

KNIGHTLY NEWS

1-23-2023

1/23: No School - Professional Work Day
1/26: Hearing and Vision Screening (info below)
1/31: Reports Cards available to view through HCPSS Connect, 4PM
1/30: Math MAP Testing (info below)
1/31: Math MAP Testing
2/01: Math MAP Testing
2/03: Vision & Hearing Rescreen
2/03: PTA Fun Knight (info below)
2/06: Reading MAP testing (info below)
2/07: Reading MAP testing
2/08: Reading MAP testing
2/08: 7th grade survey

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!*

Q2 Report Cards to be Issued Jan. 31

Quarter 2 report cards will be available in HCPSS Connect Synergy on Tuesday, Jan. 31 after 4 p.m. [Directions on how to access report cards](#) are available online.

Students begin some new classes in Quarter Three Instructions for Viewing Q3 Schedule

For Students:

1. Open Synergy
2. Choose "Class Schedule" from the menu on the left.
3. Look in the upper right portion of your screen and click on "Q3."
4. View your Q3 schedule.

For Parents:

1. Log into HCPSS Connect.
2. Choose "Class Schedule" from the menu on the left.
3. Look in the upper right portion of your screen and click on "Q3."
4. View your Q3 student's schedule.

Music Department and Music Boosters

Congratulations to Nihara Ekanayake (8th grade violin) for being selected to the Maryland Jr All State Orchestra and Eden Brewer (8th) & Varshini Padmanaban (7th) who have been selected for Junior All-State Ensemble. They will be representing PMS as some of the best musicians in the state of Maryland, GREAT JOB!!

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!

Rising 6th Grade Parent and Family Orientation Evening January 2023

If you missed Thursday evening, here is the [Presentation](#)

Hello PTA families!

We are planning for our winter Fun Knight for February 3rd. We need a lot of help in order to make this a safe and successful event for our kids! Please see the sign up genius to help. If we are unable to get the proper amount of help required we will have to cancel this event. Permissions slips will be given to students during homeroom on Tuesday.

Please sign up here!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f45abaf29a46-patapsco12?fbclid=IwAR2ZBJB2dqsN-I2MJeF5AgWCAXBLJiQmJameTMOS2X0CjK5ydg_oK4ECyal#/

Career and Technical Education Program

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program wants all students and parents to have an understanding of CTE course offerings. With 24 career pathways, there are often many misconceptions related to CTE. To ensure that all students and parents make informed decisions with their middle and high school course selections, two virtual webinar sessions will be offered to support understanding and planning.

- Rising 7th and 8th Grade CTE Webinar
- Tuesday, January 31st 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- Registration is required for attendance. Utilize this [link](#) to register.
- A confirmation email will be sent upon completion of registration, and meeting reminders will be sent prior to the webinar.

2023 Summer Programs Preview Available Online

Parents/guardians and students can now view the [2023 Summer Programs Preview](#), which includes descriptions of HCPSS' four summer programs and enrollment information. Online enrollment requests for current HCPSS students will open Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m.

Essential Resources Day

Columbia Community Care is hosting an Essential Resources Day on Saturday February 4th from 10AM-2PM at HCC. ALL students & families are invited. It is an opportunity to expunge criminal records as well as learn more about both financial freedom and generational wealth. There will also be a free grocery giveaway. Free food, transportation, and child care will be provided. Please have your families/students fill out this short survey if they are interested!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLBHLJQ>

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.

Hearing and Vision Screening

Patapsco Middle School's Hearing and Vision Clinic will be this Thursday, **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](#)

Bus Passes

HCPSS has again partnered with the Howard County Government and the Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland to provide free RTA bus access to students. This supports students who use public transportation to get to jobs and other services and destinations throughout the county. The passes are not intended to take the place of school buses for transport to school. Please contact Heather Dinicola (heather_dinicola@hcpss.org) at Patapsco Middle School, if interested. To determine if the bus route serves your area, please find the bus route map here: [Bus Routes](#)

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

[Click link for information](#)

Inclement Weather (Asynchronous Learning Days)

[Here](#) is information if HCPSS has a Code Pink or Code Purple Day for Inclement Weather.

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](#)

HCPSS/The Council of Elders (TCOE) Community Academy

The Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County (TCOE), in collaboration with the Howard County Public School System, will host a TCOE Community Academy on **Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships** on Saturday, January 28th, 2023 from 9:00 - 10:30 am. The event will be virtual. The session will provide information regarding healthy and unhealthy

relationships. Representatives from HCPSS, as well as Howard County community organizations, will provide resources and education on managing peer conflict, identifying abuse in teen relationships, and identifying skills and strategies to intervene if needed. Information is here on this [flier](#). Registration is required, and families can complete the registration linked [here](#).

From the Health Room

6th grade parents:

Here is a reminder that students entering 7th grade are required to have one MCV4 (meningitis) and one Tdap vaccine prior to the first day of 7th 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.

[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!

HC Library Internet Hotspots/Bundles Available

Did you know that families may checkout [Standalone hotspots](#) or [Chromebook/hotspot bundles](#) from the [Howard County Library](#) for six weeks at a time? Patrons must be 18 or older to check out these technologies, so parents/guardians would need to just ensure that they have an HC Library account. If you do not already have an account, [consider applying](#) to take advantage of this and [other special materials](#) you can check out from the library (ex. art, instruments, STEM, toys, tools, etc).

Affordable Connectivity Program

Please see information on the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) to assist with reducing the cost of high-speed internet.

- Eligibility
- How to apply
- Participating Vendors

Comcast [Free Internet with the Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\) | Xfinity](#)

Verizon [Free Internet with the Verizon Forward Program and ACP |](#)

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

[Knightly Newsletters](#)

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

