

KNIGHTLY NEWS

A great first week...it was amazing to see our students!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

9/6/21 Schools and Offices closed

9/7/21 Schools and Offices closed

9/9/21: Back to School Knight at 6 PM

9/14: Music Boosters Meeting, 7PM

9/14-9/15: MCAP- ELA- Grades 6-8

9/16/21: Schools and Offices closed

9/21/21- MCAP- Math- Grades 6-8

9/22/21- MISA- Science- Grade 6

9/22/21: PTA meeting- All are invited!

9/27/21: School Picture Day

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 Middle School Community,

It has been a wonderful first week back to school. Mrs. Dinicola and I have enjoyed seeing many classes this week and seeing the connections that students and staff are making! This week was more than the syllabus- it was about building relationships and rebuilding a sense of normalcy in a school building. Seeing our kids again has been an absolute highlight! Mrs. Dinicola and I are looking forward to being in more classes next week. We also will be meeting with all students through their Social Studies classes this month. Thank you to all of our students for their excitement, to our families for their support, and to our staff for their commitment to a high quality education for our children!

Our students have also enjoyed outdoor lunch. They have been enjoying lunch at the tables or our famous buckets. The buckets have been a huge hit! Another reminder that breakfast and lunch are free for all students this year.

We thank everyone for their patience this week with transportation. I want to highlight that our students have been remarkable. We have been grouping our students together by bus in various locations in the building to wait for their arrival of their bus and they have been so amazing! This has allowed us to dismiss students faster and in a more orderly fashion as each bus arrives at the building.

We also want to highlight and ask for your help if your child is a **car-rider**. When you arrive at school and wait along the long driveway, please do not park on the other side and wait as that blocks a lane of traffic that we need open for buses and for emergency vehicles. Also, please do not ask your child to cross the street or go to the grass to be picked up. Students must be picked up from the sidewalk as each and every child's safety is our priority. We know everyone has somewhere to go, but we need everyone's patience during this process.

I look forward to seeing you at one of many upcoming events. We have our Back to School meeting next Thursday, at 6 PM.

Finally, we truly have the best school and best community because of our amazing students, dedicated teachers, and supportive families! Thank you for being part of this wonderful school and sending us your best.

Thank you for being part of our #OnePatapsco community!

Have a wonderful and relaxing weekend,

Mike Babe
Principal



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

Evacuation Drill

We want to make you aware that Patapsco Middle School engaged in an evacuation drill and reverse evacuation with students and staff today, September 3, 2021.

These drills are one of the safety measures that all HCPSS schools conduct periodically throughout the year as part of our [Emergency Response Plans](#) and are good practice for students and staff to review. All drills are announced to the students before beginning so they are aware that it is a drill, & we will conduct at least 12 throughout the 21-22 school year.

An evacuation is a procedure that we would use in any number of scenarios, but in general, it involves our students and staff exiting the building as quickly as possible and assembling at predetermined areas. A reverse evacuation is when we need to return to the building quickly to take shelter indoors.

We encourage you to ask your student about the drill and let us know if they have any questions or concerns. You can also find detailed information about what occurs during protective actions taken during emergencies a www.hcps.org/safety/.

Our goal each and every day is to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff at Patapsco and we hope these measures have a positive impact on our community as well.

Chromebooks Charged, Packed, and Ready!

Students must bring their fully charged HCPSS issued Chromebooks and charger to school each day. Please make sure are label with students name on the bottom of the Chromebook and charger to help with identification. Chromebooks and digital resources will be used as a tool to enhance teacher-created lessons.

Back to School Knight information

We are so excited to see you next Thursday evening at 6 PM. Please review our information about Back to School Knight [here on our website](#). Reminder, all families must wear a mask.

Free and Reduced Meal Forms

Free and Reduced Meal Forms went home this week. There are so many benefits to the Free and Reduced Meal program; therefore, we encourage families who qualify for the Free and to fill out the form and return it to the front office. You do not have to fill out the form in order for your child to receive free lunch and or breakfast this school year. All HCPSS Students can receive free breakfast and lunch this year. To learn more about the Free and Reduced Meals program, please visit [here](#).

Welcome Visitors

In order to ensure the safety of all students and staff, all visitors must press the buzzer located on either set of main doors to gain entry to our building. When we greet you, please provide us with your name and the reason for your visit. We will buzz you right in and direct you to report to the main office, student services, or the health room, as indicated.

As a gentle reminder, please remember to bring in a valid form of identification (e.g. Drivers License) if you are picking up one of our students. It's also a good idea to double check your Emergency Procedure information to ensure the list of individuals authorized to pick up your student during the school day is up to date.

Student Absences, Late Arrivals and Early Dismissal

[Click link for information](#)

Update From Student Services

Any students who are enrolled in the following courses:

- Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 GT
- Geometry GT
- Spanish
- French
- Exploring Computer Science

Are eligible to earn a high school credit. The last day to withdrawal from these classes without earning a W on your high school transcript is September 30th. A letter with more detailed information was sent to parents 9/2/21.

If you have questions, please contact your student's counselor.

Ms. Lee (Last Names A-L)

Ms. Kempthorn (Last Names M-Z)

Music Boosters

The Patapsco Music Boosters is a parent organization that provides logistical support to our school's music directors so that concerts and adjudications may go smoothly. Plus, we raise money to keep our band, chorus, and orchestra in quality instruments, equipment, and sheet music.

We invite you to join us on

Tuesday, September 14th at 7pm

in the Patapsco Media Center or via Google Meet for our first meeting of the year.

To join the video meeting, visit this link: <https://meet.google.com/vhz-oaem-gug>
Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 262-563-3812 and enter this PIN: 186 059 567#

All Music Parents are Welcome!

We are also in search of new officers

All of our officers have graduated! We need new officers ASAP to continue our organization. Don't worry! Last year's officers will be happy to help get you started and guide you through the process.

We Need: *President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary*

And many other small committee chairs

Thanks! Hope to see you there!

Join the PTA

Hear ye, Hear ye! Perform your yearly Knightly duty and join the Patapsco Middle School PTA today! Just click the link below to complete your annual membership.

<https://patapscomiddle.memberhub.com/store#>

5 Reasons to Join the PTA:

- 1. BENEFIT YOUR CHILD!** Research shows that children perform better when parents are involved both at home and school.
- 2. GET CONNECTED!** There is no better way to know what's happening at school.
- 3. TAP INTO A NETWORK!** PTA connects you to other parents and teachers through meetings, events, and communications, helping to build a sense of community.
- 4. BE A ROLE MODEL!** By becoming a PTA member, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education.
- 5. WITNESS IMPROVEMENT!** By getting involved in the PTA you'll be part of the solution – helping to make positive changes.

Patapsco Spirit Wear

Looking for a way to show your excitement about seeing your friends and teachers and staff in person this school year? Look no further than the Patapsco Spirit Wear store, open now through midnight, 12 September 2021!! The orders will be delivered to your child's homeroom about 4 weeks after the store closes on the 12th. Please go to

<https://patapscomiddle.itemorder.com/sale> to order your items!

Thank you,
Patapsco PTA

Fall Testing/Assessments

All middle school students will be participating in a Fall administration of the MCAP (Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program) on September 14th, 15th, and 21st. Sixth grade students will also be taking the MISA (Maryland Integrated Science Assessment) on September 22nd. The tests are being administered in order to make-up for the Spring assessments that

were missed during the 20-21 school year. We will be administering each assessment in the morning. Please try to limit preventable absences during this time.

If you have any questions about assessments for this year, please contact, Assistant Principal-Mrs. Heather Dinicola at Heather_dinicola@hcpss.org.

Utensils in Cafeteria

If your student is packing their lunch, we encourage them to bring their own utensils. We have some available in the cafeteria, but this takes our cafeteria staff away from serving lunches to our students. We will have some available for students who forget, and they just need to ask the cafeteria staff and they will be happy to help.

Update Your Family File!

We are at 80%...let's get to 100% by Back to School Knight!!

Family File is now available for the 2021-22 school year: 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 today. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Douglass at Jennifer_Douglass@hcpss.org who is available to assist you. Thank you for completing the Family File.

Quarantining Procedures

The [close contact and quarantining procedures](#) that were put into place last year will remain this fall. Only unvaccinated students and adults who are identified as close contacts must quarantine. **Vaccinated students and staff will not be required to quarantine** unless they receive a positive test or are displaying symptoms, but are expected to monitor their symptoms

closely for the 14 days. [Instructional supports](#) are in place for students who must quarantine. Students will be able to see when their teachers are available through their canvas page.

COVID-19 Self-Screening Symptoms Self Check

Parents/guardians should keep their children home if they are experiencing symptom(s) associated with any communicable disease, including COVID-19. In addition, parents/guardians are to perform the following COVID-19 health check every day before the student leaves home.

A child should NOT come to school with any of these symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or
- New loss of taste or smell

For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

Children exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 may not attend school.

Please visit the HCPSS website for additional information on self-screening, contact tracing and quarantining procedures. Additionally, visit the HCPSS website for more information on the 2021-2022 school year and answers to frequently asked questions.

Knighly Newsletters

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

Community Notices:

New HCPSS Community News and Programs Site:

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [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.

