

KNIGHTLY NEWS

11-4-2021

UPCOMING EVENTS:

11/10: Report Cards Posted

11/11: Veterans Day

11/17: PTA Meeting, 7PM

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**)

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

Nov 7, 2021 - Daylight Saving Time Ends - clocks are turned back 1 hour

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!*

Student Absences, Late Arrivals and Early Dismissal

[Click link for information](#)

From the Principal's Desk...

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 22-24, 2021 and will be held virtually. From Monday, November 8th, 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 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. For questions about availability or course specific questions, please contact the teacher directly.

VETERANS DAY

We also want to recognize all of our Veterans in the Patapsco community. November 11 is designated as **Veterans Day** in the United States of America. Originally known as Armistice Day in recognition of the end of World War I on November 11, 1918, this special day was renamed in 1954 to honor all of our veterans. At this time we are reminded of the sacrifices that our veterans have made in order to preserve the freedoms that we all cherish.

We salute **Mr. White** from the Patapsco Staff... who served in the Air Force. We also want to express our appreciation to all of the Patapsco Middle families and community members who have served within our military branches. Thank you for all that you have done ... Your service to our country is truly appreciated.

Quarter 2 Classes

Students will begin to follow their Quarter 2 schedules on Friday, November 5th. Students and parents/guardians can view Quarter 2 schedules now by following these steps:

1. Log into Synergy (parents/guardians will use [HCPSS Connect](#) to log in).

2. Select "**Class Schedule**" from the main menu on the left-hand side.
3. Select "**Quarter 2**" at the top of the schedule page that appears.

Canvas pages for Quarter 2 classes will appear in Canvas on Tuesday, November 2nd.

Report Card Access

Parents/guardians will have access to view report cards late afternoon on November 10. Parents/guardians may view/download report cards by taking the following steps:

1. [Log in to HCPSS Connect Synergy](#) using parent/guardian credentials
2. Select More Options from the left panel
3. Select Report Cards from the middle
4. Select the report card you wish to access

Damage to HCPSS Devices

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/>

Legos

Looking for donations of any extra Legos for our Lego clubs. Please send them to Ms. Kruger.

Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC) Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 7-8 p.m., [Homewood Center Cafeteria](#)

All middle and high school students are [invited to learn about serving](#) as the Student Member of the Board of Education or a Student Delegate, the application process for either position, and the annual convention to select the top two SMOB candidates. Students who wish to attend the meeting virtually will be able to access the livestream link through the weekly Canvas student newsletter on the day of the event.

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 locator](#).

Bus Evacuation Drill

We will be having a Bus Evacuation Drill on **Friday, November 12th**. See below for student information and instructions:

In case of an emergency, it is very important that all students practice how to evacuate the school bus. School bus evacuation drills have already been conducted successfully many times and will be practiced here at our school on November 12th, 2021.

In order to implement this drill, the following directions should be followed closely:

1. To begin the drill, the driver will give the command "EVACUATE BY THE REAR DOOR".
2. Students should leave all loose belongings such as books, backpacks, etc., on the bus.
3. A word of caution: When leaving through the rear door, students should step down from the bus to the pavement. Jumping could cause a fall, resulting in serious injury. Students may sit on the floor at the rear exit and scoot out the door if they prefer.
4. Upon leaving the bus, students will form a line at the front door or a compact group to await further instructions.

MAP Scores

Our Patapsco students did an amazing job taking their Reading and Math MAP tests over the last two weeks. Most scores are already accessible to parents. Please click on the link to learn how to see these scores. Please contact Heather Dinicola at heather_dinicola@hcpss.org with any questions.

[MAP Scores- Parent Directions](#)

PTA Meeting

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

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

Cell Phone Policy for Middle School

We request parents/guardians to please help us communicate the responsible use of technology and continuously remind their students about the following policy and rules regarding responsible use of technology and devices. Thank you for your ongoing support. HCPSS Policy 8080 states:

Middle Schools – Students: “Students will not use personal technology devices during non-instructional time, to include but not limited to transition between classes, lunch, recess, or in bathrooms.”

PMS PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICE GUIDELINES

- Students must comply with class and school rules and all relevant HCPSS Board Policies.
- Upon entering the building, all cell phones must be on silent and put away either in their designated lockers or backpacks.
- Students may carry their personal devices (phones, ipad, earbuds) in their backpack, but it must be on silent and it may not be used during the day.
- Administration, faculty, and staff may request at any time that students turn off and put away technology devices. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action and possible revocation of privileges.
- Individuals assume full responsibility for their non-HCPSS owned technology devices. This includes the device's safety, security and maintenance.
- No taking, uploading or sharing photos, recording audio, or capturing video during school or any HCPSS-sanctioned activities.
- Any disruption to class or other educational activity may result in disciplinary action.
- Students may not have the phone out in the hallway, classrooms, bathrooms, gym lockers and the cafeteria at any time.
- **If students do not feel well during the day they should visit the health room. Do not text parents in lieu of reporting to the health room**

Weather/Recess

Please be sure that your student comes to school with appropriate outerwear and head coverings, as students will wait outside until the 8:00 entrance bell rings, and outdoor recess will be held until the temperature combined with the wind chill is less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

We will go outside as much as we can so please make sure your student is prepared for all types of weather. [Weather/Recess guidelines](#)

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.**

Thanksgiving Food Box Giveaway

[November 19th Flier](#)

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

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.

Knighly 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.