

KNIGHTLY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

8/30/21: First day of school for students (**student day: 8:05 - 2:50 PM**)

9/6/21 Schools and Offices closed

9/7/21 Schools and Offices closed

9/9/21: Back to School Knight at 6 PM

9/16/21: Schools and Offices closed

9/22/21: PTA meeting- All are invited!

9/27/21: School Picture Day

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

Dear Patapsco Families:

It was so wonderful to see our students and families at our orientation and open house yesterday. The orientation PowerPoint is available [here](#).

I wanted to send this issue of Knightly News to highlight the first day of school. All of the information that is included in our Knightly News will also be posted on our website.

School starts at 8:05AM and ends at 2:50PM. The doors to the building open at 8:00AM. Breakfast will be available at no-cost to all students starting at 7:50 AM. As in years prior, students will wait outdoors prior to the opening bell unless we experience heavy precipitation or extreme temperatures. There are multiple entrances to the building and students will enter the building by their assigned lockers. Students who take the bus will need to make sure they are at their bus stop early in case the bus arrives early but be prepared it could also be a few minutes late. For families who are arriving by car:

- Follow the traffic arrows at the end of the driveway to make a circular loop into the drop off area
- Only buses, staff, and county vehicles will be permitted to enter the parking lot during drop-off and pick-up times.

- Seek assistance from the staff member stationed by the drop off area. They will be happy to help you in any way possible.

WHAT SUPPLIES DO I NEED FIRST DAY?

All students please come with your HCPSS assigned Chromebook (charged), a couple of pencils, a notebook, and a binder. You can bring in more supplies as the week progresses. Students will be able to use their locker and backpack. We will help all students with their lockers throughout the entire week. We know lockers are a big deal and also can be scary for students- we will be here ready to show patience and care.

All students must bring and wear a **mask** in the building and on their bus. We also encourage students to bring a water bottle.

REMINDERS

- Lunch and breakfast are available for all students at no-cost
- students, staff, and visitors must wear a mask
- be patient with bus times for the first few days
- Lockers and backpacks may be used
- Do not send your student to school sick

Does my student need their HCPSS issued Chromebook everyday?

- Yes. Please bring your fully charged Chromebook everyday. Any student that does not have a Chromebook from the previous school year will be assigned one on Monday.

What time does the bus arrive?

- Bus stop locations and times can be found on the [HCPSS Bus Locator](#) web page. Please arrive at the bus stop 10 to 15 minutes early.

Where does my student report to on Monday morning?

- Students will report to homeroom everyday.

Can students eat lunch outside this year?

- Yes. Weather and staffing permitted. We will have seating for students to utilize if they want to eat outside.

What is the cell phone policy?

- All cell phones must be put away upon entering the building. Students may carry their phone and it must be silent but it may not be used during the day. Expectations will be shared with students the first week of school.

We are ready...and we cannot wait! We look forward to seeing all of our Knights on the first day on Monday!

Enjoy the weekend!

Mike Babe
Principal

Important Phone Numbers

School Office: 410-313-2848
Student Services: 410-313-2850
Health Room: 410-313-2574

Homerooms [2021-2022 Homerooms.pdf](#)

All students are assigned to [homerooms](#) that they will attend each day. Every Wednesday, students will attend Homeroom for an extended period of time also known as Knight Time. All students will report to their homeroom everyday. Next week, all students will attend Knight Time as we want all of our students comfortable and prepared for the New Year.

Meet our New Knights

Mr. Rainbow, Chorus
Chis Song, Art
Nicholas Valenti, Social Studies
Kristen Noppinger, English
Jimmy Gallman, Science
Inna K-R, Paraeducator

Student Schedules via Synergy

Students can view their schedule at www.hcpss.org/connect and click on SYNERGY and on the main menu, click on class schedule. As we continue to enroll students, we are also continuing to balance class sizes based on new enrollments. Students will receive an updated schedule on Monday, August 30 during Homeroom. If your student notices an error or has a question about a specific course on their schedule, please hold that question until Monday when we welcome everyone back. We will be reviewing the process of how students can inquire with scheduling concerns. Our top priority is ensuring every student has a schedule by the first day of classes. Again, we appreciate your patience as we continue to welcome new families to PMS.

Welcome Visitors

In order to ensure the safety of all students and staff, all visitors must press the buzzer located on either set of main doors to gain entry to our building. When we greet you, please provide us with your name and the reason for your visit. We will buzz you right in and direct you to report to the main office, student services, or the health room, as indicated.

As a gentle reminder, please remember to bring in a valid form of identification (e.g. Drivers License) if you are picking up one of our students. It's also a good idea to double check your Emergency Procedure information to ensure the list of individuals authorized to pick up your student during the school day is up to date.

Bus Information

Information about transportation - including a link to stops and times can be found [here](#). WE RECOMMEND THAT ALL STUDENTS BE AT THE BUS STOP at least 10-15 minutes early the first week of school.

Free and Reduced Meals

Participation in the Free and Reduced-Meal program qualifies students for many opportunities. Detailed information can be found at <https://www.hcpss.org/food-services/farms/>. We are asking all families to complete their application online at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>.

Join the PTA

Hear ye, Hear ye! Perform your yearly Knightly duty and join the Patapsco Middle School PTA today! Just click the link below to complete your annual membership.

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

5 Reasons to Join the PTA:

- 1. BENEFIT YOUR CHILD!** Research shows that children perform better when parents are involved both at home and school.
- 2. GET CONNECTED!** There is no better way to know what's happening at school.
- 3. TAP INTO A NETWORK! PTA** connects you to other parents and teachers through meetings, events, and communications, helping to build a sense of community.
- 4. BE A ROLE MODEL!** By becoming a PTA member, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education.
- 5. WITNESS IMPROVEMENT!** By getting involved in the PTA you'll be part of the solution – helping to make positive changes.

Patapsco Spirit Wear

Looking for a way to show your excitement about seeing your friends and teachers and staff in person this school year? Look no further than the Patapsco Spirit Wear store, open now through midnight, 12 September 2021!! The orders will be delivered to your child's homeroom about 4 weeks after the store closes on the 12th. Please go to <https://patapscomiddle.itemorder.com/sale> to order your items!

Thank you,
Patapsco PTA

Update Your Family File!

Family File is now available for the 2021-22 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, 8/30/21. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Douglass at Jennifer_Douglass@hcpss.org who is available to assist you. Thank you for completing the Family File.

Quarantining Procedures

The [close contact and quarantining procedures](#) that were put into place last year will remain this fall. Only unvaccinated students and adults who are identified as close contacts must quarantine. **Vaccinated students and staff will not be required to quarantine** unless they receive a positive test or are displaying symptoms, but are expected to monitor their symptoms

closely for the 14 days. [Instructional supports](#) are in place for students who must quarantine. Students will be able to see when their teachers are available through their canvas page.

Medication Drop Off

If your student takes medicine during the school day, please drop it off on Monday, August 30 between 8:00 and 2:30 PM.

COVID-19 Self-Screening Symptoms Self Check

Parents/guardians should **keep their children home if they are experiencing [symptom\(s\) associated with any communicable disease](#)**, including COVID-19. In addition, parents/guardians are to perform the following COVID-19 health check every day before the student leaves home.

A child should **NOT** come to school with any of these symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or New loss of taste or smell

For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

Children exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 may not attend school.

Please visit the HCPSS website for [additional information on self screening, contact tracing and quarantining procedures](#). Additionally, visit the HCPSS website for more information on the [2021-2022 school year](#) and answers to [frequently asked questions](#).

