

KNIGHTLY NEWS

10-8-2021

UPCOMING EVENTS:

10/13: School Store Opens
10/15: School Closed for students
10/18: Flu Clinic
10/18: School Picture Day - **New Date**
10/22: MAP Testing
10/25: MAP Testing
11/04: School Closed for students
11/10: Report Cards Issued
11/12: Picture Make-up day
11/17: PTA Meeting, 7PM

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!*

Lost and Found

Lost and Found is located outside of the Media Center. We will clean out forgotten items at the end of every month. Please emphasize to your student that it is their responsibility to keep track of their belongings, and to check the Lost and Found if they are missing something.

Welcome Visitors

In order to ensure the safety of all students and staff, all visitors must press the buzzer located on either set of main doors to gain entry to our building. When we greet you, please provide us with your name and the reason for your visit. We will buzz you right in and direct you to report to the main office, student services, or the health room, as indicated.

As a reminder, please remember to **bring in a valid form of identification (e.g. Drivers License)** if you are picking up one of our students. It's also 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.

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: jostensyearbooks.com

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

Picture Day- New Date!

Lifetouch Photography will be at PMS to photograph students on Monday, October 18, 2021.

Packages can be ordered [online](#). Picture Day ID: **EVTKGGDP9**

All students will need to be photographed for yearbook and administrative purposes, but only those submitting a completed order form online will receive a portrait package.

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

English/Spanish [For more information](#) [Order form](#)

FREE Cold Weather Gear!

Saturday, October 16 1:00 to 3:00 pm

North Laurel Community Center 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel, MD 20723 face masks must be worn on-site for the safety of all persons For questions or more information, contact Sharee Campbell, MSC Coordinator, at 410-313-0220 (voice/relay) or scampbell@howardcountymd.gov. www.howardcountymd.gov/msc This information is neither sponsored nor endorsed by HCPSS or the school. [Free Cold Weather Gear](#)

October 8th Fall Fun Knight

Students are invited to the Fall Fun Knight tonight, Friday, October 8, 2021 from 7:00 to 9:00pm. This event has something for everyone!

*DJ & Dancing in the cafeteria

*Basketball and other activities in the gym

*Bingo with prizes in the media center

*Concessions for sale

Permission forms went home with students on Monday, October 4, 2021, but if you need an extra form please contact Michaela Muffoletto at muffs@muffsonline.com. Signed permission forms are required to purchase tickets which were on sale during lunch this week and will be available for limited purchase at the door this evening. Tickets are \$5 and can be paid for by cash or check (made payable to Patapsco MS PTA).

Questions about the Fun Knight? Contact Michaela Muffoletto at muffs@muffsonline.com

Mt. Hebron's Annual Pancake Breakfast

We hope that this finds you and your families healthy and enjoying the amazing fall weather we've been having.

We are so excited to announce that Mt. Hebron's Annual Homecoming Pancake Breakfast is back!!!

Please join us on Saturday, October 16th from 7:30am - 10:30am for breakfast in front of the school as we kick off an exciting day of Homecoming events celebrating our Viking Football, Marching Band, Cheer, and Lancer Programs.

Tickets will be \$8 in advance, or \$10 at the door. Children 5 and under are free.

Here is the link to purchase tickets:

<https://osp.osmsinc.com/HowardMD/BVModules/ProductTemplates/Bvc2013/Product.aspx?productid=DA010-384>

While we remain vigilant with the continued impact of Covid-19 on our community, we look forward to celebrating our amazing young people and our amazing community safely. We will follow all protocols required by the Howard County Public School System and the Howard County Health Department. Hand sanitizer stations will be set up in the outside eating areas and in the cafeteria. All persons in attendance who enter the building will be required to wear a mask at all times. Masks will not be required outside, however, as recommended by the CDC, unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to wear a mask.

Thank you for your support of the Mt. Hebron Football Program

GO VIKINGS!!! [Mt. Hebron's Pancake Breakfast flyer](#)

Virtual Community Academy: Navigating HCPSS

There will be a virtual session co-sponsored by HCPSS and The Council of Elders on Saturday, October 9, from 9:00-10:30a.m. This free session will focus on HCPSS resources that are available to help families support their child's education. Parents/guardians of students at all levels are invited to attend. Register [online](#) to receive a confirmation email with login information.

Howard County Association of Student Councils Meeting - October 13th

The Howard County Association of Student Councils Meeting (HCASC) welcomes all middle and high school students to join our next meeting on Wednesday, October 13th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Homewood Center to:

- collaborate with student leaders from across HCPSS
- discuss current events impacting HCPSS students
- provide feedback and insight on HCPSS policy
- share your ideas directly with the Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB) and other HCPSS leaders
- learn leadership skills and best practices
- represent your school at the student-run convention to elect the SMOB
- explore ways to make a difference in your school and community
- engage with community leaders
- have fun!

Explore our website for more information <https://hcasc.hcpss.org/> or contact Cindy Drummond with questions. Thanks to all schools for supporting these important student voice opportunities!

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.**

Free Flu Vaccinations at Patapsco Middle School

Flu vaccinations are coming to school on October 18th. They will be given at NO CHARGE TO YOU. Now, more than ever, it is important to protect your family through vaccinations.

If you would like your child to be vaccinated, please register **BEFORE Friday, October 8:**

Fill out the consent form online at:

<https://tinyurl.com/HoCPSSFlu2021>

1. Type your child's school name in **Search by Name** then press the blue **Search** button.
2. Click on the **Sign Up for Flu Vaccinations** button for your child's school.

OR

Fill out a paper consent form:

1. Read the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) and talk to your health care provider or the school nurse about any questions you have. VIS: <https://tinyurl.com/FluVIS2021-E>
2. Fill out every section of the attached Consent Form.
3. Use your insurance card to fill out your insurance information accurately. Your insurance company will be billed. **There is no co-pay or deductible.** You will NOT be charged by us or your insurance company.

Influenza, also known as the flu, is a serious illness that affects people of all ages. One of the best ways to prevent the flu is through vaccinations. We are pleased to join with the Maryland Partnership for Prevention (MPP) to offer flu vaccinations at our school.

You may give permission for your child to be vaccinated using (1) an online form at <https://tinyurl.com/HoCPSSFlu2021> or (2) the hard copy form attached to this message.

We urge you to protect your family from the flu. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone ages 6 months and older get a flu shot. Please visit www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm for more information about the flu vaccine.

[2021 Howard Co Consent Form – English](#)

[2021 Howard Co Consent Form – Spanish](#)

[Flu Vaccine Communication in Spanish](#)

MASKS

Parents please continue to have your child wear their mask to school. We have many students coming to school without their mask. Please make sure it is with them before they leave for the morning.

Per the Maryland State Department of Education, **masks are required in all Maryland public school buildings for all students, staff and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.** The [state mandate](#) reflects guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health, and is in alignment with the [HCPSS masking directive](#) already in place.

Masks also are required while on school buses. Masks are not required for any students or staff while eating/drinking indoors. Masks are not required outdoors, however they are recommended for unvaccinated individuals.

Update on Instructional Supports During Quarantine

Beginning the week of September 27, the HCPSS Evening School program will offer virtual grade-level academic support sessions for eligible elementary and middle school students who must quarantine or who are struggling academically. These sessions will be available on Google Meet each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 6-8 p.m., and consist of parallel small group sessions in elementary English and math; and middle school English, math, science and social studies. Parents are encouraged to attend with their child.

Schools will contact the families of students designated as eligible to participate. Parents also may request that their child participate by contacting Lindsey_miles@hcpss.org.

These sessions build on the existing cadre of supports for quarantining students, which include grade-level materials packets for elementary students, assignments and instructional materials posted on teachers' Canvas pages for all levels, and the availability of weekly virtual check-in sessions. Comprehensive information about the instructional supports available are provided on the [HCPSS Students in Quarantine website](#).

Only unvaccinated students and adults who are identified as close contacts must quarantine. Vaccinated students and staff are not required to quarantine unless they receive a positive test or are displaying symptoms, but will need to monitor their symptoms closely for the 14 days. Criteria for identifying close contacts and quarantine requirements are established by the Maryland Department of Health and apply to all school systems.

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.

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. UNVACCINATED siblings of children who are exhibiting symptoms need to stay home also. 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.

October is LGBT History Month! (<https://lgbthistorymonth.com/>)

LGBT History Month is an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. It was founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher Rodney Wilson. LGBT History Month provides role models, builds community, and represents a civil rights statement about the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community. For each day in October, LGBT History Month celebrates the achievements of 31 lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender Icons.

Come celebrate LGBT History Month this weekend! Saturday, October 9th

Howard County Pride Event! <https://www.howardcountypride.org/>

Howard County Pride celebrates and unites the LGBTQ+ community. Our events and programs advocate, support, and educate. It is our hope that the LGBTQ+ community in Howard County, Maryland finds a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment every time they are at a HoCo Pride event. Join us in celebrating your identity with our community!

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. It's also 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.

Cell Phones & Electronic Devices

[Policy 8080 – Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media](#)

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.

All cell phones must be put away upon entering the building. Students may carry their phone, but it must be silent and it may not be used during the day.

Forgotten Items

We are happy to accept any lunches, instruments, homework, school projects, keys, or other items as long as they are brought to school before 10:30. *We have one delivery for items that have been dropped off at the front office. Lunches that are dropped off will be taken to the cafeteria and left on the stage for student pick up.*****

We cannot accept items for delivery to students after this time period, with the exception of emergency situations, as we are committed to minimizing classroom interruptions throughout the school day. We know homework, projects and instruments are important to our students, so we ask for your help in assisting students prepare for the day the night before, or the morning of, to ensure they have everything they need.

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.