

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

3-15-24

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**3/18:** Debate Field Trip  
**3/25-4/1:** **Spring Break**  
**4/3:** Chorus Assessments @ River Hill HS  
**4/4:** Chorus Assessments @ River Hill HS  
**4/8:** 8th Grade Romeo and Juliet Field Trip  
**4/9:** End of 3rd Quarter  
**4/10:** **Schools Closed for Students**  
**4/17:** Report Cards Issued

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

## **School Climate Survey**

Dear parents/guardians:

State law requires that all public schools in Maryland survey students about school climate. The purpose of the survey is to gain valuable information about the quality and character of each school's learning environment so that schools can promote a climate that supports student learning.

Students will take the Maryland School Survey during regular school hours the week of March 18th. The survey will ask students about topics such as student engagement, interactions with adults and with other students in the school, the school environment, bullying, and safety. The survey will not ask about a student's personal experiences, and students will not be asked to provide any information that might violate their privacy.

The survey is confidential and school personnel will not have access to the responses of specific students. The responses your child provides will be combined with the responses from other students in the school, and results will be reported for each school and district.

We are eager to receive this very important information about your student's school and about schools across the state. Frequently Asked Questions and the Survey Item Bank may be found

on the [Maryland School Survey](https://marylandpublicschools.org/marylandschoolsurvey) page at <https://marylandpublicschools.org/marylandschoolsurvey> .

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Heather Dinicola at 410-313-2848.

## And the winner is...

We are happy to announce that our very own Morgan Kempthorn has been named the Howard County Middle School Counselor of the Year. We are grateful to have her as a member of our Patapsco community and wish all the best in the state competition. Way to go Ms. Kempthorn!!!

## PTA News

### Board of Education - Candidates Forum This Saturday!

Our elected school board plays a critical role in shaping the vision, policies, and futures of our children in Howard County. Everyone is invited to come meet the candidates and hear their ideas on the budget, resources, and safety of our students. This will be a moderated discussion and open forum. Be informed so that you can cast your vote in the Primary Election on Tuesday May 14th!

Saturday, March 16, 2024

12 pm to 3 pm

Howard High School Cafeteria

8711 Old Annapolis Road

Ellicott City, MD 21043

### Orioles Fundraiser - Jointly with Hollifield/St. Johns Lane/Hebron

ORDERS ARE DUE ON 3/27

Come join your school's PTAs to cheer on the O's as they take on the Milwaukee Brewers at 1:35pm on **Sunday, April 14th!** Tickets are \$17 per seat, and for each ticket sold, the Orioles will be donating \$5 back to our PTAs. This is also Kids Opening Day, so all kids age 14 and under will get a free O's hat. Seats are tentatively in section 360 and 362. Tickets will be distributed digitally before the game. After the game, kids ages 4-14 can run around the bases. When you order your tickets, make sure to check off which school or schools your kids go to, and that will let us know where the raised funds should go. Order Here:

<https://hollifieldstationpta.memberhub.com/store/items/993847>

### PTA Board Nominations for Next Year

We have a number of PTA board positions that will be open for the 24/25 school year. We will need to vote on these positions at the final PTA meeting in May. The positions and short descriptions are listed below. Please email [patapscopta@gmail.com](mailto:patapscopta@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer for one of these positions or if you have questions about the duties and time commitment. *NOTE: We cannot legally have a PTA if we do not have a President and a Secretary. The money we have in our bank account will be given to the county PTA group if we dissolve!*

### PTA President

- Lead PTA Meetings
- Check-in with Committee Chairs about the progress of programs and events
- Set the Calendar of Events (with Principal and member feedback)
- Provide feedback to Treasurer to help create the budget
- Send email newsletter to members with details of events and fundraisers
- Reserve School Property spaces for PTA events through the County EMS (Event Management System)
- Sign all checks and contracts for PTA funded activities
- Presentation at Back to School Night to explain our mission

#### **Secretary**

- Records minutes for all PTA meetings including attendance, results of voting, and action items.
- Sends minutes to Website Admin so they can be added to the PTA website.

#### **Teacher Appreciation Chair**

- Coordinate Teacher welcome back breakfast in August.
- Coordinate monthly teacher treats.
- Assist with stocking teacher lounge with coffee/tea supplies.
- Assist administrators with Teacher Appreciation Week.

#### **Spirit Wear/Other Fundraisers Chair**

- Oversee the selection of spirit wear.
- Coordinate orders with spirit wear vendor.
- Assist with special fundraising projects/restaurant nights.

#### **PTA of Howard County Liaison**

- Attend PTACHC (PTA Council of Howard County) meetings once a month.
- Forward information about PTACHC activities to President for newsletter.
- Provide updates to the Patapsco membership at PTA meetings.

## **WEEngineer Blueprint Builders**

The WEEngineer Blueprint Builders academy is approaching rapidly (Starts March 20th)! If constructing cars, airplanes, trains, and building resilient structures sounds like fun to you, then you should sign up for WEEngineer's after school academy. More details can be found on the signup genius! Please click [here](#) for more information.

Sign up using this link ASAP, spots are limited:

<https://tinyurl.com/BlueprintPMS>

## **Previously Shared Information**

### **Ramadan**

Happy Ramadan to our families that celebrate! If you have a student that will be fasting and/or praying during the school day, please reach out to your student's counselor so that we can make arrangements for them to engage in an alternative activity and/or an alternative location.

### **Heart & Sole**

Heart and Sole (Girls on the Run program for 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:grace_kelly@hcpss.org)) or **Ms. Tracey Mahanti** ([tracey\\_mahanti@hcpss.org](mailto:tracey_mahanti@hcpss.org))

## **My Life, My Story: Narrative in Art Exhibit**

Congratulations to Angela Shiano Di Cola and Sahib Singh for representing Patapsco Middle School in the My Life, My Story: Narrative in Art exhibit at the Howard County Arts Council. Under the direction of their teacher, Nancy Mitchell, students created art that combined AI (artificial intelligence), a contemporary and controversial visual technology, with weaving, one of humanity's oldest art and craft processes, to create narratives that focused on personal choice-making and the ways we tell stories. The exhibit, which includes artwork from students from each Howard County school, runs through March 31, 2024.

## **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.

## **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)