

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**8/24:** Schedules available students and families in Synergy

**8/25:** New Student (Rising 6th Grader) and New to Patapsco (7th and 8th Graders) and Family Orientation, 1:00 PM. *Optional Open House for returning 7th and 8th grade students 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM*

**8/25:** PTA Block Party 2:30 - 4:30 following New Student and Family Orientation and Returning Student Optional Open House

**8/29:** First day of school for students (**student day: 8:05 - 2:50 PM**)

**9/5:** Schools and Offices closed

**9/8:** Back to School Knight at 6 PM

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

**9/26:** Schools and Offices closed

**9/30:** PTA Fun Knight 7:00PM - 9:00PM

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](#)  
[Patapsco Middle School Website](#)

## **Important Phone Numbers**

School Office: 410-313-2848

Student Services: 410-313-2850

Health Room: 410-313-2574

## **From the Principal's Desk...**

Dear Patapsco Families:

Our staff returned last Thursday and it was an amazing day and there is so much great energy in our building right now. Our staff has been working really hard on setting up their classrooms, collaborating with each other, and creating lessons that build a sense of "commUNITY. Our

theme for this year is “Every Child, Every Moment, Everyday!” We are focused on every little moment and how it can make a huge impact in a child’s life and education. We are excited to greet each and every child with care and compassion on August 29th.

We look forward to seeing our **new** students and families this Thursday at our New Student and Family Orientation at 1:00 PM. Returning Knights, you have the opportunity to travel through our building in an Open House format from 2:30 - 3:30 PM. You can look up your schedule and locker information ahead of time in Synergy. The PTA Block Party will begin at 2:30 and we hope to see you there (this event is not drop-off and a parent/guardian must be present).

Families, save the date of September 8 for Back to School Knight. All families will be invited to attend BTS-Knight at Patapsco Middle from 6-8 PM. You will be able to travel around the building and attend each of your student’s classes to hear from their teachers. We look forward to seeing you!

Finally, I want to thank the PTA for the fabulous breakfast they provided on our opening day. It was delicious and we appreciate our wonderful families. Kudos to Ms. Muirhead for organizing, our parent volunteers, and our PTA exec board!! What a great way to start the year!

I wish you all an amazing last week of summer!

Mike Babe  
Principal

## **Welcome to our Newest Knights**

1. Elyse Snyder, Media
2. Victoria Delpo, World Languages
3. Tracey Mahanti, World Languages
4. Carl Bell, Social Studies
5. Davin Johnson, Social Studies
6. Emily DeFrancesco, Math
7. Zac Stavish, Math
8. Jeremiah Pointer, Science
9. Stephen Schumacher, Special Education
10. Jenny Canfield, English/Language Arts

### **And welcome to our Newest Knights as new positions for the 22-23 school year**

1. Vilma Rivera, Hispanic Achievement Liaison
2. Sean Jones, BSAP Liaison

3. Mohamed Alhedai, Social Worker
4. Elissa Schuyler, Math Support
5. Erin Shurtleff, School Counselor

## School Supplies

[Here is the school supply list](#) for the 22-23 school year. Remember to recycle/reuse any supplies from previous years...they do not need to be new. Also, Student Services has free school supplies if needed. Please call Student Services 410-313-2850 or email your child's counselor for these supplies.

Our PTA is also hosting a school supply drive. Please consider donating any extra supplies for our commUNITY. Donated supplies can be dropped off at Orientation.

## Medication Drop off 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM: August 23-August 26<sup>th</sup>

All medications must have a medication order signed by a licensed health care provider including over the counter medication. All prescription medications must have a pharmacy label on the medication. Please make sure all medications being brought in are not expired. Please email our nurse [Megan\\_blouse@hcpss.org](mailto:Megan_blouse@hcpss.org) for any questions.

[Medication at School Information and Forms](#)

## Orientations, Open House, and Block Party on Thursday, August 25:

**WE ARE EXCITED TO SEE OUR KNIGHTS!!**

6th grade and **New** (never been a Patapsco student before) to Patapsco 8th graders  
**Orientation: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

6th grade students and families as well as **NEW** to Patapsco students and families are invited to our orientation on Thursday, August 25 at 1:00 PM. Students will enter the building and go directly to the gym to be greeted by their homeroom teachers. Parents and families will be invited to the cafeteria to hear from Mr. Babe, Ms. Dinicola, front office staff, and our PTA. Students will start in homeroom and briefly attend all of their classes so they are familiar with the building before the first day of school. At the end, students will have the opportunity to practice opening their locker and they can then walk around the building again to practice walking their schedule. Students may also drop-off school supplies and other items to their locker as well.

*Do not worry if your student is unable to attend...our staff will welcome and orient each student the first week of school with plenty of love and patience.*

**New (to Patapsco) Student Orientation for 7th and 8th grade** students who are **first time** students at Patapsco will be held on Thursday, August 25 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM. Students will report to the media center and then will have an orientation in the media center. 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!

**There is an Optional Open House for Returning 7th and 8th grade students** who wish to walk around the building before the first day of school. This will be from 2:30 - 3:30 PM and it is a drop-in opportunity and students must look up their schedule in synergy ahead of time and bring it with them (paper copies will NOT be available). Students may also drop off school supplies to their lockers during the open house time of 2:30-3:30 PM.

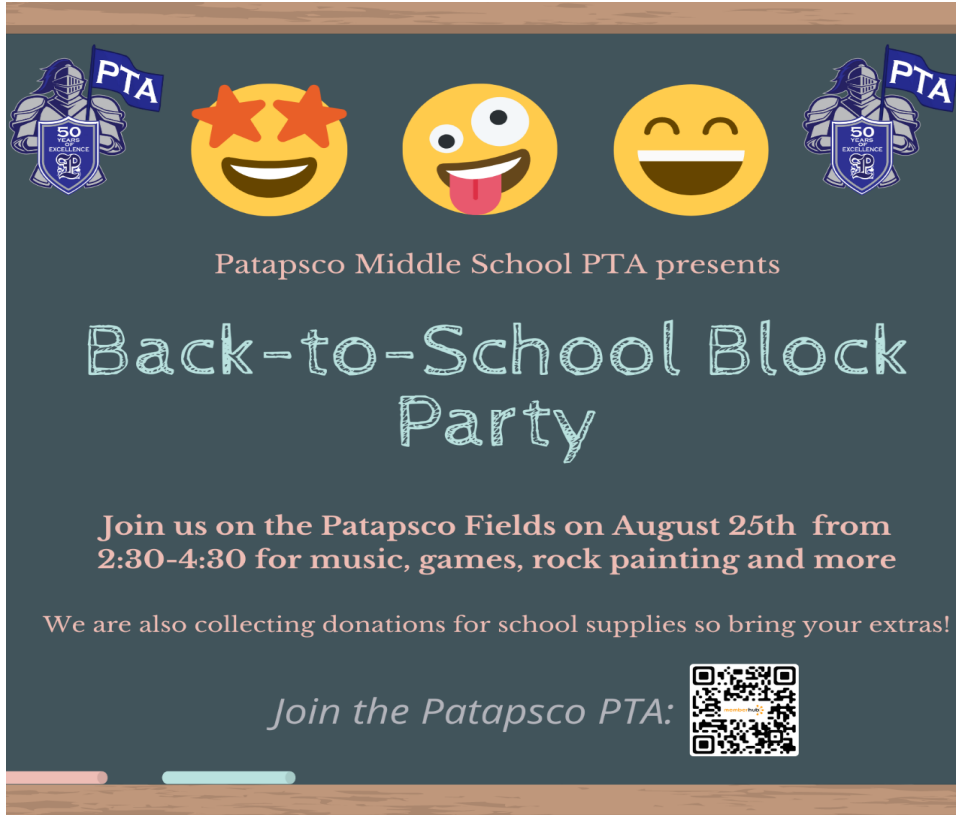
*Then..*

## **PTA Block Party**

Meet up with old and new friends on the Patapsco fields. Jam to the latest tunes, enjoy a frozen treat and dabble in some arts and crafts. We will provide donation bins to collect school supplies for students in need in our community – so while you are stocking up with those early sales, grab a few more!

Help needed to run this event! Please consider lending a hand. Sign up genius here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45ABAF29A46-patapsco2>



[Click here to Join the PTA](#)

## **Spirit Wear**

Our PTA is selling fantastic Spirit Wear. Check out the online store! There are plenty of items for students and families! Let's show off our Patapsco Pride at school and in our community.

[Patapsco Spirit Wear](#)

## **Student Schedules**

Will be available via Synergy on August 24 and Canvas on August 26. Please note we are continuing to balance classes based on changing enrollment and all students will receive a new printed schedule on the first day of school, August 29.

## **Lockers and Backpacks**

Each student will be assigned a locker the first day of school. Students will also be allowed to

carry their backpack with them throughout the day. Students may not bring their backpack and chromebook to lunch and they will need to utilize their locker before and after lunch.

## Meals

**New this year** - School meals are no longer free for all students. Information about menus, prices, online payment and Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) can be found on the [HCPSS Food & Nutrition](#) website. More information [here](#).

## 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 as enrollment changes occur over the next few weeks. We will send this out again as we get closer to the start of the year.

[Homeroom assignments](#)

## Update Your Family File!

**Family File is now available for the 2022-23 school year: PLEASE DO THIS BEFORE AUGUST 29.** 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, 8/29/22. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Douglass at [Jennifer.Douglass@hcpss.org](mailto:Jennifer.Douglass@hcpss.org) who is available to assist you. Thank you for completing the Family File.

## Bus Transportation

Bus number, bus stop, and additional information is available [on the HCPSS website](#). Please check the bus route and bus number again before August 29 as information may change prior to the first day of school. We also recommend students to arrive at the bus stop 15 minutes prior to listed time to ensure students are on time. Please also anticipate a later drop off as well. Each year it takes about a week or two to adjust to a consistent schedule for transportation.

## Technology and Devices

### Student Devices

To help remove technology barriers and advance equitable student learning outcomes, HCPSS has moved to a 1:1 student-to-device ratio. All students have or will be provided with a Chromebook. These devices are required for all county and state testing and assessments.

If a student has not been issued a HCPSS device, they will report to the Media Center to be assigned a device on Monday, August 29.

Don't miss HCPSS's [new webpage for everything technology!](#)

### [Chromebook Responsibilities](#)

### [Chromebook Care](#)

### [Chromebook Repair Cost](#)

If you have any questions about chromebooks please email [Elyse\\_snyder@hcpss.org](mailto:Elyse_snyder@hcpss.org) who is our media specialist.

### Canvas

HCPSS utilizes the Canvas online learning management system to access and manage online course learning materials, grades and more. Canvas is available to families online and via mobile app. [Orientation videos](#) for each school level, as well as [guides for students and parents](#) are available online.

### Connect / Synergy

[HCPSS Connect](#) provides access to a variety of student information and classroom instructional tools offering personalized communication and timely, relevant and easily accessible information

relating to your student. Parents/guardians may log in via HCPSS Connect to access and update Family File, indicate device/internet needs, view report cards and more.

## Cell Phones

Upon arrival at school, students must put their cell phones away in their locker or backpack. Per HCPSS Policy 8080, student use of cell phones is not permitted in Howard County middle schools during the school day. Families are reminded that students must abide by [Board of Education Policy 8080 Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media](#), and specifically Standard E. Student Use-Technology, which states that “HCPSS permits students to bring personal technology devices to school, according to the following rules:

- Middle Schools – Students:
  - **Students will not use personal technology devices during non-instructional time**, to include but not limited to transition between classes, lunch, recess, or in bathrooms.

A school administrator may, on occasion, authorize the use of personal technology devices for special events and/or for positive behavioral supports and interventions.

## Google Services

Parent/guardian consent is required for Google Translate, which is now available in Google’s menu of additional services on HCPSS issued Chromebooks for students in grades 4-12. If you have previously provided consent for Google’s menu of additional services, no further action is needed and your child will automatically be given access to Google Translate.

[More information](#), including details on how to provide consent for your child to access Google’s additional services, is available online.

## Student Absences

If your student has to be absent from school, please submit a note to [pmsabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:pmsabsence@hcpss.org) or send a note in with your child to submit to Student Services.

If your child has been lawfully absent from school and a note has been submitted, they will have the opportunity to make up missed work.

When emailing a note, you will receive an automated message to verify that your email was received.

Please do not send attendance notes to your child's teachers.



If you have any questions about your child's attendance, please email [pmsabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:pmsabsence@hcpss.org).

If you would like to submit a [Discretionary Absence Form FILLABLE.pdf](#) form, please fill it out and email it to [pmsabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:pmsabsence@hcpss.org).

Please review the [HCPSS Attendance Policy](#) for further information.

### **Late Arrivals:**

- Students will report to Student Services 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.

### **Donate Clothes**

Drop off clothes to our donation bin anytime! This is a great time to clean out the closets before the start of the year.

[Here is information](#) on the donation program.

### **Knighly Newsletters**

All previous newsletters are posted under News at <http://pms.hcpss.org/>

### **Community Notices**

HCPSS' [Community News and Programs](#) website makes it easy for families to find educational and recreational resources, events and after-school programs beyond the school day by non-profit organizations.”

Community organizations requesting their announcements be shared in school newsletters should visit [community-programs.hcpss.org](http://community-programs.hcpss.org) for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss.org)