

KNIGHTLY NEWS

9-13-2023

UPCOMING EVENTS:

9/15: Schools and offices closed

9/21: PTA Meeting, 7:00 PM (We hope to see you there!)

9/25: Schools and offices closed

9/29: PTA Fun Knight 7 - 9 PM

10/9: Schools closed for students

10/17: Picture Day

10/20: Schools closed for students

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

Dear Patapsco Families:

Thank you to everyone who came out for Back to School Knight! The hallways were buzzing with families finding their way to classes. Our teachers were excited to share what students will learn this year and how families can support their students. Connecting with our families is an important part of the school experience. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns.

A special thank you to our PTA and Music Boosters for their continued support of our students and staff. If you have not already done so, please join these organizations and support their events and activities this school year.

Kelly Hearn
Principal

New Student Start and Dismissal Times

As announced by the Superintendent, all HCPSS schools will have new start and dismissal times effective September 20, 2023. Patapsco Middle School is a Tier 2 middle school and will start for students at 8:30AM and dismiss at 3:15PM. Please click [here](#) for more information about the new school start and dismissal times. Specific bus stop details can be accessed online via the [HCPSS Transportation webpage](#) or by signing in to [HCPSS Connect Synergy](#) and selecting More Options and then Homeroom / Transportation / POS.

As the #OnePatapsco Community, we will continue to work together while we navigate the time shift. We ask for your continued grace and flexibility as we all transition to the new start and dismissal time changes.

PTA News

Fun Knight Volunteers!

Our first Fun Knight will be held on Friday, September 29th from 7pm - 9pm. This is an awesome evening for the kids with a DJ, games, basketball, snacks, a photo booth, and more! We need all the help we can get to provide a safe and fun event for our students. We have lots of jobs available -- your kid doesn't even have to know you are there! If you have any high school students in your family who need service hours -- we will gladly welcome and "sign" for them! Last year we had to cancel the Spring Fun Knight merely because we couldn't get enough parent volunteers. Let's not let that happen again folks.

Please see sign up here...

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45ABAF29A46-patapsco15?fbclid=IwAR0ZFxpq4RatUk0CRJv54a7eIVQXzorZ6DRBRy1cg8Od6fHCWOFiqUB02Fk#/>

You can always reach us at patapscopta@gmail.com.

Thanks, Megan Mason (23/34 PTA President)

Spirit Wear

Our PTA is selling fantastic Spirit Wear. Check out the online store! There are plenty of items for students and families! Let's show off our Patapsco Pride at school and in our commUNITY.

[Patapsco Spirit Wear](#)

Calling all elementary and middle school dancers

Mount Hebron High School is hosting a one-day dance clinic on Sunday September 17, 2023 from 11am - 2pm. All members will have the opportunity to participate in our football halftime show on Friday, September 22. Only \$65 T-shirts included [Flyer](#).

Register here: [Dance Clinic Registration](#)

HCYP JV Boys Basketball Tryouts

HCYP will be hosting the Boys JV basketball tryouts for Patapsco Middle School on September 19th from 7:30-9:00 pm and on September 21st from 7:30-9:00 pm at Patapsco Middle School's gym. This tryout is limited to 6th and 7th graders. To pre-register for the tryout, please e-mail Head Coach Derek Easter at deaste1@hotmail.com. Please include your child's name/grade, your name (parent/guardian), and your contact information (e-mail and phone number). Pre-registration is not required to tryout but is encouraged to help us better prepare. We had a successful season last year and are very excited for this upcoming season. Go KNIGHTS!!!!

For more information on the league, please visit <https://hcypbasketball.org/middle-school>.

HCYP Girls Basketball Tryouts

We are proud to announce that we will be starting a Girls Varsity Basketball team at Patapsco Middle School. **We will be affiliated with HCYP Travel.** This is a wonderful opportunity for our young athletes to play against other county middle school teams.

Our second tryout date is Monday September 18th from 6-7:30 pm @ PMS Gym.

If you have any questions please contact me, Laura Tittsworth at

Laura_Correnti-Tittsworth@hcpss.org or Valarie Graham at Valarie_Graham@hcpss.org. Let's go KNIGHTS!

<https://forms.gle/JuZuqtN6xft9od6o6>

Future Vikings Night

Please see the attached [flier](#) for this fun event on September 22nd.

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 fall season runs from Monday, September 18th (first practice) to Monday, December 4th (end-of-year celebration). Each season ends with a noncompetitive 5K (Saturday, December 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 Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 pm - 4:45 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, **Ms. Grace Kelly** grace_kelly@hcpss.org.

[Previously Shared Information](#)

Update Your Family File!

We need every family to update this every year. There are **128** families that still need to complete their Family File. Please [click here](#) if you have not updated the family file.

Student Absences

If your student has to be absent from school, please submit a note to pmsabsence@hcpss.org or send a note in with your child to submit to Student Services.

If your child has been lawfully absent from school and a note has been submitted, they will have the opportunity to make up missed work.

When emailing a note, you will receive an automated message to verify that your email was received.

Please do not send attendance notes to your child's teachers.

If you have any questions about your child's attendance, please email pmsabsence@hcpss.org.

If you would like to submit a [Discretionary Absence Form FILLABLE.pdf](#) form, please fill it out and email it to pmsabsence@hcpss.org.

Please review the [HCPSS Attendance Policy](#) for further information.

Late Arrivals:

- Students will report to the Front Office to sign in and receive a pass when arriving late to school.
- Parents may send students in with a note. Students who arrive late due to lawful reasons (i.e. doctor's appointment, etc.) will be considered Tardy Excused.

Early Dismissals:

- Parents/ Guardians will sign students out from the front office for early dismissals.
- Parents/Guardians are to show their **photo ID** upon arrival to confirm their eligibility to

pick up the student in the family file.

- If you know that your student will have an early dismissal ahead of time, you may send in a note with your child or call the front office to let them know when you will be picking them up and who will be picking them up.

Forgotten Items

We are happy to accept lunches, instruments, homework, school projects, keys, or other items as long as they are brought to school before **10:30AM**. All items can be put on the table in the foyer and label with student's name and grade. Lunches that are brought in late are taken to the cafeteria and a general announcement is made.

We cannot accept items for delivery to students after this time period, with the exception of emergency situations, as we are committed to minimizing classroom interruptions throughout the school day. 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.

From the Health Room

Any medications required during school hours including prescription, "over-the-counter" (OTC) and homeopathic/herbal medications require a medication order signed by an approved health care provider and are subject to the HCPSS medication policy and procedure. School health room staff administer medications, store medications in the school's health room and keep records of when medications are taken by the student. More information about taking medication at school can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact our school nurse, Theresa Anderson, at theresa_anderson@hcpss.org or 410-313-2574.

Safety Protocols for Visitors

Please be aware of the following procedures for any visitor to a school/office:

- The front door is the only entrance point for all visitors.
- Please ring the bell and look into the camera.
- Be prepared to state your name and purpose for visiting.
- All visitors must walk directly into the front office with a **valid photo I.D.** and sign in using our LobbyGuard system.
- A visitor's sticker will be given to visitors following the above procedures and must be worn and prominently visible.
- Any visitor in the school without a visitor sticker will be escorted directly to the front office by a staff member.

The [Secondary Student & Parent Handbook](#) that includes the HCPSS [Student Code of Conduct](#)

SIMPLE ONE STOP SHOP FOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[FAQ document](#)

Donate Clothes

Drop off clothes to our donation bin anytime! This is a great time to clean out the closets before the start of the year.

[Here is the information](#) on the donation program.

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