

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

2-6-24

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/5: Report Cards Available after 4pm
- 2/6: Math MAP Testing
- 2/6: "A Little Knight Music" Recital 7-8:30pm
- 2/7: Math MAP Testing
- 2/8: Math MAP Testing
- 2/9: Schools Closed for Students
- 2/19: Schools and Offices Closed
- 3/6: Spring Picture Day

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

## **Quarter 2 Report Cards**

Quarter 2 report cards will be available in HCPSS Connect Synergy after 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5. [Instructions on how to access report cards](#) are available online.

## **Black History Month**

February 1st marks the beginning of Black History Month. The 2024 Black History Month theme is *African Americans and the Arts*. At Patapsco, we are recognizing the contributions of African Americans through morning announcements, displays and exhibits around the building and content connections in the classrooms. If you are looking for ways to celebrate this month, please consider these wonderful resources for events, exhibitions, podcasts and more!

[Smithsonian Institution](#)

[Visit Howard County](#)

[National Museum of African American History and Culture Celebrates Black History Month](#)

## **"A Little Knight Music" Recital**

The Patapsco Music Department and Music Boosters invite you to our annual "A Little Knight Music" Recital on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Patapsco cafeteria. At this event you will see our students performing vocal and instrumental solos, duets, trios, quartets and more! The students have worked very hard and are excited to share their music with you. In addition, the

Patapsco Music Boosters will be hosting a Yogi Castle fundraiser the same evening. Consider visiting Yogi Castle after the recital or anytime after school. Mention Patapsco Middle School so they know we sent you! Hope to see you then!

## Attention 6th and 7th Grade Students and Families

On January 31st, all of our 6th and 7th grade students learned about the Course Registration process for the 2024/25 school year. The presentation can be viewed here: [The Rising 7th and 8th Grade Registration Screencast](#).

Please reference the letters below to help guide you through the registration process as you make course selections for next year:

- Current 6th Graders: [Patapsco Middle School Rising 7th Middle School Scheduling LetterLinks to an external site.](#)
- Current 7th Graders: [Patapsco Middle School Rising 8th Middle School Scheduling LetterLinks to an external site.](#)

The registration window opens on February 1st. To register for courses, parents must log on to Synergy through HCPSS Connect.

Directions for registering online are linked below or can be found at <https://www.hcpss.org/connect/guides>. Included on this page are step-by-step video directions. [Online Course Requests – Rising 6th to 8th Grade StudentsLinks to an external site.](#)

Registration Deadline is February 14th.

To learn more, please visit the [6th-8th Course Planning](#) Canvas Page. Or if you have additional questions regarding scheduling, please contact our school counselor:

- Lauren Rodriguez (A-G): [Lauren\\_Rodriguez@hcpss.org](mailto:Lauren_Rodriguez@hcpss.org)
- Erin Shurtleff (H-O): [Erin\\_Shurtleff@hcpss.org](mailto:Erin_Shurtleff@hcpss.org)
- Morgan Kempthorn (P-Z): [Morgan\\_Kempthorn@hcpss.org](mailto:Morgan_Kempthorn@hcpss.org)

## Exploring Computer Science Course

All middle schools in Howard County offer an Exploring Computer Science course. This year-long course is offered to 7th and 8th graders who are interested in studying computer science. The course teaches students to use code.org to create webpages(html), animation, games(JavaScript), apps, and much more. Upon successful completion, your child will receive 1 high school Tech Ed credit.

Completing technology courses in middle school opens more opportunities for the students to explore technology and engineering courses in high school. **Also, students are required to earn 1 credit in technology education to graduate from high school.**

Please select the links to look at Patapsco students' examples with your middle schooler and discuss whether this course would be appropriate for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

[Website About Endangered Animals](#)

[Side Scroller](#)

[Flyer's Game](#)

[Interactive Holiday Card](#)  
[Happy Diwali Interactive Card](#)

**Note.** Once you open the links, you can select view codes to look at block codes or select show text to look at the codes in text format.

If you have questions about the course, please contact Mr. Na ([sna@hcpss.org](mailto:sna@hcpss.org)).

## National School Counseling Week

**National School Counseling Week** is February 5-9. During this time, the tremendous impact school counselors have in helping students achieve school success will be highlighted. Staff, students, and families that have been positively impacted by their school counselor are asked to complete the [Shout Out to My School Counselor](#) form to share their experience. These responses will be shared with school counselors throughout the week. Responses must be submitted by 3 p.m. on February 9.

## MAP Testing

Students in grades 6-8 will take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment in English and Math classes. The Math Map testing will be on February 6th, 7th, and 8th in math classes. It is important for every student to bring their charged, school-issued computer to school each day during MAP testing. The data from the MAP assessment will help schools and teachers measure your student's academic progress. The MAP test does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly. To learn more about the MAP assessment, please visit: <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/>  
If your child is unable to attend on a day they are testing, make-up dates will be offered.

*Please note the following exceptions for middle school testing:*

- *Students taking HS level math classes (Alg1 or 2, Geometry) do not take the Math Test.*

## Leadership Opportunity for All 6th-11th Grade Students

On March 20, 2024, HCPSS will host a convention in which student delegates from every school will nominate two finalists for the Student Member of the Board (SMOB) position, and YOU can be a part of it too! Serving as a student delegate is a great leadership opportunity which allows you to represent your school, meet and work with new people, and have a voice in the SMOB selection process. [2024 Student Delegate Application Links](#) Make sure to check out the: [Student Member of the Board Process Portal 2024 for even more information](#)

## Lunar New Year Celebration

Join the HCPSS STARTALK Program and Centennial High School for a spectacular Lunar New Year Celebration on Friday, February 9 from 5:15 to 8:30 pm at Centennial High School. Enjoy an evening filled with authentic Chinese food, student performances, professional groups, cultural activities, and Chinese New Year entertainment. Past and potential HCPSS STARTALK Chinese Language Program participants and their parents/guardians are welcome. Space is limited. RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/DhAeuaG1FiazABPd6>. Please contact [startalk@hcpss.org](mailto:startalk@hcpss.org) with questions.

## PTA Reflections

We are excited to announce for our first year launch of the Reflections Program, Patapsco PTA had 8 entries : Visual Arts (2), Photography (2), Music composition (2) and Literature (2). This year's theme was " We are Hopeful..."

Patapsco School winners were: Anista Ganta, Kate Min, Mazen Sorial and Kriti Jethwani. Their entries moved onto the county level.

Our county level winners are Amanda Min ( music composition ) - Award of Merit (3rd place) and Kriti Jethwani ( photography ) - Award of Excellence (2nd place). County level winners - Their entries will now move on the State level.

## HCPSS Emergency Notifications

As we head into winter weather, [families are reminded](#) that in emergency situations (including inclement weather), information will be shared with the community only through the HCPSS website, email and text, Twitter and the HCPSS weather hotline. [Be sure your Family File is up to date](#) and that you have [opted into texts](#) to receive emergency messages.

## Youth Summer Football Camp/Vikings Backers

Please see the attached [flier](#) for more information.

## Previously Shared Information

### Important Reminder about Bullying

As we approach the second half of the school year, we wanted to remind you that HCPSS is dedicated to providing a safe and supportive environment that focuses on student well-being. We are taking this time to uplift the importance of reporting any type of bullying that has occurred. We will be reviewing this with our students and staff as we start the second half of the school year, and hope that you too can uplift this at home.

For children facing the emotional toll of bullying, a supportive individual can make all the difference. Please encourage your children to reach out to a trusted staff member at school should they need to report anything. As parents and guardians, you will use the same reporting form as students by following the steps outlined below.

How do I report bullying?

1. When you believe bullying has taken place, you should report it through the Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment and Intimidation (BCHI) reporting form. Reporting can take place in one of three ways:
  - a. Complete a [BCHI online reporting form](#)
  - b. BCHI paper reporting form (available in the main office, staff workroom, school counseling office, media center, and health services office)
  - c. An oral report to a staff member

2. It is important to note that policy states “in the event the reporting party does not complete a BCHI Reporting Form, school administrators/supervisors will take the appropriate steps to address and document the incident.” Therefore, if you or someone else makes an oral report, it then must be documented (i.e. through a BCHI reporting form) by the administrator.

Thank you for your partnership and attention to this important topic.

## **Keeping Students Healthy and In School this Winter**

This is the time of year when the winter season takes a toll on school attendance. Common illnesses such as colds, flu, fevers, earaches and Covid-19, along with unpredictable winter weather, can result in students having to miss school. These absences, even when they are excused, break the routine of daily attendance that contributes to students feeling connected and engaged in learning. Please click [here](#) for some steps to help keep students healthy this winter.

## **Forgotten Items**

We accept lunches, instruments, homework, school projects, keys, or other items as long as they are brought to school **before 10:30 AM**. Items can be dropped off and labeled with the student's name and grade and put on the table in the foyer. Lunches are taken to the cafeteria and placed on the stage for students to retrieve. We are seeing an increased amount of lunches being brought in, please whenever possible send your child's lunch with them to help save time for you and the office staff.

We know homework, projects and instruments are important to our students, so we ask for your help in assisting students prepare for the day the night before, or the morning of, to ensure they have everything they need for the school day.

## **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.

## **Update Your Family File!**

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

## **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](#)

## **Knighly 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](http://community-programs.hcpss.org) for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss.org)