

KNIGHTLY NEWS

3-1-24

UPCOMING EVENTS:

3/4-3/8: MISA Testing (8th graders in Science Classes)
3/4: Wind Ensemble Assessment @ Guilford Park HS 1:30-5:45 pm
3/5: Concert Band Adjudication @ Guilford Park HS 5:30-9:30 pm
3/6: Spring Picture Day
3/13: 3-Hour Early Dismissal
3/13: #OnePatapsco Day of Belonging
3/25-4/1: Spring 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

8th Grade MISA Testing

All 8th grade students will be taking the MISA (The Maryland Integrated Science Assessment) on March 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th. Students will be testing in their science class. It is important that every effort is made for students to be present and on time on those days. Also make sure they arrive with their fully charged Chromebook on those days. Please reach out to Mrs. Dinicola with any questions.

Spring Picture Day is Coming!

It is time to order that perfect spring picture of your student. Lifetouch will be at Patapsco on **Wednesday, March 6, 2024** to take your child's portrait. Packages can be ordered [online](#). Flyers will be sent home on Friday, February 23rd in Homeroom.

Picture Day ID: **EVTNZRVB**

LGBTaQi&A

This program is an opportunity for parents to meet, connect, and learn. In this second LGBTaQi&A, we'll be joined by Millisa Bell, an HCPSS graduate, and her mom, Dr. Keisha Bell, to speak with parents about their personal advocacy journey both in and out of HCPSS. Students currently enrolled in HCPSS are also welcome to attend.

A special activity has been planned for attending students to connect with each other as well as learn effective communication skills to engage with peers and adults.

Space is limited. See below for a link to the Flyer advertisement as well as a link to register.

[Link to Flyer](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

[Link to Registration](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

The Council of Elders Community Academy

The Council of Elders Community Academy on Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships will be held virtually on March 9 from 9-10:30 a.m. The session will explore the dynamics of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships and how to start conversations with children. In this interactive session, participants will:

- Learn how to help their child manage peer conflict.
 - Learn how to identify abuse in teen relationships.
 - Gain skills and strategies to intervene, if needed.
- Please register for this virtual session [here](#). Additional information can be found [here](#).

WEngineer

Hello! We are WEngineer, a Maryland non-profit organization that strives to inspire younger students to take part in Engineering/STEM fields. We run after-school programs here at Patapsco Middle School, where we deliver interactive lessons on various fields of engineering in a hands-on and educational fashion.

This Spring, our second academy of the school year will be Blueprint Builders! The academy will feature nine after-school sessions. Students will explore the world of Civil Engineering, participating in hands-on projects along the way. The after-school academy takes place on March 20th (Wed); April 2nd (Tues), 3rd (Wed), 8th (Mon), 9th (Tues), 15th (Mon), 17th (Wed), 22nd (Mon), and 24th (Wed) after school until 4:30 PM.

More details will be published over the coming weeks!

Previously Shared Information

Heart & Sole

Heart and Sole (Girls on the Run program for 6th - 8th graders) helps girls (this includes any female-identifying and non-binary young people) unleash their potential by focusing on five key things: body, brain, heart, spirit, and connection. Participants work on setting goals geared toward physical, emotional, and relational health, and actualize those goals through exercise, community building, and connection.

The spring season runs from Tuesday, March 19th (first practice) to Tuesday, June 4th (end-of-year celebration). Each season ends with a noncompetitive 5K (Sunday, June 2nd) where participants celebrate who they are, how far they have come, and where they want to go. The program will run after school on Tuesdays from 3:15 pm - 5:15 pm and will meet in Ms. Kelly's room (A4).

Participants must register through Girls on the Run of Central Maryland and can do so using the following link - [Heart & Sole Registration](#)

If you have questions/concerns about the program, registration process/fees (financial assistance is available!!), or anything else, please contact the intramural sponsor(s), **Ms. Grace Kelly** (grace_kelly@hcpss.org) or **Ms. Tracey Mahanti** (tracey_mahanti@hcpss.org)

New Lightspeed Parent Portal

Parents/guardians now may select to receive Lightspeed weekly emails summarizing their student's HCPSS Chromebook internet usage. The same email contains an option to sign up for the Lightspeed Parent Portal, which provides near real-time information on a student's HCPSS Chromebook internet activity, and offers the ability to pause web browsing and block social media sites when not on the HCPSS network. Learn more about [Lightspeed for parents/guardians](#) online.

Change to Instagram Access on HCPSS Instructional Network

After careful consideration of the impact of social media on student well-being and academic focus, as well as Instagram terms of use, effective Monday, Feb. 26, [Instagram will be blocked](#) on the instructional network at all times for elementary and middle schools, and during the instructional day (7:50 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.) at the high school level.

Free one-on-one, chat-based tutoring by Brainfuse

HCPSS and HCLS have partnered to provide students with a powerful and equity advancing tool: free one-on-one, chat-based tutoring by Brainfuse! Please see the attached [flier](#).

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.

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.

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](#)

[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