

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

# 1-13-2023

**1/16:** No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
**1/18:** 3hr. Early Dismissal, 11:50AM - Professional Work Day  
**1/19:** Patapsco Middle School (rising 6th grade) Orientation, 6-7 PM  
**1/20:** End of 2nd Quarter  
**1/23:** No School - Professional Work Day  
**1/26:** Hearing and Vision Screening (info below)  
**1/30:** Reports Cards available to view through HCPSS Connect, 4PM  
**1/30:** Math MAP Testing (info below)  
**1/31:** Math MAP Testing (info below)  
**2/3:** Vision & Hearing Rescreen  
**2/3:** PTA Fun Knight (more information coming soon)

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:

Quarter two ends on January 20 and our students will begin the third quarter on January 24. As next week is the last week of the quarter, I encourage you and your child to review progress in Canvas together. This is also a great opportunity for them to set goals for the third quarter. Report cards will be posted in synergy on January 31. If your child needs any additional support, please feel free to contact their teachers, counselors, or administrators...we are all here to support our students.

This Monday, there is no school in session for an extremely important holiday: MLK Jr. Day. This holiday is also known as *Day of Service*. Please encourage your child to think of what they can do for others- especially in our #OnePatapsco commUNITY. It is not a day "off" but a day "on" where we continue to support each other and our community. Mrs. Dinicola and I gave them a challenge as a homework assignment...to think of what they can do for others in our community.

Thank you for sending us your best,

Mike Babe  
Principal



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

## Spelling Bee

Our annual school-wide spelling bee began with 34 students who won their classroom bees. We have many excellent spellers so the school-wide competition was fierce. The words that challenged our students began with easy words like only and copy. The words quickly became more difficult like sufflaminant and cloche. The winning word was epidemiology. Our 2023 school champion is George J. Our runner up was Srikar M.

The winner of our Patapsco School Spelling bee will move on to participate in the Howard County Spelling Bee at Reservoir High School on March 18th, 2023.

Congratulations to all our participants! Special thanks go out to Principal Babe for being the Pronouncer, and to Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Vasquez for being our judges.

The winner from Howard County will then move on to The Scripps National Spelling Bee that takes place the week of Memorial Day 2023 in National Harbor, Maryland.

### Congratulations to the following students who participated today in the Spelling Bee:

Nicholas S	Cora S	Chloe S	Charith V	Varsha S
George J	Timmy L	Mohit S	Milo A	Farah S
Hadley R	Janiya J	Aaliya S	Juan G	Gnan M
Sanah F	Evan S	Lana T	Ridvik S	Muhammad H
Daisy D	Divinee T M	Joel L	Zahra G	Finley B
Colin D	Erik P	Sosie W	Krithi B	
Ahmad M	Siri G	Srikar M	Rafael F	

## 8th grade t-shirts

There are A FEW extra 8<sup>th</sup> grade t-shirts left. If a student did not receive a shirt, they can pick one up from Ms. Salsman in Trailer 4. Sizes are limited; first come, first served. A huge thank you to the PTA for purchasing a shirt for each of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders!

There are also a few dark blue long-sleeved shirts available for sale for \$20 each. Again, sizes are limited. In order to purchase one of these, contact Ms. Salsman to verify that the size you want is available. Checks can be made out to Patapsco PTA.

## Students of the Month for December

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

6th	7th	8th
Aarush V.	Aarush K.	Alexis Z. S.
Akshaya D.	Anvayee P.	Amitha S.
Avenlee Z.	Aqib S.	Dean W.
Azaan A.	Carol O.	Grace M.
Colin D.	Elias N.	Jamie S.
Evan S.	Elly E.	Katie M.
Sameeha S.	JanCarlos F.-C.	Keshav P.
	Kezia E.	Krithi B.
	Maya A.	Michael R.
	Natalie T.	Sosie W.
	Neil C.	
	Oluwafimidara A.	

## HCASC January General Assembly

The January General Assembly is coming up this week for HCASC. It will take place at Long

Reach HS as an Opportunities Fair. A reminder that all students are invited to participate in the Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC) events!

- **WHO:** All **middle** and high school students 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
  - 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
- **WHERE:** Long Reach High School or virtual option through student HCPSS accounts use Google Meet Code: hcasc-ga
- **WHEN:** January 18 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Check out this flyer for the HCASC Opportunities Fair! [OPPORTUNITIES FAIR](#)

*For more information, check out this site:* <https://hcasc.hcpss.org/>

## MAP

On January 30th, 31st and February 1st, students will take the Math Measured Academic Progress (MAP) assessment in math classes. 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
- Students taking HS level math classes (Alg1 or 2, Geometry) do not take the math MAP exam.

## HCPSS Food and Nutrition Service A La Carte Guidelines

The Howard County Public School System participates in the National School Meal Programs. As a participant, the HCPSS Food and Nutrition Service adheres to the applicable regulations for the sale of meals and snacks to students. Beginning this school year (FY23) all students will have the opportunity to purchase second meals or a la carte items during lunch for a fee. This

practice was suspended during the pandemic when all meals were free. Access this [link](#) for guidelines. Direct questions to [Brian Ralph](#), Director, Food and Nutrition Services.

## **2023-2024 High School Course Registration Open Dec. 19 through Jan. 17**

Beginning Monday, Dec. 19, current 8-11th grade students may view their teachers' course recommendations and submit course placement requests for the 2023-2024 school year. Course requests and alternates should be submitted by **Jan. 17, 2023**. Parents/guardians will be able to view course recommendations but cannot submit course requests. [Full details](#) are available online.

[Here is information](#) on our website.

## **Patapsco Middle School (rising 6th grade) Orientation 1-19-2023**

January 19th at 6:00pm- **Rising 6th Grade Parent Orientation**: On this night we welcome our rising 6th grade parents to attend our Orientation to learn about middle school, the 6th grade schedule, and answer any questions about the transition to middle school. Our orientation will be in the cafeteria of Patapsco Middle School.

[Here is information](#) and we look forward to seeing you on the 19th at 6:00 PM at Patapsco Middle School.

We look forward to seeing our Knight families!

## **Hearing and Vision Screening**

Patapsco Middle School's Hearing and Vision Clinic will take place **January 26, 2023**.

The Howard County Health Department and HCPSS School Health Services support your student's academic success by providing vision and hearing screenings at your child's school. These screenings are required by Maryland State Law.

Screenings are provided to the following students:

- Students in Kindergarten, 1st and 8th grades

- All students K-8 new to the state of Maryland that do not have a record of prior vision and hearing screening within the last 12 months
- High School students enrolling in the public school system in the United States for the first time

If your child has glasses, please make sure that he or she wears them on the screening day.

Your child will receive these screenings unless you object for religious reasons. Please send a letter to your child's school health room if you choose to opt out of the Health Department screenings.

If your child does not pass either the vision or hearing screen, you will receive a letter from his or her school notifying you of this result. It is then recommended that you take your child to have his or her vision evaluated by an eye care specialist or that you contact your child's medical provider for a referral to an audiologist for a complete hearing evaluation.

***A vision screening does not take the place of a comprehensive eye exam.***

Please call the Health Room at 410-313-2574 if you have any questions.

[English flier](#) [Spanish flier](#)

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

[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**

**6th grade parents:**

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 [Megan\\_Blouse@hcpss.org](mailto:Megan_Blouse@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 \(md.gov\)](#)

**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!

## **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/>



