time on testing days so they do not need to be pulled out of class instruction for make-up sessions.
- Please avoid coming to sign students out early during testing sessions. Once a student leaves, they are not able to restart that test session.
- Personal electronic devices (cell phones, ipads, smart watches, etc.) are not permitted in the testing areas.
- Routine is important when calming any nerves when it comes to testing. Keeping to normal routines both at home and at school will help students to do their best.
- Students need plenty of sleep in order to maintain the stamina needed to do their best.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Barber-Wehrman.

Girls Flag Football League

Howard County Recreation and Parks is now offering a Middle & High School Girls Flag Football League. See the HCPSS [website](#) or view this [flyer](#) for more information.

Community News and Programs

Howard County Public School System provides a [list](#) of community programs and events that may be of interest to members of the Patapsco community. These notices are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Howard County Public School System. Programs include academic enrichment, child care, afterschool and camp programs; art, music, sports, and recreation programs, and volunteer opportunities.

PREVIOUSLY SHARED

U-Knighted Night

As an extension of our U-Knighted Day, Patapsco Middle School will be hosting **U-Knighted Night** from **5:30pm to 7:00pm** on **Friday, March 27th**. Our community is a mosaic of unique identities, cultures, stories, and traditions—and it's time to bring them all together under one roof. We are thrilled to announce our upcoming **U-Knighted Night**, and we need **your** unique voice to make it a success!

Whether you have a family recipe that deserves a spotlight, a traditional dance to share, or an interest in helping to support the event, there is a place for you here.

How You Can Get Involved

We are looking for volunteers to help in the following areas:

- **Food & Flavors:** Host a table to share bite-sized samplers of traditional dishes from your heritage.
 - **If bringing in food samplers, please provide a complete list of ingredients.**
- **Performance & Art:** Share a song, dance, poem, or musical instrument performance.
- **Fashion Show:** Wear clothing that represents your cultural background or identity.
- **Cultural Display:** Set up a booth with photos, clothing, maps, or artifacts that tell the story of your culture or identity.
- **Games & Crafts:** Lead a game and/or activity [Ex. Gonggi, Origami, Henna, etc.]. Please supply your own materials.

Event Details

- **Date:** Friday, March 27th
- **Time:** 5:30pm - 7:00pm
- **Location:** Patapsco Middle School

Ready to join the team?

Knightly News 3/9/26

You don't need to be a professional chef or performer to participate—just a passion for sharing what makes you unique!

Sign up here: [Parent/Guardian Sign Up Link](#)

Deadline to volunteer: Friday, March 20th

Contact Email: jae_lee@hcpss.org / maria_mastrogianis@hcpss.org

Let's celebrate the diversity that makes our community so unique and vibrant. We can't wait to see what you bring to the table!

[Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, Arabic, Russian, Nepali, Urdu, Azerbaijani, Telugu, Turkish, Japanese, Pashto, Punjabi, Amharic, and Tigrinya](#)

Howard High School Food Pantry

The Howard High School Food Pantry will be open March 12th from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM. See the attached [flyer](#) for details.

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.

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

Biz Kidz Academy *Celebrate Your Talents!* Competition

The Biz Kidz Academy *Celebrate Your Talents!* competition is an engaging opportunity that invites students ages 8–14 to submit a short essay or video showcasing a creative talent or business idea, or to participate as vendor exhibitors to pitch and sell their products and services. Participants can win prizes such as laptops, gift cards, art supplies, and trophies; entries and registrations are due by March 31, with an awards ceremony on April 25. See [this flyer](#) for details.

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 still here, 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. 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.

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.

'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!

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.