

TVMS Newsletter

January 20, 2017

Important Dates

Jan. 27	Schools Closed for Students
Feb. 3	Report Cards Issued
Feb. 7	PTSA Meeting
Feb. 8	National History Day
Feb. 10	TVMS School Dance (Snow Date: February 17)
Feb. 10	Spirit Day: Follow Your Passion (Sports, Arts, Hobbies)
Feb. 16	G/T Film Field Trip
Feb. 20	HCPSS Schools and Offices Closed
Feb. 21	Schools Closed for Students
Feb. 26	Spirit Day: College Day

A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

Last Thursday, TVMS welcomed 237 people to our Incoming 6th Grade Orientation. Families were able to learn about our signature programs and Wolf Pride, Band, Orchestra, Chorus, and Gifted and Talented Program. It is amazing to put together an orientation for families that highlights all TVMS has to offer, including our commitment to provide a learning environment where all students connect, collaborate, and create together. We look forward to welcoming the newest timberwolves to our TVMS family in the fall.

Second quarter ends on January 26th, and report cards will be issued on February 3rd. Encourage your student to stay focused for the last few days of the quarter. At the start of the third quarter, students will receive their new schedules for the semester.

Our 8th grade students continue to prepare for the transition to high school with a high school overview regarding course recommendations and electives. The course recommendation form is due to ELA teachers by January 25, 2017.

TVMS has much to look forward to during the second half of the year. Activities for Beyond the Wolf Den, TVMS's signature after school program, are being finalized. Registration packets were made available to students on Wednesday, January 18th, and are due on Tuesday, January 24th.

TVMS will also hold a school dance, Dancing with the Wolves, on Friday, February 10th. Permission slips and ticket sale information were sent home with your student this week.

The staff capped off last week with a special treat from our January's PTSA Sunshine Family. Even though the family wishes to remain anonymous, we want to extend our gratitude for the cookies and fruit that brightened our day.

Regards,
Shiney Ann John, Principal

Bus Program: Take Five – Rolling With Pride

Thomas Viaduct Middle School, in partnership with the transportation office, works very hard to ensure the safe transport of your student to and from school. This transport includes bus riders, car riders, and walkers. We understand the importance of our partnership with families to make this possible. With this in mind, all of us at TVMS wanted to reiterate transport rules and expectations to our students and families to ensure a safe transportation for bus riders, car riders, and walkers.

We are implementing a Take Five-Rolling with PRIDE program that will help ensure a safe and orderly ride for all students and drivers. Please “Take Five” to review the information listed below with your student.

Take 5

- **Follow directions of driver or staff member** - Listen respectfully when the bus driver speaks to you about safety, behavior, and seat assignments.
- **Stay seated** - Remain in your seat, facing forward, for the duration of the trip. All of your belongings should be on your lap or on the floor in front of you.
- **Keep all body parts and belongings inside the bus** - Keep hands, heads, devices, instruments, etc., within the vehicle.
- **Respect other’s personal boundaries** - Allow space between you and others at all times. When speaking, use appropriate volume and language.
- **Keep your area clean** - Finish your food before leaving home in the morning. Pick up all trash as you exit.

Safety Tips for Walkers and Bus Riders

- Put away your device before crossing the street. Never walk into the street without first looking both ways to make sure there is no oncoming traffic.
- Make eye contact with drivers. This will ensure that you see them and they see you.
- Cross at street corners with crosswalks and wait for the signal to walk before crossing.
- If you need to use your device, stop and do so in a safe place, not in the middle of the road.
- Walk on the sidewalk and watch out for cars that are turning or pulling in/backing up from driveways.
- If you are wearing headphones, pull them out of your ears or turn the volume down before crossing the street.
- Be predictable. Use crosswalks as often as you can. This is where drivers will be expecting pedestrians.
- You may not be distracted, but others may be. Be aware, not just of yourself, but of others, and don’t be afraid to speak up if someone else is being unsafe.

As an additional reminder, **the bus stop and bus ride are an extension of the school building** and students are to conduct themselves according to expectations outlined in the HCPSS Student Code of Conduct and with TVMS P.R.I.D.E. at all times.

Together, with your assistance and cooperation, we will continue to have a great school year.

Lost and Found

Winter apparel and lunch boxes are overflowing in lost and found. If your child is missing items, please remind them to check lost and found in the cafeteria. We would like to see the items reunited with their owners rather than donated to a local charity in mid-February.

Beyond the Wolf Den

Beyond the Wolf Den is starting the 3rd Quarter with new and exciting activities!! We will be offering Green Team for our eco friendly students, Art Club for those with a passion for paint, Comic Book Club for reading and creating your own comic books, Step Team to work as a group performing, and Homework Club to help you get organized and academically prepared! Beyond the Wolf Den will meet on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. A bus will be provided for students at the end of the activities. Registration forms are available during lunch shifts and are due back by Wednesday, January 25th. We would love students to sign up and join us Third Quarter!

Cold Weather Guidelines

Outside Recess

Children are expected to wear warm clothing to protect them during cold weather when participating in recess or outside activities. For more information, please see the [guidelines](#).

Doors Open at 8:00 a.m.

Doors open for students at 8:00 a.m., and supervision is provided for students beginning at 8:00 a.m. Students will be waiting outside until the start time; therefore, please ensure they dress accordingly.

8th Grade Information Corner

Please note important dates for 8th grade students regarding high school related activities and lessons.

- **January 25th** - Completed Course Recommendation Forms due to ELA teachers
- **June 7th** - Rising 9th Graders Visit High Schools

Future Hammond Golden Bears - Fall Sports Start August 9, 2017

Fall Sports Tryouts at Hammond High School (football, cheer, boys soccer, girls soccer, cross country, field hockey, volleyball, and golf) will begin on **August 9, 2017**. All necessary forms needed for tryouts can be downloaded at <http://www.hcpss.org/athletics/forms-and-guidelines/>. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Lerner, the Hammond High School Athletics and Activities Manager (mlerner@hcpss.org), or the coach of your sport of interest.

- Football - shawn_frederick@hcpss.org
- Girls' Soccer - christopher_reagle@hcpss.org
- Cross Country - kimberley_williams@hcpss.org
- Volleyball - anne_corey@hcpss.org
- Field Hockey - lauren_harrison@hcpss.org
- Cheer - katierunyen77@gmail.com
- Boys' Soccer - TBD

Long Reach News - The Taste of Long Reach

The Long Reach High School Boosters Club is having their annual fundraiser, "The Taste of Long Reach," on Friday, March 3rd from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville, MD. Join them for delicious food from area restaurants and caterers, a silent auction and basket raffle, door prizes, and dancing! The Boosters, a non-profit organization made up of parent volunteers, sponsors fundraisers and gives thousands of dollars annually to support sports teams, clubs, organizations, dance, drama, prom, scholars, and more. Please come to our biggest fundraiser! Tickets are \$40, if purchased by February 24th, and \$50 after. For more information or to purchase tickets, please go to [the website](#).

PTSA News

Our PTSA is very excited that TVMS is having their first “Dancing with the Wolves” School Dance. We will be helping with decorations, snacks, and beverages. Please visit the [website](#) to see how you can help. Please have donations to the school by 1 p.m. on Friday, February 10th. We appreciate your help.

Grow Strong - Achiever

Throughout the school year, students learn about their strengths’ themes and how to use their strengths toward personal success and goals. Although students have each of these strengths within themselves, certain themes have been identified as their top three strengths. We will be highlighting the ten strength themes in order to allow you to become more familiar with each--achieving, caring, competing, confidence, dependability, discoverer, future thinker, organizer, presence, and relating.

Achievers are people with a great deal of energy who like to accomplish things. Students with this strength tend to be driven by a strong desire to succeed. This is evident in their attitudes about school, sports, and life in general. Nakya, a 7th grade achiever and spelling bee participant said, “I study hard to get good grades.” Her teachers can attest to her hard work paying off. Athletic achiever, Sean, expressed, “When I am participating in sports, I remind myself that I have the strength of achieving, so I just get things done.” He shared that he reflects on his strengths often to help him complete tasks.

Grow Strong has made it possible for students to clearly “name” their positive qualities, which helps them build their confidence in and out of school.

We look forward to continuing to “Grow Strong” together this school year!

News from the Health Room

Immunization Requirements - Effective for the 2017-2018 school year, the Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene requires all 7th, 8th and 9th grade students in the state of Maryland to have a single dose of Tdap AND a single dose of Meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) BEFORE entering school.

If your student requires additional immunizations, parents should contact their healthcare provider as soon as possible to make an appointment for the student to obtain the required vaccines. Please provide the school with an updated copy of your child’s immunization record, which includes the provider’s signature, once vaccinations have been completed.

Some students may have already received these immunizations, but the Health Room may not have the updated immunization record.

Failure to provide proof of updated immunizations by the first day of school, or to provide evidence of an appointment to receive those immunizations within 20 calendar days from the first day of school, will result in your student being excluded from school. If you have any questions, contact the Health Room.

The Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP) - The Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP) gives full health benefits to children up to age 19 and their families. Call the Howard County Health Department at (410) 313-5845 at extension 111 to see if you are eligible.

TVMS Spelling Bee

On January 11th, TVMS held its Annual Spelling Bee. We congratulate the twenty-nine students who made it through to the TVMS final – this is an extraordinary achievement reaching this level.

The Spelling Bee culminated in an amazing, final word battle between two students, Saim Rizvi and Kourtney Kumi. Our winner for the 2017 Spelling Bee is Saim Rizvi, and our Runner Up is Kourtney Kumi.

Saim will now compete on the County level on March 17, 2017, at 7 p.m., at Reservoir High School. The winner of the County Bee will represent at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., in the spring.

TVMS is proud of all our participants for their hard work and efforts.

Finalists

6th Grade Finalists:

Nithish Sivakumaran
John Liv
Van Lian
Ima Enodien

Kezia Kumi
Victoria Benitez
Kourtney Kumi

Rickaya Dennis
Gabriel Langmia
Savana Velez

7th Grade Finalists:

Christopher Shiu
David Perez Rodriguez
Bethlehem Gebrewold

Jelani Omolade
Taniyah Walters
Joshua Speich

Viviana Perez
Nyah Daniel

8th Grade Finalists:

Luis Orellana
Sarah Muhammad
Siddharth Patil
Donovan Townsend

Nakya McNutt
Saim Rizvi
Alisha Khan
Kylee Ramey

Jessalyn Velazquez
Myleek Carr
Seven Barnes

A big thank you to our Judges' Panel:

Pronouncer:	Emily Perry
Head Judge:	Melanie Poknis
Dictionary Judge:	Alexandra Weyforth
Record's Judge:	Meghan Plofkin

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>.

Pack Leaders of the Month

TVMS is approaching the traditional concept of Student of the Month from a different angle. Students and families may not be familiar with this approach to recognizing student leadership by capitalizing on strengths, but TVMS realizes students display strengths in one or more of the academic areas, and we are focused on capitalizing on the power of these 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 January

8th Grade Students:

ELA – Melody Akindele
Math – Oluwatomisin Akisanya
Reading – Tony Nguyen
Science – Thanh Nguyen
Social Studies – Carles Hughes, III
Art – Madelyn Morales
FACS – Beatrice Ebson
Health – Michael Delagarza
Performing Arts – Eric Cooper
Physical Education – Hamilton Melgar
Technology Education – Lizbeth Casarrubius Zuniga
World Language – Jason Silva

7th Grade Students:

ELA – Stephen Hicks
Math – Tacori Robinson
Reading – Kevin Novillo
Science – Briangela Strull
Social Studies – Afua Atta Poku
Art – Ethan Vinodh
FACS – Jordan Hall
Health – Trinity Key
Performing Arts – Katja Bren
Physical Education – Conner Bosley
Technology Education – Preston Logan
World Language – Lilly Lian

6th Grade Students:

ELA – Karen Abdelsayed
Math – Jonathan Liv
Reading – Avery Oduro-Dompreh
Science – Sophie Kang
Social Studies – Dev Patel
Art – Yasmine Khetib
FACS – Cassidy McCurley
Health – Victoria Taylor
Performing Arts – Kaelyn Baggett
Physical Education – Anis Hassan
Technology Education – Alexis Garcia
World Language – Caleb Bentsil

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.

Gender Spectrum Allegiance

Alisha Tronetti, President of the Gender Spectrum Allegiance (or Gay-Straight Alliance) at River Hill High School, invites all middle school and high school students to a gathering in the River Hill Cafeteria from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on February 4, 2017, to raise awareness of the LGBTQ+ presence within our county, as well as provide a place for all schools to be one together and make new friends. Admission will be \$3, and there will be monitored drinks and food. Everyone is welcome; students should not feel excluded if they are not a part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Tips for School Success – Designate a Study Area

Help your child by providing a quiet, well-lit, low-traffic space for study time. Take it one step further and institute a “communications blackout” policy with no cell phones or instant messaging allowed until schoolwork is done. For more tips on school success, please visit [the website](#).

Policy Corner - Student Assault and/or Battery on Staff (*Policy 9270*)

In order for learning to take place, the school environment must be safe and orderly. Therefore, any assault and/or battery by a student on a school staff member is strictly forbidden. An assault may be physical, oral, or written. Battery I is the unlawful touching of another person by the aggressor and battery II involves unlawful touching plus a display of blatant disregard for the safety of the staff member or others.

Consequences for an assault violation range from suspension to expulsion. A battery I violation results in suspension of not more than 45 days. A first battery II offense results in a suspension or expulsion. A second battery II offense results in expulsion. A student who violates this policy is ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for the duration of a suspension or expulsion.