

KNIGHTLY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 10/13: School Store Opens
- 10/15: School Closed for students
- 10/18: Flu Clinic
- 10/18: School Picture Day - **New Date**
- 10/22: Map Testing - more information to coming
- 10/25: Map Testing - more information to coming
- 11/4: School Closed for students
- 11/10: Report Cards Issued
- 11/12: Picture Make-up day
- 11/17: PTA Meeting, 7PM

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



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



Every October, schools across the country join the nationwide campaign, STOMP Out Bullying™ in observing National Bullying Prevention Month.

This month students will participate in two Social/Emotional Lessons during Knight Time. These lessons will focus on being kind and spreading kindness in our school.

To kick things off, on Wednesday, Oct. 6th we are asking students and staff to wear **BLUE** and stand together against bullying. Show your #OnePatapsco pride and wear BLUE!

Then, on Wednesday, Oct. 20th, National Unity Day, wear and share **ORANGE** to show unity for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion and to send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying.

<https://youtu.be/8gKBQEQUW5g>

When our message is united, with each person feeling valued and important, we become a united community standing against bullying and cyberbullying.

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” - Leo Buscaglia

October 8th Fall Fun Knight

Students are invited to the Fall Fun Knight on Friday, October 8, 2021 from 7:00 to 9:00pm. This event has something for everyone!

- *DJ & Dancing in the cafeteria
- *Basketball and other activities in the gym
- *Bingo with prizes in the media center
- *Concessions for sale

Permission forms will go home with students on Monday, October 4, 2021. Signed permission forms are required to purchase tickets which will be on sale during all lunch periods on October 6, 7 and 8. Tickets are \$5 and can be paid for by cash or check (made payable to Patapsco MS PTA).

Fun Knights require many parent volunteers to keep our kids safe and happy. **We need YOU!**

This is an event sponsored by Patapsco's PTA and it is always a huge hit with the kids. It cannot happen without parent volunteers.

Please check out the SignUp Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f45abaf29a46-patapsco11>.

Questions about the Fun Knight? Contact Michaela Muffoletto at muffs@muffsonline.com

Volunteers

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Howard County School System. We value our volunteers and the contributions they make to our students and schools.

Your participation in this process helps make Howard County Public Schools a safer place to learn. We look forward to seeing you! **You can print the certificates and provide them to the front office to stay on file for the 21-22 school year.**

Please note that when you click on a link, the forms will automatically download.

Volunteer Information <https://www.hcpss.org/parents/volunteer-information/>

Confidentiality Training Link:

Google Slides version is on link above or print version:
<https://www.hcpss.org/f/parents/volunteer-confidentiality-training.pdf>

Certificate of Completion:
<https://www.hcpss.org/f/parents/volunteer-confidentiality-certificate.pdf>

Child Abuse Link:

https://www.hcpss.org/f/employees/childabuse_ppt.pdf

Certificate of Completion: https://www.hcpss.org/f/parents/abuse_certificate.pdf

Free Flu Vaccinations at Patapsco Middle School

Flu vaccinations are coming to school on October 18th. They will be given at NO CHARGE TO YOU. Now, more than ever, it is important to protect your family through vaccinations.

If you would like your child to be vaccinated, please register **BEFORE Friday, October 8:**

Fill out the consent form online at:

<https://tinyurl.com/HoCPSSFlu2021>

1. Type your child's school name in **Search by Name** then press the blue **Search** button.
2. Click on the **Sign Up for Flu Vaccinations** button for your child's school.

OR

Fill out a paper consent form:

1. Read the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) and talk to your health care provider or the school nurse about any questions you have. VIS: <https://tinyurl.com/FluVIS2021-E>
2. Fill out every section of the attached Consent Form.
3. Use your insurance card to fill out your insurance information accurately. Your insurance company will be billed. **There is no co-pay or deductible**. You will NOT be charged by us or your insurance company.

Influenza, also known as the flu, is a serious illness that affects people of all ages. One of the best ways to prevent the flu is through vaccinations. We are pleased to join with the Maryland Partnership for Prevention (MPP) to offer flu vaccinations at our school.

You may give permission for your child to be vaccinated using (1) an online form at <https://tinyurl.com/HoCPSSFlu2021> or (2) the hard copy form attached to this message.

We urge you to protect your family from the flu. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone ages 6 months and older get a flu shot. Please visit www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm for more information about the flu vaccine.

[English Consent Form](#)

[Message in Spanish](#)

[Spanish Consent Form](#)

Picture Day- New Date!

Lifetouch has rescheduled the date. Thank you for everyone's patience as we know the cancelation was a little confusing with our notice and the automatic email that lifetouch sent.

It is time to order that annual picture of your student. Lifetouch will be at Patapsco on October 18th to take your child's school portrait. Packages can be ordered [online](#). Picture Day ID:

EVTKGGDP9

For more information [see flier](#) [Order form flier](#)

MASKS

Parents please continue to have your child wear their masks to school. We have many students coming to school and forgetting their mask. Please make sure it is with them before the leave for the morning.

Per the Maryland State Department of Education, **masks are required in all Maryland public school buildings for all students, staff and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.** The [state mandate](#) reflects guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health, and is in alignment with the [HCPSS masking directive](#) already in place.

Masks also are required while on school buses. Masks are not required for any students or staff while eating/drinking indoors. Masks are not required outdoors, however they are recommended for unvaccinated individuals.

Hispanic Heritage Month Virtual Book Club

Thursday, October 14 and Thursday, October 21, 6:30 p.m., virtual meetings

Students in grades 7-12 are invited to attend a [virtual book club](#) to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Participants will discuss Crystal Maldonado's Fat Chance, Charlie Vega. [Register online](#) to receive emailed instructions for attending the virtual meetings. Students who register by September 30th will receive a free copy of the book.

Free COVID-19 Mobile Vaccination Clinic

Head to Mt. Hebron High School on **Thursday, October 7th** from 3:30PM-5:30PM to get your Covid-19 vaccine for free! See the [flier](#) for more details. You can [register](#) ahead of time or simply show up. PTSA is handing out frozen treats to anyone stopping by!

Puede venir a Mt. Hebron, jueves, **el 7 de octubre** (3:30PM-5:30PM), para recibir la vacuna de Covid-19 sin costo. Puede [registrar](#) antes del evento o simplemente venir a la escuela. Ve el folleto adjunto para obtener mas información.

Outdoor Education Information for 6th grade this year

There will be a change to Outdoor Education for all 6th graders in HCPSS. Please see the FAQ document for more information. We will be working with our students to solicit student voice in regards to locations for Outdoor Education this year. I will communicate more information regarding Outdoor Ed in the future. For more information see this [flyer](#).

Update on Instructional Supports During Quarantine

Beginning the week of September 27, the HCPSS Evening School program will offer virtual grade-level academic support sessions for eligible elementary and middle school students who must quarantine or who are struggling academically. These sessions will be available on Google Meet each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 6-8 p.m., and consist of parallel small group sessions in elementary English and math; and middle school English, math, science and social studies. Parents are encouraged to attend with their child.

Schools will contact the families of students designated as eligible to participate. Parents also may request that their child participate by contacting Lindsey_miles@hcpss.org.

These sessions build on the existing cadre of supports for quarantining students, which include grade-level materials packets for elementary students, assignments and instructional materials posted on teachers' Canvas pages for all levels, and the availability of weekly virtual check-in sessions. Comprehensive information about the instructional supports available are provided on the [HCPSS Students in Quarantine website](#).

Only unvaccinated students and adults who are identified as close contacts must quarantine. Vaccinated students and staff are not required to quarantine unless they receive a positive test or are displaying symptoms, but will need to monitor their symptoms closely for the 14 days. Criteria for identifying close contacts and quarantine requirements are established by the Maryland Department of Health and apply to all school systems.

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.

Do not send your child to school with any of the following symptoms:

- COUGH
- FEVER
- HEADACHE
- SORE THROAT
- DIARRHEA OR VOMITING
- NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL
- DIFFICULTY BREATHING

IF YOUR CHILD COMES TO SCHOOL WITH ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS THEY WILL BE SENT HOME TO QUARANTINE. UNVACCINATED siblings of children who are exhibiting symptoms need to stay home also. Please contact the health room if your student is being tested for COVID or has a household member who is COVID positive or exhibiting symptoms.

It is very important that we are able to make contact with parents. Please make sure that your contact numbers and emergency contacts are up to date in family file. Students are expected to be picked up as soon as possible, and within the hour.

Please contact the nurse if you have any questions 410-313-2574 or Megan_Blouse@hcpss.org

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.

Early Dismissal

There will be no early dismissal after **2:30 PM** daily. There is simply not enough time to process everything before Patapsco staff must begin the regular dismissal process.

Cell Phones & Electronic Devices

Policy 8080 – Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media

Middle Schools – Students:

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.

All cell phones must be put away upon entering the building. Students may carry their phone, but it must be silent and it may not be used during the day.

The Office of World Languages

The Office of World Languages will be testing our Heritage Speakers of Spanish to establish high school placement on October 27, 2021. Attached is a [flier in Spanish](#) with more information about the assessment.

Howard County GT Program Parent Academy, October 13 and 14, 2021

HCPSS families interested in the Gifted and Talented (GT) Program are invited to come learn about the advanced-level offerings available and how their students can become involved. The evening will begin with an overview of GT Education Program offerings followed by a question and answer session with Central Office GT Education Program staff. Elementary and Secondary programs will be covered on separate days. Families may attend one or both nights.

Registration is required for these events.

Elementary Focus: Wednesday, October 13, 7 – 8:00 p.m., being held virtually via Microsoft Teams

Secondary Focus: Thursday, October 14, 7-8:00 p.m., being held virtually via Microsoft Teams

For more information and to register, please visit the [HCPSS GT Program Parent Academy announcement](#).

HCPSS Educational Partnerships

[The HCPSS Educational Partnerships 2020-2021 Annual Report](#) has just been released. Each school's partners are listed, as well as system wide (at-large), curricular and program office partnerships. The report demonstrates how partners work to make Howard County a thriving community that cares for all of its members.

Forgotten Items

We are happy to accept any lunches, instruments, homework, school projects, keys, or other items as long as they are brought to school before 10:30. *We have one delivery for items that have been dropped off at the front office. Lunches that are dropped off will be taken to the cafeteria and left on the stage for student pick up.*****

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.

Lost and Found

Lost and Found is located outside of the Media Center. We will clean out forgotten items at the end of every month. Please emphasize to your student that it is their responsibility to keep track of their belongings, and to check the Lost and Found if they are missing something.

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.