

KNIGHTLY NEWS

1-6-2023

1/10: Music Booster Meeting, 6:30PM (google meet)
1/11: Knight Time- School Store
1/11: PTA Meeting, 7PM (zoom)
1/13: Spelling Bee during Homeroom
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)

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:

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a wonderful winter break. We have had an excellent start to 2023. This week we met with the majority of students in their science classes through a Town Hall and we will finish the remaining classes this Monday. This Town Hall reviewed the expectations, rules, and policies that we have at Patapsco, along with community building and to remind students to finish the year strong.

We encourage you to have a conversation with your student about finishing the year strong, too. We want all of our students to be academically successful and to continue to grow as positive young-people. We have our 3 R's, which are **Resilient, Responsible, and Respectful** that we highlighted through the Town Hall. As many of us make New Year's Resolutions, please ask your student about their goals for 2023 and the second half of the year.

Thank you for sending us your best,

Mike Babe
Principal



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

Spelling Bee

We look forward to the Spelling Bee every year! The purpose of the 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. It is a fun competition!

As in the past, classroom spelling bees were held in Patapsco's English Language Arts classes over the last month. One winner from each classroom bee has been chosen to participate in our school wide spelling bee on January 13th, 2022.

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.

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.

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 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 8:00am. **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.

Happy New Year Patapsco PTA!!!

We will be running next Wednesday's PTA meeting via Zoom only. I know we all love to get together in the Media Center but kid taxi duties have gotten in the way for me next week. Please join us as we'll be discussing lots of fun stuff we have planned for this final half of the year -- 2 more Fun Knights, a Spring into Wellness Night, 8th Grade Celebration, and so much more! We need tons of help and lots of ideas!

Wednesday, January 11th 7:00-8:00 PM

Please email patapscopta@gmail.com for the zoom code to attend the meeting.

If there is anything specific you would like to address to the PTA or to Patapsco admin, please email me patapscopta@gmail.com by Tuesday, January 10th and I can put it on the agenda.

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.

Rising 9th graders (current 8th graders) information for Mount Hebron High

If you were not able to attend last evening at Mount Hebron or if you want to view the information. It is posted [here](#).

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:

- All students in 8th grade and new K-8 to the state of Maryland that do not have a record of prior vision and hearing screening within the last 12 months

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](#)

HCPSS Black Student Achievement Program

The HCPSS Black Student Achievement Program Saturday Math Academy Spring Session is approaching! This year, the BSAP Saturday Math Academy will offer an in-person enrichment program for Howard County Public School System students in all levels of math for grades 3-12 based on course availability. **Registration will take place online January 7 from 9:00 a.m. until capacity is reached.** Class space is limited. Families can register by accessing the [HCPSS Connect Website](#).

Flyers for distribution:

[BSAP SMA Spring 2023 Flyer \(English\)](#)

[BSAP SMA Spring 2023 Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)

[BSAP SMA Spring 2023 Flyer \(Chinese\)](#)

[BSAP SMA Spring 2023 Flyer \(Korean\)](#)

CLEANING OUT AFTER THE HOLIDAYS?

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.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are on sale for \$25. Yearbooks will be distributed the last week of school. To order online, please visit: www.jostensyearbooks.com

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

[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!

Unmatched Athlete is Back!

Join us on Saturday, January 28th for the first of our LGBTQ+ Youth Climbing Days in 2023, at Movement Columbia! Youths aged 13-18 are welcome to attend for a fun day of 'Intro to Ropes' climbing course and a teen leadership activity. The climbing course and leadership activity may be limited to the first 20 participants who sign up. To sign up, please click the link at the end of the Eventbrite form. All are welcome! Eventbrite Sign-Up

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/480124042937/> **PLEASE NOTE:** The first 20 participants that sign up will pay a \$5-per-youth fee that will serve as a donation to Unmatched Athlete for organizational support. If we reach our 20 participants number, we will update this page to reflect the

change. Anyone signing up after the first 20 slots are taken, may be charged a discounted \$10 day rate that will go directly to Movement Columbia.

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/>

