

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

10-22-2021

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**10/25:** MAP Testing

**10/27:** School Store Opens

**11/03:** End of Quarter One marking period

**11/04:** School Closed for students

**11/10:** Report Cards Issued

**11/12:** Picture Make-up 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:** School Closed for students

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!*

**Reminder-Parents/Guardians must have your ID with you every time you enter the school building.**

Dear Patapsco families:

As fall is upon us and the days are getting cooler, we would like to let you know that we plan to continue with our outdoor lunch option as long as the weather permits. We encourage students that choose to eat their lunch outdoors to dress appropriately for the weather. We also go to recess as much as we can, even when it is cold. We want our students to dress appropriately for the colder months as the weather changes.

In addition, it has been an amazing first few months of the year! I cannot believe it is almost November. Quarter One is coming to a close in two weeks on November 3rd. This is a great time to talk with your child about their progress, grades, and discuss any goals they have for this year. Quarter one does not define students on their academics...it is just one piece of their academic journey. I encourage you to review your student's grades on Canvas so you are able to view their progress. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teachers.

I want to take a few moments to highlight this past month. First, our students had an AMAZING Fun KNIGHT sponsored by our PTA. I want to say a huge THANK YOU to our PTA and parent volunteers who organized, provided supervision, and activities for our students. We are truly thankful for our parents and their support.

Also in October, we recognized and celebrated Anti-Bullying through our BlueUP day and our UNITY day. The highlights were truly the tasks the students were asked to do...little acts of kindness. We saw so many acts of kindness throughout the building. Our students are the best!! I encourage you to ask your child, "**how did you show kindness this week?**" The positive effects of showing kindness can be everlasting!

*"Unity is strength...When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." Mattie Stepanek*

I wish you a relaxing weekend,

Mike Babe  
Principal

## MAP Testing

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), the adaptive assessment in **math** will be administered Monday, October 25th during 6 & 7 period. **Please have students bring charged Chromebooks and wired headphones if possible.** MAP make-ups will start on Tuesday, October 26th.

Exempt from Reading MAP: students in ELA- 8GT

**Exempt from Math MAP: students in 7 Algebra I GT; 8 Algebra I; 8 Geometry GT; 8 Algebra II GT**

Students who are exempt from MAP testing should bring wired earbuds or wired headphones for the alternate activities that they will complete during the testing periods.

## 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.](#)

## Students of the Month for September

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

6th	7th	8th
Abigail C.	Andrew S.	Akhil D.
Caesar M.	Asia L.	Alson M.
Clay P.	Brendan V.	Dahlia S.
Isak L.	Hadley R.	Daniella V. V.
Maycol G. A.	Jacob C.	Layan A.
Meredith K.	Jade S.	Micah N.
Sreehith P.	Jamie S.	Nicholas E.
Varsha S.	Janis T. C.	Nneka E.
	Jaz J.	Noah K.
	Keshav P.	Oluwatoonilobe A.
	Kyle M.	Shreya K.
	Mark L.	Weston M.

	Olivia B.	
--	-----------	--

## Transportation Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that all HCPSS contracted buses are expected to have at least 3 windows down on each side of the bus and the roof hatches open during all transit. With the changing temperatures especially in the morning, please make sure your child is dressed in layers to be most comfortable on the ride to and from Patapsco Middle School.

## Counselor Corner

### Rainbow Representatives

Rainbow Representatives ensure that schools are allies and advocates for LGBTQIA+ students, staff, and families. The school Rainbow Representative attends quarterly meetings; receives and disseminates information regarding LGBTQIA+ topics of interest to the school and school community as appropriate; and provides instructional support for educators. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our PMS Rainbow Representative Morgan Kempthorn at [morgan\\_kempthorn@hcpss.org](mailto:morgan_kempthorn@hcpss.org).

### Safe Space Posters

Around our school, you will see some “Safe Space” posters. Sometimes, for a variety of reasons, a person, or certain group of people, might feel unsafe to show their true colors for fear that others might treat them differently, or refer to them in an unkind way. At HCPSS, it is our priority to make sure every student not only *is* safe to be their authentic and true selves. We hope our Safe Space posters serve as a reminder that there is a trusted adult you can go to who is an ally to the LGBTQ+ community, who will affirm a student’s chosen name and pronouns, and who will not disclose information to others about identity and orientation if a student shares that information. Teachers who have this poster in their classrooms have declared their space for ALL students.

## Middle School Students at High School Games

All middle school students and younger children attending a high school athletic event must be accompanied by an adult responsible for their supervision

throughout the event. No one middle school age or younger will be admitted to a contest without an adult.

## 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

## Lost and Found

All lost and found items are located outside of the media center. Please ask your child to check lost and found if they are missing items.

## 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.**

## Help Support Patapsco's Music Program!

### Donate to a Giving Club Today!

What is Giving Clubs? Giving clubs is the primary funding source of the Patapsco Music Boosters – a volunteer group that provides logistical support to our school's music directors and carries out fundraising to enrich our school's performing music groups (band, orchestra and chorus) and general music program. [For more information](#)

## 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.

## Early Dismissal

There will be no early dismissal after **2:30 PM** daily. There is not enough time to process everything before Patapsco staff must begin the regular dismissal process.

As a reminder, please remember to **bring in a valid form of identification (e.g. Drivers License)** if you are picking up a student. We will only release students to those authorized on the emergency card in Synergy. It's a good idea to double check your Emergency Procedure information to ensure the list of individuals authorized to pick up your student during the school day is up to date.

## 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).