

KNIGHTLY NEWS

10-29-2021

UPCOMING EVENTS:

11/03: End of Quarter One marking period

11/04: School Closed for students

11/10: Report Cards Posted

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: Schools and Offices Closed

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

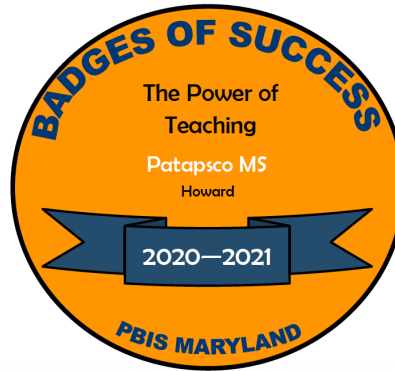
Health Room: 410-313-2574



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

LET'S CELEBRATE!!!

This week, we learned that our school was awarded for our positive recognition efforts from PBIS Maryland! We earned three badges that reflect the school's commitment to building community, teaching and engaging our school's 3R's (Respectful, Responsible, and Resilient), and collaboration and problem solving to meet students' needs. A special kudos to our Student Recognition committee for all of its efforts in creating initiatives that help make Patapsco a place where students are valued and heard! **This is a big deal**, and we should all be proud of our school!



Student Absences, Late Arrivals and Early Dismissal

[Click link for information](#)

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.

MAP Testing Make-up Sessions

MAP testing make-ups will be Monday, November 1st and Tuesday, November 2nd. If your student missed MAP testing that took place on 10/22 or 10/25, please make sure they come to

school with a charged laptop on Monday and Tuesday. Students in Algebra , Algebra II, Geometry, and 8th Grade GT English are exempt from MAP testing.

Evacuation Drill- Monday, November 1st

We will be having our second evacuation drill on Monday, November 1st. These drills are one of the safety measures that all HCPSS schools conduct periodically throughout the year as part of our [Emergency Response Plans](#) and are good practice for students and staff to review. An evacuation is a procedure that we would use in any number of scenarios, but in general, it involves our students and staff exiting the building as quickly as possible and assembling at predetermined areas. We encourage you to ask your student about the drill and let us know if they have any questions or concerns. You can also find detailed information about what occurs during protective actions taken during emergencies at www.hcpss.org/safety/.

Bus Reminders

Please help us keep all of our students safe on the bus ride to and from school. Students should only ride their assigned bus and board and depart the bus at their bus stop in the morning and afternoon. At this time, we are not permitting students to ride alternate buses. In addition, please remind your student(s) that masks are required on buses and any windows opened by the driver need to remain open for the duration of the ride. This means students who ride buses may need to dress in layers as the weather gets cooler. Our bus drivers work hard to transport our kids safely each day, and these simple reminders can make a big difference. Please feel free to reach out to Heather Dinicola (heather_dinicola@hcpss.org) with questions or call the Office of Transportation (410-313-6732).

Car Loop Information

Thanks to the parents and staff who have made our car loop a safe and speedy process each morning. We know the morning is a busy time, but we need to remain mindful of the signs and signals our car loop staff are giving during drop off and pick up. We want to get your students in and out of the car safely, so we ask for patience and attentiveness as you enter and exit the car loop.

Counselor Corner

This week, Ms. Lee, Ms. Kempthorn and Ms. Anderson, finished up our first round of classroom lessons. Students in all grades engaged in the Managing the Middle lesson, in which they learned about problem solving, the proper steps to take, and how to manage their emotions. Here are some guiding questions that you can ask your students about the lesson:
What does it mean if a problem is a pebble, rock, or a boulder? (What would be an example of a pebble, rock, or boulder for you)
What is a coping skill they use when they have a problem or are feeling stressed or frustrated?
What can you control when solving a problem?
What problem solving approach do you find is most effective for you?

Student Services will be doing more lessons throughout the year so stay tuned for more updates.

Reach out to your student's school counselor with any questions or concerns.

Ms. Lee (Last Names, A-L) and Ms. Kempthorn (Last Name, M-Z)

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 in outside of the Media Center) has a large amount of jackets, hats, 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.

Parent/Teacher Conferences- SAVE THE DATE!

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 meet with teachers.

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.**

Coat & Clothing Giveaways

October 30th: [English Flier](#)

October 30th: [Spanish Flier](#)

Thanksgiving Food Box Giveaway

[November 19th Flier](#)

HCPSS Hiring Fair

Thursday, November 4 @ 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Wilde Lake High School HCPSS is hosting a hiring fair to address current staff shortages in multiple areas. No registration is needed to attend the event. [More information is available online.](#) [Click here for the flier.](#)

PTA

The Student Recognition Committee at Patapsco is reaching out to ask for donations of fun articles for a raffle event that is being organized for our students. Students will use their Sir Prize dollars to participate.

This will be a great opportunity to reinforce positive behavior and for students to continue adding value to the Sir Prize dollars.

Find the Wishlist here: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/JVVFWO1XINDC?ref_=wl_fw_le

Items will be shipped directly to the school if purchased off this wish list.

Support your favorite charity at no extra cost when you shop at smile.amazon.com. Search for Patapsco Middle School PTA as the charity!

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

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

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.