

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

1-26-24

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1/26: Start of 3rd Marking Period
- 1/30: ELA MAP Testing
- 1/31: ELA MAP Testing
- 2/1: ELA MAP Testing
- 2/1: Vision and Hearing Re-screen
- 2/2: PTA Fun Knight
- 2/5: Report Cards Issued after 4pm
- 2/6: Math MAP Testing
- 2/6: A Little Knight Music Recital 7-8:30pm
- 2/7: Math MAP Testing
- 2/8: Math MAP Testing
- 2/9: Schools Closed for Students

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

Despite the inclement weather days, it has been busy at Patapsco Middle School! I extended congratulations to our Spelling Bee Champion, Varsha Sukumar and runner-up, Kate Min. Also, Olanna Ezeji, placed second overall in the Howard County Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission Middle School Essay Contest. All of our students are winners each and every day as they continue to navigate middle school, progress academically, and grow in their social-emotional development. Keep up the good work!  
Go Knights!

Kelly Hearn  
Principal

## **MAP Testing**

Students in grades 6-8 will take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment in English and Math classes. The English Map testing will be on January 30th, 31st, and February 1st in English classes. The Math Map testing will be on February 6th, 7th, and 8th in math classes. It is important for every student to bring their charged, school-issued computer to school each day during MAP testing. The data from the MAP assessment will help schools and teachers measure your student's academic progress. The MAP test does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly. To learn more about the MAP assessment, please visit: <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/> If your child is unable to attend on a day they are testing, make-up dates will be offered.

*Please note the following exceptions for middle school testing:*

- *Students in 8th grade GT-ELA do not take the Reading Test*
- *Students taking HS level math classes (Alg1 or 2, Geometry) do not take the Math Test.*

## **Important Reminder about Bullying**

As we approach the second half of the school year, we wanted to remind you that HCPSS is dedicated to providing a safe and supportive environment that focuses on student well-being. We are taking this time to uplift the importance of reporting any type of bullying that has occurred. We will be reviewing this with our students and staff as we start the second half of the school year, and hope that you too can uplift this at home.

For children facing the emotional toll of bullying, a supportive individual can make all the difference. Please encourage your children to reach out to a trusted staff member at school should they need to report anything. As parents and guardians, you will use the same reporting form as students by following the steps outlined below.

How do I report bullying?

1. When you believe bullying has taken place, you should report it through the Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment and Intimidation (BCHI) reporting form. Reporting can take place in one of three ways:
  - a. Complete a [BCHI online reporting form](#)
  - b. BCHI paper reporting form (available in the main office, staff workroom, school counseling office, media center, and health services office)
  - c. An oral report to a staff member
2. It is important to note that policy states "in the event the reporting party does not complete a BCHI Reporting Form, school administrators/supervisors will take the appropriate steps to address and document the incident." Therefore, if you or someone else makes an oral report, it then must be documented (i.e. through a BCHI reporting form) by the administrator.

Thank you for your partnership and attention to this important topic.

## **Spelling Bee**

Our annual school-wide Spelling Bee began with 26 students who won their Classroom Bees. We have many excellent spellers, so the school-wide competition was fierce. The words that challenged our students began with easy ones and then words quickly became more difficult.

The winning word was fibbery. (The word is used as a noun and it is the practice of fibbing: falsehood.)

Our 2024 school champion is 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Varsha Sukumar.  
Our runner up is 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Kate Min.

The winner of our Patapsco School Spelling Bee will move on to participate in the Howard County Spelling Bee at Hammond High School on March 15, 2024.

Congratulations to all our participants!

Special thanks go out to Mrs. Shaw for being the Pronouncer, and to Miss Noppinger and Mrs. Vasquez for being our judges.

The winner from Howard County will then move on to The Scripps National Spelling Bee that takes place the week of Memorial Day 2024 in National Harbor, Maryland.

**Congratulations to the following students who participated in this week's Spelling Bee:**

**6<sup>th</sup> graders:** Mahateja Sai Karri, Kate Min, Ozair Mohammed, Justin Nzelibé, Alina Patel, Kacen Thomas, KaTai Zayat, Alexis Cuellar Zeledon

**7<sup>th</sup> graders:** Sri Adiraju, Elle-Jhae LeFevre Baldwin, Srinika Das, Juan Gomez, Jiya Moskowitz, Matthew O'Shea, Hanna Rahman, Om Thakkar, Akshara Vikram

**8<sup>th</sup> graders:** Sash Balasubramanian, Binayek Devokta, Shiv Idamakanti, Aiden Lee, Aki Ng, Elias Nuurlign, Aqib Nawaz Shaik, Varsha Sukumar, Charith Vangavati

## Winter Fun Knight - Volunteers Needed!

The Winter Fun Knight is coming up on the evening of Friday, February 2nd! This event has it all - there will be dancing in the cafeteria, basketball and other activities in the gym, concessions in between, and BINGO (with prizes!). We need your help setting up, checking kids in, and providing a safe and fun event for our students. Any questions, please contact Heather Shim at [patapscopta@gmail.com](mailto:patapscopta@gmail.com). Please sign up to volunteer here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45ABAF29A46-47103986-patapsco?useFullSite=true#/>

Also, the [permission slip](#) will be going home on Monday, January 29th. The tickets are \$5 and will be sold during lunches on Thursday, February 1st and Friday, February 2nd. No tickets will be sold at the door.

## HCPSS Emergency Notifications

As we head into winter weather, [families are reminded](#) that in emergency situations (including inclement weather), information will be shared with the community only through the HCPSS website, email and text, Twitter and the HCPSS weather hotline. [Be sure your Family File is up to date](#) and that you have [opted into texts](#) to receive emergency messages.

## Military Family Connected Night

Please see attached [flier](#) for an event next week in support of military families.

## Youth Summer Football Camp/Vikings Backers

Please see the attached [flier](#) for more information.

## Previously Shared Information

### Keeping Students Healthy and In School this Winter

This is the time of year when the winter season takes a toll on school attendance. Common illnesses such as colds, flu, fevers, earaches and Covid-19, along with unpredictable winter

weather, can result in students having to miss school. These absences, even when they are excused, break the routine of daily attendance that contributes to students feeling connected and engaged in learning. Please click [here](#) for some steps to help keep students healthy this winter.

## **Forgotten Items**

We accept lunches, instruments, homework, school projects, keys, or other items as long as they are brought to school **before 10:30 AM**. Items can be dropped off and labeled with the student's name and grade and put on the table in the foyer. Lunches are taken to the cafeteria and placed on the stage for students to retrieve. We are seeing an increased amount of lunches being brought in, please whenever possible send your child's lunch with them to help save time for you and the office staff.

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 for the school day.

## **CELL PHONES - MIDDLE SCHOOL**

This is a friendly reminder to our community that per 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.” Please remind your students that their cell phones should be off and away during the school day. Students are always welcome to use an office phone to reach out to a parent during the school day. If you need to get a message to your child, please call the front office at 410-313-2848.

## **Update Your Family File!**

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

## **Volunteer Information**

Are you interested in volunteering at Patapsco Middle this school year - maybe chaperone a field trip or help in a classroom? We value our volunteers and the contributions they make to our students and school. According to Howard County Board of Education Policy, all volunteers must complete a Confidentiality Training Course about protecting the privacy of our students, staff, and schools and must complete the Child Abuse and Neglect Training for Parents. Please complete this course and training before registering to volunteer at your child's school. The course takes about 5 minutes to complete. Please turn both of your completion certificates into the front office at the school when you are finished. Course and training can be found [HERE](#)

## **2023-2024 Attendance Information and Resources**

Click [here](#) for the 2023-2024 Attendance Information and Resources.

## **Transportation**

Patapsco Middle School has experienced great improvements in our bus arrival and departure times. If you have any transportation related questions or concerns that cannot be addressed by Patapsco staff, please use the link below to contact the HCPSS Office of Student Transportation.

[HCPSS Office of Student Transportation Contact Form](#)

## [HCPSS Office of Student Transportation Contact Form - Spanish](#)

### **HCPSS Mental Health and Wellness**

If you have an immediate need for help with depression, suicidal thoughts, or other serious mental health issues, please contact:



Grassroots Crisis Intervention: Call 988 or 410-531-6677

The Maryland Crisis Hotline: Call 988 or 211 and then choose option 1

The Crisis Text Line: Text 988 or 74174 and a trained counselor will respond

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline: Call 988 or 1-800-273-8255

For additional information, visit the [HCPSS Mental Health and Wellness webpage](#)

### [Knightly 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](http://community-programs.hcpss.org) for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss.org)