

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

# 12-3-2021

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**12/7:** PMS Orchestra Winter Concert @ MHHS, 7PM

**12/8:** School Store

**12/9:** PMS Band Winter Concert @ MHHS, 7PM

**12/10:** PMS Chorus Winter Concert @ MHHS, 7PM

**12/15:** 3 hr. Early Dismissal

**12/22:** School Store

**12/23 -12-31:** Schools Closed - Winter Break

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

## Important Phone Numbers

School Office: 410-313-2848

Student Services: 410-313-2850

Health Room: 410-313-2574



*Patapsco- a place where **everyone** is valued and important!*

## Car loop reminders

We thank all of our families for their patience and support during the car loop each morning and afternoon. We do want to highlight some areas of concern that we need to remind families. Students are to not walk up the driveway towards the end of the property to be picked up by families. Students must be picked up in the car loop along the curb. This is for each and every person's safety. We have buses, cars, students, staff all in an area and we need to make sure everyone is safe.

In addition, some drivers have turned into the side parking lot by the portables which is adding another safety concern as cars are now coming in multiple directions. Please follow the traffic pattern for the car loop. We know that everyone is busy and has places to go each day but we need to make safety a priority. Thank you everyone for their support and patience as we have a

large group of car riders.

## **Career Academy Virtual Info Sessions**

Wednesday, Dec. 8th, 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Students in grades 8-11 and their parents/guardians can learn how Career and Technical Education career academies provide high school students with opportunities to earn college credit, scholarships and industry certifications; participate in worksite and mentorship experiences; and take part in hands-on project-based learning. To learn more and register visit the

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2021/09/career-academy-info-sessions-oct-6-dec-8-2021/>

When registering, students/parents will need to indicate which academy session they are interested in. Complete information on all career academies (<https://www.hcpss.org/academies/>) is available online. Students/parents are encouraged to review the academies before registering.

### **Register now:**

December 8 sessions-

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe\\_20V1xaK56iGzaZVzcisuzm0fHFdGEJ29O0n00hIxxa981Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe_20V1xaK56iGzaZVzcisuzm0fHFdGEJ29O0n00hIxxa981Q/viewform)

## **Parents/Guardians of current 8th grader students - Upcoming News!**

December and January are busy months for our 8th grade students! In preparation for their transition to high school Ms Lee and Ms Kempthorn will have a lot of information to share with students and families. Please keep an eye out for our Canvas Announcements for regular updates of important dates and information. As always if you have specific questions please reach out to your child's school counselor!

## **Outdoor Lunches in Cold Weather**

Many families have asked whether outdoor seating will remain an option for students who wish to eat lunch outside during the colder months. Outdoor lunch will continue to be an option for any student who wishes to do so, as the weather allows.

Please note that the decision to allow for outdoor lunch is at the discretion of each school administrator, while considering the following criteria:

- Temperature and humidity
- Wind chill
- Heat index and air quality

- Age of students
- Length of time outdoors
- Adequacy of the children's clothing
- Condition of the playground
- Falling precipitation
- Thunder and lightning
- Sufficient staffing and supervision

If your child plans to eat outside, please encourage them to dress appropriately for the temperatures, including wearing a coat, hat and/or gloves each day.

The opportunity for outdoor eating has been one of several effective COVID-19 mitigation strategies we have employed to keep our school community healthy and safe. Please visit the [HCPSS website \(Links to an external site\)](#) regarding health and safety measures, including what is being done to [ensure indoor dining safety \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

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

## **Nominate a Principal or Teacher**

Nominations are now open for the annual HCPSS Principal and Teacher of the Year awards, and are due no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 7, 2022. [Submission information and full details](#) can be found online.

## **Thank you to the PTA**

"Thank you, Patapsco PTA, for your support in donating prizes for the first school raffle. The initiative was a success! Students were able to use their Sir Prize Dollars to participate. Your generosity will allow us to continue celebrating our student's positive behavior and organize future raffles."

## **Clothing to Cash- easy donation!**

Please donate to our Clothing to Cash fundraising program! [Clothing to Cash](#) is a textile recycling program that donates money to the school for every pound of donated items. Look for the white donation bin in the parking lot. Clothing to Cash will accept items in ALL conditions: new with tags, or torn, stained, worn-out knees, shoes with holes or only one shoe, backpacks, old sheets, towels, blankets, stuffed animals and more. What a great way to help the school and clean out your closets! All donations must be bagged and put in the collection

bin.

## **Music Department Winter Concerts**

We are excited to welcome live performance back to our Patapsco music students! Orchestra will perform Tuesday, December 7th, Band will perform Thursday, December 9th, and Chorus will perform Friday, December 10th. All performances will begin at 7pm at Mount Hebron High School. Performers should check their class Canvas page for details on concert attire and arrival time. Please see some additional safety information below:

- All performers, audience members and guests are required to wear masks at all times.
- Each concert will feature approximately 100 student performers.
- The MHHS auditorium seats more than 700 people. As we have kept student numbers low for this event, the auditorium capacity should allow ample room for families and students to socially distance for the performance.
- To prevent crowding in the lobby at the end of the concert, we suggest you meet your child either in the auditorium, or outside at the conclusion of the event.

Thank you very much and we look forward to seeing you there!

## **Music Boosters**

Hey Music lovers, the Music Department's Winter Concerts are coming up next week, December 7, 9, & 10! The Patapsco Music Directors depend on parent volunteers to keep the concerts running smoothly. Please volunteer some of your time (no more than 20 minutes) while at the show! There is a Sign Up Genius for each concert, so please click on the links below and sign up! To sweeten the deal, on the night of all 3 concerts, if you go to Yogi Castle from 3-9 pm, the Music Boosters will get 25% of the proceeds and you and your family get a delicious treat!! It's a win-win! Thank you so much for your support!

ORCHESTRA 12/7/21:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0449AF2E5-patapsco>

BAND 12/9/21:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0449AF2E5-patapsco2>

CHORUS 12/10/21:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0449AF2E5-patapsco1>

## **Concert Clothing Closet**

Our Music Department Polo Shirts have arrived! As your child is preparing for the upcoming concerts, be sure to check to see they have their black pants/skirt and black shoes and be sure that they still fit! Need something? We have an inventory of gently used concert clothing pieces students may use for free! Please contact a music teacher if your child would like to visit our Concert Clothing Closet before the December concerts. Thanks!

### **PMS Vocal Program**



### **Calling all students, staff, and families!**

Mount Hebron's annual Canned Food Drive is underway. The High School is running this drive until December 22nd. They are collecting cans, money, and other canned food donations which go towards feeding those who struggle during the harsh winter months. Their goal is to help support our community, to ultimately collect over 75,000 cans county-wide!

Patapsco Middle will be collecting cans in a designated box, which will be collected weekly! In addition, a box will be placed outside of Mount Hebron's auditorium for the Winter Concert on December 7th, 9th, and 10th.

The collection is being conducted by classes assigned to various regions of Howard County. For more information about the canned food drive, please email Jasmine Sonpar at [jasmiesonpar@gmail.com](mailto:jasmiesonpar@gmail.com), and to learn more about neighborhood collection please email Mr. Tittsworth at [Michael\\_Tittsworth@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Tittsworth@hcpss.org).

The OSP link for digital donations:

<https://osp.osmsinc.com/HowardMD/BVModules/ProductTemplates/Bvc2013/Product.aspx?productid=DA010-VAR47>

Feel free to write "Leadership Period 3" in the description box for the transaction to attribute the donations towards our class's efforts!

## **Impact Aid Forms Due Dec. 31**

Parents/guardians who work on a federal property in Maryland and/or are a member of a uniformed service can qualify HCPSS to receive additional federal funding by [completing an Impact Aid form](#) by Dec. 31. Impact Aid supplements the HCPSS operating budget to enhance the teaching and learning that takes place in Howard County classrooms.

## **Join Mt. Hebron Choir!**

Dear Rising Mt. Hebron Freshman,

It's that time of year... time to start thinking about course registration for next school year!

### **Thinking about joining the Mt. Hebron Choir Program?**

We are a diverse, welcoming community that is rigorous, rewarding, and, above all, fun! We explore the world around us through song, learn foundations of proper vocal technique, and get to know and celebrate each other. In no time at all, your choral colleagues are bound to become some of your very best friends. ALL we welcome; there is no audition required! Simply register for MU-510-1 to reserve your spot in our amazing choir program.

### **Want to audition for GT Chamber Choir?**

For those interested in joining our advanced choir, Chamber Choir, there is an audition required. This year, we are making the audition process even more streamlined. All you have to do is record yourself singing a 30-second video of a song that shows off your voice and then send it to Mr. Dogas. If you pass the first round, you will be invited to live Callbacks after school on January 20th. All of the details can be found on our website linked below.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.mthebronmusic.org/choir](http://www.mthebronmusic.org/choir). There, you will see tons more information, as well as a welcome video that shows off some of the fun we have on a daily basis.

As always, email Mr. Dogas ([nicholas\\_dogas@hcpss.org](mailto:nicholas_dogas@hcpss.org)) with any questions you may have. We look forward to welcoming you into our Choir Family!

Thanks,  
Mr. Dogas  
Choir Director, Mt. Hebron High School

## High School JROTC Information

**November 17, 2021 - January 4, 2022**

JROTC student interviews will be scheduled with JROTC officials. Parents must contact JROTC instructors to schedule interviews. Only students who are interviewed during this period will be considered for enrollment.

### **Atholton HS: Army JROTC**

JROTC Instructor – LTC (USA, Retired) William Reinhart, Senior Army Instructor  
william\_reinhart@hcpss.org | 410-313-7065

### **Howard HS: Army JROTC**

JROTC Instructor – LTC (USA, Retired) Patricia Marshall, Senior Army Instructor  
patricia\_marshall@hcpss.org | 410-313-2867

### **Oakland Mills HS: Air Force JROTC**

JROTC Instructor – Timothy D. Stevens, Col, USAF (Retired), Senior Aerospace Science Instructor  
timothy\_stevens@hcpss.org | 410-313-6945

## Student Absences, Late Arrivals and Early Dismissal

A reminder to all families that **if your student arrives late to school, please send them in with a parent note or doctor's note that indicates the reason for their late arrival** so that their attendance may be appropriately adjusted. You can also email [pmsabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:pmsabsence@hcpss.org) with a late arrival or absence note. If we are not provided a parent or doctor's note for lawful late arrivals or absences, your child will be marked unexcused. [Click here](#) for more attendance information.

## Volunteers

Your participation in this process helps make Howard County Public Schools a safer place to learn. We look forward to seeing you! [For more information and training links](#). You can **print the certificates and provide them to the front office to stay on file for the 21-22**

**school year.**

## **Yearbooks**

Yearbooks are back on! After a year without books, the Yearbook Team will be looking forward to helping us remember this year back in school! Books will be distributed the last week of school, but can be purchased NOW (through March)! To order online, please visit:

[www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com)

If you need to order by cash or check, please email [kalina\\_salsman@hcpss.org](mailto:kalina_salsman@hcpss.org) for an order form.

## **Volunteer/Observer Vaccine Requirement**

Updated Volunteer/Observer Vaccine Requirements: Effective Monday, October 25, all volunteers and chaperones who interact with students, and parents/guardians who are conducting classroom observations will be required to use the PinPoint platform to show proof of full vaccination at least five school days in advance. The requirement also applies to students who volunteer or mentor at another HCPSS school during the school day, but not to students who go to the ARL or another school as part of their class schedule. The platform will ask users to upload a photo of themselves and provide the opportunity to download a digital vaccine card. These are optional and not required by HCPSS. [Learn how to access and use the PinPoint VaccineCheck platform.](#)

## **Covid Vaccines for 5-11**

Links for Howard County Health Department vaccine clinics:

Pediatric COVID Vaccines (5-11yr) - Howard County Health Department

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/pediatric-covid-19-vaccine#vaccination-appointments>

COVID Vaccines (12yrs and older) - Howard County Health Department

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19-vaccine#health-department-vaccination-clinics>

Other Maryland locations for COVID vaccine

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine>

### **Pediatric Pfizer Vaccine (Ages 5-11)**

The FDA and CDC have approved the use of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11. This means our national vaccine safety system has carefully analyzed the



data from the clinical trials for this age group and determined that the vaccine is safe and effective. The vaccine will continue to require a two-dose series with the shots given three weeks apart. The vaccine has been formulated for younger children and will be administered at 1/3 the dose previously administered to individuals ages 12 and older. Parents should follow CDC guidelines for their child's current age when booking an appointment and are encouraged to get their children vaccinated as soon as an appointment is available. The Pfizer vaccine has been found to be safe and effective at both dosages.

Parents of children ages 5-11 can register for a Pfizer vaccine clinic from the list below or use the [State vaccine locator](#) to find other Pfizer vaccine clinics in the area. Please note: the change in dosage requires new vaccine inventory. Supply of the vaccine for young children is currently limited nationwide.

The more people who are vaccinated, the closer we all come to ending this pandemic. Beginning to vaccinate children means a safer experience for in-person school, in-person sports and gatherings with friends and family.

### **Health Department Pediatric Vaccination Clinics**

The Howard County Health Department has opened a new vaccination site, specifically for children ages 5-11, at Duncan Hall on the Howard Community College campus. The Health Department will only administer the pediatric Pfizer vaccine in young children at this clinic site. To locate Duncan Hall (6040 Scholarship Dr., Columbia, MD 21044), parents should enter campus from Little Patuxent Parkway and park in either Lot A or the East Parking Garage. Handicap Accessible parking is available outside of the building. Click [here](#) for a campus map. Important Information:

- Please be sure your child comes wearing short sleeves for ease of vaccination into upper arm.
- Please DO NOT arrive for a clinic more than 10 minutes early. If you have an appointment, you are guaranteed to receive a vaccination during your designated clinic if you arrive on time.
- Appointments will only be honored for children ages 5-11. Older siblings/parents cannot be vaccinated using the pediatric vaccine formulation stocked at these clinics. Appointments made for individuals not part of this age group will not be honored and will be canceled.
- Walk-ups will not be accepted. No Exceptions. The Health Department carefully plans its vaccine allocation for each clinic to ensure no leftover doses will go to waste at the end of the day.
- If you are not able to complete the online registration form, please call 410-313-6284. Operators are standing by Monday - Friday from 8:30am - 4:30pm to provide assistance.
- Vaccine is also available through many County pediatricians, family medical practices, pharmacies, and other retailers. Please contact your child's pediatrician to determine vaccine availability before making an appointment through the Health Department.

### **Adolescents with disabilities:**

Special accommodations can be made for children with physical, mental, or developmental disabilities, including vaccination in the parking lot. Please call the phone bank after booking your appointment or speak to staff on-site at a vaccination clinic to make this request. In-home vaccination is also available for children who are homebound due to a physical/mental impairment or disability. Call us at 410-313-6284 for assistance scheduling their vaccination appointment.

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/pediatric-covid-19-vaccine#vaccination-appointments>

**Our vaccine supply is limited and available appointments are expected to fill quickly. The Health Department will open additional clinics when more vaccine doses are received in the coming days.**

**\*\*Some individuals may have been offered spots on waiting lists for these clinics. We do not anticipate additional doses being available and request that those on waiting lists do not show up in person for clinics unless directly contacted by a Health Department staff member.\*\***

## **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.

### **Do not send your child to school with any of the following symptoms:**

- COUGH
- FEVER
- HEADACHE
- SORE THROAT
- DIARRHEA OR VOMITING
- NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL
- DIFFICULTY BREATHING

IF YOUR CHILD COMES TO SCHOOL WITH ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS THEY WILL BE SENT HOME TO QUARANTINE. Please contact the health room if your student is being tested for COVID or has a household member who is COVID positive or exhibiting symptoms.

It is very important that we are able to make contact with parents. Please make sure that your contact numbers and emergency contacts are up to date in family file. Students are expected to be picked up as soon as possible, and within the hour.

Please contact the nurse if you have any questions 410-313-2574 or [Megan\\_Blouse@hcpss.org](mailto:Megan_Blouse@hcpss.org)

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.

## 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.

## Teen Advisory Board at Miller Library

**SATURDAY 12/4 | 4-5:30pm | Miller Library's Teen Advisory Board Meeting!** Be a leader in your community and share your voice by collaborating with your peers to develop and plan events and classes for teens at the Miller Library; work with HCLS instructors on projects, recommend books and more! \*Service hours for events & classes. **Register here (walk-ins welcome):**

**<https://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/events/tab-teen-advisory-board-meeting-0>**

## [Knightly Newsletters](#)

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

## [Community Notices:](#)

### **New HCPSS Community News and Programs Site:**

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [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).