

KNIGHTLY NEWS

10-27-23

UPCOMING EVENTS:

10/31: 3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15 PM) End of 1st Quarter
PINKtober (Wear all the school appropriate **pink** you can find!)

11/2: Flu Vaccine Clinic at Patapsco Middle School

11/5: Daylight Saving Time Ends (Fall back 1 hour)

11/8: Report Card Issued

11/14: 6th Grade Field Trip

11/20: 3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15 PM)
Parent Teacher Conferences

11/21: 3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15PM)
Parent Teacher Conferences

11/22: No School
Parent Teacher Conferences

11/23: No School

11/24: No 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

Dear Patapsco Community,

Time flies when you're having it! It is hard to believe that the 1st marking period will end on Tuesday, October 31st. Our students are working hard in their classrooms to demonstrate mastery of the content being taught and our teachers are working hard to design and deliver engaging lessons to meet the needs of all of our students. Parents, we appreciate your support

at home and your advocacy on behalf of your children. It is this partnership that makes our #OnePatapsco community a special place.

As we move into the second marking period, please continue to review Canvas with your children and monitor their progress in their classes. If you have questions about their performance or what they are learning in class, please do not hesitate to contact their teacher. You can also schedule conferences with teachers during the November conferences. Conferences will take place on November 20-November 22. Please note the schedule below:

- In-person conferences will be held on Monday, Nov. 20th **only**
- Virtual conferences will be held on Nov. 21st or Nov. 22nd **only**

To schedule a conference, please access your HCPSS Connect account. You will be able to schedule a conference **beginning on November 6th at 8:00 AM through November 16th at 4:00 PM.**

Enjoy the wonderful weather on tap for the final weekend of October!

Kelly Hearn
Principal

Costumes

Parents/guardians, please be aware that students are **not** allowed to wear Halloween costumes/masks or bring toy weapons to school. We are encouraging students to wear **PINK** for Breast Cancer Awareness on Tuesday, October 31.

Free and Reduced Lunch forms due October 31

FARMS Forms to apply online for school meals are available. The deadline to complete the forms is October 31.

Link: <https://linqconnect.com/>

FARMS

Solicitud para comidas escolares en las Escuelas Publicas del Condado de Howard (HCPSS). Para acceder y completar la solicitud, por favor use el enlace:

<https://linqconnect.com/>

Una vez en la página web, seleccione español en la parte izquierda () para proseguir con la solicitud completamente en su idioma. Cuando accese la pagina, tendra la opcion de escoger el lenguaje para la solicitud. La fecha limite para solicitar es octubre 31, 2023.

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 nomination form](#) and send to Mrs. Shurtleff at erin_shurtleff@hcpss.org.

All nomination forms will be due to Mrs. Shurtleff no later than Friday, December 1, 2023.

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 Patapsco Knight to be informed about special achievements, deadlines and activities. If you have questions about this program, contact our school SSL Coordinator, Sherri Ross, email: sherri_ross@hcpss.org.

MAP Test Results

MAP scores have been entered into Synergy. Parents can access their students’ scores through the parent portal. Please click on the [link for directions](#). Student PDF reports will be available to view at the same time as reports cards. Please contact Heather Dinicola with any questions. (heather_dinicola@hcpss.org)

Screen Time Tip

In today's digital age, our students must develop the skills and awareness necessary to navigate the online world confidently. One critical improvement point is balancing screen time and offline activities. Encourage your children to set limits on their screen time, engage in physical activities, and enjoy face-to-face interactions with friends and family. Use conversation starters like, "What's your favorite non-screen activity?" or "Tell me about a positive online experience you had recently." Additionally, explore resources such as Common Sense Media's Family

Media Agreement and ConnectSafely.org for valuable tips and guidelines to help create a healthy digital environment at home.

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](#)

PTA Updates

Volunteers Needed!!

We are getting ready for the annual Turkey Trot on 11/20. The PE Teachers have asked for help to make this year's event one to remember. You can cheer on the runners, take photos for the yearbook, play DJ, and one special person can even dress up as NED THE KNIGHT!! The time commitment is small, but a lot of hands are needed to make this work. Please visit our sign up genius to help out:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45ABAF29A46-45303951-patapsco#/>

Grandma Still Can't Hear You!!

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 \$600!! Any amount you can give is welcome. The students put on fantastic shows each year and we would love for our audience (grandmas included!) to be able to hear each word and song. Please visit our fundraising page at:

<https://app.memberhub.gives/microphones>

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!

Music Boosters

The music boosters will be holding a fundraiser at CHIPOTLE (9120 Baltimore National Pike, Lot A-1) on SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, from 4 to 8pm. Satisfy your burrito cravings and help us support the music department by mentioning the Patapsico Music Boosters at check out or order online with the code W3E8HCW. Please see the attached [flyer](#).

Previously Shared Information

Update Your Family File!

We need every family to update this every year. There are **101** families that still need to complete their Family File. Please [click here](#) if you have not updated the family file.

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.

[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