

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

2-06-2023

2/06: Vision & Hearing Rescreen  
2/06: Reading MAP testing  
2/07: Reading MAP testing  
2/07: 6th Grade Author Visit  
2/08: Reading MAP testing  
2/08: 7th grade Well-Being survey  
2/14: Music Boosters Meeting, 6:30PM

**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

## Thank you, PTA and Parent Volunteers

The Fun Knight was so much fun last Friday. There were so many wonderful and fun activities for our students to enjoy. Huge thank you to our PTA and parent volunteers for providing this safe and fun event for our students. Also, thank you to our amazing teacher band (Mr. Azat, Mr. Na, Mr. Dymek, and Mr. Price) for performing for our students...they sounded terrific!

## Author Visit

We are excited to announce that bestselling author, award-winning syndicated cartoonist, and speaker **Maria Scrivan** is coming to Patapsco Middle School for an assembly with our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students on **Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**. However, all students have the opportunity to purchase signed copies of her books. This is in partnership with a local independent bookstore called A Likely Story Bookstore.

The visit is a part of her national tour and on the exact day that her newest title, **Nat For Nothing**, becomes available to the public.

The book is part of her popular graphic novel series called **Nat Enough**. It is named one of “**the year’s best books**” by **The Washington Post**!

Families may choose to order any or all of the four books from the series. All books will be signed and must be purchased before or by Monday, February 6th. There is also an option to have the

books personalized on the order form. Media staff will deliver the signed books on the very next day to students.

If you would like to place an order, please visit the link below.

<https://sykesvillebooks.indiecommerce.com/maria-scrivan-book-tour>

(Link only works outside of school network)

Any questions please feel free to contact the media staff.

## MAP

### **REMIND YOUR CHILD TO GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, EAT A BREAKFAST, AND BRING A CHARGED CHROMEBOOK WITH CHARGER.**

On February 6th, 7th, and 8th, students will take the Reading MAP assessment in English classes. The data from the MAP assessment will help schools and teachers measure your student's academic progress. The MAP test does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. To learn more about the MAP assessment, please visit:

<https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/>

Please note the following exceptions for middle school testing:

- Students in 8th grade GT-ELA do not take the Reading Test

## 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 7th and 8th 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)).

## 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. DelPo (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 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!

## 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](#) .

## **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.

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

[Click link for information](#)

## **Emergency Drills**

Each year, teachers and staff review emergency preparedness and evacuation procedures with our students. Although we never hope they happen, practice and awareness allow students and staff to respond quickly, safely, and appropriately in various types of emergency situations. For more information on HCPSS Emergency Preparedness, please visit the [HCPSS Emergency Preparedness website](#).

## **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**

### **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/>