

Important Dates

October 16 - Schools Closed for Students

October 19 - Picture Day

October 27 - End of Quarter 1

October 28 - Schools Closed for Students

October 30 - Fall Fun Knight

October Spirit Days

Starting this Thursday, our 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade levels will be competing head-to-head in our weekly October “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.

10/8 - Wear Red for Dyslexia Awareness

10/15 - Pajama Day

10/21 - Wear Orange for Unity Day

10/30 - Wear Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

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.

Annual Coat Day

[Coat Day](#) is being held this Saturday, October 10, from 12:00-2:30 at St. John Baptist Church, 9055 Tamar Drive, Columbia, MD. This event is open to the entire community and no prior sign-up is required. There will be coats available for the entire family, including adults and children of all ages. Please note that all guests must be present at the event to receive a coat, with a limit of one coat per person.

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!

To prepare, join us for an **Audition Workshop on October 21st from 3:30-5 (ish) in room E4**. Followed by **Auditions on November 2nd OR 4th** (each student signs up to audition on one of the days) and **Callbacks on November 5th**.

Please make sure that students have transportation home from all events. Also, Audition Workshop attendance is not required to audition but it is HIGHLY recommended.

Mahalo,

Ms. Wardlaw 

Director & Producer

Patapsco Players

april_wardlaw@hcpss.org

[Previously Shared](#)

Picture Day

Lifetouch Photography will be at Patapsco to photograph students on Friday, October 19. Packages can be ordered [online](#). Picture Day ID: EVTXGM6H6
All students will be photographed for yearbook and administrative purposes, but only those submitting a completed order form or online order will receive a portrait package.

PTA News

Fun Night! Fun Night! Fun Night!

The Fall Fun Night is October 30! Dancing, photo booth, basketball, fall-themed bingo, prizes, snacks! Tickets will be on sale soon - both online and in-person sales. And don't forget that Royal Knight members get free entry and coupons for free snacks.

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 is up to 135!! But - there are still empty seats at the Round Table. Please [JOIN](#) the PTA today and help Sir Knight and your fellow knights on to victory.

Update Your Family File

Thank you to the families of the 600 students who have already completed your Family File. Leading all grades is 7th grade with 92.6% 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.

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

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.

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](#)