

KNIGHTLY NEWS

11-12-2021

UPCOMING EVENTS:

11/15: Bus Evacuation Practice Drill

11/17: PTA Meeting, 7PM

11/18: Music Boosters Meeting, 7PM

11/22: Turkey Trot, during Related Arts classes (rain date 11/23)

11/23: Clubs in Knight Time

11/22 -11/23: School closes 3hr. Early dismissal - Parent/Teacher Conferences

11/24: School Closed for students - Parent/Teacher Conferences

11/25 -11/26: Schools and Offices Closed

12/3: Picture Make-up day (**new date**)

12/15: 3 hr. Early Dismissal

Refer to the [Patapsco Calendar](#) to stay up-to-date with all the events at Patapsco Middle School.

Important Phone Numbers

School Office: 410-313-2848

Student Services: 410-313-2850

Health Room: 410-313-2574

Dear Patapsco families and community:

We are now in quarter two and I cannot believe it is almost Thanksgiving. We asked students to set a goal for school during quarter two. I encourage you to talk with your child this weekend about their goal and if they are having difficulty coming up with one, please encourage them to have a goal for school. We are also here to support them with their success.

I also want to lift up something AMAZING! This past Wednesday, we had our first club day. Our students selected a club based on their interest and 99% of our students got their first club choice...WOW! The goal for our clubs is to create a sense of belonging, community, make new friends, form positive relationships with additional adults in the building, and connections. As we know school is more than just academics...even though very important...school is about social and emotional development too. I thank our Student Engagement Committee and in particular Ms. Harris for their time in creating these experiences and spaces for kids and to every staff member for being part of clubs. I look forward to our next club day right before Thanksgiving break along with our annual Turkey Trot.

Finally, we will have our Turkey Trot again this year but it will be a little different. Students will run with their grade but it will be for on-campus only this year and we will not need parent volunteers and it is for students only. We will post pictures and videos on social media so all can see the event. We also plan to recognize our top trotters.

I hope you have a restful weekend,
Mike Babe
Principal



*Patapsco- a place where **everyone** is valued and important!*

Turkey Trot 2021

We are happy to announce our annual Turkey Trot will take place on Monday, November 22nd (rain date is 11/23), during your child's Related Arts block. Please make sure your child wears loose fit, comfortable clothing and supportive athletic shoes. They will have the opportunity to run, jog, walk or use a combination of them all! This year, the course will take place on the grass fields on school grounds. If students choose to bring a water bottle with them to the course, they will be expected to carry it with them during the Turkey Trot.

Thank you,
The PE Team

HCPSS Calendar Updates

In order to provide school-based staff with additional time to address their increased workload and to support employee well-being, the Board of Education approved updates to the current academic year calendar. Three-hour early dismissals now will take place on the following days:

- December 15, 2021
- January 19, 2022 (previously a 3-hour early dismissal for high school students only)
- February 16, 2022
- March 16, 2022
- April 27, 2022
- May 18, 2022

Students of the Month for October

Congratulations to the following Knights who have been nominated by our staff to be the October Students of the Month. They have exhibited being **Resilient, Responsible, and/or Respectful!**

6th	7th	8th
Allison P.	Abigail J.	Abigail B.
Ama G.	Aliona C.	Akshaya K.
Anish R.	Andersson "Jeremy" H. J.	Connor F.
Bryan P.	Elizabeth S.	Erica H.
Ella Q.	Fabiola H. A.	Fathiu O.
Kendrick B.	Finley B.	Jacob N.
Mateo A.	Grace M.	Jadin B.
Muhammed O.	Ian E.	Katie E.
Natalie T.	Jaelyn P.	Micah S.
Rafael F.	Jaini B.	Samantha M. B.
Sai B.	Justin K.	Wunmi L.
Sydney "Mars" T.	Rajit R.	
Talia M.	Tiffany G.	

From the Family Engagement Committee

Quarter 1 has ended, and you might be looking for some ways to help support your student academically. Check out these Helpful Study Habits, as well as help your student determine what their learning style is, and some apps that may be helpful while studying or getting organized.

If you have questions or would like additional support, please contact your students school counselor.

See [Helpful Study Habits](#)

PTA Meeting

Next PTA meeting is Wednesday Nov 17th. Call for agenda topics and Zoom details to come soon!

Ice Cream

You scream. I scream. We all scream for ice cream! Here is a delicious and simple way to support the Patapsco Middle School PTA. We are doing our Taharka Brothers Ice Cream fundraiser. You can place your order from today through Wednesday November 17th. Simply click the link below, put in your address, and when you click begin order, select "Patapsco Middle School". Then, on November 18th, they deliver your ice cream directly to your home. For every order placed, Taharka Brothers gives our PTA \$10. How easy is that? So, sign up today and thank you for supporting our PTA.

<https://deliver.taharkabrothers.com/Order/Start>

Winter Spirit Wear Sale is going on now...just in time for the holidays!

See flier for information: [Spirit Wear Flier.pdf](#) **Deadline:** November 21st (11:50PM)

Music Boosters Meeting next week!!

Below are the details for our online Music Booster's Meeting next Thursday, November 18th. The meeting begins at 7PM. Topics for this month's meeting include:

- Concert details and volunteer needs
- Concert Polo Shirt updates and inventory
- Post-concert fundraisers
- Budget allocations

Everyone is welcome!

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/gwj-tpv-ams>
Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 406-578-4193 and enter this PIN: 743 228 670#

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences are scheduled for November 22-24, 2021 and will be held virtually. Conferences can be scheduled now through Thursday, November 18th, parents/guardians can log into [HCPSS Connect](#) to view and select available time slots to conference with teachers.

The purpose of this conference window is to allow parents/guardians the opportunity for a conference with staff to discuss student progress. Accordingly, each conference slot is 15 minutes long and will be conducted through google meets. If you have a pressing concern, you are strongly encouraged to contact the teacher to discuss it outside of the conference window. Additionally, if you would like to request an in-person conference, please submit your request to [Lindsey Miles@hcpss.org](mailto:Lindsey_Miles@hcpss.org) to be accommodated. Synergy Conference Management allows users to schedule time with individual teachers. We do not recommend scheduling your conferences back-to-back as you will lose meeting time while logging into your next meeting.

To permit access to our staff by all parents with interest, we ask that parents schedule conferences only for those classes for which there are concerns. Unlike your experience in elementary school, middle level educators do not have a slot for each and every student. So, please be strategic about who you'd like to see and mindful of the need for your neighbors to have the same access.

For step by step directions, please refer to the [parent directions](#). Should you have any questions or require assistance scheduling your appointments during the scheduling window, please contact Lindsey Miles, Student Services Secretary, via email at [Lindsey Miles@hcpss.org](mailto:Lindsey_Miles@hcpss.org). For questions about availability or course specific questions, please contact the teacher directly.

Leaders Wanted

Student Delegate for the Student Member of the Board

Are you passionate about student leadership? Are you someone who wants to voice your opinions and make a difference? Do you want to be a part of making history? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are the right person to step up for the Student Delegate leadership opportunity.

This year, we are again offering the Student Member Convention. SMOB serves alongside adult members of the Board of Education and advocates for the voice of the students. Your voice is needed!

Each middle and high school will select student delegates to attend the convention. Two candidates, who best amplify the voice of the students, will be selected to run for Student Member of the Board of Education.

To apply to be a delegate and represent Patapsco, please let Mr. Babe and Mrs. Castelbaum know you are interested in this leadership opportunity. All interested students must complete an application and ask two teachers to complete an evaluation form as part of the application package. **All parts of the application are due November 28, 2021**

Applications are located online through the Student Member of the Board Convention Portal. **You can find the portal [here](#).** In this portal, you will find a timeline, the requirements for participating, and a link to our school's application form and teacher evaluation tool. Make sure to check out the SMOB and [Student Delegate applications](#) information, and updates that can be found on HCASC's Instagram and website. Questions? Feel free to contact Mr. Babe or Mrs. Castelbaum.

Picture Retake

Pictures were distributed this week!. If your child was absent on Picture Day, Picture Retake Day is Friday, December 3rd in the morning. If you need a retake, please have your student bring the portrait package to the photographer on retake day. A new package will be produced from the new image and will be delivered in 3-4 weeks to the school.

Parents of students who were absent can order packages [online](#). Picture Day ID: **EVTXHKRFF**

If you have any questions about your pictures or orders, please call Lifetouch at 800-736-4753.

[Click here to learn about safety and health protocols Lifetouch has implemented this year.](#)

MASKS

We strongly encourage students to bring their own masks from home. While we are able to provide masks as needed, our supply is limited. Please remind your child to bring their own mask each and every school day.

Damage to HCPSS Devices (CHROMEBOOKS)

The Information Technology Department has seen an increase in devices that are damaged by food contamination or liquid incidents while students are using them. Keep all food and drinks away from your device. If liquid spills into the Chromebook, unplug it immediately. Do not plug the device back in until it is thoroughly dry.

Damage due to food or drink will be considered [destruction of HCPSS technology as the result of negligence](#), and will be processed via the [Student Technology Incident](#) process.

Please review [Student Technology Duties and Obligations](#) at <https://www.hcpss.org/devices/chromebook-care/>

Student Absences, Late Arrivals and Early Dismissal

A reminder to all families that **if your student arrives late to school, please send them in with a parent note or doctor's note that indicates the reason for their late arrival** so that their attendance may be appropriately adjusted. You can also email pmsabsence@hcpss.org with a late arrival or absence note. If we are not provided a parent or doctor's note for lawful late arrivals or absences, your child will be marked unexcused. [Click here](#) for more attendance information.

Transportation Information

For safety reasons, it is important that students ride the bus home they are assigned. We will be reminding students of this before dismissal each day and hope you can help us support this policy by encouraging your student to follow this guideline as well. You can find your child's bus information by logging in to the [HCPSS bus locater](#).

PMS Theatre Dept. Presents...



ALL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO AUDITION! Save these important dates:

November 16 - SIGN-UP SHEET POSTED

SIGN-UP for a TIME SLOT for your singing audition and GRAB AN AUDITION PACKET (will contain important info about what to prepare, bring, etc.)

December 6th (3-4:30) - SINGING AUDITIONS Day 1 - Must sign-up for a time slot.

December 8th (3-4:30) - SINGING AUDITIONS Day 2 - Must sign-up for a time slot.
Each student will complete ONE singing audition on either the 6th OR the 8th.

December 9th (3-5) - DANCE AUDITIONS & CALLBACKS - Mandatory for all students auditioning.

Questions? Ask Mr. Azat, Mrs. Castelbaum, or Ms. Wardlaw

Lost and Found

Lost and Found (located outside of the Media Center) has a large amount of jackets, reusable water bottles, and lunch boxes, all with no student names on them. If you are missing something, be sure to have your student come and check out these items. **We will donate any items left after the Thanksgiving Break.**

Volunteer/Observer Vaccine Requirement

Updated Volunteer/Observer Vaccine Requirements: Effective Monday, October 25, all volunteers and chaperones who interact with students, and parents/guardians who are conducting classroom observations will be required to use the PinPoint platform to show proof of full vaccination at least five school days in advance. The requirement also applies to students who volunteer or mentor at another HCPSS school during the school day, but not to students who go to the ARL or another school as part of their class schedule. The platform will ask users to upload a photo of themselves and provide the opportunity to download a digital vaccine card. These are optional and not required by HCPSS. [Learn how to access and use the PinPoint VaccineCheck platform.](#)

Volunteers

Your participation in this process helps make Howard County Public Schools a safer place to learn. We look forward to seeing you! [For more information and training links.](#) **You can print the certificates and provide them to the front office to stay on file for the 21-22 school year.**

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are back on! After a year without books, the Yearbook Team will be looking forward to helping us remember this year back in school! Books will be distributed the last week of

school, but can be purchased NOW (through March)! To order online, please visit:
www.jostensyearbooks.com

If you need to order by cash or check, please email kalina_salsman@hcpss.org for an order form.

Mt. Hebron News





COVID-19 Self-Screening Symptoms Self Check

Parents/guardians should keep their children home if they are experiencing symptom(s) associated with any communicable disease, including COVID-19. In addition, parents/guardians are to perform the following COVID-19 health check every day before the student leaves home.

Do not send your child to school with any of the following symptoms:

- COUGH
- FEVER
- HEADACHE
- SORE THROAT
- DIARRHEA OR VOMITING
- NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL
- DIFFICULTY BREATHING

IF YOUR CHILD COMES TO SCHOOL WITH ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS THEY WILL BE SENT HOME TO QUARANTINE. Please contact the health room if your student is being tested for COVID or has a household member who is COVID positive or exhibiting symptoms.

It is very important that we are able to make contact with parents. Please make sure that your contact numbers and emergency contacts are up to date in family file. Students are expected to be picked up as soon as possible, and within the hour.

Please contact the nurse if you have any questions 410-313-2574 or Megan_Blouse@hcpss.org

Please visit the [HCPSS website](#) for additional information on self screening, contact tracing and quarantining procedures. Additionally, visit the [HCPSS website](#) for more information on the 2021-2022 school year and answers to frequently asked questions.

Quarantining Procedures

The [close contact and quarantining procedures](#) that were put into place last year will remain this fall. Only unvaccinated students and adults who are identified as close contacts must quarantine. ***Vaccinated students and staff will not be required to quarantine*** unless they receive a positive test or are displaying symptoms, but are expected to monitor their symptoms closely for the 14 days. [Instructional supports](#) are in place for students who must quarantine. Students will be able to see when their teachers are available through their canvas page.

Knightly Newsletters

All previous newsletters are posted under News at <http://pms.hcpss.org/>

Community Notices:

New HCPSS Community News and Programs Site:

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [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.