

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

9-29-2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**9/29:** PTA Fun Knight 7-9 PM

**10/9:** Schools closed for students

**10/17:** Picture Day

**10/20:** Schools closed for students

**10/24:** Music Boosters at 7 PM

**10/31:** 3-hour Early Dismissal (12:15 PM) End of 1st Quarter

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:

As we close out the month of September, I want to take a moment to thank our wonderful community for your continued support. A special thank you goes out to one of our community partners, Bethany Korean United Methodist Church. It was an honor to attend the church's ten year anniversary celebration and accept their generous donation on behalf of our school.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month and our amazing student services staff have lessons and activities planned to educate our students on bullying prevention and resources that are available in case a student encounters or observes bullying. Here is a [link](#) to an HCPSS Bullying Policy communication that provides an overview of the policy as well as how to access reporting forms.

Finally, I look forward to attending the first PTA Fun Knight of the year. Our outstanding PTA has a great evening in store for our Knights! Thank you to the PTA and all of the volunteers who are helping with tonight's festivities.

Kelly Hearn  
Principal

## Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

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

## 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](#)

## MAP Testing

During the first two weeks of October, students in grades 6-8 will take the Measured Academic Progress (MAP) assessment in English and Math classes. It is important for every student to bring their charged, school-issued computer to school each day during MAP testing. The data from the MAP assessment will help schools and teachers measure your student's academic progress. The MAP test does not affect grades and the difficulty adjusts depending on how your child responds. It is normal for students to only answer about half the questions correctly. To learn more about the MAP assessment, please visit: <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families/>

If your child is unable to attend on a day they are testing, make-up dates will be offered.

*Please note the following exceptions for middle school testing:*

- *Students in 8th grade GT-ELA do not take the Reading Test*
- *Students taking HS level math classes (Alg1 or 2, Geometry) do not take the Math Test.*

## 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](#)

## Lost and Found

Lost and Found is located outside of the Media Center. We will clean out forgotten items at the **end of every month**. Please emphasize to your student that it is their responsibility to keep track of their belongings, and to check the Lost and Found if they are missing something.

## PTA Update

All of the PTAs in Howard County are participating in a **Winter Coat Drive** for those less fortunate. We will be collecting new or gently used kids and adult sized winter coats in bins in the school lobby starting now and running through **Wednesday, October 18th**. Please help keep our community warm this winter!

### Special Request!!

The Patapsco Middle School Theatre Department has gotten the opportunity to purchase a high quality microphone system for its student productions. Equipment of this type is not in the budget and that is where YOU come in!! We want to raise **\$2,000** to cover the cost. Any amount you can give is welcome. Please visit our fundraising page at:

<https://app.memberhub.gives/microphones>

If you have not already joined the PTA, please do so online at

<https://patapscomiddle.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true>

## [Previously Shared Information](#)

### Update Your Family File!

We need every family to update this every year. There are **114** families that still need to complete their Family File. Please [click here](#) if you have not updated the family file.

## 2023-2024 Attendance Information and Resources

Click [here](#) for the 2023-2024 Attendance Information and Resources.

## **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](#)

## **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](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)