

Important Dates

September 7 – Schools and Offices Closed

September 21 – Schools and Offices Closed

September 25 – 6th Grade Mash Up

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

Sixth Grade Mash-up

We will hold our 6th grade Mash-up Friday, September 25, 2025. 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

Welcome

This year, Patapsco Middle School was selected as one of the few middle schools to be awarded a School Culture & Safety Assistant. We are proud to announce that Michael "Mr. G" Guizzotti has been assigned to Patapsco to fill this role.

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](#)

Previously Shared

Update Your Family File

Thank you to the families of the 561 students who have already completed your Family File. Leading all grades is 7th grade with 88.2% 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://hcyfbasketball.org/middle-school>. Or e-mail pete.mirabito@gmail.com

Thank you.

Brendan Dunne – Varsity Head Coach

Pete Mirabito – JV Head Coach

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.

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.

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.

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**.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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](#).