

TVMS Newsletter

February 3, 2017

Important Dates

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

A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

Report cards went home with students today. Please review the report card with your student and celebrate areas of growth and success. Home/school collaboration is the key to success for a student. Please do not hesitate to contact any of your student's teachers with questions or concerns regarding your student's progress prior to the March conference window. In addition, students are encouraged to monitor their progress through Canvas and work with their teachers to improve areas of academic concern during the quarter. Mid-year is also the perfect time to check with your child to see if there are any supplies or materials they need to replenish. Encourage your student to clean out their binders and start the second semester in an organized and efficient manner.

This week, County Executive Allan Kittleman visited TVMS and participated in a learning circle with interested eighth grade student leaders. Students learned about Mr. Kittleman's journey in public service and asked thoughtful questions about current events, government, social topics, and world issues.

TVMS is proud of our students' academic achievements and the many students who receive honors outside of school through various clubs, sporting teams, and volunteer service. We are truly fortunate to have such a high achieving group of students, who not only care about their personal success, but also celebrate the success of their peers.

Regards,
Shiney Ann John, Principal

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 on February 20th.

Thomas Viaduct's First School Dance!

The "Dancing with the Wolves" School Dance is on the calendar for Friday, February 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The dance will be held in the school gym, and refreshments will be available in the cafeteria. Tickets are \$3 and will be on sale through February 10th in each grade hallway before morning announcements. Tickets allow students entrance into the dance, a snack, and a drink. Students will be able to request a song for the DJ to play when they purchase a ticket.

- Tickets purchased online still require a signed permission slip with the online receipt number written on file. The permission slip should be brought to his/her grade table in the morning before announcements. If you would like to pay online, please use the following link and have your student bring the receipt number to the ticket table with the permission slip: <https://osp.osmsinc.com/HowardMD/BVModules/CategoryTemplates/Detailed%20List%20with%20Properties/Category.aspx?categoryid=DA084>.
- Students without a signed permission form on file will not be allowed to attend the dance. Signed permission slips and ticket purchases will not be accepted after 8:19 a.m. on February 10th.
- Students will receive their actual ticket during Den on February 10th. Prior to this date, they will receive a receipt verifying purchase.
- Tickets will not be sold at the door.
- Students will not be allowed in the building for the dance after 7:00 p.m.
- Only TVMS students will be allowed to attend the dance.

An adult is to escort their student into the school for check-in with school staff. At the end of the dance, parents will pick up their student at the student's grade-level location:

- 8th grade students - Media Center
- 7th grade students - Cafeteria
- 6th grade students - Gymnasium

If you would like to contribute to the dance with snacks, drinks, or decorations, please sign up at the following link: <https://signup.com/client/invitation/6775657374/1774082/false#1774082/false/false>.

Thanks for your support! We look forward to a great first school dance!

Grow Strong - Caring

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.

Students with the strength of *caring* are natural nurturers who enjoy helping others. TVMS student Jordan Hall said, "I use my strength of caring to make the people around me feel comfortable and to create a positive learning environment. There is always something you can do to bring out the best in people." Caring students are inherent believers in the idea of "paying it forward." They understand that kindness is contagious and do their best to make everyone feel welcome and safe.

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!

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 have implemented 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.

Gifted and Talented News

Jessica Rushe, 8th grade, was selected by The America Library of Poetry for her “Where I’m From” poem entry. Her entry has been officially registered in The America Library of Poetry 2016 Winter Student Poetry Contest. Her entry is now eligible for entry in the semi- and final rounds, which will culminate in the selection of Division Winners and Runners-Up. We are proud of Jessica’s hard work and accomplishment.

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.

8th Grade Information Corner

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

- **June 7th** - Rising 9th Graders to 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](#).

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>.

Student Leadership and Service Opportunity

HCASC invites middle and high school students interested in student leadership and service opportunities to attend the Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC) meetings the 2nd Wednesday of every month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Homewood Cafeteria, 10914 MD 108, Columbia, MD 21042.

- Sharing the Student Voice on School Policy and Community Issues
- Gaining Leadership Skills
- Practicing Community Service
- Working with student leaders from across HCPSS

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 8th. For more information please contact cindy_drummond@hcpss.org.

Howard County Summer Theatre Auditions

Howard County Summer Theatre will be conducting auditions for *The Lion King, Jr.*, on March 19th at 1 p.m. at Long Reach High School. Auditions are open to students currently in grades 3-9. Please prepare a Broadway song and bring your own karaoke accompaniment. For more information, please go to [the website](#) or email Marla Blasko, Director, at mjblasko@verizon.net

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 – Homework

Show interest in your child's studies by talking with him/her daily about what he/she is learning and doing in school (don't take "nothing" for an answer!). If you know your child has a project for science, get involved. The same goes for cheerleading, sports, and music — any extracurricular activities. For more tips on school success, please visit [the website](#).

Policy Corner - Trespassing or Willful Disturbance *(Policy 3020)*

The school system has the legal authority to take action when anyone willfully disturbs or otherwise prevents the orderly conduct of school system instruction, administration or activities. Additionally, Maryland law provides criminal penalties for any individual who trespasses on school property or fails to leave school property after being asked to do so by authorized personnel.

Any willful disturbance or interference with the orderly conduct of activities, including bodily harm or threats of bodily harm to an individual who is lawfully on school property; threats to a student or employee by any means including in-person, by telephone, or by electronic means; or any willful damage or defacing of school property or building is a violation of policy and may be a violation of the law.

Any individual found to be on school property after receiving prior legal notice that his/her access to school system property has been denied, or who remains on the property after being asked to leave, is considered to be trespassing.

When an individual commits any of the offenses noted above, the building administrator may take several actions:

- Explain how the individual's behavior is unacceptable.
- Issue a warning letter to the individual.
- Issue a letter that summarizes the disruptive behavior and any prior discussions or warnings and which informs the individual that any further incidents will lead to a formal denial of access.
- Issue a denial-of access letter.

When a denial-of-access letter is issued to the parent of a student enrolled at the school, the letter will explain how the parent may continue to discuss legitimate school issues regarding his or her child.