

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**8/23:** Student schedules available in Synergy

**8/24:** New Student and Family Orientation, 1:00 2:30 PM  
All 6th grade students and new 7th and 8th grade students

Principal Meet & Greet, 6:30-7:30 PM in the cafeteria

**8/28:** First Day of School  
New School Start and Dismissal Time **8:40 AM - 3:25 PM**

**9/04:** Labor Day - Schools and Offices Closed

**9/07:** Back to School Knight, 6:00 PM (More information coming soon)

**9/15:** Schools and Offices Closed

**9/21:** PTA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM (We hope to see you there!)

Refer to the [Patapsco Calendar](#) to stay up to date with all the events at Patapsco Middle School.

Follow us on Twitter: [@hcpss\\_PMS](#) and Instagram: [PatapscoMS](#)

Dear Patapsco Families:

As the new principal of Patapsco Middle School, I would like to officially welcome everyone to the 2023-2024 school year! To our new Patapsco families, welcome and we are so happy to have you join our #OnePatapsco commUNITY. I have been quickly learning about all the great things happening here at Patapsco and you will too. I am excited about collaborating with students, staff, and the community to make our school even better than it already is.

This edition of the newsletter provides information that families will want to review in preparation for the school year. We will be sending newsletters and updating our website throughout the school year to keep our community informed. If one of your neighbors or friends is not receiving our communications, please encourage them to call the school office at 410-313-2848.

I look forward to meeting our students and families at the various events to kick-off our school year. Please do not hesitate to call the school or email me if you have any questions or need assistance.

Kelly Hearn  
Principal  
kelly\_hearns@hcpss.org

## School Supply List

[Here is the school supply list](#) for the 2023-2024 school year.

## Homeroom Assignments

Here is the list of homerooms that students will have each morning. They are divided by grade and by alphabet (last name). Homerooms may need to be adjusted for any enrollment changes. We will send this out again prior to the first day of school.

[Homeroom assignments](#)

## New Student and Family Orientation

*August 24 1:00-2:30 PM at Patapsco Middle School*

**6th Grade Orientation** will be held on Thursday, August 24 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM. Students will report directly to the gymnasium to meet by homeroom assignment and parents are welcome to join us in the cafeteria. Students will also have an opportunity to follow their schedule and meet their teachers, practice with their lockers, and learn all about what Patapsco has to offer! For parents and guardians, this will be a time for you to hear about different procedures at Patapsco and a brief Q&A with the Administration, the front office staff, and the PTA. So please join us and welcome to the Patapsco Knighthood!

**New (to Patapsco) Student Orientation for 7th and 8th grade** students who are **first time** students at Patapsco will be held on Thursday, August 24 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM. Students will report to the media center for orientation. Parents and guardians are welcome to join us in the cafeteria to hear about different procedures at Patapsco and a brief Q&A. Please join us and welcome to the Patapsco Knighthood!

## Principal Meet & Greet

Returning families and new families unable to attend orientation will have a chance to meet Mrs. Hearn at the Principal Meet & Greet on Thursday, August 24 at 6:30 PM the cafeteria.

## It's Time to Update Your Student's 2023-2024 Information Using Family File

**We need each family to do this before August 28!**

Family File is now available for the 2023-24 school year: Parents can now access and complete the [FAMILY FILE](#) for this year and it is done through HCPSS CONNECT. Parents must complete the Family File every year to ensure HCPSS has the most current information for each child. Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to verify, or update the following information: Student Information, Parent/Guardian Contact, Emergency Contact, Medical Information, Arrival/Dismissal Procedures, Photo Approval, Data Confidentiality, PTA/PTSA Directory.

Updating your information, including EMAIL addresses and contact information, and pushing the SUBMIT button will ensure that you are receiving the most recent news from Patapsco Middle School.

If you've forgotten how to access your Connect account, or are new to the system, you can find all the information [here](#) including instructions in English, Korean & Spanish as well as a video link.

**Please have this back-to-school necessity completed by the beginning of school, 8/28/23.** If you have any questions please contact Ms. Anderson at [Ashley\\_Anderson@hcpss.org](mailto:Ashley_Anderson@hcpss.org) who is available to assist you. Thank you for completing the Family File.

**Changes of address may not be made through Family File.** If you have recently moved, please contact your child's new school as soon as possible. As we are preparing for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, it is imperative that we have accurate addresses on file for all of our students. If you have moved, and have not provided us with your updated information, we ask that you email the following documents to Ms. Butler, Student Service Secretary at [monica\\_butler@hcpss.org](mailto:monica_butler@hcpss.org)

**Please complete a change of address form - [Click here to download PDF fillable version](#)**

**You will also need to send in the following:**

- **A deed or deed of trust that has all required signatures or an original lease with all required signatures**
- **A current bill for cable television, non-cellular telephone, or gas and electric.**

## Student Schedules

All families and students will be able to view full schedules in Synergy on August 23. If you see any errors or if you have any questions, please contact your student's assigned counselor.

Kendra Lee (A-G) [Kendra\\_Lee@hcpss.org](mailto:Kendra_Lee@hcpss.org)

Erin Shurtleff (H-O) [Erin\\_Shurtleff@hcpss.org](mailto:Erin_Shurtleff@hcpss.org)

Morgan Kempthorn (P-Z) [Morgan\\_kempthorn@hcpss.org](mailto:Morgan_kempthorn@hcpss.org)

## Notes from the PTA President's Desk:

Hello Patapsco Middle School CommUNITY! I am excited to be your new PTA President. I have four kids at Patapsco this year, with at least one in each grade. I want to let you all know that we have started to plan activities for this coming school year and hope to get you a full calendar soon. We already have some fun in the works! We also will need a lot of help throughout the year to help provide the BEST year ever for our amazing students, faculty, and staff. We try very hard not to do any fundraisers, and only ask two things of our parents...

1. Join the PTA!! You can do that easily by clicking this link now:

<https://patapscomiddle.memberhub.com/store>

2. Volunteer at least ***one time*** during the year. We will have many small manageable jobs to choose from and online sign ups.

### September 21st – First PTA General Membership Meeting - 7pm in the Media Center

Come see what we're up to and what we are planning for this year! We welcome all members of the community to join the PTA. We would love some fresh ideas and input!

Much more information to come from the Patapsco PTA, but in the meantime as you soak up as much summer as you can, follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/patapscopta> [where](#) we will be posting news and needs as we get closer to the start of the school year.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at [patapscopta@gmail.com](mailto:patapscopta@gmail.com) with questions or interest in lending a hand!

Thanks!

Megan Mason

2023-2024 Patapsco PTA President

## Spirit Wear

Our PTA is selling fantastic Spirit Wear. Check out the online store!

[Patapsco Spirit Wear](#)

## Chromebooks

Any student who was issued a Chromebook last year will continue to use that device during the 2023-2024 school year. Every student new to HCPSS will have access to a chromebook; parents/guardians do not need to do anything to request this device. Details for student devices will be communicated as soon as they are available.

## Lockers

Every student will be issued a locker on the first day of school. Students will be able to access their lockers before school, before and after lunch, and after school. Students are permitted to carry their backpack throughout the day.

## From The Health Room

Dear Patapsco Middle Parents and Guardians,

Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene requires all incoming 7th grade students in the state of Maryland to have one Tdap and one Meningitis vaccine BEFORE entering school.

Some students may have already received these immunizations, but the Health Room may not have the updated immunization record. Please contact your child's health care provider and send or fax an updated copy of your child's immunizations to the Health Room. The fax number at Patapsco Middle Health Room is 410-313-1741.

Immunizations may also be sent to Theresa Anderson, school nurse, at [theresa\\_anderson@hcpss.org](mailto:theresa_anderson@hcpss.org)

Failure to provide proof of updated immunizations by the first day of school, or to provide evidence of an appointment to receive those immunizations within 20 calendar days from the first day of school, will result in your student being excluded from school. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse.

## Taking Medication At School

If your child takes medication at school, please visit [here](#).

## **2023-2024 School Calendar**

Please [click here](#) to access the HCPSS 2023-2024 calendar which details dates/holidays for HCPSS this coming year, including Winter break, Spring break, and professional learning days.

## **2023-2024 School Meals**

Families are reminded that the federal government has not extended waivers allowing free meals for all students. Consequently, for the 2023-2024 school year, students whose families do not qualify for free or reduced lunch will be required to pay the [daily meal price](#).

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.