

KNIGHTLY NEWS - 10/25/2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/25	PTA FALL Fun kNight 7-9pm
10/30	End of 1st Quarter Pink Out - Wear Pink Flu Clinic
10/31	Schools Closed for Students
11/1	Pajama Day!
11/5	Schools and Office Closed
11/8	1st Quarter Report Cards Available @4pm
11/11	Veterans Day - Wear Red, White & Blue

Resources

[Patapsco Calendar](#)

[Quick Guide to Online Resources](#)

[Secondary Student & Parent Handbook](#)

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

Stay Connected

School Office: 410-313-2848

Student Services: 410-313-2850

Health Room: 410-313-2574

Follow us on X: **@hcpss_PMS** and Instagram: **PatapscoMS**

[Patapsco Middle School Website](#)

Parents, Guardians, and Families,

October is National Bullying Prevention Month! We are spending time this month and throughout the year reminding our staff and students about the importance of preventing and reporting bullying. The role of our parents, guardians, and families is essential in

addressing this issue with our students. StopBullying.gov has many great resources for adults and children related to preventing and responding to bullying. Please remember to reach out to your child's administrator or counseling if you'd like to discuss anything further, and any acts of bullying can be reported through this form [Report an Instance of Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation | Stop Bullying | Howard County Public Schools \(hcpss.org\)](http://Report an Instance of Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation | Stop Bullying | Howard County Public Schools (hcpss.org)). Thank you for being our partners in this important work!

PTA NEWS

October Fun kNight - We are looking forward to the Fall Fun kNight! Thank you to all our volunteers!

We have an urgent need for three volunteer slots for tonight's Fun Knight. If you're not busy tonight, please consider helping us fill these - [sign up by clicking here!](#)

Recess Equipment Amazon Wish List - Want to sponsor a basketball? "Adopt" a volleyball? Now's your chance! The PE Department has asked for contributions to replace some of the equipment that has been worn out or ventured on a permanent safari in the back woods. You can purchase equipment through the [Amazon Wish List by clicking here!](#) In addition, the PE Department is accepting donations of gently used sports balls (basketballs, soccer balls, volleyballs) and/or equipment bags. You can bring these items to the school or let us know if you have other questions!
patapscopta@gmail.com

Turkey Trot 2024 - Lace up those joggers because it's Trot Time! The annual Patapsco Turkey Trot is being held Monday November 25 (Rain Date November 26). The PE team is asking for parent volunteers to monitor the course and cheer on the runners. Please consider signing up for a shift or two - check out the sign up by [clicking here](#).

Membership - As always, it's not too late to join the PTA and/or make a donation to our grant program! Find out how by accessing our website - <https://patapscomiddle.givebacks.com/>

MAP SCORES

MAP Scores are available for your student. Please follow the [directions](#) provided.

CARSON SCHOLARSHIP

The Carson Scholars Fund awards \$1,000 college scholarships to students in grades 4-11 who excels academically and is dedicated to serving their communities. An interested student must be nominated by the principal at his/her/their school to be able to compete for a Carson Scholarship. Only one student from each school is able to apply, ensuring that each nominee epitomizes academic excellence. Carson Scholars must have a GPA of 3.75 and display humanitarian qualities through community service. Scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of academic achievement and

humanitarian qualities, without regard to financial need, ethnicity, creed or religion. More information can be found on: <https://carsonscholars.org/scholarships/>

If you are interested in being considered for nomination, please complete the [Carson Scholarship Form](#) and send to Mrs. Shurtleff at erin_shurtleff@hcpss.org.

All nomination forms will be due to Mrs. Shurtleff no later than Wednesday, December 3, 2024.

MESA

Maryland MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) is an exciting and engaging after-school program for students in grades 3–12 designed to spark their interest in STEM education and STEM careers. Come after school to D6 Tuesdays/Thursdays from 3:15 - 4:30.. For more information and a calendar of events click [here](#). To register your student, please complete this <https://tinyurl.com/PMSMESA>

Free Chromebooks for Eligible HCPSS Parents or Guardians

Through a grant from the State of Maryland's Connected Devices Program, Bright Minds Foundation, the Education Foundation for Howard County Public Schools, was awarded more than 6,000 Chromebooks to distribute to HCPSS families who meet qualifications to participate in the program.

Complete the Application Below to see if you qualify for a free new HP Chromebook that can be used by your family to connect with our schools, access community services, or for any other purpose that would be of benefit to you.

<https://forms.gle/uGbN2nng5MZAuWu6A>

NOTE: This program will provide one (1) device per household while supplies last. If you have already received a Chromebook through another Howard County community organization (Community Action Council, Office of Children and Family, MakingChange, etc.), you would not be eligible to receive another Chromebook.

Adults eligible to receive a Chromebook must be: 1) a parent or legal guardian of an HCPSS student and 2) meet one of the income qualifications below. If you meet these qualifications, please fill out this form and you will be contacted by our administrator, Ms. Taylor, when the chromebook is available for pick up. We look forward to partnering with the Bright Minds Foundations, Howard County Government, and you for this incredible opportunity!

Martin Luther King, Jr, Holiday Commission Contests

The Howard County Office of Human Rights and Equity, Martin Luther King, Jr, Holiday Commission has several exciting opportunities for students to engage with Dr. King's vision of equality, justice, and community service. Additionally, all the awards come with

cash prizes.

The contests include:

Oratory Contest: Open to Middle and High School students, this contest challenges participants to express their understanding of Dr. King's message through the art of speech.

Essay Contest: Also, for Middle and High School students, this competition invites students to articulate their thoughts and reflections on Dr. King's impact and teachings in essay form.

Poster Contest: Open to Elementary, Middle, and High School students, participants can visually express their interpretation of Dr. King's dream through creative poster designs.

Additionally, they are hosting a Living the Dream Award Contest for individuals and organizations that have significantly contributed to making Howard County a better place, embodying the principles that Dr. King championed. For more information, including deadlines and submission guidelines, visit <https://bit.ly/2025MLKContests>

HCPSS Food and Nutrition Services Hosts First-Ever Taste Test Event

Thursday, Nov. 14, 6-7 p.m., Guilford Park High School

HCPSS students, staff, and families are invited to try school meal items and provide their feedback at this event. [Register online.](#)

BSAP College and Career Opportunities Night

The Howard County Public School System's Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP) invites all students in grades 8-12 and their families to attend the upcoming BSAP College and Career Opportunities Night on Thursday, November 7, 2024 from 6-8 p.m. at Long Reach High School (6101 Old Dobbin Lane, Columbia, Maryland 21045). The theme is: Building a Legacy of Excellence! Attendees will explore post-secondary opportunities, connect with representatives from colleges and universities across the nation, network with businesses and community organizations, and learn more about HCPSS pathways. Additionally, students and families can participate in a variety of college and career workshops. Registration is encouraged, not required. For more information, please visit: [BSAP College and Career Opportunities Night, Nov. 7 – HCPSS News](#). Fliers can be found here: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Korean](#), [Chinese](#)

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

2025 Student Service Learning Credit Hours

The state of Maryland requires that 75 hours of Student Service Learning (SSL) be completed, as a requirement to obtain a high school diploma. Service Learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service to the community within curriculum-based learning. Through SSL students apply specific academic skills to “real

world” problems to gain a greater understanding of community needs. Additionally, students reflect upon how their service directly impacts others. Student Service Learning is not group organized volunteerism, independent volunteerism, or internships. It is a curriculum presented within the student’s school day. All service learning hours are completed as course work offered through projects developed for each grade level. Each year, 25 service learning hours will be offered to students and awarded by participation in meeting course objectives and completion of the grade level project. In this way, students will obtain their required 75 hours of service at the end of their 8th grade year. Please look for SSL updates in the Knightly News to be informed about special achievements, deadlines and activities. If you have questions about this program, contact our school SSL Coordinator, Sherri Ross: sherri_ross@hcpss.org.

Intramural/Co-Curricular Programs

Intramurals are incredible extracurricular opportunities to extend knowledge, exercise the mind and body, and develop social skills. Please browse the following intramural offerings and know there may be more coming especially in the second semester.

* As part of our Three R's, we encourage interested students to take the **Responsibility** and contact the program sponsor themselves.*

Please email sponsors with any questions.

See below the exciting Intramurals Patapsco will be offering this school year.

Opportunity X

Attention Students and Families: Do you like science experiments? What about doing cool projects with your friends? Join [Opportunity X](#)! This Intramural will meet every Wednesday from 3:15-4:15 starting on Wednesday 10/16. If you are interested, please complete [this survey](#) and follow the directions there to sign up!

WEngineer

Are you interested in science, math, and engineering? Does designing, prototyping, and building projects fascinate you? If so, WEngineer, a community-based nonprofit, is offering an engaging eight-week engineering academy for aspiring members of the STEM field. The program, Flood Fighters: Fight or Flight?, will cover a wide range of topics, including transportation engineering, weather adaptation, and structural integrity. Students will learn to use the engineering design process and participate in hands-on challenges that will put their knowledge and mechanical skills to the test. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/PMS-Flood

In addition, WEngineer is offering the Flood Fighters: Fight or Flight? academy for no cost. We repeat, it is completely FREE.

So what are you waiting for? Sign up today using the following SignUp Genius:

tinyurl.com/PMS-Flood

Best Regards,

The WEngineer Team

Patapsco Players (Drama)



It's official! The Patapsco Players, led by Ms. Wardlaw, Mrs. Bressler, and Mr. White, will be performing The Little Mermaid Jr. in spring 2025.

The show is not until early May 2025 and rehearsals will not begin until January of 2025. However, this fall we are holding auditions. Please review the following chart for the upcoming events associated with auditions. All events are after school and students must have transportation home.

Audition Workshop 10/29 3:15-4:30	Auditions 11/18-11/20 Times Vary
<p>Workshop where you learn to audition like a pro. We also help with song selection.</p> <p><i>Not required but also HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. Especially for 1st timers.</i></p>	<p>Vocal Auditions: 11/18 & 11/19 (Sign up sheet will be posted the morning of 11/12. Only sign up for one time slot on ONE of the days)</p> <p>Dance Audition and Callbacks: 11/20 3:30-5:30 (ish) pm</p>

All of this information plus more can be found in [THIS SLIDESHOW](#). Feel free to review when you can and email Ms. Wardlaw at april_wardlaw@hcpss.org with any questions.

Young Authors' 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 linked [Young Authors' Contest Guidelines](#) for information about the rules and guidelines and the [student presentation](#) for a more detailed explanation. All entries must have a completed [YAC Cover Sheet](#) saved as a PDF. Email/share submissions and cover sheets to elizabeth_shaw@hcpss.org by December 20, 2024. 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.

Flu Prevention

The Health Department encourages people of all ages to get a seasonal flu shot from a healthcare provider, local pharmacy, retailer or big box store. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school (even virtual school) due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths. The Howard County Health Department provides a [list](#) of community immunization clinics.

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.

Update Your 2024-2025 Family File

Family File is now available in [HCPSS Connect](#) for the 2024-25 school year. Parents must complete the Family File every year to ensure HCPSS has the most current information for each child. Updating your information--including email addresses and contact information--and clicking the submit button will ensure that you are receiving the most recent news from Patapsco Middle School. If you've forgotten how to access your Connect account or are new to the system, you can find all the information here including instructions in English, Chinese, Korean & Spanish as well as a video. Please have this back-to-school necessity completed by the first day of school. Click [here](#) to complete and submit your Family File.

Cell Phone Policy

Under the current 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.”

Expectations will be shared with students during the first week of school. If you need to reach your child, please contact our school and we will connect you with them.

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 the front office. 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 [Local Discretionary Absence Request 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. 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 email pmsabsences@hcpss.org, send in a note with your child or call the Front Office to let them know your child will have an early dismissal and provide the name of the authorized adult picking them up.

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.

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