

KNIGHTLY NEWS - 11/18/2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/18- 11/22	American Education Week
11/25	Turkey Trot 3-hour Early Dismissal In-Person Conferences
11/26	3-hour Early Dismissal Virtual Conferences
11/27	Schools Closed for Students Virtual Conferences
11/28- 11/29	Schools and Offices Closed

American Education Week

November 18-22 is American Education Week where we celebrate the achievements of public schools in America and honor the work of people making a difference in education. During this week, parents/guardians are welcome to visit Patapsco Middle School. If you choose to visit, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Parking on our campus is limited, so please consider carpooling or alternative parking options.
- If attending any classes, please arrive after 8:45 AM and dismiss before 3:00 PM because of arrival and dismissal procedures and traffic.
- For safety, please sign in upon entering the building and wear your visitor sticker (you must bring a photo ID).
- Please do not bring any siblings to school for your visit.
- For student privacy, please silence your phone & do not take pictures while in the school.
- Due to capacity limitations, we are unable to accommodate parents/guardians during our lunch or recess periods.

Scheduling Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 25-27, 2024 and will be held in-person on Monday, November 25 and virtually on Tuesday, November 26 & Wednesday, November 27. **Until Thursday, November 21 at 4:00pm, parents/guardians can log into [HCPSS Connect](#) to view and select time slots to meet with teachers.**

The purpose of this conference window is to allow parents/guardians the opportunity to discuss student progress with staff. Each conference slot is 15 minutes and will be conducted **in-person on Monday, November 25 and virtually via Google Meet on Tuesday, November 26 and Wednesday, November 27**. If you have a pressing concern, you are strongly encouraged to contact the teacher to discuss it outside of the conference window. Synergy Conference Management allows users to schedule time with individual teachers.

To permit access to our staff by all parents with interest, we ask that parents schedule conferences only for those classes for which there are concerns. Unlike your experience in elementary school, middle school educators do not have a slot for each and every student. So, please be strategic about who you'd like to see and mindful of the need for your neighbors to have the same access.

For step by step directions, please refer to the [parent directions](#). Should you have any questions or require assistance scheduling your appointments during the scheduling window, please contact Caitlyn Hoffman, Student Services Secretary, via email at Caitlyn_Hoffman@hcpss.org. For questions about availability or course specific questions, please contact the teacher directly.

Quarter 1 Report Cards

Quarter 1 report cards are available in Synergy. Instructions on [how to access your child's report card](#) can be found [here](#).

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

Annual Turkey Trot and Food Drive

Once again, we are connecting our Food Drive to the Turkey Trot as a way to impact our local community. Donations will be collected November 11-22 through Social Studies classes. We are asking students to bring in non-expired items that are specific to each grade; however, we graciously accept any and all donations that are brought in.

6th Grade - Peanut Butter & Jelly, Breakfast Foods such as cereal bars, Pop tarts, and Cereal (or any other non-perishable, non-expired food items)

7th Grade - Bags of Beans, Rice, Pasta and Pasta Sauce (or any other non-perishable food, non-expired items)

8th Grade - Canned Fruit/Vegetables, Canned Meat such as tuna and chicken (or any other non-perishable, non-expired food items)

Turkey Trot Volunteers - Also still need volunteers! Guide and cheer on our runners at the annual Patapsco Turkey Trot on 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](#).

School Pictures

School pictures/proofs went home on Tuesday, October 29. It's not too late to order pictures. Inside the picture packet is a card with your student's Portrait ID number and Access Code. [See sample](#) You can use these to order pictures. Click here to order [online](#).

Picture makeup/retake day will be Tuesday, December 3. Flyers are available in the front office. This is for new students or students who were absent during the original picture day, as well as students who would like a retake of their original picture. Students who would like a retake must bring their original portrait packet and return it to the photographer.

Lost and Found

Please remind students to check the Lost and Found regularly. We have a large collection of jackets, water bottles, lunchboxes, pencil cases, and other items. Unclaimed items will be donated over Thanksgiving break.

PTA News

Reflections Program - The PTA is excited to conduct the National PTA **Reflections Program** at Patapsco this school year. 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: "Accepting Imperfection..." Entry forms and guidelines are available on our website at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/reflections-2024-2025/>

Completed Entry Forms and projects can be emailed to reflectionspatapsco@gmail.com or placed in the Reflections box in the school's lobby starting on October 28th 2024.

Last day to drop off is Friday, November 22nd, 2024. For questions please email - reflectionspatapsco@gmail.com

Recess Equipment Amazon Wish List - The list is still open! 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 - Also still need volunteers! Guide and cheer on our runners at the annual Patapsco Turkey Trot on 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/>

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
Workshop where you learn to	Vocal Auditions:

<p>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>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>
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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.

Carson Scholarship

The Carson Scholars Fund awards \$1,000 college scholarships to students in grades 4-11 who excel academically and are 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.

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 listed on the form. If you meet these qualifications, please fill out the form at the link above 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!

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.

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

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](#)