

TVMS Newsletter

October 28, 2016

Important Dates

Oct. 31	No School for Students
Nov. 1	Gifted and Talented Parent Information Night
Nov. 1	PTSA Meeting
Nov. 2 – 4	6 th Grade Outdoor Education Extended Field Trip
Nov. 4	End of Marking Period
Nov. 7	No School for Students
Nov. 8	School and Offices Closed
Nov. 11	Spirit Day: College Day
Nov. 14 – 18	American Education Week
Nov. 14	Fall Picture Make-Up Day
Nov. 15	Report Cards Issued
Nov. 15	Flu Shot Clinic
Nov. 21 – 23	Parent / Teacher Conferences
Nov. 24 – 25	Thanksgiving Break

A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

November is the perfect month to highlight the value of partnering with parents. Parent connection is one of the most valuable indicators of success in a student's life. We are looking forward to having many parents visit TVMS in November. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for November 21st through 23rd.

The first quarter marking period ends on November 4th. Report Cards will be issued on Monday, November 15th. First quarter student progress provides a base to set future goals with your child and will help guide discussions with your child's teachers during conferences.

We are fortunate to be supported by such a generous and dedicated PTSA. TVMS staff would like to thank the PTSA Sunshine Family, the Wayne family, for the treats that awaited our staff.

As always, thank you for being valuable partners in your child's academic success.

Regards,

Shiney Ann John, Principal

TVMS Pride – Let's Go HoCo – HCPSS Community 5K

On Sunday, October 16th, the Howard County Public School System held its annual, "Let's Go HoCo – HCPSS Community 5K." Kendall Phillips, 8th grade, ran in the event and placed 15th out of over 1600 participants with a time of 19:12. He finished 1st place in the 11 to 13 age group. Congratulations, Kendall, and thank you to all our students, staff, and families who supported this event.

TVMS Phone Numbers – Hours 7:55 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Main Office
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Health Room
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TVMS Spirit Raising: Thankful Food Drive

The students of Thomas Viaduct Middle School are getting into the spirit of giving! TVMS is having its first TVMS Spirit Raising: Thankful Food Drive. The food drive started on October 17th and will continue through November 22nd. Students have the opportunity to give back to their very own community by donating non-perishable foods. Each student that brings in an item to donate will receive a “thankful paw print” for each item donated. The paw print will be displayed at TVMS for all staff and students to see. TVMS is creating a temporary thankful mural that will match our thankful and giving spirit to the amount of donated items to Grassroots and families in our community. Help support your student and our community!

Gifted and Talented Parent Night

Learn more about the Gifted and Talented Content classes, Curriculum Extension Units, and Instructional Seminars being offered at TVMS by attending the GT Parent Information night on Tuesday, November 1st, at 6:00 p.m. Allison Miller, our Gifted and Talented Resource Teacher, will share pertinent information and answer questions about current and future opportunities for TVMS students.

PTSA

The next PTSA meeting is Tuesday, November 1st, at 6 p.m., in the Media Center. The PTSA is a great way to get involved in your student’s school experience. Support for the PTSA Dessert Fundraiser is greatly appreciated. Forms are available in the front office. Last day to order is November 1st. You can join the PTSA Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/gropus/tvmsptsa/> as well.

Alpha Staff

Is there a TVMS staff member who is making a difference in your student’s life? Please nominate them for Alpha Staff. Eligible to be nominated are teachers, counselors, office, custodial, and administrative staff. Staff can be nominated in the classroom and/or school community. Forms may be picked up in the Front Office, requested via email at michelle_mackall@hcpss.org, or found online at the TVMS website, <http://tvms.hcpss.org/about/staff-award>.

Congratulations to our first recipients:

Amber Stash
Mauriana Veltre
AnnMarie Kasuda
Rebecca Ache

Tanya Hicks
Nikki Younger
Mike McMillion

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PTA's Reflections Arts Program

Thomas Viaduct Middle School and the TVMS PTSA are Excited to Participate!

This year's theme is "What Is Your Story?"

October is National Arts & Humanities Month, and we want to encourage your child to unleash their inner artist through the PTA's Reflections Arts Program!

Support your child's participation and increase their confidence. This year's theme, "**What Is Your Story?**", encourages students to think about who they are and what they want others to know about them.

Reflections Activity For Students

With your child/group of students, write a list of words and draw pictures of as many things that you think of that relate to one or more of the prompts below. Remember, there are no wrong answers. After five minutes, admire the list or pictures that you've created together, and use this as inspiration for your Reflections submission.

- Imagine you are having dinner with your favorite person of all time. What are all the things that you would want to share with this person about your life?
- Think about your first day of school. What did you tell your new classmates about yourself, or what didn't you tell them but wish they knew?
- Think about the most important day in your life. What does that day look like, sound like, smell like, feel like?

Looking for more information or need help getting started?

- For more info on how to participate, visit our new age <http://www.tvmsptsa.org/reflections/>.
- Contact Stephanie Cascone at tvmsptsa.vpr@gmail.com.
- Submission Due Date: **November 30, 2016**, in the TVMS Media Center.

Policy Corner – Grading and Reporting *(Policy 8010 and 8020)*

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all students meet or exceed rigorous performance standards. Accordingly, grading and achievement information must be determined in a consistent manner and regularly reported to students and their parents. Grading and promotion within the school system is based on the degree of success the individual student has achieved in the educational program. Decisions regarding promotion, retention and acceleration are made based on a student's performance and academic progress over the entire school year.

The grading system for kindergarten through Grade 8 includes evaluation, effort, and instructional codes and/or comments. When the performance of any K-8 student is below grade level, the teacher, with appropriate participation of parents, will develop strategies and apply appropriate interventions to assist the student.

The decision to retain or accelerate a student is based on a number of factors, which are listed in the policy. Middle school students must meet the following requirements or automatically be considered for retention. To pass from one grade to the next, a middle student must pass all courses and receive a final grade of not lower than "C" in English, social studies, reading, mathematics and science. A student who does not meet this requirement may be recommended to attend summer school. Any student below grade level in reading and/or mathematics at the end of eighth grade will be required to participate in appropriate interventions.

School staff will communicate with students and parents on a regular basis the level of academic performance in the essential curriculum (Grades K-8) or in relation to attainment of course objectives (Grades 9-12) as measured by county, teacher-made and other assessments, and by teacher observations via individual conferences, progress reports and report cards.

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Pack Leaders of the Month

TVMS is approaching the traditional concept of Student of the Month differently. Students and families may not be familiar with this approach to recognizing student leadership, but TVMS realizes students display strengths in one or more of the academic areas and is focused on capitalizing on individual strengths.

TVMS is proud to recognize our Pack Leaders of the Month. Each month, a student from one of the 12 academic areas will be recognized for displaying the PRIDE traits (Personal Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Diligence, Excellence). The academic areas include Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Reading, Art, Technology Education, Family and Consumer Science, Health Education, Physical Education, Performing Arts, and World Language. Recognized students will receive a certificate of accomplishment and be acknowledged on the morning news. In addition, students will have their picture posted in the TVMS Alpha Hall of Fame. We look forward to highlighting TVMS students for their individual student strengths in a variety of academic areas.

Pack Leaders of the Month for October

8th Grade Students:

ELA – Jessica Rushe
Math – Daniel Shin
Reading – Marion Rochelle
Science – John Holmes, Jr.
Social Studies – Remi Lang
Art – Lyzander Maran
FACS – Antoine Roseman
Health – Alisha Khan
Performing Arts – Nhi Nguyen
Physical Education – Hannah Watanabe
Technology Education – Chris Morris
World Language – Michelle Caternor

7th Grade Students:

ELA – Tony Darco
Math – Cole Heineman
Reading – Toby Moser
Science – Lulu Al Manie
Social Studies – Zion-Reign Gibbs
Art – Megan Banh
FACS – Avery Yelton
Health – Becca Becraft
Performing Arts – Afua Atta Poku
Physical Education – Jordan Hall
Technology Education – Zaina Sharqawi
World Language – Maureen Kwakye-Dankwa

6th Grade Students:

ELA – Stephanie Okoma
Math – Victoria Benitez
Reading – Makaila Carroll
Science – Safi Hampton
Social Studies – Ima Enodien
Art – Alixon Lopez
FACS – Isaiah Dunn
Health – Anis Hassan
Performing Arts – Diego Carino
Physical Education – Yasmine Khetib
Technology Education – Kayla Carey
World Language – Nithishkuma Sivakumaran

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Tip for School Success – How to Get Good Grades in Middle School

For many kids, the transition to middle school can be challenging. Instead of one teacher and one classroom, middle school students generally have multiple teachers and classes, which can mean an increased workload and increased academic stress. However, earning good grades in middle school is essential, as good study habits will pave the way for academic success in high school and beyond.

- Get Organized
- Avoid Distractions
- Ask for Help
- Find a Homework Buddy
- Go to Bed

For more information, see the [website](#).

Community News

Please visit the Community News and Programs page (<http://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/>) on the HCPSS website for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

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