

KNIGHTLY NEWS

4-5-24

UPCOMING EVENTS:

4/8: 8th Grade Romeo and Juliet Field Trip

4/9 & 4/11: ELA MCAP

4/9: End of 3rd Quarter

4/10: **Schools Closed for Students**

4/17: Report Cards Issued @ 4pm

4/19: PTA Student Bingo Night 7-9pm

4/24: 6th Grade Howard County Conservancy Field Trip

4/26: Shrek the Musical @ 7pm

4/27: Shrek the Musical @ 1pm and 7 pm

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

Solar Eclipse Visible in Howard County

On Monday, April 8, 2024, a partial solar eclipse will be visible in Howard County, Maryland. This partial eclipse will begin at 2:05 pm, with maximum coverage at 3:21 pm, and end around 4:35 pm.

[School dismissals](#) will occur during the solar eclipse, with Tier 2 elementary and middle schools dismissing during the height of the eclipse. Some students will already be home by that time.

Safety during a solar eclipse is important. Please review this information with your child(ren) to ensure safety at home:

- **Never look directly at the Sun, especially during a solar eclipse.**
- **It is dangerous to look directly at the Sun and can cause permanent damage to the eyes.**
- **Do not look at the Sun through sunglasses, telescope, or binoculars.**

We encourage you and your family to read more about [solar eclipses](#) and [safety](#) and

enjoy experiencing this rare, exciting phenomenon.

MCAP Testing

Patapsco students will continue to participate in the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) over the next few weeks. Please read the following carefully to help your student be prepared.

What is MCAP?

The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) provides information to educators, parents and the public on student progress towards proficiency on the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards. Through a strong assessment system, stakeholders gain an understanding of how schools are performing and where assistance can be directed to support student growth and achievement.

Students will be testing on the following dates.

- **English/Language Arts MCAP: April 9th and 11th**
- **Social Studies MCAP: May 6th- 10th (8th grade only)**
- **Math MCAP: May 20th and 21st**

Students should bring a charged HCPSS Chromebook for testing. We encourage students to get a good night sleep and eat breakfast at home or at school. Students are not permitted to have or use personal electronic devices during testing.

Please contact Heather Dinicola (heather_dinicola@hcpss.org) with any questions.

Patapsco Players Presents...



Performance Dates:

- April 26, 2024 @ 7 pm
- April 27, 2024 @ 1 pm & 7 pm

Ticket Prices:

- In Advance: \$5 for all
- At the Door: \$7 for students, \$10 for adults

Advance tickets will be available during all 3 lunch shifts the week leading up to the show (April 22 - 26).

Whether you are purchasing tickets in advance or at the door we only accept cash and checks made payable to “Patapsco Drama Club.”

A Little About the show... *Beauty is in the eye of the ogre in **Shrek The Musical JR.**, based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film and fantastic Broadway musical. It's a "big bright beautiful world" as everyone's favorite ogre, Shrek, leads a cast of fairytale misfits on an adventure to rescue a princess and find true acceptance. Part romance and part twisted fairy tale, **Shrek JR.** is a fun show with a powerful message for the whole family!*

6th Grade Student Learning Project

The state of Maryland requires that 75 hours of Student Service Learning (SSL) be completed, as a requirement to obtain a high school diploma. This year, 25 service learning hours are being offered to our 6th grade students through Science classes. SSL hours are awarded by participation in meeting course objectives, by completing the **Weather and Climate Unit** and attending a field trip to the **Howard County Conservancy**.

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 coursework 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 by the end of their 8th grade year. Please look for SSL updates in the Patapsco Knight 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).

Carson Scholar

The Carson Scholars Fund is pleased to CONGRATULATE Bryn Mabee, on being named a 2024 Recognized Carson Scholar! Bryn was previously honored with a scholarship award and will now receive a commemorative pin and certificate to acknowledge her continued academic and humanitarian achievements. Way to go Bryn!

National History Day

Congratulations to all students who participated in the National History Day County Competition on March 16th.

National History Day is a year-long academic program focused on historical research, interpretation and creative expression when student writers, filmmakers, Web designers, playwrights and artists create unique contemporary expressions of history. The experience

culminates in a series of contests at the local and state levels and an annual national competition in the nation's capital in June

Group Performance- 1st Place (Advances to State Competition)

Ada Lovelace the Enchantress of Numbers

Pranya Karri, Adithi Vasudevan, Varsha Sukumar, Lalitha Vinjamuri

Individual Performance- 2nd Place(Advances to State Competition)

The Manufacturing of Penicillin:20th Century Turning Point

Srikar Midde

Group Documentaries

The Turning Point of Federal and State Powers: McCulloch v. Maryland

Adithi Kolli, Adithi Allagadda

Post War Japan

Ian Kim, Ian Woo, Sanjay Shenoy, Aarush Vermuri, Dylan Hukmani

Individual Documentaries

Black Lives Matter

Olanna Ezeji

A Study on Japanese Jazz

Alexandra Claiborne

Individual Exhibit

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act

Anahita Choudhury

Group Website

Fall of the Berlin Wall

Aadesh Shrestha, Colton Crow, Trevor Smith

Group Exhibit

Hedy Lamarr: The Inventor of Wi-Fi

Emily Hlavka, Rebecca Kadavil, Isabella Cho

PMS Debate Team

On March 18, the Advanced Debate team traveled to JHU's Applied Physics Lab to participate in the county-wide debate competition! The resolution this year was: "Be it resolved that Howard County Public Schools should adopt a year-round school model." Both the affirmative and negative teams were victorious in their debates, bringing home two wins and making the Patapsco community proud! Congratulations to all of these amazing students!

Parenting Strategies and How to Talk about Drug Use webinar

"Parenting Strategies and How to Talk about Drug Use in Popular Media" webinar being held by the HC Office of the Local Children's Board and HC DrugFree on April 16th. Please click the link below for more information and to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054AACAF2FA4FB6-47076829-parenting>

PTA News

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 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.

AHS Food Pantry Distribution: April 17

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

Previously Shared Information

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!!!

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 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)

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 for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss.org