

Dear Patapsco Families:

It has been a pleasure welcoming both our new and returning students to Patapsco Middle School. Our students are adapting seamlessly to the revised morning entry schedule, and our newest Knights are quickly mastering the art of opening their lockers.

In this issue of the Knightly News you will find detailed information about our Back to School Knight being held on Wednesday, September 2, 2026. We look forward to welcoming our parents/guardians at this annual event.

Finally, we have been closely monitoring our student enrollment and made adjustments to student schedules effective August 31. The changes are not done lightly as we look to combine some classes with low enrollment in order to create additional sections for classes that need additional seats. Students impacted by the changes were notified on Friday and their families were notified via email.

We hope you and your family enjoyed a restful weekend as you recovered from the excitement of a busy and productive first week of school. May week two allow us all to continue to settle into our new school routines.

Kelly Hearn, Principal
Theresa Barber-Wehrman, Assistant Principal

Important Dates

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)

Back-to-School Knight Information

When: Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

We are excited to welcome all parents/guardians to the 2026 Back to School Knight at Patapsco Middle School. Our doors will open at 5:45pm and the event will end by 8:00pm. We would like all parents/guardians to be in Period 1 by 6:15pm.

What You Can Expect: Back to School Knight will allow you to visit your child's classrooms and to meet the staff who teach them. Parents/guardians will start in Period 1 as your child does each day. You will then have the opportunity to follow your child's schedule and hear from their teachers. Each class visit is only eight minutes; therefore, if you wish to have an individual conversation with your child's teacher, feel free to [email](#) the teacher to arrange a time for a parent/teacher conference.

Since space in our building and parking lot are at a premium, if you are able, we ask that you come to Back to School Knight without your child(ren) as space will be limited. We will have plenty of maps and staff to help guide you.

Getting Here: Parking on school property will be limited to school staff and drivers with disabilities. All other visitors are asked to ride a shuttle from two satellite locations: **Hollifield Station Elementary** (8701 Stonehouse Drive) **or Crossroads Church of the Nazarene** (2750 Rogers Avenue). Shuttles will begin running at 5:30 PM, and will provide return service at the end of the event.

Also, we ask that you support our efforts to reduce the impact of our event on the surrounding neighborhood by not parking on the road or in our neighbor's driveways. This includes the grass lot across from the school. Thank you!

Additional Parent Seminar: *Hispanic Student Achievement, 5:45-6:10pm Room E8*
Come learn more about the Hispanic Student Achievement Program and meet Ms. Anderson, the program liaison. Ms. Anderson looks forward to meeting families and working with you and your children this school year.

Schedule for the Evening: Please see chart below for class times. Please arrive at your child's Period 1 by 6:15pm for important information.

We encourage you to write down, make a copy or take a screenshot of your child's schedule; you will only attend their full year and current quarter 1 courses.

Time	Period
6:00 – 6:15	Arrival for Parents/Guardians PTA and Music Boosters information tables in lobby Locate Period 1 Class

6:15 - 6:27	Period 1 Announcements Welcome Message from PTA, Music Boosters and the Administration
6:27 - 6:35	Period 1
6:39 – 6:47	Period 2
6:51 - 6:59	Period 3
7:03 - 7:11	Period 4
7:15 -- 7:23	Period 5
7:27 - 7:35	Period 6
7:39 - 7:47	Period 7

*Do **not** report to the lunch period on your child's schedule.*

We look forward to seeing you at Back to School Knight. Thank you for your time, support, and commitment to your child's success.

Music Boosters Meeting

The Patapsco Music Boosters first meeting will be on September 4th at 5:15pm IN PERSON prior to Back To School Night. We will meet in the Music room and discuss plans for the upcoming year, volunteer opportunities, and various ways you can support all four of our Patapsco Music Programs and Directors. For more information or to donate please visit our website, <https://patapscomusicboosters.weebly.com> or email patapscomusicboosters@gmail.com.

Attendance Procedures

Research is clear that showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic and social success, starting from pre-kindergarten and continuing through high school. Please help us support a culture of showing up to school every day!

Student Absences

If your student is absent or will be absent, please contact us at the following email address to explain the reason: pmsabsence@hcpss.org. In the email please include the following information:

- Student First and Last Name
- Grade
- Reason for absence (e.g., illness, bereavement, observance of a religious holiday, lack of authorized transportation)

Please review Policy 9010: <https://policy.hcpss.org/9000/9010/>

Discretionary Days

HCPSS students are granted 3 days a year to use at their discretion for scheduled interviews with prospective employers, visits to post-secondary institutions, family trips, civic engagement, and other special events.

- Such absences may not occur during exam or state-mandated testing periods unless authorized by the principal/designee.
- A written request for such absences to be lawful/excused should be submitted at least one week in advance to the principal/designee. Please download the PDF fillable [Discretionary Absence Form](#) and email it [to pmsabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:pmsabsence@hcpss.org). The form is also available in [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), and [Spanish](#)

Late Arrivals

- Students will report to the front office to sign in and receive a pass when arriving late to school.
- Parents may send students in with a note. Students who arrive late due to lawful reasons (i.e. doctor's appointment, etc.) will be considered Tardy Excused.

Early Dismissals

- Parents/ Guardians will sign students out from the front office for early dismissals.
- Parents/Guardians are to show their **photo ID** upon arrival to confirm their eligibility to pick up the student in the family file.

If you know that your student will have an early dismissal ahead of time, you may send in a note with your child or call the front office to let them know when you will be picking them up and who will be picking them up.

To avoid interference with dismissal procedures, we ask that parents pick up students for **early dismissal before 2:55pm**.

Update Your Family File

Thank you to families of the 537 students who have already completed your Family File. Leading all grades is 7th grade with 77.14% of their Family Files completed! If you have not already done so, please assist us by completing your Family File ASAP at hcpss.org/connect. Parents/guardians can [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.

HCYP Knights Basketball

The Patapsco Knights will hold tryouts for the HCYP boys middle school basketball league this September at Patapsco Middle School gym. (This league is not affiliated with the Howard County Public School System).

Tryout dates and times are as follows:

JV boys (6th and 7th grade only):

- Wednesday, September 9th at 6pm
- Monday, September 14th at 6pm

Varsity Boys:

- Monday, September 14th at 7:30pm.

Please bring a ball and water bottle! Register using the Google form here:

<https://forms.gle/unVLvYN5Ti9RmPQJ6>

Pre-registration is not required to try out but is encouraged to help us better prepare.

Last year, the boys JV team won the county championship and we look forward to more success. Go KNIGHTS!!!! For more information on the league, please visit

<https://hcypbasketball.org/middle-school>. Or e-mail pete.mirabito@gmail.com

Thank you.

Brendan Dunne – Varsity Head Coach

Pete Mirabito – JV Head Coach

Patapsco PTA News

PTA Membership - Support teachers and kids!

The PTA is gearing up for a great year - but we need your help. Please [JOIN](#) today - you can help the PTA grow and thrive just by joining. Your membership requires no meetings, no mandatory volunteering, no fundraising responsibilities! You'll be supporting teacher grants, Fun Night, teacher appreciation, cultural arts programs, and more.

Everything is better with ice cream

On Friday September 25, Bruster's Real Ice Cream in Ellicott City is hosting a fundraiser night to support the PTA! Come enjoy a tasty treat between 6pm and close and let the cashier know you are with Patapsco. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the PTA. It's a delicious way to support our work!

1, 2, 3, 4 - Everybody get on the dance floor

Fall Fun Night is October 30! Tickets will go on sale in early October. We will need volunteers to make this event a success, so consider marking off your calendar and sign up for our [volunteer interest form](#).

Treat our teachers and staff

We are working to stock the lounge with refreshments to keep our teachers fueled. You can treat a teacher to a snack by purchasing items off this [Amazon Wishlist](#) of the teachers' favorite treats. [Click here to find the wishlist and purchase an item](#).

Get the knight spirit!

The PTA facilitates the [Patapsco Middle spirit wear store](#). Always online and available, lots of great things to choose from, including the hoodies and flannel pajama pants! Adult styles and sizes too, so you catch the spirit too. [Click here to access the store](#).

HCPSS Seeks Advisory Committee Members by Sept. 11

HCPSS is seeking community members to serve on curriculum advisory committees, which provide a forum to share ideas and support continuous academic excellence. Interested stakeholders should submit an online interest form by September 11. Please [click here](#) for more information and to submit your application.

[Previously Shared](#)

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.

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**

Medication Information

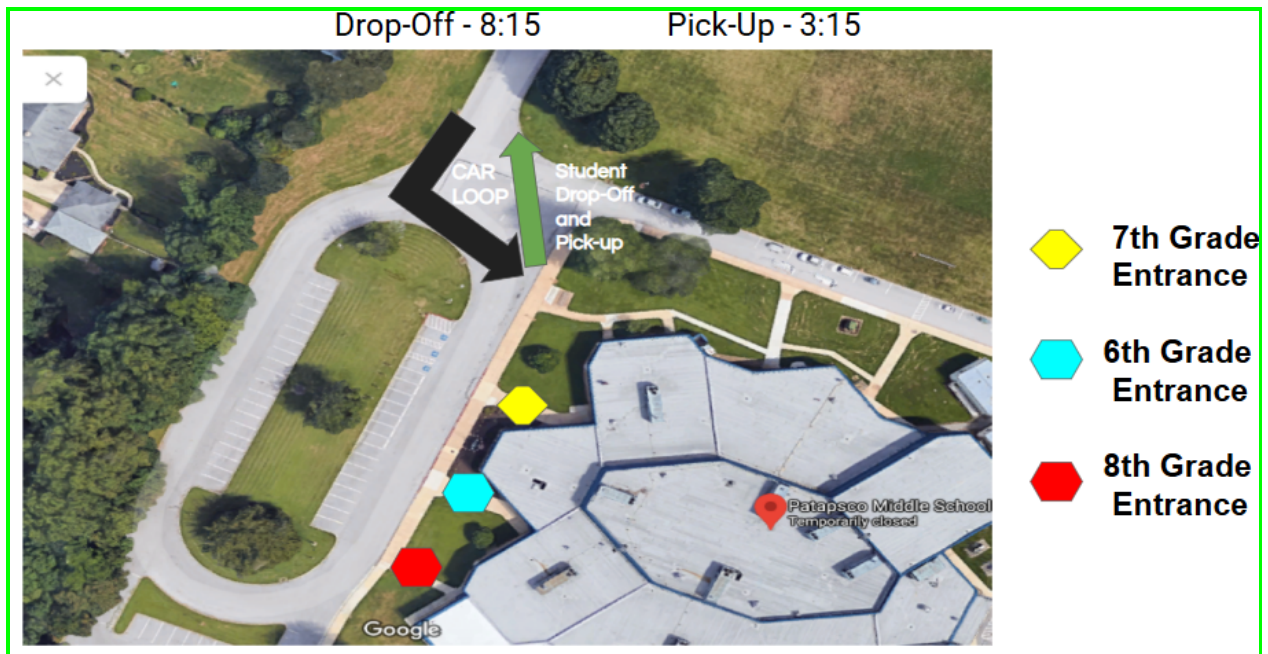
If your child needs medication at school this year, please visit the link below for all required forms, including EpiPen, diabetes, and general medication orders. Learn more information [here](#).

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

Arrival

School starts at 8:30am and ends at 3:15pm. 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 8:25 am, the warning bell rings and students should make their way to their period 1 class. The late bell rings at 8:30am. Any student not in their period 1 class before the late bell rings must get a late pass from the attendance kiosk.



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.

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.

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 \(FARMS\)](#) 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

Knightly News 8/31/2026

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](#)