

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

# 2-11-2022

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**2/16:** 3 hr. Early Dismissal, 11:50 AM and Club Day

**2/17:** Music Boosters, 7PM (virtual)

**2/21: FULL day of school**

**2/22:** Course Registration Window Closes

**2/23:** School Store

**2:23:** Spirit Day - Wear Your Patapsco Gear or Grade's Color (6- silver/gray, 7-white, 8-blue)

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!*

## Bus Reminder

It is important that students ride the bus they are assigned in the morning and afternoon. We do not allow students to ride other buses home or give permission for students to board other buses in the morning. This policy is in place for the continued safety of our students as they travel to and from school. We appreciate your support in this matter. Please reach out to Heather Dinicola, [heather\\_dinicola@hcpss.org](mailto:heather_dinicola@hcpss.org), if you have any questions.

## HONOR ROLL

**Our 660 students** who come to school each day are motivated to learn, investigate, analyze, and discuss new subjects, ideas, and concepts. Our students are truly the best! They come to school each and every day curious, kind and they are the ones who make #OnePatapsco what it is. It has been wonderful to see our students everyday with such positivity! Second Quarter Attendance was over **94.9%**! Congratulations to our **487** students who made the Honor Roll. Special Congratulations to the **149** students who earned a Second Quarter GPA of 4.0!

## **Social Studies Academy for Middle School and High School Students (Virtual)**

The Council of Elders and the Howard County Public School System have partnered to sponsor a social studies workshops series, *The Essence of US: Chronicling the Black American Experience*. The series is open to any middle school or high school students who are interested. Sessions will be held virtually on the following Saturdays from 10-11 a.m.

- February 12 - The Curious Case of Ms. Lola Belle Holmes
- March 12 - A Critical Eye
- April 9 - In Search of Black Voices
- May 14 - Piecing Together the Bigger Picture

Additional details regarding each session are forthcoming. Students may express their interest in participating in any of the sessions via [online form](#).

## **Course Registration Info**

Attention current 6th and 7th grade parents!

Course registration for the 2022-2023 school year will be available online during the window of **February 8, 2022 - February 22, 2022**. Please [click here for more information](#)

## **Students of the Month for January**

Congratulations to the following Knights who have been nominated by our staff to be the January Students of the Month. They have exhibited being ***Resilient, Responsible, and/or Respectful!***

|     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 6th | 7th | 8th |
|-----|-----|-----|

|             |                          |              |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Adaure E.   | Akshaini P.              | Ishan B.     |
| Adhithi V.  | Andersson "Jeremy" J. H. | Jaya G.      |
| Aziz K.     | Chibuzo "Joel" I.        | Jazmine S.   |
| Caol E.     | Chloe C.                 | Josephine M. |
| Cora S.     | Nathan A.                | Kalyn D.     |
| Ellyssa E.  | Nicole C.                | Monica K.    |
| Idary M. S. | Nihara E.                | Olawunmi L.  |
| Karol A. A. | Raphael T.               | Vishva R.    |
| Nicholas M. | Ruth B.                  |              |
| Orion C.    | Savannah C.              |              |
| Samuel S.   | Shiloh A.                |              |

## 2nd Annual Black History Month Essay Contest

The Baltimore Ravens are proud to announce the 2nd Annual Black History Month Essay Contest, which is open to all middle and high school students in Baltimore and its surrounding areas. The theme for this year's essay is "Celebrate, Motivate, Inspire" and students are encouraged to submit an essay between 250-500 words describing an African American in history, in your life or community, who is making or has made a positive impact on history and how they have inspired you personally.

Essays must be the author's original, unpublished work. The goal is to celebrate the contributions of African Americans in history and those who are making a difference in the Baltimore community today.

All entries are due on February 18, 2022 and four winners (two grand prizes, two runner-ups) will be identified by February 25, 2022.

To enter and learn more, visit: [Baltimore Ravens Essay Contest](#)

We look forward to reading the amazing essays written by your students!

The Baltimore Ravens Community Relations Team

## Coffee for Teachers and Staff

Winter is upon us bringing cold days! Would you like to send a little love and appreciation to our PMS teachers and help them warm up on chilly days? You can help the PMS Hospitality Committee with a K-Cup Collection! (Credit goes to our friends at MHHS for this great idea!)

We would like to create an overflowing basket with a selection of K-Kups the teachers can use in the staff lounge. You can donate whatever K-Cups you like – coffee, tea, hot cocoa, etc.

The donations can be dropped off at my house (I will have cooler in front of my garage). *Please drop off K-Cup pods by Friday 2/18.* Donations can also be shipped to - 9633 Larchmede Court Ellicott City MD 21042 - if you choose to use Amazon Prime or some other type of direct shipment company.

Our teachers will appreciate the thoughtfulness and the PMS PTA thanks you in advance for your generosity!

Andrea Muirhead  
9633 Larchmede Ct  
Ellicott City 21042

## World Language Courses

French I/Spanish I is a year-long course offered to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. No prior language experience needed. Upon successful completion of the course, your child will receive 1 high school credit. If your child successfully completes French I/Spanish I in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, they have the opportunity to enroll in French II/Spanish II in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and earn an additional high school credit.

Please email Mr. Sherrow (French) at [thomas\\_sherrow@hcpss.org](mailto:thomas_sherrow@hcpss.org) or Ms. Báez (Spanish) at [getsemary\\_baez@hcpss.org](mailto:getsemary_baez@hcpss.org) if you have questions about these courses. For registration questions in Synergy, or to inquire about an individual scheduling scenario, please contact your child's school counselor. Merci! ¡Gracias!

## General Music

Learn or hone your piano, guitar, ukulele, and drumming skills while also learning how to write and produce your own music using software such as Soundtrap.

Check out this video about General Music!

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NliiUgC\\_y3fReJY1C21FgNcPqxIGa8Fg/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NliiUgC_y3fReJY1C21FgNcPqxIGa8Fg/view?usp=sharing)

## Band

Join Band! We have a room full of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments ready to be played and friendly students ready to help and perform with you! Contact Mr. Drake for details on which class is best for you! No prior band experience necessary! Come join the fun!

Check out this video about Band!

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/158\\_oT6VldDmpIHIZI1UV8BSM2WrT6PjT/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/158_oT6VldDmpIHIZI1UV8BSM2WrT6PjT/view?usp=sharing)

## Orchestra

Interested in learning how to play a string instrument? We have students who play violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Some students have been playing a long time, and some just started this school year. We'd love to have you as a part of our orchestra program!. Contact Mrs. Haight if you have any questions.

Check out this video about Orchestra!

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/12AEI5EJK6wIByD2tSIC0hKE50E\\_3HcZx/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12AEI5EJK6wIByD2tSIC0hKE50E_3HcZx/view?usp=sharing)

## Patapsco Vocals

"Love to sing? Love to be a part of a group of students that works hard to represent Patapsco Middle School? Then the Patapsco Vocal Music Program is a great place for you to get involved, make friends, enjoy making music every day, and find something to be proud to say you are a part of! If you are interested in joining its simple- request Chorus when you make your course selections for next year in Synergy.. We look forward to adding more of our amazing students in the 2022-23 school year and keeping the tradition of great vocal music alive here at PMS! You are also welcomed to reach out directly to Mr. Rainbow at Michael\_Rainbow@hcpss.org.

[See flier for more information](#)

## 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.

## HC DrugFree Updates

**FREE Parenting Classes:** HC DrugFree is pleased to present another series of this popular parenting class for Howard County parents, guardians, and grandparents starting March 30. This program will meet via Zoom for 5 classes (March 30, April 6, 27, & May 4, 11) from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Adults should plan to attend all 5 sessions. Topics include How to Prevent Drug Use in Your Family, How to Develop Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards, Avoiding Trouble: How to Say No to Drugs, Managing Conflict: How to Control and Express Your Anger Constructively, and How to Strengthening Family Bonds. The class is free, but registration is required: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ParentingClassReg> For more information: Email [Parenting@HCDrugFree.org](mailto:Parenting@HCDrugFree.org), visit [www.hcdrugfree.org](http://www.hcdrugfree.org) or view [downloadable flyer](#)

**FREE Life Skills Classes for Students:** HC DrugFree is providing a highly interactive skills-based program designed to promote positive health and personal development for youth in grades 6-9. For slightly younger or older students, please register and we will consider each request. We encourage siblings and friends to take these classes together! These skills have been shown to help students resist substance use, violence, and other high-risk behaviors. Our instructional team consists of dedicated adults and older students sharing situations they may face in high school, college, and beyond. The next series of classes will be held via Zoom Tuesdays and Thursdays May 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31 and June 2 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Registration is required. Please [sign-up](#) ASAP as space is extremely limited! For more information: Email [LifeSkills@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:LifeSkills@hcdrugfree.org), visit [www.hcdrugfree.org](http://www.hcdrugfree.org) or view [downloadable flier](#)

**Parents:** If you are interested in learning more about what is happening in Howard County, the many free resources HC DrugFree and other organizations offer, or how your student can volunteer as they learn skills and receive more community service hours, then sign up for our free newsletter to get updates on events as well as information to keep your family safe and informed. Go to the bottom of our homepage at [www.hcdrugfree.org](http://www.hcdrugfree.org)

**Medication and Sharps Drive-thru Collection:** HC DrugFree's next drive-thru prescription and over-the-counter medication and sharps (needles, syringes and EpiPens) collection will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot in Columbia. Medication will be guarded and transported by the Howard County Police and the DEA. For more information visit [www.hcdrugfree.org](http://www.hcdrugfree.org) or email [Admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:Admin@hcdrugfree.org)

## Unmatched Athlete FREE LGBTQIA+ Climbing Days at Movement Columbia Gym

[For more information see flyer](#)

### Vaccine Clinics

Second dose clinics are coming up for 5-11 y/o. If you have students who had their first dose and missed their second, they can attend either DRES next Tues, Feb 15, or SES the following Wed, Feb 23:

[Deep Run 2nd Dose Scheduling](#)

[Swansfield 2nd Dose Scheduling](#)

### From the Health Room

If you have not provided the health room with records of your child's COVID vaccines please send a copy to the health room. If your child has received a booster please also forward that information. Fax number 410-313-1741 or email [Megan\\_Blouse@hcpss.org](mailto:Megan_Blouse@hcpss.org).

**Students who will be entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade next year** are required to have the MCV4 and Tdap vaccines prior to the first day of school. Any student that does not have the required vaccines will be excluded from school on the first day. Please provide the health room with your child's updated records. If your child has not had these vaccines please contact your health care provider to schedule an appointment.

### COVID-19 Self-Screening Symptoms Self Check

When emailing the school regarding your child's absence due to a positive Covid-19 test result, or close contact to a positive case, please provide the following information.

Positive Test

- Date tested
- Date the symptoms began (if any)
- Vaccination status

Close Contact to a Positive Individual

- Date of exposure (if close contact)
- If your child is a household close contact - can the positive family member be completely isolated from the child.
- Has your child had a confirmed positive Covid-19 test within the last 90 days.

Please contact the health room [megan\\_blouse@hcpss.org](mailto:megan_blouse@hcpss.org) if you are being tested or have a household member or if you are a close contact of someone who tested positive.

**More Information:** [COVID-19 Self-Screening Symptoms Self Check & Quarantining Procedure](#)

## **Quarantining Procedures**

More information: [COVID-19 Self-Screening Symptoms Self Check & Quarantining Procedure](#)

## **Instructional Supports for Students in Quarantine**

Students who must quarantine have several [opportunities to continue learning and receive supports](#), which will help them easily transition back to instruction once they return to school. At Patapsco Middle, teachers will post their virtual check-in days and times on their Canvas pages. In addition, if you would like to request evening school tutoring, please contact your child's teacher or [lindsey\\_miles@hcpss.org](mailto:lindsey_miles@hcpss.org).

## **Knighly 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).



