

KNIGHTLY NEWS

1-30-2023

1/31: Reports Cards available to view through HCPSS Connect, 4PM

1/31: Math MAP Testing

2/01: Math MAP Testing

2/03: PTA Fun Knight (info below)

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

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:

We are officially at the mid-point in the school year and it has been an amazing year. Our kids are fantastic young people and I am so amazed at their creativity, enthusiasm, intelligence, kindness, and sense of community. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Mrs. Dinicola and I visited all students for a mid-year Town Hall. We also are continuing to remind our students of some of the expectations at Patapsco over the Knight News Network in the mornings. I encourage you to also lift-up and remind your student of these expectations so we can continue the amazing year and end the year strong as #OnePatapsco.

Reminders:

- All students, unless riding a late bus, are to be in their Homeroom at the 8:05 AM bell.
 - Walk with a purpose when heading from class to class and take the shortest path. Being on time to class and school is a life skill and being late disrupts the start of instruction.
 - Cell phones are not permitted to be used during the school day. All cell phones should be kept in lockers or backpacks and out of sight. This includes hallway transitions and lunch.
- Please have a discussion with your student about the importance of learning how to navigate a day without being distracted by their phone.**

- Bring a charged chromebook and charger each and every day. This helps students be prepared with their tools for the day.
- No food/candy should be eaten anywhere besides the cafeteria...we want to maintain a CLEAN and SAFE environment for all.
- Only students who have a pass or who are eating breakfast in the cafeteria should enter the building prior to 8:00 AM.
- Check canvas everyday, turn assignments on time, and talk with their teachers if they are absent. Be actively engaged in learning and make each day count!
- Backpacks are a tool to keep all items safe but they may not go to the cafeteria during lunch and must be stored in a locker and/or classroom.

Everyday, Mrs. Dinicola and I talk with our students and we always express the importance of Working Hard, Resilience and the most important thing they can do...**be kind and make someone's day GREAT.**

Thank you for your partnership,

Mike Babe
Principal



*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 8:00 AM and homeroom begins at 8:05 AM. Students who arrive after 8:05 AM are considered tardy and must sign in late with the Student Services office. Please note that the car loop line can get long, so if you plan on dropping your child off, consider arriving prior to 8:00 AM. **If your child is late to homeroom due to being in the car loop, it is considered an unexcused tardy.** You can view your child's attendance, including tardies, in [HCPSS Connect](#). If your child is late due to an appointment or illness, please be sure to send in a note with them or email pmsabsence@hcpss.org.

Quarter 2 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.

Scheduling Classes for Next Year

2023-2024 Course Selection for Rising 7th and 8th 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 6th Graders: [Rising 7th Grade Middle School Scheduling Letter](#)

Current 7th Graders: [Rising 8th Grade Middle School Scheduling Letter](#)

Translated Rising 7th Grade Letters:

[Chinese](#)

[Korean](#)

[Spanish](#)

Translated Rising 8th Grade Letters:

[Chinese](#)

[Korean](#)

[Spanish](#)

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 6th grade students on **Tuesday, February 7th**. 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.

Social Media for Parents

We know that social media is a large trend for youth and many times parents are wondering how to engage in conversations with their children regarding social media. Any opportunity to talk with your child is a perfect time to unplug and engage in many conversations with your child for a variety of topics: how is school, how are you feeling, who is making you smile, social media, what are they into, shows, movies, etc. We encourage each parent to have a conversation with their child regarding social media and we wanted to provide some resources for you.

[Teaching Kids to Be Smart about Social Media](#)
[What Parents Need to Know about Social Media for Kids](#)
[Five Healthy social media habits every teen should know](#)

MAP

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

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.

Winter Fun KNIGHT (From the PTA)

Students are invited to the Winter Fun Knight on Friday, February 3rd from 7:00 to 9:00pm. This event has something for everyone!

*DJ & Dancing in the cafeteria

*Special Performance from the teacher band!

*Photobooth

*Basketball and other activities in the gym

*Bingo with prizes in the media center

*Concessions for sale

Signed permission forms are required to purchase tickets which will be on sale during all lunch periods on February 2nd, and 3rd. There will also be online ticket sales through the PTA memberhub store.

Tickets are \$5 and can be paid for by cash, credit card, or check (made payable to Patapsco MS PTA). [Permission Slip](#)

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!

PTA - Winter Fun Knight (ticket information and help needed)

We still need a lot of help for Friday, Feb 3rd Fun Knight. We are not able to put on this safe and fun evening for our kids without you! Please sign up to help! Tickets will be sold during lunch shifts. [Permission form](#)

Please sign up here!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f45abaf29a46-patapsco12?fbclid=IwAR2ZBJB2dqsN-l2MJeF5AgWCAXBLJiQmJameTMOS2X0CjK5ydg_oK4ECyal#/

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.

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](#)

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.

3rd Quarter Listen and Learn

HCPSS and HCASC are hosting a [3rd Quarter Listen and Learn](#). HCPSS leaders welcome all middle and high school students to share knowledge-based insights and constructive feedback-what do students wish HCPSS leaders knew about their school experience? Attend in person on February 1 7:00 p.m. at Marriotts Ridge High School or through Google Meet code: listenandlearn-q3.

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 \(md.gov\)](#)

Flu/Cold Season [Click here for more information](#)

Robinson Nature Center's Pride Programs

[Flier and information](#)

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

Knighly Newsletters

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

