

KNIGHTLY NEWS

2-18-2022

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/21: FULL day of school** (inclement weather day #1)
- 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)
- 3/08:** Orchestra Assessment (6th, 7th, & 8th), 4PM
- 3/09:** PTA Meeting, 7PM
- 3/13:** Spring Forward (clocks are turned forward 1 hour)
- 3/16:** 3 hr. Early Dismissal, 11:50 AM and Club Day
- 3/23:** Chorus Assessment (6th, 7th, & 8th), 6PM
- 3/30:** Band Assessment (6th, 7th, 8th), 4PM

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!*

Dear Patapsco families:

I am writing to inform you that I will be out on medical leave for the next two weeks. Many of you may already be aware as I shared this information with our students on Wednesday. Ms. Elaine Reid, a retired school administrator, will be my substitute during my absence and she will be working alongside Mrs. Dinicola. Ms. Reid is very familiar with our community as she subbed as an administrator at Patapsco four years ago. I introduced her to our students on the morning news Wednesday morning and she is excited to return to Patapsco because of our amazing students, staff, and families.

As I told our students, I will miss all of them, I want them to make someone's day great, and I look forward to seeing each and every Knight in March when I return. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Dinicola or Ms. Reid during my absence.

I look forward to returning to our #OnePatapsco community very soon.

Sincerely,

Mike Babe
Principal

Chromebooks Charged, Packed, and Ready!

Students must bring their fully charged HCPSS issued Chromebooks and charger to school each day. Please make sure there is a label with the student's name on the bottom of the Chromebook and charger to help with identification. Chromebooks and digital resources will be used as a tool to enhance teacher-created lessons.

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, if you have any questions.

Discretionary Day Use

With President's Day, February 21, 2022, now being a full school day for HCPSS students as inclement weather day #1, we know families may wish to use a local discretionary absence. If you are planning to use a HCPSS allotted discretionary absence day, please complete the attached form and submit to pmsabsence@hcpss.org prior to February 21, 2022. Proactively completing and submitting the form will help Patapssco gauge the total number of absences.

Reminder, students are allowed three local discretionary absences a school year. We thank you for your assistance.

[FillableDiscretionaryAbsenceRequest.pdf](#)

Course Registration Info

Attention current 6th and 7th grade parents!

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

World Language Courses

French I/Spanish I is a year-long course offered to 7th and 8th 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 7th grade, they have the opportunity to enroll in French II/Spanish II in 8th grade and earn an additional high school credit.

Please email Mr. Sherrow (French) at thomas_sherrow@hcpss.org or Ms. Báez (Spanish) at 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!

Parent Consent for Supplemental Google Tools

[Click here for more information](#)

Ping Pong Tables For PE

Hello! Do you have a Ping Pong Table sitting in your home collecting dust and/or no longer need? If so, we would love to add another table to our Patapsco PE Department for our upcoming Table Tennis Unit! If you are willing to donate your table to the PE Department, we will happily come and pick it up from your home. Please call the school at 410-313-2848 or email any one of the PE teachers and let us know you have one to donate! Thanks so much!

kristina_debenedetti@hcpss.org

patrick_spliedt@hcpss.org

matthew_capecchi@hcpss.org

The PE Team

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 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.

Upcoming Vaccine Clinic

Through a partnership with the Howard County Health Department and several local pharmacies, HCPSS is pleased that students have multiple opportunities to get vaccinated, including some clinics hosted in HCPSS schools.

Use the link below to register for a clinic and complete the consent process in advance. Paper consent forms will be available on-site if needed. Please note the vaccine type and/or age group prior to making your appointment.

UPDATE: The clinic will be for ages 5-11.

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 **Phelps Luck Elementary School**
4:30 - 6:30PM **5370 Old Stone Court, Columbia - in partnership**

Pfizer (5-11) first or second dose vaccine, or booster. [Schedule an appointment and complete and complete the online consent \(March 1\)](#)

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.

Students who will be entering 7th 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 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.

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