

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

# 11-19-2021

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**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**)

**12/7:** PMS Orchestra Winter Concert @ MHHS, 7PM

**12/8:** School Store

**12/9:** PMS Band Winter Concert @ MHHS, 7PM

**12/10:** PMS Chorus Winter Concert @ MHHS, 7PM

**12/15:** 3 hr. Early Dismissal

**12/22:** School Store

**12/23 -12-31:** Schools Closed - Winter Break

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



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

## **Music Boosters Meeting tonight, Thursday 11/18!!**

Below are the details for our online Music Booster's Meeting, 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-ptpv-ams>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 406-578-4193 and enter this PIN: 743 228 670#

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

A reminder to all families that parent/teacher conference scheduling closed on November 18th.

### To view your conference schedule:

- In the Navigation Panel, select More Options (Family File, Report Card, etc.).
- Click the Conference Scheduling (View or Schedule ARL/DigEd) link
- Click the View My Conference Schedule link in the left panel. A listing of all of the conferences for your student is displayed at the top of the page.

### To join a conference Google Meet:

- Use the appropriate google meet link (i.e [meet.google.com/abc-defg-hij](https://meet.google.com/abc-defg-hij)) to access each of your conferences.
  - You can copy and paste the link into your address bar or use the [google meet landing page](#) to type in the code (i.e. abc-defg-hij).
- Please wait patiently until your conference time.

If you have any questions or concerns about conferences and/or scheduling, please contact Lindsey Miles ([Lindsey\\_Miles@hcpss.org](mailto:Lindsey_Miles@hcpss.org)).

### How to Request Conference Help:

- Should you have technical difficulties during conferences, please fill out the [Parent/Teacher Conference Request for Assistance Form](#) and a staff member will promptly reach out to you for support.

Thank you for being valuable partners in your student's academic journey. We look forward to seeing you during the Parent/Teacher Conference week.

## 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.

## Thanksgiving Baskets

Bridgeway Church is giving away Thanksgiving Baskets, until they run out.  
Bridgeway Community Church, 9189 Red Branch Rd, Columbia MD 21045.  
Pickup is Friday, November 19th from 3-7 p.m. No need to sign up, just show up.

## 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)

There are so many amazing items! The students have been wearing them a lot this year from the Fall Spirit Wear Sale.

## 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/Make-Up

Pictures were distributed last 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.](#)

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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.** See pictures below





## Concert Clothing Closet

Our Music Department Polo Shirts will be arriving soon! As your child is preparing for the upcoming concerts, be sure to check to see they have their black pants/skirt and black shoes and be sure that they still fit! Need something? We have an inventory of gently used concert clothing pieces students may use for free! Please contact a music teacher if your child would like to visit our Concert Clothing Closet before the December concerts. Thanks!

## Music Department Winter Concerts

We are excited to welcome live performance back to our Patapsco music students! Orchestra will perform Tuesday, December 7th, Band will perform Thursday, December 9th, and Chorus will perform Friday, December 10th. All performances will begin at 7pm at Mount Hebron High School. Performers should check their class Canvas page for details on concert attire and arrival time. Please see some additional safety information below:

- All performers, audience members and guests are required to wear masks at all times.
- Each concert will feature approximately 100 student performers.
- The MHHS auditorium seats more than 700 people. As we have kept student numbers low for this event, the auditorium capacity should allow ample room for families and students to socially distance for the performance.
- To prevent crowding in the lobby at the end of the concert, we suggest you meet your child either in the auditorium, or outside at the conclusion of the event.

Thank you very much and we look forward to seeing you there!

## PMS Vocal Program



## **Covid Vaccines for 5-11**

Links for Howard County Health Department vaccine clinics:

Pediatric COVID Vaccines (5-11yr) - Howard County Health Department

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/pediatric-covid-19-vaccine#vaccination-appointments>

COVID Vaccines (12yrs and older) - Howard County Health Department

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19-vaccine#health-department-vaccination-clinics>

Other Maryland locations for COVID vaccine

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine>

### **Pediatric Pfizer Vaccine (Ages 5-11)**

The FDA and CDC have approved the use of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11. This means our national vaccine safety system has carefully analyzed the data from the clinical trials for this age group and determined that the vaccine is safe and effective. The vaccine will continue to require a two-dose series with the shots given three weeks apart. The vaccine has been formulated for younger children and will be administered at 1/3 the dose previously administered to individuals ages 12 and older. Parents should follow CDC guidelines for their child's current age when booking an appointment and are encouraged to get their children vaccinated as soon as an appointment is available. The Pfizer vaccine has been found to be safe and effective at both dosages.

Parents of children ages 5-11 can register for a Pfizer vaccine clinic from the list below or use the [State vaccine locator](#) to find other Pfizer vaccine clinics in the area. Please note: the change in dosage requires new vaccine inventory. Supply of the vaccine for young children is currently limited nationwide.



The more people who are vaccinated, the closer we all come to ending this pandemic. Beginning to vaccinate children means a safer experience for in-person school, in-person sports and gatherings with friends and family.

### **Health Department Pediatric Vaccination Clinics**

The Howard County Health Department has opened a new vaccination site, specifically for children ages 5-11, at Duncan Hall on the Howard Community College campus. The Health Department will only administer the pediatric Pfizer vaccine in young children at this clinic site. To locate Duncan Hall (6040 Scholarship Dr., Columbia, MD 21044), parents should enter campus from Little Patuxent Parkway and park in either Lot A or the East Parking Garage. Handicap Accessible parking is available outside of the building. Click [here](#) for a campus map. Important Information:

- Please be sure your child comes wearing short sleeves for ease of vaccination into upper arm.
- Please DO NOT arrive for a clinic more than 10 minutes early. If you have an appointment, you are guaranteed to receive a vaccination during your designated clinic if you arrive on time.
- Appointments will only be honored for children ages 5-11. Older siblings/parents cannot be vaccinated using the pediatric vaccine formulation stocked at these clinics. Appointments made for individuals not part of this age group will not be honored and will be canceled.
- Walk-ups will not be accepted. No Exceptions. The Health Department carefully plans its vaccine allocation for each clinic to ensure no leftover doses will go to waste at the end of the day.
- If you are not able to complete the online registration form, please call 410-313-6284. Operators are standing by Monday - Friday from 8:30am - 4:30pm to provide assistance.
- Vaccine is also available through many County pediatricians, family medical practices, pharmacies, and other retailers. Please contact your child's pediatrician to determine vaccine availability before making an appointment through the Health Department.

### **Adolescents with disabilities:**

Special accommodations can be made for children with physical, mental, or developmental disabilities, including vaccination in the parking lot. Please call the phone bank after booking your appointment or speak to staff on-site at a vaccination clinic to make this request. In-home vaccination is also available for children who are homebound due to a physical/mental impairment or disability. Call us at 410-313-6284 for assistance scheduling their vaccination appointment.

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/pediatric-covid-19-vaccine#vaccination-appointments>

**Our vaccine supply is limited and available appointments are expected to fill quickly. The Health Department will open additional clinics when more vaccine doses are received in the coming days.**

**\*\*Some individuals may have been offered spots on waiting lists for these clinics. We do not anticipate additional doses being available and request that those on waiting lists do not show up in person for clinics unless directly contacted by a Health Department staff member.\*\***

## High School JROTC Information

**November 17, 2021 - January 4, 2022**

JROTC student interviews will be scheduled with JROTC officials. Parents must contact JROTC instructors to schedule interviews. Only students who are interviewed during this period will be considered for enrollment.

### **Atholton HS: Army JROTC**

JROTC Instructor – LTC (USA, Retired) William Reinhart, Senior Army Instructor  
william\_reinhart@hcpss.org | 410-313-7065

### **Howard HS: Army JROTC**

JROTC Instructor – LTC (USA, Retired) Patricia Marshall, Senior Army Instructor  
patricia\_marshall@hcpss.org | 410-313-2867

### **Oakland Mills HS: Air Force JROTC**

JROTC Instructor – Timothy D. Stevens, Col, USAF (Retired), Senior Aerospace Science Instructor  
timothy\_stevens@hcpss.org | 410-313-6945

## 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](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com)

If you need to order by cash or check, please email [kalina\\_salsman@hcpss.org](mailto:kalina_salsman@hcpss.org) for an order form.

## 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](mailto: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](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).