

Knighly News 8/9/2024

Back-to-School Edition

Welcome to the first edition of the Knighly News for the 2024-2025 school year. We hope our Knights and their families have enjoyed a fun-filled and restful summer. We are excited about another amazing school year at Patapsco Middle School and look forward to welcoming all of our new and returning Knights on Monday, August 26 for the first day of school. Please find below some important information that will help with your preparations for the school year. Additional information will be provided as we get closer to the first day of school.

Important Dates

8/21 - Student Schedules Available in Synergy
8/22 - New Student & Family Orientation, 1:00-2:30pm
All 6th grade and new 7th & 8th grade students are invited.
8/26 - First Day of School (8:30am-3:15pm)
9/2 - Schools and Offices Closed for Labor Day
9/5 - Back to School Knight at 6:00pm
9/18 - Three-hour Early Dismissal

Refer to the [Patapsco Calendar](#) and the [2024-2025 HCPSS Calendar](#) to stay up to date on events, school closings and early dismissals.

Follow us on X: [@hcpss_PMS](#) and Instagram: [PatapscoMS](#)
Visit the [Patapsco Middle School website](#) for additional school information.

School Supply List

The School Supply List for the 2024-2025 school year can be found [here](#).

Student Schedules

All students and families will be able to view full schedules in Synergy on August 21. If you see any errors or if you have any questions, please contact your student's assigned counselor.

Kendra Lee (Last Names A-G) Kendra_Lee@hcpss.org

Erin Shurtleff (Last Names H-O) Erin_Shurtleff@hcpss.org

Morgan Kempthorn (Last Names P-Z) Morgan_kempthorn@hcpss.org

New Student and Family Orientation

August 22 1:00-2:30pm at Patapsco Middle School

New Student Orientation for 6th grade students will be held on Thursday, August 22 from 1:00-2:30pm. Students will report directly to the gymnasium to meet by homeroom assignment and parents are welcome to join us in the cafeteria. Students will also have an opportunity to follow their schedule and meet their teachers, practice with their lockers, and learn all about

what Patapsco has to offer! For parents and guardians, this will be a time for you to hear from the Patapsco administrators and staff, learn about supports for students and ask questions during a brief Q&A. Please join us and welcome to the Patapsco Knighthood!

New Student Orientation for 7th and 8th grade students who are first time students at Patapsco will be held on Thursday, August 22 from 1:00-2:30pm. Students will report to the Media Center for orientation. Parents and guardians are welcome to join us in the cafeteria to hear from the Patapsco administrators and staff, learn about supports for students and ask questions during a brief Q&A. Please join us and welcome to the Patapsco Knighthood!

Update Your 2024-2025 Family File - Please submit before August 26!

Family File is now available in [HCPSS Connect](#) for the 2024-25 school year. Parents must complete the Family File every year to ensure HCPSS has the most current information for each child. Updating your information—including email addresses and contact information—and clicking the submit button will ensure that you are receiving the most recent news from Patapsco Middle School.

If you've forgotten how to access your Connect account or are new to the system, you can find all the information [here](#) including instructions in English, Chinese, Korean & Spanish as well as a video. Please have this back-to-school necessity completed by the first day of school. Click [here](#) to complete and submit your Family File.

Change of Address

Changes of address may not be made through Family File. If you have recently moved, please contact your child's new school as soon as possible. As we are preparing for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, it is imperative that we have accurate addresses on file for all of our students. If you have moved, and have not provided us with your updated information, we ask that you email the following documents to PMSRegistrars@hcpss.org:

- Completed change of address form - [Click here to download PDF fillable version](#)
- A deed or deed of trust that has all required signatures or an original lease with all required signatures
- A current bill for cable television, non-cellular telephone, or gas and electric.

Chromebooks

Any student who was issued a Chromebook in a previous year will continue to use that device during the 2024-2025 school year. Sixth grade students and students new to HCPSS will have access to a Chromebook; parents/guardians do not need to do anything to request this device. Details for student device distribution will be communicated as soon as they are available.

Lockers

Every student will be issued a locker during the first week of school. Students will be able to access their lockers before school, before and after lunch, and after school. Students are

permitted to carry their backpack during the school day.

From The Health Room

Immunizations

Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene requires all incoming 7th grade students in the state of Maryland to have one Tdap and one Meningitis vaccine BEFORE entering school.

Some students may have already received these immunizations, but the Health Room may not have the updated immunization record. Please contact your child's health care provider and send or fax an updated copy of your child's immunizations to the Health Room. The fax number at Patapsco Middle Health Room is 410-313-1741. Immunizations may also be sent to Theresa Anderson, school nurse, at theresa_anderson@hcpss.org

Failure to provide proof of updated immunizations by the first day of school, or to provide evidence of an appointment to receive those immunizations within 20 calendar days from the first day of school, will result in your student being excluded from school. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse.

Taking Medication At School

If your child needs to take medication at school, please visit [here](#).

2024-2025 Free and Reduced Meals (FARMs)

Many HCPSS families are eligible to participate in the [Free and Reduced Price Meals \(FARMs\) program](#), which provides children with a wide range of benefits including free or discounted college tuition, testing and application fees, academic and athletic program fees and many others in addition to free or discounted meals. Families are urged to check their eligibility and complete a FARMs application as soon as possible. Families must submit a new application every school year. Details on the Free and Reduced Meals program, including a link to apply, are available [here](#).

Meal Prices and LINQ Connect

To access your child's meal account, see daily meal prices and/or view menus for breakfast and lunch please click [here](#) for more information on HCPSS Food Services.

Message from the PTA - Staff Appreciation Committee

Please help the PTA welcome our wonderful teachers and staff back to the building on August 15th with a back to school breakfast! Items must be dropped off to Patapsco Middle School on August 15th, between 7:00-7:30am. If you are contributing an item that does not need refrigeration, and would like to drop it off at my house on August 14th, please contact me for the address at hruhani2@gmail.com or 302-468-0574. Thank you for helping us welcome back our awesome teachers and staff for another great year!

Here is the link for SignUp Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4DA4AD23A6FB6-50540353-back> .