

Important Dates

September 25 – 6th Grade Mash Up

September 28-30 - Math MAP Testing

September 29 - Last day to withdraw from a full year high school credited course without penalty

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

October 1 - Bullying Prevention Month Begins - Wear Blue!

October 2 - 6th Grade Mash Up *RAIN DATE*

October 16 - Schools Closed for Students

October 19 - Picture Day

October 28 - Schools Closed for Students

Math MCAP September 28-30

Math MAP testing will take place during your child's Math class from Monday, September 28 through Wednesday, September 30, 2026.

To help them do their best, please ensure your child arrives at school on time, fully rested, and with a charged device.

Sixth Grade Mash-up: Update- due to the weather we have had, and field conditions, we may need to move Mash-up to our Rain Date - Friday, October 2nd, 2026.

We will hold our 6th grade Mash-up Friday, September 25, with a RAIN DATE of Friday, October 2. Students will spend the afternoon participating in team-building activities to help them grow as a community.

Volunteers are needed to help this day go smoothly. Please complete [this Google Form](#) if you are available and interested.

When students arrive at school, they will go to their morning classes as usual. Students will visit lockers as usual before lunch to gather lunch boxes. They will eat lunch as usual in the cafeteria. Students who buy lunch will still be able to buy. After lunch, they will leave all materials except their water bottles in their lockers for the rest of the day. Students will be given an ice pop as a special treat at the end of the day.

To prepare for the day, students should wear...

- Closed-toe shoes and socks
- Comfortable clothes in which they can move freely
- Layers in case it is cold in the morning and warmer in the afternoon
- A hat and sunglasses
- Sunscreen (apply before arriving at school)

Students should bring...

- A water bottle labeled with their first and last name
- Lunch as usual

Students will not have regular classes for Periods 4-7. They will have reflection time at the end of the day in which they may need paper and pencils. All materials other than water bottles will remain in lockers throughout most of the day while students are outside participating in activities.

Thank you! We're looking forward to a fun afternoon!

The 6th Grade Team

Spirit Day on October 1 - Wear Blue or Patapsco Spirit Wear

October 1st marks the start of National Bullying Prevention Month, and Patapsco Middle School is kicking it off with a school-wide **Spirit Day**! All students and staff are encouraged to wear **blue** or show off your favorite **Patapsco Pride gear** on Thursday, October 1st.

Wearing blue and Knight gear is our visible promise that Patapsco is an inclusive, welcoming community where every student belongs and is supported.

Let's stand united against bullying, celebrate our strong community, and show what true Knight Pride is all about!

From the Health Room

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is a friendly reminder from the Health Room regarding the Howard County Public School System's [illness policy](#). As we enter flu season, it is especially important to help keep our school community healthy and safe.

Please be mindful of the following guidelines when deciding whether your child should attend school:

- Children must be fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) before returning to school.
- Vomiting or diarrhea: Students should remain home until symptom-free for 24 hours.

- Contagious illnesses such as strep throat, conjunctivitis (pink eye), or influenza often require staying home for at least 24 hours after starting treatment or as directed by your healthcare provider.

- If your child is experiencing persistent cough, significant fatigue, chills, body aches or symptoms that interfere with learning, please consider keeping them home to rest.

With flu and other seasonal illnesses circulating, we appreciate your help in preventing the spread of germs within our classrooms. Keeping children home when they are sick protects not only your child but also classmates, staff, and our wider school community. Thank you for your attention to these guidelines and for helping us maintain a healthy school environment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Health Room.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Ailstock, BSN, RN

HCPSS cluster nurse

Patapsco Middle School

Mount Hebron Homecoming Pancake Breakfast

The Patapsco community is invited to join in on the fun as Mount Hebron High School Football kicks off Homecoming festivities with the Annual [Pancake Breakfast](#), Saturday, September 26 from 7:30-10:30am. [Tickets](#) will be \$8 in advance, or \$10 at the door. Children 5 and under are free.

Picture Day is Coming

Patapsco's Fall Picture Day will be Monday, October 19. Stay tuned for more information!

[Previously Shared](#)

Update Your Family File

Thank you to the families of the 585 students who have already completed your Family File. Leading all grades is 7th grade with 91.8% 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.

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.

Clothing to Cash

Is it time to clean out your closets? If you have clothing or shoes that you would like to donate, please consider leaving them in our "Clothing to Cash" textile recycling bin.

How Clothing to Cash Works

- **What they accept:** Clothes in any condition (even torn or stained), shoes, backpacks, sheets, towels, and stuffed animals.
- **How to donate:** Bag your items tightly and drop them into the designated white collection bin located at the south end of our parking loop.
- **The payout:** Patapsco earns cash based on the total weight of the recycled textiles.

From the PTA

Bruh. It's time for Brusters!

Invite friends and neighbors to meet up at Bruster's Real Ice Cream Ellicott City (on Rte 40) on September 25! Bruster's is hosting a restaurant night for us, where the PTA receives a portion of the proceeds. Enjoy a yummy treat between 6 and close and tell them you're with Patapsco.

Show the world we are Patapsco proud!

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

We are looking for an 8th Grade Activities Coordinator!

Do you have an 8th grader and want to be a part of this exciting, special year? We are in need of an activities coordinator(s) for the 8th graders - the main part is coordinating with the t-shirt vendor for the traditional shirt and pulling together a group to plan the 8th grade dance. We offer lots of support for the endeavors and are happy to support two people if they want to split the coordinator role. Best of all, it's fun! Email patapscopta@gmail.com if interested!

PTA Membership - Join the quest!

If you were at Back-to-School night, hopefully you enjoyed The Adventures of Sir Knight. Sir Knight is on a PatapscoOmega Quest for the #1 PTA Royale! The quest will need 335 knights at the Round Table. Sir Knight has 108 so far - but more knights are needed! Please [JOIN](#) the PTA today and help Sir Knight and your fellow knights on to victory!

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](#).

Free Food Distribution on September 28

There will be a free food and fresh produce distribution from 12-2 on Monday, September 28th. Sponsored by The Salvation Army, it will be held at 3267 Pine Orchard Lane, Ellicott City, MD, 21042. There is a drive-through option and attendees should bring an ID.

[September Food Distribution - Spanish.pdf](#); [September Food Distribution - English.pdf](#)

Cell Phones

All phones and personal communication devices must be silenced and in backpacks or lockers from the beginning bell until the dismissal bell. Violation of this policy will lead to confiscation of the device. First-time offenders may pick their device up in the office at the end of the day. Further violations will require a parent or guardian to collect the device.

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

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](#)