

KNIGHTLY NEWS

12-1-23

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 12/4-12/8:** Scholastic Book Fair and Inclusive Schools Week
12/5: Picture Retakes
12/6: 7th Grade Field Trip
Mt Hebron HS visits 8th Grade Students
Orchestra Winter Concert @ Mt Hebron HS
12/7: Book Fair Family Night (5-8PM)
12/12: Band Winter Concert @ Mt Hebron HS
12/13:3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15PM)
12/14: Chorus and General Music Level 2 Winter Concert @ Mt Hebron HS
12/25-1/1: No School Winter Break

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

The Patapsco Middle School community hopes that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break. A special thank you to our amazing physical education teachers (Mr. Capecci, Ms. DeBenedetti & Mr. Spliedt) and PTA for a wonderful Turkey Trot. A great time was had by all!

There are just three Fridays left before the start of the Winter Break and we are excited about all of our events this month. Stay connected to our Patapsco Calendar to see all the ways you can support our students and school community in the coming weeks.

CELL PHONES - MIDDLE SCHOOL

This is a friendly reminder to our community that per 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.” Please remind your students that their cell phones should be off and away during the school day. Students are always welcome to use an office phone to reach out to a parent during the school day. If you need to get a message to your child, please call the front office at 410-313-2848.

Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers Needed

We are excited as we approach the Patapsco Scholastic Book Fair Week December 4th to December 8th!! Please mark your calendar for the December 7th evening Family Fun Knight & Book Fair! Please see the attached [flier](#). There will be food trucks, face painting, and other fun activities, a performance by Kangaroo Kids and music by our Talented Patapsco Students on the evening of December 7th from 5:00 pm. - 8:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed for this event. Please sign up [Book Fair December 7th Evening Volunteer Sign-up Sheet](#).

We are looking for volunteers from December 4th to December 8th from 8:30 am to 3:15 pm to help out at the cash register. We will also need volunteers for the evening of the Family Fun Knight & Book Fair. You can choose one or multiple slots on the volunteer sign-up form. [Book Fair December 4th- December 8th Signup Form](#)

Check out our schools Book Fair Homepage. Here you can set up an [eWallet](#), [eWallet in Spanish](#), preview books, and find out more information about the Book Fair at the school. <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/patapscomiddleschool1>

Music Department Winter Concerts

Our music students have been working very hard to prepare winter programs for our community! All concerts will be held at Mount Hebron High School and begin at 7pm. Please see your child's music Canvas page for specific details about appropriate attire and student reporting time. Hope to see you there! Also there will be a Yogi Castle fundraiser after each concert to support our music boosters.

Wednesday, December 6 - Patapsco and MHHS Orchestras

Tuesday, December 12 - Patapsco Bands and Members of the MHHS Wind Ensemble

Thursday, December 14 - Patapsco Chorus and General Music Level 2

Opportunity X

Do you enjoy creating science projects? Are you interested in learning in-depth STEM topics? Do you enjoy hands-on learning? Join our STEM research club! Wednesdays beginning 12/6 in Room F8. Space is limited so sign up soon. [Sign up here!](#) (This club is for current Patapsco MS students.)

Yearbook

Are you interested in helping to plan and design this year's yearbook?! Join the Yearbook Team! We will meet on Thursdays beginning 11/30 in TR4. See Ms. Salsman (TR4) for more information! Or [download a permission slip here!](#) (This club is for current Patapsco MS students.)

Picture Retake Day or Absent Students

Picture Retake Day will be held on Tuesday, December 5th. If your child has their portraits retaken on this day, the entire portrait package must be returned. Please have your child bring

the portrait package to the photographer on retake day. If your student was absent on the original picture day you may go to mylifetouch.com with your Picture ID EVTQXGZDS to order a package.

Previously Shared Information

Apply for JROTC by Jan. 5, 2024

HCPSS' Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program provides an introduction to career opportunities in the United States Armed Forces and teaches principles of leadership, discipline and civic responsibility. [To apply for participation for the 2024-2025 school year](#), students must contact a JROTC official between **Nov. 13, 2023, and Jan. 5, 2024, to schedule an interview.** Only students who are interviewed during this designated period will be considered for enrollment.

To learn more about the program, visit the HCPSS JROTC website-
<https://www.hcpss.org/academy/jrotc/>

Update Your Family File!

We need every family to update this every year. Please [click here](#) if you have not updated the family file.

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.

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.

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!

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](#)

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](#)

[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