

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

1-14-2022

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**1/17:** Schools and Offices Closed - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**1/18:** Vision and Hearing Screening

**1/19:** 3 hr. Early Dismissal, 11:50AM

**1/20:** Music Boosters Meeting, 7PM

**1:21:** End of 2nd quarter

**1/23:** School Store

**1/24:** School Closed for students: Professional Work Day

**1/26:** PTA meeting, 7PM

**1/31:** Report Cards posted

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!*

## **Arriving on Time to School**

We want to stress the importance of successfully starting the school day by being on time. There has been a recent increase in unexcused tardiness in the morning. Doors open to Patapsco Middle at 8:00AM and homeroom begins at 8:05AM. Students who arrive after 8:05AM are considered tardy and must sign in late with the main office. Parents can either walk in with the student or send a written note or email to [pmsabsence@hcpss.org](mailto:pmsabsence@hcpss.org). Starting second semester, students who have 3 tardies or more in a quarter will see their counselor to problem solve the reasons they are coming in late. The 4th tardy the student will be directed to administration to receive a consequence for tardiness. Our hope is that all students can arrive at school on time, ready to learn. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

## Masks

Our KN95 masks have arrived! Each student was provided with one mask during homeroom on Monday, January 10th. Staff will check off students that received their masks. Any absent students can pick theirs up from homeroom when they return this week or from the front office next week.

When performing your health check with your children in the morning please also ensure they have a mask. Families are encouraged to send their children to school with KN95 masks, which are recommended by the CDC for their effectiveness over the typical cloth masks previously recommended. Sending students to school with two masks would be *W* ideal. We find that students often lose them when returning from recess or they may break. Please help us to remind students that masks must be worn at all times, unless students are actively eating. Masks must be worn on the bus, and in the school, covering both the nose and the mouth at all times.

All visitors **MUST** wear a mask into the building.

[Click here](#) for more information on masks requirements.



On January 14, 2022, twenty-eight spellers from Patapsco Middle School participated in our annual Spelling Bee. CONGRATULATIONS! to Patapsco's Spelling Bee **Champion, Srikar Midde**, 6th grade and our **Runner Up, Brithi Settippalle**, 8th grade. After battling it out for several rounds, Srikar correctly spelled the word Suffolk for the win. He will move on to represent Patapsco at the county-wide Spelling Bee conducted by the Howard County Library System, scheduled to take place this March.

The purpose of the National Spelling Bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives. The National Spelling Bee began in 1925 when nine newspapers joined together to host a spelling bee. Little did they know that 90 years later their literacy effort would reach 11 million students each year.

Our congratulations are also extended for all those who participated in the Patapsco Spelling

Bee this year.... Below is a list of all our awesome classroom spelling bee winners.

Don B.	Giuliana T.	Krithi B.I	Sravika B.
Obiajulu E.	Deven H.	Gurleen K.	Hasan I.
Finley B.	Kyla C.	Adithi A.	Alex K.
Ariaan K.	Shreya K.	George J.	Jaz J.
Lila M.	Shamiq K.	Elias N.	Khadijah O.
Srikar M.	Evan U.	Brithi S.	Gina S.
Hansika V.	Abhay S.	Aqib S.	Emery S..
Julia R.	Connor D. H.		

## 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
Braden S.	Ahana R.	Aarush K.
Elizabeth O.	Alexa S.	Amy G.
Krithik G.	Amy P.	Destiny A.
Sana H.	Ava D.	Eliza K.

Sarayu A.	Giselle C.	Euna W.
Victor I. M.	Leah M.	Gabriel V.
Wilson L.	Lila M.	Katherine M.
	Marcy Y.	
	Riley M.	
	Satya P.	
	Selena O.	
	Sreedha N.	
	Zahra G.	

## Patapsco Middle Hearing and Vision Clinic – January 18

The Howard County Health Department and HCPSS School Health Services support your student's academic success by providing vision and hearing screenings. On Tuesday, January 18th, the Howard County Health Department will be at PMS to conduct a vision and hearing clinic for **all 8th grade students and any 6th or 7th grade student new to the state of Maryland**. If your student wears glasses please remind them to wear or bring them with them. Please see the attached [Vision and Hearing Screening flyer](#) for additional details. The re-screening date is scheduled for Thursday, January 27th.

## Exploring Computer Science Course

All middle schools in Howard County offer an Exploring Computer Science course, which started this school year (2021-2022). 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, animation, games, 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 2022 - 2023 school year.

[Rocket Pack Animation](#)

[Interactive Happy New Year Card](#)

[Interactive Holiday Card](#)

[Interactive Christmas Card](#)  
[Website About Stress](#)

**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. Students use blocks and/or text to program during class.

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

## **From the PTA- donations for our students**

With initiatives such as Sir Prize Dollars, Student of the Month, and Positive Office Referrals the student recognition committee is always trying to find new ways to recognize our amazing students. This year, they are trying something new and are offering monthly raffles of Sir Prize Dollars, with various prizes. Students have been so enthusiastic about the raffles, and one prize that has been a hit has been \$5 gift cards to local fast-food restaurants.

They are currently running low on gift cards, and are looking for donations of \$5 gift cards to places like Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds, or Starbucks. Any and all donations are appreciated, and can be accepted in the front office at the school. Thank you so much for your consideration!

Patapsco PTA

## **ATTENTION Future Vikings!**

The Mt. Hebron HS Band Program will be offering two exciting winter programs that you can be a part of.

The Collective Indoor Guard is open to current 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> students that want to learn how to spin a flag.

### **WHAT IS INDOOR GUARD?**

Indoor Guard is a team of visual artists who perform choreographed routines while manipulating equipment or props to enhance and interpret music. Equipment includes a combination of flags, “mock” rifles/sabres and other creative designs. This equipment is combined with dance and other interpretive movement. Indoor guard is the winter (indoor) version of color guard.

The Mt. Hebron Indoor Percussion is open to current 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> students that want to gain more experience as a percussionist.

### **WHAT IS INDOOR PERCUSSION?**

Indoor Percussion is an extension of our fall marching band experience. Students will gain experience in both... BATTERY... Snare - Toms - Bass - Cymbals and **FRONT ENSEMBLE**... Keyboards - Concert Percussion

Check out the [attached flyer](#) for Indoor Percussion and check out the [attached flyer](#) for Indoor Guard for more information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [joe\\_fischer@hcpss.org](mailto:joe_fischer@hcpss.org).

**WE ARE... VIKING STRONG!**

## Yearbooks

Yearbooks are back on! After a year without books, the Yearbook Team will be looking forward to helping us remember this year back in school! Books will be distributed the last week of school, but can be purchased NOW (through March)! To order online, please visit: [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com)

If you need to order by cash or check, please email [kalina\\_salsman@hcpss.org](mailto:kalina_salsman@hcpss.org) for an order form.

## Innovative Pathways Summer School Program UPDATE-

Synergy will accept enrollment requests from February through June starting the 1st of each month at 6 p.m. and will close the 15th of each month at 6 p.m. For programs and courses that are not full, enrollment requests may be made each month through June.

- The first enrollment request window will open February 1, 2022 and is limited to current HCPSS students only.
- February enrollment requests for Innovative Pathways High School are limited to mathematics and science course requests only. All high school courses will be open for enrollment on March 1, 2022.

For more information please visit the HCPSS Summer Programs website-

<https://www.hcpss.org/summer-programs/> or view/download the [Summer Programs Flier](#)

## Clothing to Cash- easy donation!

Please donate to our Clothing to Cash fundraising program! [Clothing to Cash](#) is a textile recycling program that donates money to the school for every pound of donated items. Look for the white donation bin in the parking lot. Clothing to Cash will accept items in ALL

conditions: new with tags, or torn, stained, worn-out knees, shoes with holes or only one shoe, backpacks, old sheets, towels, blankets, stuffed animals and more. What a great way to help the school and clean out your closets! All donations must be bagged and put in the collection bin.

## School Store Volunteers Needed

The Sir Knight Store is open on select Wednesdays from the first bell until 8:45 AM. Volunteering at the school store is a fun way to help out and to interact with the students! All volunteers must [complete the following forms and register with Pin Point](#) 5 days before volunteering. If you have any questions you can contact Melissa Singleton at [mschnaar@hotmail.com](mailto:mschnaar@hotmail.com) [Please sign up here: www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com)

## 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.

## 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).

## 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 if you are being tested or have a household member or if you are a close contact of someone who tested positive.

[megan\\_blouse@hcpss.org](mailto:megan_blouse@hcpss.org)

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

## HC DrugFree Updates

1. **FREE Parenting Classes:** Raising preteens and teens is tough. Wouldn't it be great if adults could take a class that taught us how to help our kids avoid risky behaviors, all while learning how to say no to drugs and alcohol? There is! Guiding Good Choices is an evidence-based, interactive prevention program that provides families with the skills and knowledge to reduce the risk that their children will use drugs and alcohol or engage in other dangerous behaviors.

HC DrugFree is pleased to present this popular parenting class for Howard County parents, guardians, and grandparents starting February 2. This program will meet via Zoom for 5 classes (February 2, 9, 16, 23, and March 2) 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 : [www.surveymonkey.com/r/GGCFebMar2022](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GGCFebMar2022)  
For more information: Email [Parenting@HCDrugFree.org](mailto:Parenting@HCDrugFree.org), visit [www.hcdrugfree.org](http://www.hcdrugfree.org) or view [downloadable flyer](#)

2. **FREE Life Skills Classes for Students:** Back by popular demand!!! 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!



This program uses developmentally appropriate, collaborative learning strategies to help students achieve competency in the skills that have been shown to help students resist substance use (tobacco, alcohol and other drugs), violence, and other high-risk behaviors. To be sure your student receives numerous perspectives, our instructional team consists of dedicated adults and older students sharing situations they may face in high school, college, and beyond.

Classes will be held via Zoom Tuesdays February 8, 15, 22, and March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 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 flyer](#)

3. 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. [www.hcdrugfree.org](http://www.hcdrugfree.org)

## **Quarantining Procedures**

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

## **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).

