

KNIGHTLY NEWS

5-3-24

UPCOMING EVENTS:

5/6-5/10: Social Studies MCAP (8th Grade only)

5/8: Mix It Up Day

5/14: Schools and Offices Closed - Primary Election Day

5/17: 3-hour Early Dismissal; Music in the Parks (Hershey Park departure @5:30am)

5/20-5/21: Math MCAP

5/23: PMS Enrichment Fair 6-8pm

5/27: Schools and Offices Closed - Memorial Day

5/28: Orchestra Spring Concert @ Mt. Hebron HS 7-8:30pm

5/29: Chorus Spring Concert @Mt. Hebron HS 7-8:30pm

6/5: 3-hour Early Dismissal

6/12: 3-hour Early Dismissal; 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony @Mt. Hebron HS 2pm

6/13: 3-hour Early Dismissal

6/14: 3-hour Early Dismissal; Last Day of School

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

Staff Appreciation Week!

We look forward to celebrating our wonderful staff May 6-10. If you would like to send a note of thanks to any staff members, you can do so by completing this [form](#). Notes of appreciation will be shared with staff during Staff Appreciation Week.

Bravo, Shrek the Musical, Jr.!!!

The Patapsco community was certainly in for a treat with last weekend's Shrek the Musical, Jr. performance. The student performers and tech crew were amazing! A huge shout out to Ms. Wardlaw, Mr. White and Ms. Bressler for giving of their time and talent to our students who put on delightful performances. And a special thank you to our families and community members who showed their support through their time and donations; the show could not go on without you.

2023-2024 School Year Last Day of School Scheduled

The Howard County Public School System has used three inclement weather days this school year. Therefore, the last day of school for students in full-day Pre-K through grade 12 is now scheduled to be Friday, June 14. The last day for half-day Pre-K/RECC students is currently Tuesday, June 11. The complete [HCPSS academic calendar](#) is available online. This information is subject to change, pending any additional inclement weather.

8th Grade Promotion Ceremony

The 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, June 12 at 2:00pm in the Mt. Hebron High School auditorium. This is a ticketed event. Parents/guardians of 8th grade students please be on the lookout for the newsletter that contains pertinent information about the end-of-year events for our 8th grade students. We look forward to celebrating all of the 8th graders as we prepare to send this amazing group of students to high school.

2024-2025 Bus Service Registration is Open

To help HCPSS plan for student transportation needs for the 2024-2025 school year, bus service registration for the 2024-2025 school year is open for parents/guardians of eligible students until **May 31** to better inform development of routes and busing needs. If your child is eligible to ride a bus, please register now. For more information, click here: <https://www.hcpss.org/schools/transportation/registration/>

Patapsco Middle School Enrichment Fair

Mark your calendars! Patapsco Middle School's Enrichment Fair, The Brightest Knight, will be taking place on Thursday, May 23rd from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Please join us for a night full of food and fun! The evening will begin with food trucks and student performances, followed by opportunities to explore exhibits of student work and participate in student-led workshops and presentations. You won't want to miss this! More details will be coming soon about the evening's agenda. We would love to see you there 😊

MHHS Band Marching Unit try-outs

Please see the attached [flier](#) for more information if you are a rising 9th grader.

St. Johns Lane Elementary School May Day Festival

The SJLES May Day Festival will once again be held this year on Saturday, May 11, from 1:00 - 5:00 PM! The entire community is invited for this beloved tradition, with food, games, inflatables, face painting, prizes, online silent auction, live entertainment, and more! This event is an annual highlight for SJLES students, and a long-running community favorite.

If you are a student and you need your service hours or just want to come help little Jaguars play games, please check out the link below to see our volunteer opportunities!

[SJLES May Day Volunteer Sign Up for Knights](#)

If you or your parents have questions, you can email Jane Fisher at sjles.volunteer@gmail.com.

Bullying Communication

As we gear up to finish the school year strong, it's important to address student interactions that can affect both individual students and/or our school community. Peer conflict is something that most students will experience at some point in their school career. . However, it is essential to understand the difference between conflict and bullying, should bullying occur. By understanding the differences, we can better navigate challenging situations and foster a positive school environment where everyone can thrive. We look forward to continuing to work together to end the school year on a strong and positive note. Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Conflict	Bullying
<p>Mutual Disagreement: Conflict typically involves a disagreement or difference of opinion between two or more individuals.</p> <p>Equal Power: Those involved in the conflict usually have relatively equal power or standing.</p> <p>Occurs Occasionally: Conflicts arise occasionally and may be resolved through communication, negotiation, or compromise.</p> <p>No Intention to Harm: While emotions may be involved, there is no deliberate intent to harm or exert control over the other party.</p>	<p>Power Imbalance: Bullying involves an imbalance of power, where one individual seeks to assert dominance or control over another.</p> <p>Repeated Behavior: Bullying often consists of repeated actions or behaviors aimed at causing harm, either physically or psychologically.</p> <p>Intentional Harm: The bully intentionally seeks to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim, often deriving satisfaction from the victim's distress.</p> <p>One-sided Aggression: Unlike conflict, bullying typically involves one-sided aggression, where the victim feels targeted and unable to defend themselves adequately.</p>

More information can be found on the [HCPSS Stop Bullying website](#). If you have any questions regarding this policy or its implementation, please contact a school administrator. Here is the online link to report an [Instance of Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation](#) and a link to the [Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form](#) to fill out and return to your students school administrator. More information on HCPSS Policy9460 can be found at [Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Involving Students - HCPSS](#).

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.

Previously Shared Information

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.

- **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.

Quarter 3 Report Cards

Quarter 3 report cards will be available in HCPSS Connect Synergy after 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17th. [Instructions on how to access report cards](#) are available online.

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)

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