
Important Dates

April 14 - End of Quarter 3, 8th Grade Field Trip

April 15 - **Schools OPEN**, 3-Hour Early Dismissal

April 23-25 - School Play - "Puffs"

April 24 - Quarter 3 Report Cards Issued at 4pm

April 27-28 - English Language Arts MCAP

April 29 - Student Member of the Board Election

U-Knighted Day and Knight

On Friday, March 27, Patapsco Middle School held our U-Knighted Day. This year over 250 students participated in this amazing event! Students created presentations, danced, sang, and played a variety of musical instruments. They represented their cultures through fashion, artwork, informational, and fun facts!

Over 30 identities and cultures were represented and we couldn't be more proud of our community for coming together to help make a space where everyone felt pride in showcasing what makes them unique!

This year, the celebration continued into the evening. On behalf of the staff and students of Patapsco Middle School, we want to thank our greater Patapsco community for their support of our first U-Knighted Night event. The food, fashion and fun was a great way to celebrate our diverse community and kick-off Spring Break. A huge shout out to Mr. Lee and Ms. Mastrogianis for making this event come to life.

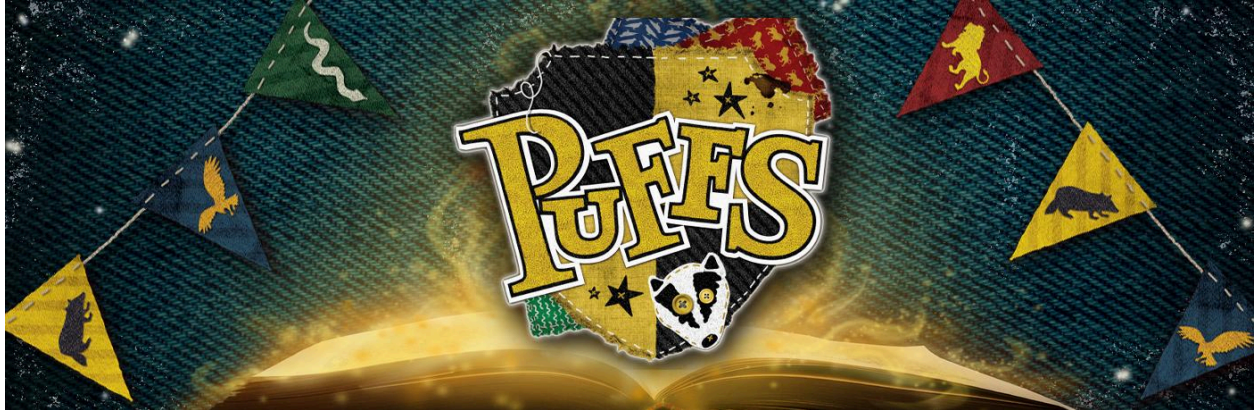
National Assistant Principal Week

This week we celebrated our incredible assistant principal, Mrs. Theresa Barber-Wehrman. Mrs. Barber-Wehrman is a compassionate school leader who is dedicated to our students and staff. We can always count Mrs. Barber-Wehrman to be a team player and smile while wearing her many hats. We salute Mrs. Barber-Wehrman and are grateful for her presence at Patapsco Middle School!

Spring Picture Day

The Spring Picture Day that was scheduled for Monday, April 13 has been postponed. We will communicate the new date as soon as possible. Apologies for any inconvenience.

PUFFS The Play is almost here!



PARENTS...We need your help!

[Puffs The Play](#) runs from April 23rd - April 25th with the Cast & Crew Party taking place on April 25th. The performances and cast party would not be possible without PMS parents volunteering and donating.

To volunteer to help with **PERFORMANCES** (help with tickets, concessions, or backstage), click [HERE](#).

To chaperone or donate to the **CAST PARTY**, click [HERE](#).

Please reach out to Ms. Wardlaw at april_wardlaw@hcpss.org with any questions or concerns.

HCPSS Student Art Exhibit

The 53rd Annual HCPSS Student Art Exhibit is currently on display at The Mall in Columbia. Stop by the mall to check out some amazing artwork from our awesome Patapsco artists and students across our school system. The exhibit will be on display through April 29, 2026.

From the PTA

Working behind the scenes!

We know it's been a while since we posted an update, but wanted to assure you we're working hard behind the scenes to support teachers, staff, and students. We've hosted teacher appreciation events, sponsored the Shakespeare in Residency program, supported teacher activities, and stayed in tune with policy and advocacy efforts of the county's council of PTAs.

We've done all these things and more with your support. Thank you to all our members and supportive families!

Game On! Recess equipment needs

Now that we are through the gauntlet of winter and chilly spring, the kids are getting more outdoor recess time. As a result, the equipment supply needs a little boost. Please see below for the ways you can sponsor a recess item, either by purchasing or donating a gently used ball. Drop off at the school office or order online and have it shipped to the school.

[Soccer Balls- 3 \(urgent need!\)](#)

[Soccer Balls- 3 \(no joke, urgent need!!\)](#)

Footballs- 2

Basketballs- 2

1 set of playground balls

1 set of volleyballs

Final item - Election season!

We have the following executive positions up for election this year:

President- 2-year term

Treasurer - 2-year term

The PTA is a great way to get involved in your kid's school and support the hard work of our wonderful teachers and staff. If you are interested or just want to discuss the position and its responsibilities, please email patapscopta@gmail.com.

National History Day

Congratulations to Tanvi Anne, Ritika Kawade, Aditi Nambiar, and Anwita Thoranadhula for taking first place in the Junior Group Performance category at the county National History Day competition. Their entry, The Stanton and Mott Legacy, will advance to the State competition.

Carson Scholar

Huge congratulations to Bryn Mabee for her continued success as a Recognized Carson Scholar! To earn this multi-time honor, Bryn maintained a stellar 4.0 GPA and showed an incredible commitment to helping others through community service. We are so proud of Bryn for her hard work, her heart for service, and for representing Patapsco Middle so well year after year.

Maryland Benefits Programs and Services portal

There is a new(ish) one-stop shop for state benefits, the Maryland Benefits Programs and Services portal, allowing parents/caregivers to see if they are eligible for, and apply for, Medicaid, SNAP, TCA, WIC, and energy assistance from the state. You can find the link at <https://benefits.maryland.gov/home/#/>.

HC Drug Free Parenting Classes

HC Drug Free is offering parenting classes for Free! Classes are virtual (on Zoom) and open to parents, guardians and grandparents residing in HoCo or with school-age children/grandchildren residing in HoCo. The classes are evidence-based, interactive prevention programs that provide families with the skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will engage in other dangerous behaviors. Classes are appropriate for K-12 families.

Class dates: April 14, 15, 21, 22 (and April 28 will be optional) from Noon to 1:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Visit HC DrugFree's website for more information and to register at

<https://tinyurl.com/GGCSpring2026>

HC Drug Free Drive-Thru Medication Disposal Volunteers Needed

A drive-thru medication disposal will take place on Saturday, April 25 in the Wilde Lake Village Center Parking Lot near the CA Swim Center from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Safely

dispose of prescription and over-the-counter medication, vitamins, pet meds, vape devices, inhalers, and more. Unlike previous events, we will not collect sharps (needles, syringes and EpiPens). HC Drug Free is in need of student, adult, and medically-trained adult volunteers. Earn Community Service Hours! Giving away 100 medication lockboxes. For more information and to volunteer, visit HC DrugFree's website: <https://hcdrugfree.org/drug-take-back-day-1/>.

PREVIOUSLY SHARED

ELA MCAP Reminder (April 27–28)

Students will be taking the ELA MCAP on Monday, April 27 and Tuesday, April 28. Please ensure your child brings **wired headphones** for a component of the test. Thank you for your support!

Early Dismissal

If you need to pick up your student before the end of the school day, please be sure to come to the front office with your identification **prior to 2:55 pm**. After that, you may not enter our parking lot due to the arrival of our buses. If you arrive later than 2:55, you must join the car loop line to pick up your child after dismissal at 3:15.

Mt. Hebron Summer Camps

This summer, Mt. Hebron High School is offering a variety of sports camps for elementary and middle school students. See the link below for more information, dates, cost and registration. [Mount Hebron Sports Summer Camps](#)

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](#).

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

'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 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!**

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.

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.

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.

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.