

KNIGHTLY NEWS - 8/24/2024

First Day of School Edition

Dear Patapsco Families:

It was wonderful to see our students and families at Thursday's New Student and Family Orientation. The orientation slideshow is available [here](#) for your reference.

This issue of the Knightly News highlights need-to-know information for the first day of school. We hope this information is helpful as we collectively embark on another great year at Patapsco Middle School. We are ready and cannot wait to see all of our Knights on Monday!

Kelly Hearn
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

8/26	First Day of School for Students Student Day 8:30am-3:15pm
9/2	Schools and Offices Closed for Labor Day
9/5	Back-to-School Night 6:00pm
9/18	3-hour Early Dismissal
9/24	First Girls on the Run Practice

Resources

[Patapsco Calendar](#)

[Quick Guide to Online Resources](#)

[Secondary Student & Parent Handbook](#)

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

Stay Connected

School Office: 410-313-2848

Student Services: 410-313-2850

Health Room: 410-313-2574

Follow us on X: [@hcpss_PMS](#) and Instagram: [PatapscoMS](#)

[Patapsco Middle School Website](#)

Arrival and Dismissal

School begins at 8:30am and ends at 3:15pm. Bus riders will remain on the buses until 8:15am. Breakfast is available for purchase starting at 8:20am. At 8:25am, the opening bell will ring and all students will enter the building and report to homeroom. As in years prior, students will wait outdoors prior to the opening bell unless we experience heavy precipitation or extreme temperatures. There are multiple entrances to the building and students will enter the building by their assigned lockers. Signs and staff will be available during the first week to direct students to their grade level entrance.

Bus Transportation

Bus stop locations and times can be found via [HCPSS Connect](#) and [HCPSS Bus Locator](#) on the HCPSS website. Students who take the bus should arrive at their bus stops early. We recommend 15 minutes prior to the posted time. Please confirm bus number, pick-up and drop-off locations to ensure your child has accurate bus information. Be patient with bus times for the first two weeks. The traffic patterns in the community may shift again after Labor Day. At dismissal, buses will park around the bus loop. During the first week of school, afternoon announcements will be made about bus arrivals. Staff will be available to help students find their buses.

Car Riders

Drop-off:

- Enter school property free of distractions and follow all instructions provided by school staff directing traffic.
- As you enter the campus, wait along the driveway entrance; please do not park or block any lanes of traffic that we need open for buses and emergency vehicles.
- When buses arrive, car traffic will be stopped to allow the buses to enter the bus loop. Please pay close attention so that we can keep everyone safe.
- Follow to the right of the traffic arrows at the entrance to the parking lot and make a loop into the car drop off area. The first car should pull all the way up to the curb at the corner of the exit. A sign and staff will be there directing you to this point. Cones will be placed across the service road to prevent cars from entering during arrival.
- Students should exit their car quickly on the right with all of their belongings and follow the arrival path to the school. Staff will be there to direct students.
- Cars should exit in a single line; **do not** pass any cars in the loop. We ask that everyone is patient so that all students and staff are safe.

Pick-up:

- The same traffic pattern for drop-off will be used.
- Follow all directions by staff members so that we can keep everyone safe.
- Please do not ask your child to cross the street or go to the grass to be picked up. For the safety of all, students must be picked up from the designated pick up area.

During drop-off and pick-up, only buses, staff, and county vehicles will be permitted to enter the parking area. We ask for everyone's patience and grace as we normalize our drop-off and pick-up procedures. Please ask for assistance from a staff member if you have any questions.

Homeroom Assignments

Students will report to homeroom everyday. Homeroom assignments are listed on the student schedule and can also be found [here](#).

School Supplies for First Day

All students should come with their HCPSS assigned, fully-charged *Chromebooks, pencils, pens, a binder with paper. You can bring in more supplies as the week/year progresses. Students will be able to use their lockers and backpacks. We will help all students with their lockers throughout the entire week. A list of school supplies can be found [here](#).

**6th grade students and students new to HCPSS will receive their Chromebooks during the first week of school. Chromebooks and digital resources will be used daily as a tool to enhance teacher-created lessons.*

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my child be able to carry their backpack?

Students will be allowed to carry their backpack with them throughout the day. Students may access their lockers before school, before and after lunch and at dismissal. Students may not bring their backpacks and Chromebooks to lunch; they should place their backpacks in their lockers before lunch and retrieve them afterwards.

Where can my child find their locker information and lunch pin?

Students can view their locker information and lunch PIN [here](#). Students will also receive a print-out with their locker information and instructions on how to open the locker on Monday, August 26.

Where does my student report to on Monday morning?

Students will report to homeroom everyday at 8:30am. Homeroom assignments can be viewed [here](#). During an extended homeroom on Monday, students will review their schedules, review school procedures and receive information that they should take home.

What is the cell phone policy?

- Under the current HCPSS Policy 8080 middle school “students will not use personal technology devices during non-instructional time, to include but not limited to transition between classes, lunch, recess, or in bathrooms.”
- Expectations will be shared with students during the first week of school. If you need to reach your child, please contact our school and we will connect you with them.

Back-to-School Knight

Our Back to School Knight will be held on Thursday, 9/5/2024 at 6:00pm. More information about Back-to-School Knight will be provided next week.

Safety Protocols for Visitors

Please be aware of the following procedures for any visitor to a school/office:

- The front door is the only entrance point for all visitors.
- Please ring the bell and look into the camera.
- Be prepared to state your name and purpose for visiting.
- All visitors must walk directly into the front office with a **valid photo I.D.** and sign in using our LobbyGuard system.

- A visitor's sticker will be given to visitors following the above procedures and must be worn and prominently visible.
- Any visitor in the school without a visitor sticker will be escorted directly to the front office by a staff member.

Forgotten Items

We are happy to accept forgotten lunches, instruments, homework, school projects, keys, or other items as long as they are brought to school before 10:30. All items can be put on the table in the foyer and labeled with student's name and grade. Forgotten lunches that are brought in late are taken to the cafeteria.

We cannot accept items for delivery to students after this time period, with the exception of emergency situations, as we are committed to minimizing classroom interruptions throughout the school day. We know homework, projects and instruments are important to our students, so we ask for your help in assisting students prepare for the day the night before, or the morning of, to ensure they have everything they need.

Update Your 2024-2025 Family File Before August 26

Family File is now available in [HCPSS Connect](#) for the 2024-25 school year. Parents must complete the Family File every year to ensure HCPSS has the most current information for each child. Updating your information--including email addresses and contact information--and clicking the submit button will ensure that you are receiving the most recent news from Patapsco Middle School. If you've forgotten how to access your Connect account or are new to the system, you can find all the information here including instructions in English, Chinese, Korean & Spanish as well as a video. Please have this back-to-school necessity completed by the first day of school. Click [here](#) to complete and submit your Family File.

Student Absences

If your student has to be absent from school, please submit a note to pmsabsence@hcpss.org or send a note in with your child to submit to the front office. If your child has been lawfully absent from school and a note has been submitted, they will have the opportunity to make up missed work.

When emailing a note, you will receive an automated message to verify that your email was received. Please do not send attendance notes to your child's teachers. If you have any questions about your child's attendance, please email pmsabsence@hcpss.org.

If you would like to submit a [Local Discretionary Absence Request form](#), please fill it out and email it to pmsabsence@hcpss.org. Please review the [HCPSS Attendance Policy](#) for further information.

Late Arrivals

Students will report to the Front Office to sign in and receive a pass when arriving late to school. Students who arrive late due to lawful reasons (i.e. doctor's appointment, etc.) will be considered Tardy Excused.

Early Dismissals

Parents/Guardians will sign students out from the Front Office for early dismissals.

Parents/Guardians are to show their **photo ID** upon arrival to confirm their eligibility to pick up the student in the Family File.

If you know that your student will have an early dismissal ahead of time, you may email pmsabsences@hcpss.org, send in a note with your child or call the Front Office to let them know your child will have an early dismissal and provide the name of the authorized adult picking them up.

From the Health Room

Any medications required during school hours including prescription, “over-the-counter” (OTC) and homeopathic/herbal medications require a medication order signed by an approved health care provider and are subject to the HCPSS medication policy and procedure. School health room staff administer medications, store medications in the school’s health room and keep records of when medications are taken by the student. More information about taking medication at school can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact our school nurse, Theresa Anderson, at theresa_anderson@hcpss.org or 410-313-2574.

Heart & Sole

Heart and Sole (Girls on the Run program for 6th - 8th graders) helps girls (this includes any female-identifying and non-binary young people) unleash their potential by focusing on five key things: body, brain, heart, spirit, and connection. Participants work on setting goals geared toward physical, emotional, and relational health, and actualize those goals through exercise, community building, and connection.

The fall season runs from Tuesday, September 24th (first practice) to Tuesday, December 10th (end-of-year celebration). Each season ends with a noncompetitive 5K (Saturday, December 7th) where participants celebrate who they are, how far they have come, and where they want to go. The program will run after school on Tuesdays from 3:15 pm to 5:15 pm and will meet in Ms. Kelly's room (A4).

Participants must register through Girls on the Run of Central Maryland and can do so using the following link - [Heart & Sole Registration](#)

If you have any questions/concerns about the program, registration process/fees (financial assistance is available!!), or anything else, please contact the intramural sponsor(s), Ms. Grace Kelly (grace_kelly@hcpss.org) or Ms. Tracey Mahanti (tracey_mahanti@hcpss.org).

Donate Clothes

Drop off clothes to our donation bin anytime! This is a great time to clean out the closets before the start of the year. [Here is the information](#) on the donation program.

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.org