

TVMS Newsletter

November 11, 2016

Important Dates

- 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,

Reminder, parent/teacher conference scheduling is now open. Detailed instructions are available below. If you need additional assistance, please call Ms. Nicholson in Student Services at 410-313-8247 or email her at nicole_nicholson@hcpss.org.

HCPSS celebrates American Education Week November 14th through 18th. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit TVMS and experience a day in the life of your middle school student. We hope you are able to join us during the week.

Our 6th grade students created, collaborated, and connected at their Outdoor Education experience last week. Thank you to our staff and parent chaperones for making this a real-world learning opportunity for our students.

Please have your student check lost and found for missing items. Tables with items will also be set up at the Parent/Teacher Conferences. Any items not retrieved will be donated to a charity on Wednesday, November 23rd.

Regards,

Shiney Ann John, Principal

Parent/Teacher Conferences

We look forward to seeing many of you during the Parent/Teacher Conferences scheduled for November 21st – 23rd. When you enter the building, we will have a table set up with schedules for your conferences. The staff member on duty will be glad to assist you and provide a map of our building. Instructions to sign up for conferences can be found [here](#).

Please note, the last day to register for conferences at HCPSS Connect is Friday, November 18th.

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

Main Office
Student Services (Registration, Student Schedules, Guidance Counselors)
Health Room
Fax

410-313-8711
410-313-8247
410-313-8714
410-313-8091

American Education Week

Howard County Public Schools celebrate American Education Week, November 14th through 18th. TVMS invites parents and guardians to attend any of their student's classes during the week to experience a day in the life of a middle school student.

- Please bring your I.D. with you to sign in using Lobby Guard in the front office.
- It is helpful if you bring a copy of your student's schedule.
- We do ask you to refrain from taking photos or videos during your visit.

We are proud of our school and look forward to your visit during American Education Week!

TVMS Spirit Raising: Thankful Food Drive

TVMS Spirit Raising: Thankful Food Drive continues through November 22nd. Students have the opportunity to give back to their very own community by donating non-perishable foods. Students have written "thankful paw prints," 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. And on November 21st, students will participate in the first TVMS Den Dash to celebrate the Thankful Food Drive. Thank you for your help supporting TVMS students and our community!

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission Student Essay Contest

The Howard County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission will host the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on January 15, 2017. County Executive Allan H. Kittleman has recognized the importance of this event to our community by making the organizing group a permanent county commission. A highlight of the celebration is the award presentations to Howard County Middle School and High School students who are our essay contest winners.

Dr. King's historic speech, "I have a Dream" (<http://archives.gov/press/exhibits/dream-speech.pdf>), remains as relevant today as it was in 1963. The Howard County MLK Holiday Commission invites your students to describe their dreams and vision for their world in their essay submission.

The essay theme for this year is "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream....What is yours?"

The individual essay focuses on both the present and the future. Students are invited to write an essay about their own dreams for a better community and a better world, demonstrated through leadership, service, inventions, etc., and what they envision themselves doing. The deadline for submission is **5:00 p.m., December 2, 2016**. The essays must be submitted by email in Microsoft Word format. Students with disabilities can submit a poster or use other media to portray their ideas for the present and the future. Judges will select the winners on the basis of best depiction of this year's MLK celebration theme.

The MLK Holiday Commission is grateful to the participants and views them all as winners for sharing their ideas. We also applaud the teachers who, year after year, incorporate this important event into teaching Maryland's young people about the principles for which Dr. Martin Luther King lived and died.

Please click [here](#) for submission details.

Federal Impact Aid Survey Forms

HCPSS receives funds from the federal government to operate and maintain our schools and enrich our school programs for students enrolled in the HCPSS prior to the deadline and if parents are employed on federally owned property in the State of Maryland or are an active duty member of the military anywhere in the world. If this applies to your family, please complete the form and have your student return no later than November 18th.

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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>.

Career Academies Information Sessions

Learn how the Career Academies provide high school students with opportunities to earn college credit, scholarships and industry certifications, participate in worksite and mentorship experiences, and become creative problem solvers by participating in hands-on project based learning. Career Academies invite middle/high school students and their families to an information session on January 5, 2017, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For more information, please see the [flyer](#).

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.

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.vpi@gmail.com.
- Submission Due Date: **November 30, 2016**, in the TVMS Media Center.

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Policy Corner - Responsible Use of Technology and Social Media (Policy 8080)

Students must act in a responsible, civil, ethical, and appropriate manner when using technology for HCPSS-sanctioned activities. Students may not reveal personally identifiable information (e.g., home phone numbers, addresses, or social security numbers) except in specific circumstances where such information is required to complete academic assignments. In such circumstances, prior written consent from the parent or legal guardian of the student is required. Schools will identify times and places for online activities. Schools will also ensure that signed HCPSS parent permission forms (Responsible Use of Technology Agreement/ Internet Use Permission Form) for each student are collected and kept on file. Students will access only those network resources for which they have obtained permission, using the account assigned to them.

Students will not create, access, download, store, or print content that:

- Depicts profanity, obscenity, the use of weapons, terrorism, or violence.
- Promotes use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal or harmful products.
- Contains sexually suggestive messages.
- Is sexually explicit or obscene.
- Depicts gang affiliation.
- Contains language or symbols that demean an identifiable person or group or otherwise infringe on the rights of others.
- Causes or is likely to cause a disruption to school activities or the orderly operation of the school.
- Contains rude, disrespectful, or discourteous expressions inconsistent with civil discourse or behavior.
- Constitutes bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or intimidation in violation of Policy 1040 Safe School Environments, or Policy 1060 Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation.

For a complete description of the policy, refer to the *Student & Parent Handbook 2016-17*.

Tips for School Success - Take Care of Technology Equipment

Students must take care of the technology equipment, which can be viewed as a privilege. It is also important for students to learn to protect the technology resources (Cennamo, Ross, and Ertmer, 2010). Malware such as viruses, worms, and Trojan horses are even more prevalent today because of the increased use of email, fax, blogs, social media, etc. Students should be alert and active at all times when encountering suspicious messages, links, pop-up windows, etc. to prevent computers from being infected with malicious software (Cennamo et al., 2010). Students should immediately let their teacher know if there may be malware on a computer, so that any problems can be addressed right away. For more tips, please visit the [website](#).

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