

# KNIGHTLY NEWS - 12/10/2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>12/5-20</b>	<b>Twelve Days Before Break Spirit Challenge</b>
<b>12/9-15</b>	<b>12th Annual HCPSS Hour of Code &amp; Computer Science Education Week</b>
<b>12/9</b>	<b>Winter Band Concert @Mt. Hebron HS</b>
<b>12/10</b>	<b>Winter Chorus Concert @Mt. Hebron HS</b>
<b>12/12</b>	<b>Winter Orchestra Concert @Mt. Hebron HS</b>
<b>12/13</b>	<b>Mt. Hebron Visits 8th Grade Students</b>
<b>12/18</b>	<b>School Store</b>
<b>12/23-1/1</b>	<b>Winter Break</b>
<b>1/2</b>	<b>School Reopens</b>

## **The Twelve Days Before Break Spirit Challenge**

12/5 - Crazy Sock Day  
12/6 - Flannel or Fleece Friday  
12/9 - Throwback Day (Pick a Decade)  
12/10 - Neon Day  
12/11 - Flip Day (Teachers dress like students and vice/versa)  
12/12 - Hat Day  
12/13 - Jersey Day  
12/16 - "Iced Out" Day - Blue and Silver  
12/17 - Crazy Sweater Day  
12/18 - Random Act of Kindness Day  
12/19 - Student Choice (TBD)  
12/20 - PJ Day

## **Mid-quarter Check-in**

Time flies when you are learning and having fun!! Students are halfway through the second

quarter and this is a great time for students and parents to do a Canvas check ahead of the winter break. The Canvas check can include completing homework, finishing missing assignments and/or preparing for any upcoming assessments.

## **Family Access & Connection Night**

Families of multilingual students who receive English Language Development Services and/or students who will complete the WIDA/ACCESS testing are invited to join us on Monday, December 16 to learn how to access your parent HCPSS account, help your child with homework and about ACCESS/WIDA testing. The event will begin at 6pm in the Patapsco Middle School cafeteria. You can register for the event [here](#). Please contact Ms. Whyte or Ms. Anderson with any questions.

## **Help Spread Cheer with the Jingle Bites Express!**

Let's make this holiday season extra special for our amazing teachers! We're organizing a "Jingle Bites Express" goodie cart filled with festive treats, drinks, and surprises to show our appreciation for all their hard work and dedication.

We need your help to stock the cart with a variety of goodies to delight our teachers. From sweet treats and savory snacks to beverages and festive decorations, there's something for everyone to contribute!

Please review the sign-up slots below and select an item (or a few!) to donate. All contributions should be dropped off by 12/19/2024 8:00 am at Patapsco Middle School.

Together, we can bring holiday joy and heartfelt thanks to the teachers who give so much to our children. Thank you for your generosity and support!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4DA4AD23A6FB6-53899309-jingle>

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF CURRENT 8TH GRADE STUDENTS**

### **Rising 9th Grade Course Registration**

From December 16 through January 14, current 8th grade students may view their teachers' course recommendations and submit course placement requests for the 2024-2025 school year. Please use the information linked below to help guide you through the process. Families can reach out to their student's School Counselor for questions or concerns.

Links: [Rising 9th Grade Course Planning Canvas Page](#)

[HCPSS High School Registration Website](#)

### **Class of 2025 T-shirts**

The PTA has graciously offered to pay for a Class of 2025 shirt for each 8th grader. They will be signing up for their size through Social Studies class.

In addition, there are a few items available for purchase: an extra shirt (beyond the free one they will sign up for), a long-sleeved option, and a hooded sweatshirt, or hoodie. The link to PURCHASE these additional items is:

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

The survey to sign up for the free shirt is available on Social Studies courses in Canvas, and only available to students. If you have a question about whether one was filled out, please contact [kalina\\_salsman@hcpss.org](mailto:kalina_salsman@hcpss.org).

## **HCPSS Career Academies**

Current 8-11 grade students and their parents/guardians are invited to attend in-person information sessions on HCPSS career academies on Tuesday, Nov. 12 or Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024 at the Applications and Research Laboratory, 10920 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD. The evening will include two 15-minute information sessions beginning at 6:45 p.m.

More information can be found on: [Career Academy Info Sessions, Nov. 12 and Dec. 11, 2024 – HCPSS News](#)

## **Apply for JROTC, through December 20, 2024**

HCPSS' JROTC program provides an introduction to career opportunities in the United States Armed Forces and teaches principles of leadership, discipline and civic responsibility. A student who wishes to participate in the JROTC program, but does not attend one of the schools that offers the program, may apply to the JROTC program at Atholton High School, Howard High School, and/or Oakland Mills High School.

- Applications will be accepted through December 20, 2024 for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Interviews with HOHS JROTC staff will take place between November 18, 2024 and January 8, 2025.
- Acceptance to the JROTC program is based on application, interview, and enrollment availability.

Letters of approval/denial/waitlist will be sent home by January 14, 2025.

[Visit the HCPSS JROTC News Page for More Information](#)

To schedule an interview, contact the JROTC official for the program of interest:

- Army JROTC at Atholton High School: LTC (USA, Retired) William Reinhart, Senior Army Instructor, [william\\_reinhart@hcpss.org](mailto:william_reinhart@hcpss.org) or (410) 313-7076
- Army JROTC at Howard High School: Colonel (USA, Retired) William Laigaie, Senior Army Instructor, [william\\_laigaie@hcpss.org](mailto:william_laigaie@hcpss.org) or (410) 313-2878

- Air Force JROTC at Oakland Mills High School: Colonel (USAF, Retired) Bradley Scherer, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, bradly\_scherer@hcpss.org or (410) 313-6945

Find more information about the JROTC program on our [website](#).

## Hearing and Vision Screening for 8th Grade Students

The Howard County Health Department and HCPSS School Health Services support your student's academic success by providing vision and hearing screenings at your child's school. These screenings are required by Maryland State Law. Patapsco Middle School's 8th grade students will be screened on January 21, 2025 with re-screening on January 30.

If your child has glasses, please make sure that he or she wears them on the screening day.

For more information, see [here](#). [En Español](#)

## NEWS WORTH REPEATING

### HCPSS Emergency Notifications

Families are reminded that in emergency situations (including inclement weather), information will be shared with the community only through the HCPSS website, email and text, Twitter/X and the HCPSS weather hotline. Be sure your Family File is up to date and that you have [opted into texts](#) to receive emergency messages.

### Cold Weather Attire

As the colder weather settles in, please remind your students to dress appropriately for their time outside (waiting at the bus stop, recess, PE). If they are missing a coat, jacket or hoodie, please encourage them to check the lost and found.

### Lost and Found

Please remind students to check the Lost and Found regularly. We have a large collection of jackets, water bottles, lunchboxes, pencil cases, and other items.

### PTA News

**Recess Equipment Amazon Wish List** - The list is still open! The PE Department has asked for contributions to replace some of the equipment that has been worn out or ventured on a permanent safari in the back woods. You can purchase equipment through the [Amazon Wish List by clicking here!](#) In addition, the PE Department is accepting donations of gently used sports balls (basketballs, soccer balls, volleyballs) and/or equipment bags. You can bring these items to the school or let us know if you have other questions! [patapscopta@gmail.com](mailto:patapscopta@gmail.com)

**Membership** - As always, it's not too late to join the PTA and/or make a donation to our grant program! Find out how by accessing our website - <https://patapscomiddle.givebacks.com/>

## **Young Authors' Contest**

The Howard County Literacy Association invites students in grades 6-8 to submit their original poems and/or short stories to the annual writing contest called **The Young Authors' Contest**. Please see the linked [Young Authors' Contest Guidelines](#) for information about the rules and guidelines and the [student presentation](#) for a more detailed explanation. All entries must have a completed [YAC Cover Sheet](#) saved as a PDF. Email/share submissions and cover sheets to [elizabeth\\_shaw@hcpss.org](mailto:elizabeth_shaw@hcpss.org) by December 20, 2024. Contact Mrs. Shaw with any questions. All Young Authors' Contest information can be found on the [HCLA website](#). Howard County Literacy Association welcomes parents as members. Visit the [HCLA Welcome Page](#) for information about joining.

## **Flu Prevention**

The Health Department encourages people of all ages to get a seasonal flu shot from a healthcare provider, local pharmacy, retailer or big box store. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school (even virtual school) due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths. The Howard County Health Department provides a [list](#) of community immunization clinics.

## **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)

## **Resources**

[Patapsco Calendar](#)

[Quick Guide to Online Resources](#)

[Secondary Student & Parent Handbook](#)

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

## **Stay Connected**

School Office: 410-313-2848

Student Services: 410-313-2850

Health Room: 410-313-2574

Follow us on X: **@hcpss\_PMS** and Instagram: **PatapscoMS**  
[Patapsco Middle School Website](#)