

Important Dates

October 27 - End of Quarter 1

October 28 - Schools Closed for Students

October 30 - Fall Fun Knight

November 3 - Election Day - Schools and Offices Closed

November 4 - Fidos for Freedom

November 16 - Picture Retakes

MAP Test Results

Results for Fall ELA and Math MAP testing are now available. Instructions for accessing MAP test results can be found [here](#).

Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) Career Academy Open Houses – Nov. 11 and Dec. 8, 2026

Current students in grades 8–11 and their parents or guardians are invited to attend an in-person open house on Wednesday, Nov. 11, and Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2026 from 6:00–7:30 p.m. at the Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC), located at 10920 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City.

On both Nov. 11 and Dec. 8, guests will have the opportunity to walk about and explore CTEC's career academies and learn how Career and Technical Education provides high school students with opportunities to earn college credit, scholarships, and industry-recognized credentials. Students can also participate in worksite and mentorship experiences while developing creativity, problem-solving skills, and career-ready skills through hands-on, project-based learning.

Complete [information about all career academies](#) is available online. Students and parents are encouraged to review the [CTEC Career Academies Overview](#).

Participating academies include:

- Aerospace Engineering: Project Lead the Way
- Animal and Agricultural Science
- Animation and Game Design
- Apprenticeship Maryland (for current 11th graders)
- Architectural Design
- Automotive Technology
- Biotechnology

- Civil Engineering: Project Lead the Way
- Construction and Carpentry
- Cybersecurity
- Network Security Engineering
- Finance
- Graphic Design and Print Production
- Health Professions
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning

Parking at Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) is limited. Additional parking can be found on premises in the Homewood School and Board of Education parking lots.

Fidos for Freedom Visits

The Fidos For Freedom Therapy Dog Program sends specially trained, well-mannered dogs to provide emotional and physical benefits as a part of their educational initiatives program. Every therapy dog team features a handler alongside their dog. These specially trained dogs deliver caring pet therapy and unconditional love to our students and staff.

Fidos for Freedom have planned four visits to Patapsco Middle School throughout the school year. Students will have the opportunity to sign up Monday, Oct. 26th in their ELA classes. Students who sign up will be selected at random to participate in one of the quarterly visits.

If you do not want your child to participate in the Fidos For Freedom program, please notify their school counselor (Erin Shurtleff- A-L or Morgan Kempthorn M-Z).

To learn more, please visit the Fidos for Freedom website- <https://fidosforfreedom.org/>

Dates:

- Wednesday, November 4
- Wednesday, January 6
- Wednesday, March 10
- Wednesday, May 5

Previously Shared

It's gonna be a Fun Night!

Our PMS PTA hosted **Fall Fun Knight** is on **Friday, October 30th, 7-9 pm!!!**

Fun Knight is a night of DJ music and dancing, photo booth opps, basketball, bingo games with prizes and yummy snacks (\$1 or \$2) for purchase for our hard working Knights.

Please see below for how to purchase your students' \$5 tickets!

*Please note that tickets will not be available for sale at the door but online sales will continue up until the event starts.

- ONLINE TICKET SALES - Tickets and required permissions are available for purchase and completion here -

<https://patapscomiddle.givebacks.com/shop/items/8e90908480>

- IN-SCHOOL LUNCH TIME CASH SALES - Available Thursday, October 29th and Friday, October 30th during lunch. Students who will be paying in cash for their ticket also need a permission slip completed. They can bring home a paper copy from the lunch time sales or you can click below to complete the online permissions portion electronically.

<https://patapscomiddle.givebacks.com/shop/items/bc7a24c84a>

Permission slips are required for entry to the event, even if the student has paid. So PLEASE save yourself time by completing this BEFORE the event!

Please sign up to volunteer here so we can make the event happen -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45ABAF29A46-51683205-patapsco#/>

Feel free to contact Jane Fisher at jane.gribble@gmail.com with questions.

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found is overflowing with water bottles, hoodies, lunchboxes, jackets, and more! Please remind your child to check for any belongings that may have gone missing. Unclaimed items will be donated or discarded after **October 27**.

PTA Reflections Program

Hello Families

The PTA is excited to conduct the National PTA Reflections Program again for the 2026-2027 school year. Reflections is a nationwide arts recognition and achievement program sponsored by the PTA. There is an annual theme/topic and students have the opportunity to submit their completed works of art in one or all of these arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts

This year's topic is: "What my Culture means to me"

Entry forms and guidelines are available on our website at: [Refelctions Website](#)

Completed Entry Forms and projects can be emailed to reflectionsptapsco@gmail.com by November 5th 2026

October Spirit Days

During the month of October, our 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade levels will be competing head-to-head in our weekly "Fall Into Spirit" School Spirit competition!

Each grade level will earn points based on participation in weekly spirit days, which will be recorded during Period 1 classes.

10/30 - Wear Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

Patapsco, did you hear the news?

 **THE OCEAN IS CALLING...** 

And this year, The Patapsco Players are answering!

OUR MUSICAL IS...

  **MOANA JR.!**  

If you are a PMS student and you love **singing, dancing, acting, comedy, or just being part of something BIG**, we want you to consider auditioning!

Auditions will be held on November 2nd OR 4th (each student signs up to audition on one of the days) **and Callbacks on November 5th**. Please make sure students have transportation home from all events.

Mahalo,

Ms. Wardlaw 🌸

Director & Producer

Patapsco Players

april_wardlaw@hcpss.org

Carson Scholarship

The Carson Scholars Fund awards \$1,000 college scholarships to students in grades 4-11 who excel academically and are dedicated to serving their communities. An interested student must be nominated by the principal at his/her/their school to be able to compete for a Carson Scholarship. Only one student from each school is able to apply, ensuring that each nominee epitomizes academic excellence. Carson Scholars must have a GPA of 3.75 and display humanitarian qualities through community service. Scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of academic achievement and humanitarian qualities, without regard to financial need, ethnicity, creed or religion. More information can be found on: [Carson Scholarship Website](#)

If you are interested in being considered for nomination, please complete the [Carson Scholarship Form](#) and send it to Mrs. Shurtleff at erin_shurtleff@hcpss.org.

All nomination forms will be due to Mrs. Shurtleff no later than Wednesday, December 3, 2026.

Update Your Family File

Thank you to the families of the 610 students who have already completed your Family File. Leading all grades is 7th grade with 93.0% of their Family Files completed! 6th grade has completed 89.0%, while 8th grade is trailing, with only 82.3% 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.

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 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

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](#).

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](#)