

Important Dates

August 24 – First Day of School for Students, 8:30am-3:15pm

ALL STUDENTS WILL REPORT TO PERIOD 1

September 2 – Back to School Knight, 6:00pm

September 7 – Schools and Offices Closed

September 21 – Schools and Offices Closed

September 30 – 3 Hour Early Dismissal (12:15pm dismissal time)

It was wonderful to see our new students and families at Thursday's orientation! If you would like to revisit the information shared, or if you were unable to attend, the orientation slideshow is available [here](#). A special thank-you to our amazing PTA and Music Boosters for helping us warmly welcome our new families to our school community.

This issue of the Knightly News highlights important information for the first day of school. All of the information shared in the newsletter will also be available on our website. We hope these resources are helpful as your family prepares for the start of a new school year.

Our staff has been working hard to prepare for the arrival of our students, and we are ready! We cannot wait to welcome all of our Knights back on Monday, August 24, for the first day of school. It's going to be a wonderful year!

Student Schedules

Students and parents/guardians can [log in to HCPSS Connect Synergy](#) to view schedules including courses, teachers, and room numbers. After logging in, select Class Schedule from the left menu.

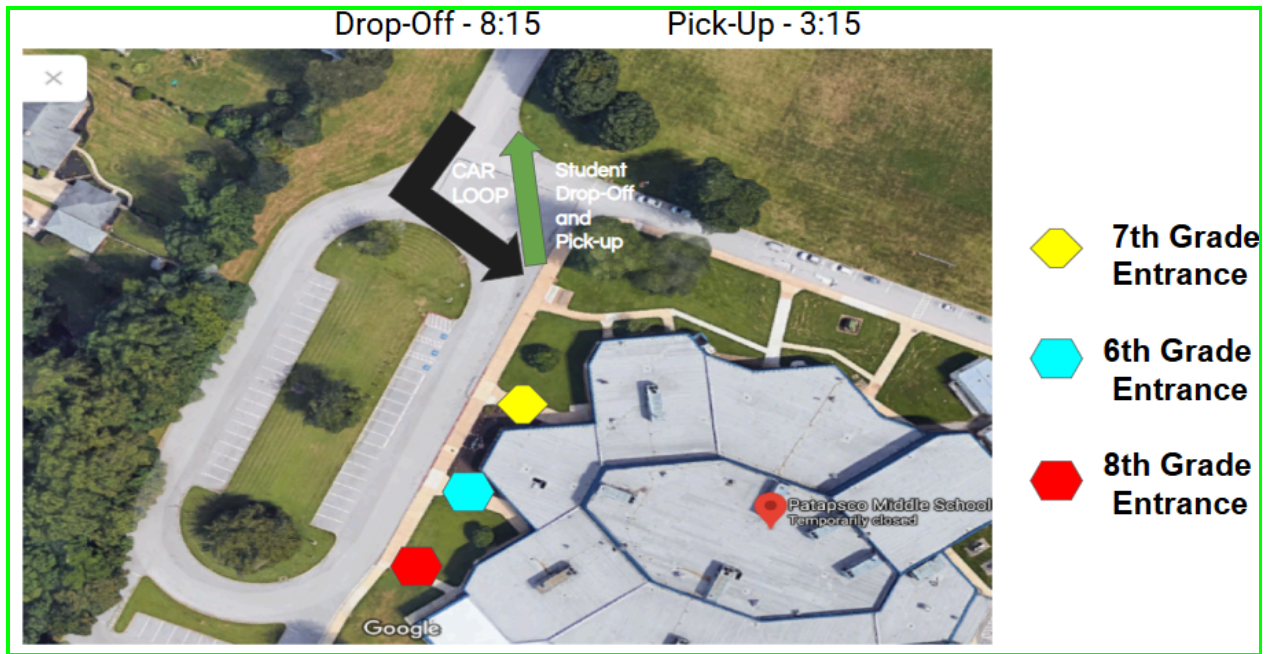
****Please note that we are actively monitoring the school schedule. Student schedule changes could occur for class balancing due to shifting enrollment. All students will receive a fresh copy of their schedule on Monday**

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

Arrival

School starts at 8:30 and ends at 3:15am. The doors to the building will open for students at 8:15am. Breakfast is available for purchase starting at 8:15am. Students will use the entrance according to their grade level. The entrances will be clearly identifiable. Please see the diagram.

At 8:30am students will report to their Period 1 class.



Drop-off by car:

- Enter school property free of distractions and follow all instructions provided by school staff directing traffic.
- As you enter the campus, wait along the driveway entrance; please do not park or block any lanes of traffic that we need open for buses and emergency vehicles.
- When buses arrive, car traffic will be stopped to allow the buses to enter the bus loop. Please pay close attention so that we can keep everyone safe.
- Follow to the right of the traffic arrows at the entrance to the parking lot and make a loop into the car drop off area. The first car should pull all the way up to the curb at the corner of the exit. Staff will be there directing you to this point.
- Students should exit their car quickly on the right with all of their belongings and follow the arrival path to the school. Staff will be there to direct students.
- Cars should exit in a single line; **do not** pass any cars in the loop. We ask that everyone is patient so that all students and staff are safe.

Pick-up by car:

- The same traffic pattern for drop-off will be used.
- Follow all directions by staff members so that we can keep everyone safe.

- Please do not ask your child to cross the street or go to the grass to be picked up. For the safety of all, students must be picked up from the designated pick up zone.

During drop-off and pick-up, only buses, staff, and county vehicles will be permitted to enter the parking area. We ask for everyone's patience and grace as we normalize our drop-off and pick-up procedures. Please ask for assistance from a staff member if you have any questions.

Bus Transportation

Bus stop locations and times can be found on the [HCPSS Bus Locator](#) page on the HCPSS website.. Also please check this information again to make sure you have accurate arrival time and bus stop. Students who take the bus will need to make sure they are at their bus stop early in case the bus arrives early but be prepared it could also be a few minutes late. We recommend 15 minutes prior to the posted time. Be patient with bus times for the first two weeks. The traffic patterns in the community may shift again after Labor Day.

Backpacks

Students will be allowed to carry their backpack with them throughout the day. Students may not bring their backpacks and chromebooks to lunch; they should place their backpacks in their lockers before lunch and retrieve them after lunch.

Supplies

All students should come with their HCPSS assigned, fully-charged Chromebook*, pencils and pens, a binder with paper. Students can bring in more supplies as the week progresses. Students will be able to use their lockers and backpacks. We will help all students with their lockers throughout the entire week.

**6th grade students and students new to the Howard County Public School System will not receive their Chromebooks during the first week of school. We will notify families through School Messenger when the new Chromebooks are distributed.*

Please use the link below to access the student supply lists for each grade level.

Whenever possible, families are encouraged to reuse or recycle school supplies from the previous year to save on costs and reduce waste.

[Student Supply List](#)

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 will be shared with students on the first day of school.

Back to School KNight (9/2/26)

More information will be provided next week. Our Back to School Knight is 6:00-8:00 PM. We look forward to seeing all of our families!

Lunch and Recess Monitors Needed

Patapsco is seeking monitors to support our students during lunch and recess for the 2026-2027 school year.

Lunch & Recess Monitors work collaboratively with HCPSS staff during lunch and recess to provide necessary assistance to students while they eat lunch and engage in recess. Below, please find details regarding the position of Lunch & Recess monitor:

Lunch & Recess Monitors are considered temporary HCPSS employees

Hours are 11:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m.

Compensation is \$16.00 per hour

Communication, initiative, flexibility and enjoyment working with children are important attributes for those interested in the Lunch & Recess Monitor position. It is also a great opportunity for a parent who is looking to support the school and earn compensation while their child(ren) is at school. Interested applicants can apply: [Application for Lunch and Recess Monitor](#).

Please email Mrs. Barber-Wehrman at theresa_barber-wehrman@hcpss.org with any questions and to express interest in the position.

Patapsco PTA News

Welcome to the '6-7' school year!!

[The PTA](#) welcomes all families, teachers, and staff back to this 2026-2027 school year!

The PTA is aiming for an active and enjoyable year for all. Here's a few of the great things we have in store and that you can help support:

Teacher and Staff Appreciation

We are working to stock the lounge with refreshments to keep our teachers fueled for spending 7 hours with our tween/teens! This year we are using an [Amazon Wishlist](#) of the teachers' favorite treats. [Click here to find the wishlist and purchase an item.](#)

Fun kNight

Fall Fun Night is on the books - mark your calendars for October 30 for this can't-miss event. Tickets will go on sale in early October.

Merch table without the line!

The PTA facilitates the [Patapsco Middle spirit wear store](#). Always online and available, lots of great things to choose from, including the all-important Patapsco hoodie! [Click here to access the store and happy shopping!](#)

Goin' Shopping

Speaking of shopping - the PTA will host school stores throughout the year where students can use their Knight awards to buy gadgets and fidgets. An exciting way to reward excellent, respectful, resilient knights!

Advocating for our middle school

Finally, the PTA takes its mission of advocacy seriously. While we love doing things for our kids and teachers, at its core, the PTA is here to be your voice to decision makers. Through our [PTA council](#) we have a direct line of communication to county school board members, council members, and state representatives. We are Patapsco's voice in monitoring budget, policy, and legislation proposals.

We need YOU

To achieve our mission and serve our kids and teachers, we need your support! Please [JOIN](#) today - membership means you support our mission and activities. It comes with *no obligations - no meetings, no mandatory volunteering, no fundraising responsibilities*. It's an easy and no commitment way to support teachers, staff, and kids at Patapsco.

You can also donate to the PTA without joining. Though we depend on membership for our work, you are welcome to donate just to support our activities. Visit our online store [here](#) to see our donation page.

[Previously Shared](#)

Update Family File

Please assist us by completing your Family File as soon as possible at hcpss.org/connect. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update emergency information for each child every school year. Parents/guardians [access and complete Family File](#) by logging in to HCPSS Connect, selecting the Online Registration/Family File at the top right of the page and then selecting Family File Verification.

2026-2027 School Meals Information

Click [here](#) to learn more about HCPSS meal information, including menus, nutrition information, and payment information.

Free and Reduced Meals (FARMSs)

Many HCPSS families are eligible to participate in the [Free and Reduced Price Meals \(FARMSs\)](#) program, which provides children with a wide range of benefits including free or discounted college tuition, testing and application fees, academic and athletic program fees and many others in addition to free or discounted meals.

Families are urged to check their eligibility and complete a [FARMS application](#) as soon as possible. Families must submit a new application every school year.

[Details on the Free and Reduced Meals program](#), including a link to apply, are available online.

2026-2027 HCPSS School Calendar

For your planning needs, please see the link below to access the HCPSS School Calendar which details dates/holidays for this coming school year, including Winter break, Spring break, and professional learning days.

[2026-2027 HCPSS School Calendar](#)

Medication Information

If your child needs medication at school this year, please visit the link below for all required forms, including EpiPen, diabetes, and general medication orders. Learn more information [here](#).