

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

2-13-2023

2/14: Music Boosters Meeting, 6:30PM

2/15: Clubs during Knight Time

2/20: Schools and Offices Closed

2/24: Honor Roll celebration

2/27: Band Assessment & Adjudication @ Howard HS (Wind Ensemble - 5:30PM)

3/01: Band Assessment & Adjudication @ Howard HS (Concert Band - 5:25PM)

3/06: **Spring Picture Day**

3/07: Orchestra Assessment @ Reservoir HS (Chamber Orchestra - 2:10PM)

3/07: Orchestra Assessment @ Reservoir HS (String Orchestra - 4:00PM)

3/07: Orchestra Adjudication @ Reservoir HS (String Ensemble - 5:00PM)

**SAVE THE DATE: Patapsco Wellness Evening (a student and family event) April 27, 2023**

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

## #OnePatapsco Day of Belonging

We are excited about returning this year's #OnePatapsco Day of Belonging (previously known as Culture Day)! We look forward to students sharing about their heritage, countries, cultures, and/or traditions and celebrating the rich diversity of our community. #OnePatapsco Day of Belonging will take place during the school day on 3/31 from 8:15 - 11:50 am. If your student is interested in presenting, fill out the form linked below. Please reach out to Ms. Kelly ([grace\\_kelly@hcpss.org](mailto:grace_kelly@hcpss.org)) with any questions.

[#OnePatapsco Day of Belonging Participant Interest Form](#)

## Scheduling Classes for Next Year

### **2023-2024 Course Selection for Rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

It is already time to think about selecting classes for next year! Please open and review the letter linked below from Ms. Novak, Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction. This letter details all of the information that you will need to select fine arts and elective courses for the

2023-2024 school year. The course selection window will be open in Synergy from February 2nd-February 17th.

Current 6<sup>th</sup> Graders: [Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School Scheduling Letter](#)

Current 7<sup>th</sup> Graders: [Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School Scheduling Letter](#)

**Translated Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Letters:**

[Chinese](#)

[Korean](#)

[Spanish](#)

**Translated Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Letters:**

[Chinese](#)

[Korean](#)

[Spanish](#)

## Exploring Computer Science Course

All middle schools in Howard County offer an Exploring Computer Science course. This year-long course is offered to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are interested in studying computer science. The course teaches students to use code.org to create webpages(html), animation, games(JavaScript), apps, and much more. Upon successful completion, your child will receive 1 high school credit.

Please select the links to look at Patapsco students' examples with your middle schooler and discuss whether this course would be appropriate for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

[Website About Endangered Animals](#)

[Side Scroller](#)

[Flyer's Game](#)

[Interactive Holiday Card](#)

[Happy Diwali Interactive Card](#)

**Note.** Once you open the links, you can select view codes to look at block codes or select show text to look at the codes in text format.

If you have questions about the course, please contact Mr. Na ([sna@hcpss.org](mailto:sna@hcpss.org)).

## CTE Rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Webinar: School Counseling Community

Rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students, please access the link below for a recording of the recent Career and Technical Education (CTE) Webinar that was offered for rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

grade students on January 31. [CTE Rising 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student / Parent Webinar](#) The CTE Department has received multiple requests for the slides or a recording from the webinar from parents/students throughout the HCPSS community that were unable to attend. This link provides access for the recording with closed captioning, and interpretation of the webinar in multiple languages is currently in process. Interpreted versions of the webinar recording will be made available when possible.

## **World Languages 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 one 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. Mahanti/Ms. DeIPO (Spanish) at [tracey\\_mahanti@hcpss.org](mailto:tracey_mahanti@hcpss.org) [victoria\\_delpo@hcpss.org](mailto:victoria_delpo@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 Courses**

Do you want to learn or already play an instrument? Are you the type of person who always has to listen to music and can't get enough? Consider signing up for General Music where you will learn the basic skills to create your own band including drumming, guitar, bass, piano, and ukulele. We also spend time learning basic music production skills including beat making. No previous experience necessary! If you have any questions, see Mrs. Shum in room D11.

## **Join the Orchestra!**

Orchestra is a place where students of all skill levels learn how to play a stringed instrument. We would love to have you as a part of our class next year. Watch [this video](#) for more information and contact Mrs. Haight if you have any questions.

## **Join the PMS Vocal Music Department!**

Do you love to sing in the car, at-home, with friends or for others? Even if that's not you and still want to be part of a team that involves cool trips to Hershey, Concerts, and lots of learning experiences- come join the PMS Vocal Music Department! Music is an essential factor to

activating even more of your creative brain power while also finding a place to express yourself every day. We offer 4 different groups- The Glee Club, Select Treble Ensemble, Concert Choir, & Treble Chorus. You don't need to audition, you can just join and continue in our tradition of excellence! See [flyer](#) for more details. Stop by and talk to Mr. Rainbow or email him at Michael\_Rainbow@hcpss.org. We can't wait to have you become a part of our "One Unknighthed Voice"!

## 🎵 Music Boosters 🎵

Our next **Music Boosters meeting** will be on **Tuesday, February 14 at 6:30pm**. The meeting will be held virtually using the Google Meet code **PMS-MUSICBOOSTERS**. You will need to login with your student's HCPSS credentials. We will be discussing upcoming fundraisers and volunteer needs for the upcoming assessments and spring concerts. Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there!

## Heart and Sole ♥👟

Heart and Sole helps girls (this includes any female-identifying and non-binary young people) unleash their potential by focusing on five key things: body, brain, heart, spirit, and connection. Heart and Sole is the 6th-8th grade Girls on the Run program. Coaches inspire girls to value what makes them unique, and together, participants uncover confidence and understand the importance of physical and emotional health. Girls work on setting goals geared toward physical and emotional health, and actualize those goals through exercise, discussion, and connection.

The spring program runs from Monday, March 20th (first practice) to Monday, June 5th (end-of-year celebration). Each season ends with a noncompetitive 5K (Saturday, June 3) where girls celebrate who they are, how far they have come, and where they want to go. The program will run after school on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:50 pm - 4:15 pm.

Participants must register through Girls on the Run of Central Maryland and can do so using the following link, once registration opens on Sunday, February 19th - [Heart & Sole Registration](#)

If you have questions/concerns about the program, registration process/fees, or anything else, please contact the intramural sponsor, **Ms. Grace Kelly** [grace\\_kelly@hcpss.org](mailto:grace_kelly@hcpss.org)

## Essay Contest for Black History Month

The **Baltimore Ravens** are proud to announce the 3rd 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 "An Event in Black History." Students are encouraged to

submit an essay between 250-500 words describing an event that happened in the Black community, either recent or historical, that has had a powerful impact on their lives. The impact can be positive, negative, educational, eye-opening, or anything that sparks emotion and understanding.

Essays must be the author's original, unpublished work and is not to be a detailed report on the historical event itself. The bulk of the essay should focus on the impact the event has made on the student.

All entries are due on February 17, 2023 and four winners (two grand prize, two runner-ups) will be identified in March 2023.

**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

## **Essay Contest for Women's History Month**

The Howard County Commission for Women is hosting an Essay Contest for Middle and High School students for Women's History Month. The topic for this essay contest is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories". This essay contest is asking students to write an essay about a woman who has been active in any form of media...this also includes social media. There are three prizes that students will compete for, and the top prize winner will also get the opportunity to share their essay at a county sponsored in person event. Interested students should apply and submit their essays by February 21, 2023. Here are the links to the [flyer](#) and [application form](#) .

## **National Civics Bee Essay Competition for Middle School Students**

The Howard Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the local [National Civics Bee Links to an external site](#).in collaboration with the US Chamber Foundation and MD Chamber on May 9 at Oakland Mills High School. The National Civics Bee is an annual competition that encourages young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities.

The essay competition is open to all students in grades 6 through 8. All participating students enter into the first-round essay competition from which judges select 20 finalists for a live quiz event testing their civics knowledge. The top three students from Howard County will then advance to the state competition. Students should complete the submission form, including contact information for a parent or guardian, and submit their 500-word essay for consideration by February 24. Here is the [submission form](#).

[View the rules and submit entries here \(Links to an external site\).](#)

[View the event flyer \(volante en espanol\)](#)

## **"The Essence of Us" Workshop Series**

The Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County and the HCPSS Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion have [partnered to present](#) "The Essence of Us: Chronicling the African American Experience," a workshop series geared toward middle and high school students that will provide a better understanding of African American history and how it is written. Workshops will be held both virtually and in-person. Participants will receive an email with details upon [registering online](#). Virtual and in-person Workshops will take place on Saturdays (March 11, April 15 and May 13) from 10-11:00 a.m.

## **HCASC General Assembly on February 15 at 7:00 p.m.**

- WHO: All middle and high school students are welcome from across HCPSS
- WHAT: A chance to:
  - Collaborate with school-based administrators
  - Provide testimony to elected officials
  - Connect to HCPSS Staff and community organizations
  - Learn about leadership, volunteer, and participate in enrichment experiences throughout HCPSS and our community
  - Grow and practice the habits of heart and mind it takes to serve as engaged and informed citizens
  - Collaborate with student and community leaders from across HCPSS
  - Empower students with actionable steps they can take to achieve their goals such as
- WHERE: Mt. Hebron High School Cafeteria or virtual option through student HCPSS accounts, use Google Meet Code: hcasc-ga
- WHEN: February 15 from 7-8:30 p.m.

## **Robinson Nature Center Pride Programs: LGBTQIA+ Initiative**

If you love the outdoors and making new friends in the LGBTQ+ community, then the Robinson Nature Center's Pride programs are for you!

Join us for an outdoor adventure. The first event, Gazing at Winter Stars, is February 25th. Click the [flyer](#) for more details about this and future events!

## **Mount Hebron & Patapsco Cycling Clubs**

The new middle school branch cycling club will compete as the Patapsco Cycling Club in 2023 in the Maryland Interscholastic Cycling League (MICL), part of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA). An information meeting will be held in March to meet with athletes and parents to discuss the 2023 season. This date will be announced later this month. This is a “no-cut” sports activity that provides adventure rides, trail conservation, community outreach, and even races for those interested in competing against other Maryland high schoolers. The program is directed by Mr. Dennis Champney, a teacher at Mt Hebron. If you would like to know more about the program, please contact [info@mhhs.bike](mailto:info@mhhs.bike) or visit [www.mhhs.bike](http://www.mhhs.bike).

All incoming 9th grade students (graduation year 2027) who ride mountain bikes, and their parents, are invited to join the Mt Hebron Cycling Team.

## **HCPSS STARTALK Chinese Language Spring 2023 After-School Program (Virtual)**

This [shareable document](#) provides information regarding the free Spring 2023 HCPSS STARTALK Chinese Language After-School Program (virtual) for current HCPSS Grade 7 and Grade 8 students.

Parents/Guardians may complete enrollment requests via [this Google form](#) by Friday, February 17, 2023 at 8:00 am.

## **Student Absences, Late Arrivals and Early Dismissal as well as Parents/Guardians coming to school**

[Click link for information](#)

## **Recognize Educators Supporting Advanced-Level Learners**

Through March 3, families and students have the [opportunity to recognize](#) a G/T resource teacher, content or classroom teacher, or administrator who has enriched the educational experience of advanced-level learners. All educators for whom submissions are received will be recognized.

## **From the Health Room**

**Free Dental Clinic-** [Click here for more information](#)

### **6th grade parents:**

Here is a reminder that students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade are required to have one MCV4 (meningitis) and one Tdap vaccine prior to the first day of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Some students may have already received these immunizations, but the Health Room may not have the updated record. Please contact your child's health care provider and send or fax an updated copy of your child's immunizations to the Health Room. If your student has not received these vaccines, parents should contact their health care provider to make an appointment for your student to obtain the required vaccines. The fax number for the Health Room is 410-313-1741 or you may send an email to [nelly\\_mensah\\_contractor@hcpss.org](mailto:nelly_mensah_contractor@hcpss.org) .

### [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 \(md.gov\)](#)

**Flu/Cold Season** [Click here for more information](#)

## **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](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss)

## **Knightly Newsletters**



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