

KNIGHTLY NEWS

10-13-23

UPCOMING EVENTS:

10/17: School Picture Day

10/18: Unity Day - Wear Orange

10/20: Schools closed for students

10/24: Music Boosters at 7 PM

10/31: 3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15 PM) End of 1st Quarter

11/2: Flu Vaccine Clinic at Patapsco Middle School

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

Introducing our Family Spanish Language Interpreter

¡ Saludos!

Mi nombre es Evelia Sosa y estoy trabajando en la escuela intermedia Patapsco como intérprete de lenguaje español para las familias. Mi función principal es apoyar a estudiantes hispanos y a sus familias y también asistir al personal de la escuela y su conocimiento de la experiencia cultural de estudiantes hispanos en el entorno educativo.

Mi horario regular de trabajo es:

lunes y viernes 08:00am - 2:00pm

miércoles 08:00am - 1:00pm

Estoy deseosa de trabajar con ustedes y ayudar a cada estudiante hispano a tener éxito y superar las barreras de lenguaje entre la escuela y las familias hispanas.

Greetings!

My name is Evelia Sosa and I am assigned to Patapsco Middle School as your Family Spanish Language Interpreter (FSLI) for this school year 2023-2024. My main role is to support Hispanic

students and their families, and to serve as a support for school staff in understanding the cultural experience of Hispanic students in the educational setting.

My work schedule is:

Mondays and Fridays 8am-2pm

Wednesdays 8am-1pm.

I look forward to working with you and to help every single Hispanic student succeed this school year by breaking the language barrier between school and Hispanic families!

Picture Day

Lifetouch Photography will be at Patapsco to photograph students on Tuesday, October 17. Packages can be ordered [online](#). Picture Day ID: **EVT4WTPC3**

All students will be photographed for yearbook and administrative purposes, but only those submitting a completed order form online will receive a portrait package.

Bus Evacuation Drill

On October 18th, bus riders will participate in a Bus Evacuation Drill upon arrival to school. Bus evacuation is important for students to practice in order to be prepared for an emergency. See below for the instructions that will be shared with students:

1. To begin the drill, the driver will give the command "EVACUATE BY THE REAR DOOR".
2. Students should leave all loose belongings such as books, backpacks, etc., on the bus.
3. A word of caution: When leaving through the rear door, students should step down from the bus to the pavement. Jumping could cause a fall, resulting in serious injury. Students may sit on the floor at the rear exit and scoot out the door if they prefer.
4. Upon leaving the bus, students will form a line at the front door or a compact group to await further instructions.

Please contact Hather Dinicola (heather_dinicola@hcpss.org) with any questions.

Young Author's Contest

The Howard County Literacy Association invites students in grades 6-8 to submit their original poems and/or short stories to the annual writing contest called the **Young Authors' Contest**. Please see the attached [Young Authors' Contest Guidelines](#) for information about the rules and guidelines. All entries must have a completed [YAC Cover Sheet](#) sent as a PDF. Submissions may be **emailed** to Mrs. Shaw elizabeth_shaw@hcpss.org or shared with Mrs. Shaw in a **Google Doc** no later than **December 11, 2023**. All submissions must **follow the guidelines**, must have a **cover sheet**, and must be **submitted electronically**. Contact Mrs. Shaw with any questions. All Young Authors' Contest information can be found on the [HCLA website](#).

Howard County Literacy Association welcomes parents as members. Visit the [HCLA Welcome Page](#) for information about joining.

Fan Expectations and Safety at HCPSS Athletics Events

High school athletic events serve as a wonderful opportunity for students, friends, families, staff and community members to come together in support of their favorite teams. To ensure these games are able to be safely enjoyed by all in attendance, it is imperative that everyone adheres to the rules, expectations and laws in place to ensure safety.

All children who are in 8th grade or younger must be accompanied by an adult at all HCPSS athletics contests or will be turned away from entry. Adult supervision must continue for the entirety of the athletic contest.

Athletic contests are considered extensions of the school day, and behaviors that violate the HCPSS [Student Code of Conduct](#) or [Board of Education policies](#) are subject to the same disciplinary measures as those that occur during the school day. Any students found to engage in inappropriate, illegal or dangerous behavior, including verbal and physical abuse at games, are subject to discipline, including the forfeiture of the game itself. Non-student spectators who violate event rules may be asked to leave the premises and may be banned for the remainder of the season. Additionally, the Howard County Police Department maintains a presence at games and will ensure all applicable laws are adhered to.

Please note that substances such as [tobacco, marijuana, and alcohol are illegal to have on school grounds](#). Furthermore, no spectators are permitted to be under the influence of these substances upon entering school grounds.

HCPSS schools are welcoming environments for our friends around the county and state. All spectators are expected to display good sportsmanship to the athletes, coaches, officials, members of the marching band, cheerleaders and poms, dance teams, opposing fans, and everyone in attendance. Please show respect for all those around you.

HCPSS and The Council of Elders (TCOE) Community Academy - Navigating HCPSS

On October 14 from 9-10:30 a.m., parents and families are invited to attend a virtual session regarding how to effectively maintain communication with your child's school. HCPSS staff will demonstrate how parents can monitor students' performance by utilizing school system online resources. Additionally, families will receive strategies to help ensure successful parent-teacher conferences. This session is for families of students at elementary, middle or high. To register, please complete the registration form linked [here](#). Please see the [TCOE Navigating HCPSS flyer](#) for more information.

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](#)

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.

PTA Updates

Microphones for the Theatre Department

The Patapsco Middle School Theatre Department has gotten the opportunity to purchase a high quality microphone system for its student productions. Equipment of this type is not in the budget and that is where YOU come in!! We want to raise \$2,000 to cover the cost. We have already raised \$429!! Any amount you can give is welcome. The students put on fantastic shows each year and we would love for our audience to be able to hear each word and song. Please visit our fundraising page at: <https://app.memberhub.gives/microphones>

Save The Date

From **Roblox to TikTok**, technology is changing fast, and many of us are struggling to stay one step ahead of our kids. Please join us on Oct 17, 2023 (Tue) at 7pm for an expert Zoom presentation and Q&A about how to help your children stay safe online. This engaging presentation will cover:

- What kids are doing online, from popular apps to online gaming
- Tips for managing screen time
- Best practices to help kids be safe, savvy, and kind online
- Ways to manage a child's devices, including app settings for age-appropriate content, and more
- Plus, ask your own questions during a live Q&A chat!

Join other parents for this free Zoom event at:

<https://trendmicro.zoom.us/j/95280197801?pwd=T3NjcyszNUY2dC9lNkt5R2l4THZxdz0>

National PTA Reflections Program

The PTA is excited to conduct the National PTA Reflections Program at Patapsco Middle School

for the first time!!!! Reflections is a nationwide arts recognition and achievement program sponsored by the PTA. There is an annual theme/topic and students have the opportunity to submit their completed works of art in one or all of these arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts.

This year's topic is: "I am Hopeful Because..."

Entry forms and guidelines are available on our website at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/hsespmsreflections>

Completed Entry Forms and projects can be emailed to reflectionsapatapsco@gmail.com or placed in the Reflections box in the school's lobby starting on 10/10/23. Last day to drop off is Wednesday, November 15th. For questions or if you would like to volunteer to run the program, please email us at reflectionsapatapsco@gmail.com

Concert Clothing Closet Accepting Donations

Our Music Department Polo Shirts will be arriving soon! As your child is preparing for the December concerts, be sure to check they also have *black pants or a long black skirt and black shoes*. Outgrown something? We will be happy to take clean concert items your child has outgrown. This includes shoes! Need something? We have an inventory of gently used concert clothing pieces students may use for free! Please contact a music teacher if your child would like to visit our Concert Clothing Closet before the December concerts. Thanks!

Join the Tabletop Gaming Club at Patapsco



Hey Knights?
Wanna play D&D?

Want to know more? Come to the first meeting in the Media Center Tuesday (October 17th) directly after school from 3:20-4:00PM. You must have transportation home after the meeting.

We need volunteers to be Dungeon Masters (3-4 Knights) to commit to at least one semester of running the games for their fellow Knights.

No experience or materials needed! Everything will be provided. Please fill out the attached [permission form](#) and bring it with you.

Trunk or Treat and Parade at MHHS

The Mount Hebron Marching Unit invites you to a Trunk or Treat and Parade at Mount Hebron High School on October 30th from 6:30-7:45pm. This is a free event featuring fall treats, and a performance for the entire Mount Hebron community. Please see the attached [flier](#) and sign-up genius link for details.

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. All festivities will take place in the student parking lot. 5:45-6:15 p.m.: Set up for Trunk or Treat 6:30-7:45 p.m. Student Lot closed to all traffic for the safety of the students and participants. If you need to move your car, do not participate in Trunk or Treat; please park in the staff (upper) parking lot and walk down. 6:45 p.m. The Marching Unit will step off the parade in the student parking. 7p-7:45 p.m. Trunk or Treating Spectator parking will be held in the staff lot. Bring candy to give out. Share a trunk with a friend! Please enjoy this festive evening sponsored by: Mt. Hebron Orchards and Community Association, Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church and Mt Hebron Marching Unit Boosters. Thank you! Mt Hebron Music Boosters

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849AFAC2AAFA7-trunk?useFullSite=true#/>

Previously Shared Information

Update Your Family File!

We need every family to update this every year. There are **107** families that still need to complete their Family File. 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](#)

[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