

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**9/14:** Music Boosters Meeting, 7PM

**9/14-9/15:** MCAP- ELA- Grades 6-8

**9/16/21:** Schools and Offices closed

**9/21/21-** MCAP- Math- Grades 6-8

**9/22/21-** MISA- Science- Grade 6

**9/22/21:** PTA meeting- All are invited!

**9/27/21:** School Picture Day

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

Dear Patapsco Middle School Community,

Thank you to all the families who attended Back to School Knight last night whether in-person or as a “fly on the wall.” Thank you for your commitment and partnership to your child’s education and for your support for #OnePatapsco. If you did not have an opportunity to [view our video](#), please take a moment to watch it this weekend.

Thank you to our [PTA](#) and Music Boosters for their support of our children, school, and staff. Please consider joining these important organizations. Joining is not the same as being involved; however, we welcome any involvement and support too. Joining is a great way to show support for our school.

Have a wonderful and relaxing weekend,

Mike Babe  
Principal



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

## Chromebook Expectations:

We want to remind all students and families that it is our expectation that students bring the Chromebook that was issued to them to school daily. We have a limited number of devices to loan to students. Information related to [HCPSS technology and devices](#) is online and may be shared with families.

## 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.**

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Each day we work to recognize and celebrate positive behaviors, but we also must follow the Howard County Public School System countywide discipline code. For your convenience, click here for the [HCPSS Student Code of Conduct](#). During the first few weeks of school, teachers will be reviewing expectations and procedures for their classrooms, and teachers and staff will review important county policies that every student is responsible for understanding and following this year. It is also important for parents/guardians to review these policies with your children. Please take time over the next week or so to review the policies contained in the [Student/Parent Handbook](#), as these are important for you to be familiar with throughout the duration of your child's time in HCPSS. Knowing and understanding the expectations regarding policies and procedures for the year will lead to a positive and engaging learning experience for all.

## Student Absences, Late Arrivals and Early Dismissal

[Click link for information](#)

## School Messenger Reporting Form

If you are having issues receiving HCPSS district/school emails and/or text messaging please use this [new form](#) for reporting your issues regarding emails/text messages not being delivered.

## Testing

All students will take part in the ELA MCAP this **Tuesday, 9/14**, and **Wednesday, 9/15**. Please have your student come to school with a **charged Chromebook and wired earbuds** if possible. We have a limited number of wired headphones in the building for students who cannot bring their own set. Math MCAP will take place next **Tuesday, 9/21** for all students, and 6th graders will take the MISA Science MCAP next **Wednesday, 9/22**. Please limit any unnecessary absences on these days. Also, remind students that cell phones, Apple Watches, and any other electronic devices, etc. are not permitted during testing. This can lead to a test being invalidated. These early fall assessments are make-ups from the Spring assessments that were not administered last school year. Please email Heather Dinicola at [heather\\_dinicola@hcpss.org](mailto:heather_dinicola@hcpss.org) with any questions.

## Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Thank you to students and families as we continue to work through arrival and dismissal procedures. We appreciate your patience as we know this is a busy time of day. Just a reminder that car-riders need to be dropped off in the car loop at the end of the main driveway. Avoid parking or stopping along the side of the driveway as we need a clear lane for buses and if there is an emergency. The bus arrival and departure times are becoming more consistent each day. Please continue to communicate any questions or concerns: [heather\\_dinicola@hcpss.org](mailto:heather_dinicola@hcpss.org) or call HCPSS Office of Transportation.

[The bus stop locator is available online](#)

The HCPSS Transportation website is a great resource for any other questions: <https://www.hcpss.org/schools/transportation/>

## Modified Lockdown Drill

Today our students participated in a Modified Lockdown Drill. Our students did a wonderful job. To learn more about our drills that each HCPSS school has, please look at our [Safety and Security page](#).

## Music Boosters

***The Patapsco Music Boosters is a parent organization that provides logistical support to our school's music directors so that concerts and adjudications may go smoothly. Plus, we raise money to keep our band, chorus, and orchestra in quality instruments, equipment, and sheet music.***

We invite you to join us on

***Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm***

in the Patapsco Media Center or via Google Meet for our first meeting of the year.

To join the video meeting, visit this link: <https://meet.google.com/vhz-oaem-gug>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 262-563-3812 and enter this PIN: 186 059 567#

***All Music Parents are Welcome!***

### ***We are also in search of new officers***

All of our officers have graduated! We need new officers ASAP to continue our organization. Don't worry! Last year's officers will be happy to help get you started and guide you through the process.

**We Need: *President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary***

*And many other small committee chairs*

*Thanks! Hope to see you there!*

## Spirit Wear sale ends **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th!**

Don't miss out! <https://patapscomiddle.itemorder.com/sale>

**Join the PTA!** <https://patapscomiddle.memberhub.com/store#>

## **Patapsco Middle School Girls basketball tryout**

Please check this out for students who are interested in playing basketball this year through HCYP. [flyer](#)

## **Mental Health Matters!**

Sharing in partnership with [Horizon Foundation](#)

As we continue to push for the expansion of in school therapy services within the school system, many questions around the program itself have been raised. To help answer these questions and provide some clarity,

Caroline Walker will be at the September 15th Drop-In Meeting. Caroline is the Executive Director of Program Innovation and Student Well-Being, and oversees the Mental Health Services and Social Worker Program.

To better help guide the conversation, inform the efforts of the Mental Health Matters Coalition and meet the needs of the greater community, please submit your questions and register to attend via the Eventbrite

link here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mental-health-matters-drop-in-meeting-tickets-169497322053?fbclid=IwAR1ASr2UFRVCCSXfPiJGV5PQc0LydfYybhPjXf56X1CkQi9XZlbW2OjM6RM>

## **Patapsco Art Gallery**

When visiting the PMS, look for the Patapsco Art Gallery wall in the front lobby to see the display of student quotes about what art and creativity mean to them. They did a great job creating original, inspiring messages for our school community about the positive power of art!

## **Instructional Seminar Sign-Up is Beginning!**

Students will be receiving information in the coming weeks, but you can get a head's start on signing up for this year's seminars. Seminars are a great way to expand your knowledge and skills around a topic of interest in a non-graded environment. Each seminar offers a unique focus. However, all seminars have four universal components. They all (1) develop critical and creative thinking skills, (2) involve conducting research, (3) involve working collaboratively to produce an authentic product or creative production, and (4) utilize technology to create and communicate.

Use the link below to sign up, or scan the QR code. Please make sure you are logged in with student HCPSS credentials.

<https://forms.gle/fuSpUZaJbMPXjuYM9>



## Technology Support

Please find below information regarding technology support that includes both self-help resources and how to request technology support.

**[Student Technology Resources](#)**: Provides guides, resources and videos for HCPSS student technology. Below are some direct links to commonly used resources:

- **[Canvas Orientation](#)** - and RESOURCES...includes how to navigate Canvas
- **[Chromebooks](#)** - provides a variety of resources for using an HCPSS Chromebook
- **[Chromebooks Care](#)**
- **[Password and Username Self-Service](#)**: Allows families to request a password reset or student's username. New students can use this application to retrieve their account information. This application is also linked off the **[hcpss.me](#)** website, which also includes **[user directions](#)**.
- **[HCPSS Connect Parent Resources](#)**: Provides HCPSS Connect—including Synergy, Canvas, and Family File—guides and videos for parents.

If after reviewing these resources, your family continues to need support, please complete the **[Patapsco Middle - Student and Family Technology Support Request Form](#)** and one of our staff members will reach out to you as soon as possible. If you cannot access the online form for any reason, please email Suzanne McNabb @ [suzanne\\_mcnabb@hcpss.org](mailto:suzanne_mcnabb@hcpss.org)

Our Patapsco staff will attempt to resolve the issue, and if unsuccessful will provide directions for exchanging the broken device for a working one at the school system's [Onsite Technology Center](#).

## 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.

A child should NOT come to school with any of these symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or
- New loss of taste or smell

For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

Children exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 may not attend school.

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.

## [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).