

KNIGHTLY NEWS

12-9-2022

12/12 - 12/16: Spirit Week - [Flier](#)

12/14: 3hr. Early Dismissal - Professional Work Day (11:50AM) & Knight Time

12/15: Book Fair and Family, Food, and Fun Night (5:00 - 7:30 PM) see [flier](#)

12/21: Knight Time - Club Day

12/26 - 1/2: 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

Dear Patapsco families:

As we approach winter break and the holiday season, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to be part of our Patapsco Middle School commUNITY. We have amazing students, staff, families, and community members. Our school is a home away from home for me personally, and I want to thank you for sending us your best each and every day!

The past week have been full of our #OnePatapsco spirit. We started off with our Honor Roll and Rising Star celebration. Then we continued to celebrate our UNITY with Inclusive Schools Week. We ended our week with popcorn and a movie for any student who wanted to watch during lunch which highlights the importance of Inclusion and Unity. We also had wonderful band, orchestra and chorus concerts. It was AMAZING to see our students perform on stage!

We look forward to seeing our students with spirit week next week and our families at our Book Fair, Family, Fun and Foot Night on Thursday. Monday starts with pajama day!

I hope you and your family have a wonderful weekend,

Mike Babe
Principal



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

Cast Auditions - Addams Family - [See flier](#)

This year's school play is....The Addams Family - A Musical Comedy. This is an Intramural so all rehearsals are held after school and ALL Patapsco students are invited to audition.

Solo Auditions are December 15th from 3-5 (ish)

Ensemble (aka The Chorus) Auditions are December 16th from 3-5

Callbacks for Solo Auditions are December 19th from 3-5

A Note for Parents: Students who are interested in auditioning have been given an audition packet before leaving on Friday, December 9th. Please read the packet carefully and sign showing that you understand all of the information. Your student must bring the page with your signature to the audition on December 15th or 16th. They will only be auditioning on one of those days and they will need transportation home immediately following their audition.

We have an amazing directing team that is available to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Reach out to Ms. Wardlaw, Mrs. Castlebaum, or Mr. Azat with any questions about the upcoming audition.

And Students: Break a Leg!

Cafeteria News

Our cafeteria is now selling snacks at lunchtime. Cookies, Pretzels, Rice Krispies and water. Prices are 50¢ to \$1.00.

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 the counselors 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! Kendra Lee-Brantly (A-G) Erin Shurtleff (H-O) Morgan Kempthorn (P-Z)

Food Drive

Patapsco Middle School is supporting Mount Hebron High School's 48th Annual Food Drive this month to support families in our community. In an organized effort, they have asked for specific donation goals each week. Donations are already underway, and Patapsco is helping in the effort.

Donation Requests:

Week ([Dec 12-16](#)): Dried beans, rice, and pasta

Please give what you can! All donations should be given to students' social studies teachers. All food items should be non-perishable pantry goods that are unopened and not expired. Any items donated that do not meet the requested list will be donated to local food banks.

Thank you for any help you can provide.

Book Fair - [See flier](#)

Patapsco will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in one week to help refresh our Media Center. The staff need some additional help in running it -- **there are opportunities to help during the day AND the one evening of December 15th**! We are in need of volunteers for the book fair! Please [click here](#) if you would like to volunteer.

PMS Family and Food Fun Night - [See Flier](#)

Attention Patapsco Middle School Community! On Thursday, December 15th from 5-7:30 there will be a Family, Food, and Fun Night at school. During this AWESOME event you and your family can:

- Shop at the BOOK FAIR and the SCHOOL STORE (be sure to bring your surprise dollars)
- Buy YUMMY food from one of the 3 FOOD TRUCKS (Auntie Anne's Pretzels, T&J Waffles & Koshy Corner)
- Get FREE face painting!
- Listen to our Amazing General Music Students Perform at 5 and 6 PM in the cafeteria.
- Learn more about activities in the community from Park & Recs, HCC, and The Howard County Library

Mark your calendar now!!!

Reminder

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 in and direct you to report to the main office.

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.

Counselors' Corner

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program wants all students and parents to have an understanding of CTE course offerings. With 24 career pathways, there are often many misconceptions related to CTE. To ensure that all students and parents make informed decisions with their middle and high school course selections, two virtual webinar sessions will be offered to support understanding and planning.

- Rising 9th Grade CTE Webinar
 - Thursday, December 15
 - Time: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
 - Registration is required for attendance. Utilize this [link](#) to register.
 - A confirmation email will be sent upon completion of registration, and meeting reminders will be sent prior to the webinar.

ARL Information Night

ARL - Career Academy Info Session - **December 13, 2022**

Current 8-11 grade students and their parents/guardians are invited to attend in-person information sessions on HCPSS career academies on **Tuesday, December 13**, at the Applications and Research Laboratory, 10920 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD. The evening will include two 15-minute information sessions and a visit to a third academy beginning at 6:30 pm. Participants will learn how Career and Technical Education (CTE) career academies provide high school students with opportunities to earn college credit, scholarships, and industry certifications, participate in worksite and mentorship experiences and become creative problem solvers by participating in hands-on project-based learning.

Complete [information on all career academies](#) is available online.

Students/parents are encouraged to review the [Career Academies Overview](#).

Schedule-Agenda

- 6:30-6:45 pm Session I
- 6:50-7:05 pm Session II
- 7:10-7:30 pm Open to visit any academy
- Participating academies include:
- Aerospace Engineering: Project Lead the Way
- Agricultural Science
- Animation and Interactive Media
- Apprenticeship Maryland (for current 11th graders)
- Architectural Design
- Automotive Technology
- Biotechnology
- Civil Engineering: Project Lead the Way
- Construction
- Cybersecurity Networking
- Finance
- Graphic Design
- Health Professions
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning

Parking is available at the Applications and Research Laboratory and Homewood School lots.

Family Read the Rainbow Book Club

Registration for the next FAMILY Read the Rainbow book club is now open.

This virtual book club will feature the title, *When Aidan Became a Brother* written by Kyle Lukoff and illustrated by Kaylani Juanita and will take place on Saturday, January 7th @ 1:30pm. Both Kyle and Kaylani will be present at the meeting! Kyle will do a read-aloud of his book and Kaylani will talk a little about what it was like to illustrate Kyle's story. Both will answer questions from the audience.

This is a FREE LGBTQIA+ focused book club and open to ALL (families, students, parents, staff, and community). The first 50 families who register will receive a free copy of *When Aidan Became a Brother* mailed to their home. Learn more about the book and this author/illustrator team [here](#). [Link to GoogleDoc advertisement](#)

Lost and Found

Please remind your student to look for their lost items (jackets, lunch boxes, water bottles, clothing, etc). Lost and Found is located outside of the Media Center. Please emphasize to your student that it is their responsibility to keep track of their belongings, and to check the Lost and Found if they are missing something.

All items will be donated at the end of the school day on Friday, December 23.

Note from the Health Room

As flu/cold season has begun, this is a reminder that good hand washing and covering sneezes and coughs with tissues and sleeves are essential steps to preventing the spread of "germs." Also, remember that despite concerns about school attendance, your children's health (and the health of other children/staff) is most important of all. For this reason, we ask you to please:

- Call the health room (410-313-2574) to let us know if your child is absent with a contagious illness such as Covid, strep throat, or the flu etc. Please provide any documentation from your physician about diagnosis and release to return to school. (Ear and sinus infections, while often a reason for keeping a child home, are usually not contagious.)
- Keep your child home if he/she has a fever of over 100.0. A fever indicates that your child has an infection that could be passed to other students. If you give your child Motrin or Tylenol, the fever will, of course, disappear but he/she will still be contagious to others. Children must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school!

Thank you very much for helping keep all our students and staff safe and healthy!

Teen Mental Health Event

A Teen Mental Health Event is coming up on December 15th. Please see additional information below.

WHO: Teens - ages 11-18

WHAT: The Howard County Health Department shares mental health services available for you and your loved ones, including the 988 Crisis Line, Behavioral Health Navigation Services, Suicide Prevention efforts, Crisis Services, and supports from HCPSS. Get help for yourself or a friend and become a change-maker!

WHEN: Thu, Dec 15, 3 – 4 pm

WHERE: HCLS Savage Branch

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are on sale for \$25. Yearbooks will be distributed the last week of school. To order online, please visit: www.jostensyearbooks.com

Student Absences, Late Arrivals and Early Dismissal

[Click link for information](#)

Weather/Recess

Please be sure that your student comes to school with appropriate outerwear and head coverings, as students will wait outside until the 8:00 entrance bell rings, and outdoor recess will be held until the temperature combined with the wind chill is less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

We will go outside as much as we can so please make sure your student is prepared for all types of weather. [Weather/Recess guidelines](#)

From the Health Room

[2022-2023 Health & Safety – HCPSS](#)

Anyone that tests positive on an at home rapid should complete this form for the Maryland Department of health

[Maryland COVID Positive At-Home Test Report Portal / Portal de Maryland para Reportar Un Resultado Positivo de Una Prueba Casera del COVID | Maryland OneStop \(md.gov\)](#)

Virtual Town Hall for Parents and Students - [Flier](#)

HC DrugFree is excited to announce our upcoming virtual town hall, “**How Much is Too Much? Finding a Balance between Academic Performance and Student Well-Being**” on Monday, January 9 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. The event is open to students in grades 8-12

and parents, guardians, and grandparents of middle and high school students. Learn skills and strategies to help students better cope with academic pressure and stress **just in time for mid-term exams**. There will be a Q&A at the end of the presentation. **Registration is required:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TownHallRegJan2023>. For more information about the town hall or to download a printable flier visit <https://hcdrugfree.org/currentevents/>. Members of the Teen Advisory Council (TAC) can earn community service hours for attending this event. If your student is interested in joining TAC, please visit <https://hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council/> to learn more and download an application.

8th – 12th Grade Students: HC DrugFree's **Teen Advisory Council** is open to all Howard County students in grades 8 through 12. This is a great opportunity to help prepare younger students for success in high school while allowing older students to develop their leadership and mentoring skills. The registration form is available at <https://hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council/>. Community service hours available. Email your registration form to admin@hcdrugfree.org or mail a hard copy to the office. To register for the upcoming meetings on **Monday, December 5** from **5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** and **Monday, January 9** from **5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**, click on the TAC Registration links next to each date <https://hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council/>

Know What's Happening in Howard County: Sign up for HC DrugFree's newsletter at <https://hcdrugfree.org/enews-signup/> or follow us on social media to get updates on events as well as information to keep your family safe and informed.

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 for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss

[Knightly Newsletters](#)

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

