

KNIGHTLY NEWS

8-25-2023

UPCOMING EVENTS:

8/28: First day of school for students (**student day: 8:40-3:25pm**)

9/4: Schools and Offices closed

9/7: Back to School Knight at 6 PM

9/15: Schools and Offices closed

9/21: PTA meeting, 7:00 PM (We hope to see you there!)

9/25: Schools and Offices closed

9/29: PTA Fun Knight 7 - 9 PM

Refer to the [Patapsco Calendar](#) to stay up to date with all the events at Patapsco Middle School.

Follow us on Twitter: [@hcpss_PMS](#) and Instagram: [PatapscoMS](#)
[Patapsco Middle School Website](#)

Important Phone Numbers

School Office: 410-313-2848

Student Services: 410-313-2850

Health Room: 410-313-2574

Dear Patapsco Families:

It was so wonderful to see our students and families at Thursday's orientation and meet & greet. The orientation slideshow is available [here](#) if you would like to view it or were unable to attend. Thank you to our amazing PTA for extending a warm welcome to our new families.

I wanted to send this issue of Knightly News to highlight the first day of school. All of the information that is included in our Knightly News will also be posted on our website. Some frequently asked questions are available [here](#).

School starts at 8:40 AM and ends at 3:25 PM. The doors to the building open at 8:35 AM. Breakfast is available for purchase starting at 8:25 AM. 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. Students who take the bus will need to make sure they are at their bus stop early in case the bus arrives early but be prepared it could also be a few minutes late. We recommend 15 minutes prior to the posted time.

Drop-off by car:

- 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 by car:

- 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 zone.

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.

WHAT SUPPLIES DO I NEED FIRST DAY?

All students should come with their HCPSS assigned, fully-charged Chromebook*, pencils and pens, a binder with paper. You can bring in more supplies as the week progresses. Students will be able to use their lockers and backpacks. We will help all students with their lockers throughout the entire week.

**6th grade students will receive their Chromebooks once they arrive and are logged by our media team.*

REMINDERS

- Lunch and breakfast are available for all students to purchase. Information about menus, prices, online payment and Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) can be found on the

[HCPSS Food & Nutrition](#) website. Please note that LINQ Connect is now used for meal payments. You can find more information [here](#).

- Be patient with bus times for the first two weeks. The traffic patterns in the community may shift again after Labor Day.
- Students can view their locker information [here](#). They will also receive a print-out with their locker information and instructions on how to open the locker on Monday, August 28. We also sent videos to all students through Canvas on how to open their lockers.
- Backpacks - students will be allowed to carry their backpack with them throughout the day. Students may not bring their backpacks and chromebooks to lunch; they should place their backpacks in their lockers before lunch and retrieve them after lunch.

Does my student need their HCPSS issued Chromebook everyday?

- Yes. Students must bring their fully charged HCPSS issued Chromebooks and charger to school each day. Chromebooks and digital resources will be used as a tool to enhance teacher-created lessons. Any student that does not have a Chromebook from the previous school year will be assigned one.
**6th grade students will receive their Chromebooks once they arrive and are logged by our media team.*

What time does the bus arrive?

- Bus stop locations and times can be found on the [HCPSS Bus Locator](#) page on the HCPSS website. Please arrive at the bus stop 15 minutes early. Also please check this information again to make sure you have accurate bus information.

Where does my student report to on Monday morning?

- Students will report to homeroom everyday. [Homeroom assignments](#)

Can students eat lunch outside again this year?

- Yes. Weather and staffing permitted. We will have seating for students if they want to eat outside.

What is the cell phone policy?

- Students may **not** use their cell phone during the school day. 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.

We are ready...and we cannot wait to see all of our Knights on Monday for the first day of school!

Kelly Hearn
Principal

[Back to School KNight \(9/7/23\)](#)

More information will be provided next week. Our Back to School Knight is 6:00-8:00 PM. We look forward to seeing all of our families on 9/7/23.

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.

The [Secondary Student & Parent Handbook](#) that includes the HCPSS [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Forgotten Items

We are happy to accept 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 label with student's name and grade. Lunches that are brought in late are taken to the cafeteria and a general announcement is made.

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.

Spirit Wear

Our PTA is selling fantastic Spirit Wear. Check out the online store! There are plenty of items for students and families! Let's show off our Patapsco Pride at school and in our community.

[Patapsco Spirit Wear](#)

Update Your Family File!

Family File is now available for the 2023-2024 school year: PLEASE DO THIS BEFORE AUGUST 28. Parents can now access and complete the [FAMILY FILE](#) for this year and it is done through HCPSS CONNECT. Parents must complete the Family File every year to ensure HCPSS has the most current information for each child. Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to verify, or update the following information: Student Information, Parent/Guardian Contact, Emergency Contact, Medical Information, Arrival/Dismissal Procedures, Photo Approval, Data Confidentiality, PTA/PTSA Directory.

Updating your information, including EMAIL addresses and contact information, and **pushing 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, Korean & Spanish as well as a video link.

Please have this back-to-school necessity completed by the beginning of school, 8/29/22. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Anderson at who is available to assist you. Thank you for completing the Family File.

SIMPLE ONE STOP SHOP FOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[FAQ document](#)

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 Student Services.

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 [Discretionary Absence Form FILLABLE.pdf](#) 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 Student Services to sign in and receive a pass when arriving late to school.
- Parents may send students in with a note. 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 send in a note with your child or call the front office to let them know when you will be picking them up and who will be 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 Monday, September 18th (first practice) to Monday, December 4th (end-of-year celebration). Each season ends with a noncompetitive 5K (Saturday, December 2nd) where participants celebrate who they are, how far they have come, and where they want to go. The program will run after school on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 pm - 4:45 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 questions/concerns about the program, registration process/fees (financial assistance is available!!), or anything else, please contact the intramural sponsor, **Ms. Grace Kelly** grace_kelly@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.

Knighly Newsletters

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

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