

KNIGHTLY NEWS

9-1-2023

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

10/17: Picture Day

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:

What a wonderful first week at Patapsco Middle School! Despite the challenges with transportation, our students came to school excited about learning and connecting with their fellow Knights. It has been fun chatting with students about their summers and hearing about their goals for the school year. Our students have great ideas and our staff is ready to nurture their school experience.

I want to send a heartfelt thank you to all of our families for your patience and flexibility while navigating new start and dismissal times, bus challenges and car loop changes. Your tremendous support is a major contributing factor to this amazing school community. We will continue to send the bus arrival and departure emails at least through September 8th. As a

parent, I know that it is important to have a sense of when a child arrives at school and returns home. We will keep this in mind as we move to normalize our bus arrival and departure time.

Thank you for sharing your amazing children with us. We hope that everyone is able to relax and enjoy the long weekend!

Kelly Hearn
Principal

Chromebooks Distribution

Today, during homeroom, sixth grade students received their HCPSS Chromebooks and chargers. In English classes, teachers reviewed how to properly take care of Chromebooks. Students should bring their fully charged laptops to school each day. New seventh and eighth grade students will receive their chromebooks next week.

Back to School KNight (9/7/23)

When: Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

We are excited to welcome all parents/guardians to the 2023 Back to School Knight at Patapsco Middle School. Our doors will open at 5:45 PM and the event will end at 8:00 PM. We would like all parents/guardians to be in Homeroom by 6:15 PM.

What You Can Expect: Back to School Knight will allow you to visit your child's classrooms and to meet the professionals who teach them. Parents/guardians will start in homeroom as your child does each day. You will then have the opportunity to follow your child's schedule and hear from their teachers. Each class visit is only eight minutes; therefore, if you wish to have an individual conversation with your child's teacher, feel free to [email](#) the teacher to arrange a time for a parent/teacher conference.

You will also have the opportunity to join our PTA which does so much for our school. We appreciate the membership and donations as it directly supports the students and staff at Patapsco Middle School. Please consider [joining](#) as we could not do a lot of the exciting initiatives for our kids without our PTA!

Since space in our building and parking lot are at a premium, if you are able, we ask that you come to Back to School Knight without your child as space will be limited. We will have plenty of maps and staff to help guide you.

A detailed schedule of Back to School Knight will be sent next week. We look forward to seeing you next Thursday.

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](#)

Policy Corner

This week, all students learned about the Code of Conduct in interactive lessons during Homeroom. Here is a link to the [Secondary Student & Parent Handbook](#) that includes the HCPSS [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Throughout the month of September and year, Mrs. Dinicola and I will highlight policies with our students over the morning announcements. Here are two policies that we will highlight next week. Policy [9260](#) (student search and seizure) and Policy [9020](#) (Students' rights and responsibilities).

Update Your Family File!

We need every family to update this every year. Please [click here](#) if you have not updated 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 the Front Office 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 Art Room

All students at Patapsco are invited to submit artwork to Mrs. Mitchell (F1) or Mr. Song (B1) for display in the lobby! Doodles on sticky notes? A painting of your pet? A sketch of Spiderman? Bring out your silly and serious sides for us to celebrate!

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.

PTA News

Hello Parents! You made it through the first week of school. It was wonderful to meet our new students and 6th grade families at orientation last week and we are looking forward to seeing all

of you at back to school night on September 7th! If you have not joined the PTA yet, you can do so easily at this link: <https://patapscomiddle.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true>

BASKETBALLS, SOCCER BALLS, VOLLEYBALLS. and more have a way of winding up in the woods around the school. We have gotten a request from the PMS staff to help fund additional playground equipment for the students to use during recess. The PTA has created an Amazon Wish List where you can purchase one or more sports balls for our kids to enjoy. All items will be delivered directly to the school. Please check out the wish link here: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/14OGRQQNR3I9L?ref=wl_share

You can always reach us at patapscopta@gmail.com.
Thanks, Megan Mason (23/34 PTA President)

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