

KNIGHTLY NEWS

1-5-24

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1/9: Rising Freshman Family Information Night @Mt Hebron HS (6:30pm)

1/15: Schools Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/17: 3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15pm)

1/17: Spelling Bee

1/18: Incoming 6th Graders Parent Night @Patapsco MS (6:00pm)

1/19: End of 2nd marking period

1/22: 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

I hope all of our families had a restful winter break and enjoyed their time with family and friends. We recognize that the new year brings a chance for new beginnings and provides an opportunity to reset our thinking and doing. This past week during Knight Time, our students engaged in a lesson on setting SMART goals. We encourage our families to ask their students about their goals, how they plan to accomplish them, what they plan to do differently this year and where they see opportunities for growth and improvement. These are great talking points as we finish the second quarter (ends on January 19) and prepare for the second half of the school year.

We appreciate your ongoing support for the Patapsco Middle School community and wish you a happy and healthy 2024! Go Knights!

Kelly Hearn
Principal

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.

Rising 9th Graders Information

Parents of our current 8th graders, rising 9th graders, please see the attached [flier](#) and mark your calendars to attend this event.

Please click [here](#) for additional information about Mt. Hebron's portfolio and audition dates (visual art and performing arts-band, choir, dance, guitar, piano, strings, theatre.)

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.

Gaming and Internet Addiction Training

Please see the attached [flier](#) for more information on this free event.

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.

PTA Reflections

We are excited to announce that for our first year launch of the Reflections Program, Patapsco PTA got 8 entries: Visual Arts (2), Photography (2), Music composition (2) and Literature (2). This year's theme was " We are Hopeful..." It is with great pleasure that all of the entries have been judged and are moving on to the county level.

Congratulations : *Anista Ganta, Kate Min, Maizen Sorial and Kriti Jethwani* as your work moves to the county level!

Registration for BSAP Saturday Math Academy

The HCPSS Black Student Achievement Program Saturday Math Academy Spring Session is approaching! This year, the BSAP Saturday Math Academy will offer an in-person enrichment program for Howard County Public School System students in all levels of math for grades 3-12 based on course availability. Registration will take place online Saturday, January 6, 2024 from

9:00 a.m.- until capacity is reached. Class space is limited. Families can register by accessing the [HCPSS Connect Website](#)

For more information, please visit:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2023/12/black-student-achievement-program-bsap-saturday-math-academy-spring-2024-program/>

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 for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss.org