

KNIGHTLY NEWS - 11/7/2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/8	1st Quarter Report Cards Available @4pm in Synergy
11/11	Veterans Day - Wear Red, White & Blue
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

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](#)

Quarter 1 Report Cards

Quarter 1 report cards will be available online on November 8, 2024. Instructions on [how to access your child's report card](#) can be found [here](#).

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. **Beginning Friday, November 8 at 8:00am, through Thursday, November 21 at 4:00pm, parents/guardians can log into [HCPSS Connect](#) to view and select available 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.

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)

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. You can use these to order pictures. Click here to order [online](#).

[See sample](#)

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 do get donated from time to time.

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 reflectionsapatapsco@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 - reflectionsapatapsco@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/>

DANCE CLINIC

The Mt. Hebron Dance Department will be hosting a 3-day dance clinic for Patapsco Middle School students at Patapsco! The clinic will be on November 12th, 13th and 14th, from 3:15-4:30pm. The students will learn a dance routine with Mt. Hebron dancers and a routine that will be performed on stage at the MHHS Winter Dance Concert on December 6th!

The clinic is free for all students and costumes will be provided for the performance. Students will need to organize transportation home after each practice. Use the link below to sign up if your child is able to attend both the practices and the performance.
[Dance Clinic Sign-up Form](#)

NEWS WORTH REPEATING

MAP SCORES

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

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	Auditions 11/18-11/20
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3:15-4:30	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.

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.

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/uGbN2nng5MZAiWu6A>

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!

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](#) by November 7.

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](#)

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