

TVMS Newsletter

February 17, 2017

Important Dates

Feb. 20 – 24	Chick-fil-A Fundraiser
Feb. 20	HCPSS Schools and Offices Closed
Feb. 21	Schools Closed for Students
Feb. 24	TVMS Spirit Day: College Day
Feb. 28	Yearbook Group Photos
Mar. 6	Orchestra Assessment
Mar. 7	PTSA Meeting, 6 p.m.
Mar. 8	Interim Report Cards Issued
Mar. 8	Orchestra Adjudication
Mar. 9	3-Hour Early Dismissal
Mar. 10	3-Hour Early Dismissal
Mar. 9 – 10	Parent / Teacher Conferences
Mar. 15	8 th Grade Panoramic Photo

A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

With a few hints of spring in the air, TVMS has soared into third quarter. Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for March 9th and 10th. Further details regarding parent conferences can be found in this newsletter. Ms. Nicholson, Student Services Secretary, will be available to assist with any questions regarding conferences. Please feel free to contact her at 410-313-8427 or at nicole_nicholson@hcpss.org.

On Friday, February 10th, TVMS held their second Honors Assembly for the year, recognizing our students for their success in academia, school, and community programs, many of which you will read about in this newsletter. TVMS truly has a diverse group of talented students involved in various clubs, sports teams, and volunteer service outside school. Congratulations to the 293 students earning Principal, Gold, or Silver Honor Roll. We are proud of all our TVMS students for their achievements.

On Friday evening, approximately 249 students, staff, and chaperones enjoyed the first TVMS school dance, *Dancing with Wolves*. Students enjoyed times with friends, refreshments, and dancing. Those attending the dance had fun, and we are proud of the students exemplifying TVMS P.R.I.D.E. We are thankful for our parent chaperones and the many donated refreshments by our families.

TVMS wishes to thank the PTSA and our February Sunshine Family, the Hinton family, for the care packages to TVMS staff. Our staff enjoyed the treats and pencils provided this month. Our parents are the best.

Regards,
Shiney Ann John, Principal

Winter MAP Scores

Winter MAP Math and Reading score reports were sent home with your student today, February 17th.

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 21st.

Parent – Teacher Conferences

Parent – Teacher conferences will take place March 9 and March 10, 2017. The schedule for Thomas Viaduct Middle School March conferences is as follows:

Thursday, March 9, 2017 (afternoon)	12:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 9, 2017 (evening)	4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 10, 2017	12:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Teachers who hold conferences during the evening of March 9 th will not be available for conferences on the afternoon of March 10 th .	

Starting Wednesday, February 22, 2017, parents can log into HCPSS Connect to view and select from the time slots provided by the teacher for the conference. Parents without online access may contact Ms. Nicholson in Student Services, at 410-313-8247, for assistance in scheduling conferences. All conferences will be 15 minutes and will take place in the room identified when scheduling.

Please access the attached guide (below) for step-by-step instructions for scheduling parent-teacher conferences. The conference-scheduling window will close on Monday, March 6, 2017, at 11:59 p.m. After March 6, 2017, please contact Ms. Nicholson, Student Services Secretary, at 410-313-8247 when conference cancellations are necessary. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Nicholson at 410-313-8247 or nicole_nicholson@hcpss.org.

Spirit Week Fundraiser at Chick-fil-A

Our 8th grade students and staff are sponsoring a Spirit Week Fundraiser at the Chick-fil-A Arundel Mills, February 20 – 24, 2017, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The fundraiser will help offset costs for their end-of-the-year activities. Come out and support TVMS with dine in, carry out, or drive thru (mobile orders do not count). Chick-fil-A Arundel Mills is located at 7055 Arundel Mills Circle; Hanover, MD.

Early Dismissal for Students

If you are picking up your student for early dismissal close to the end of the school day, please plan to do so by 2:48 p.m. This allows the front office sufficient time to check identification and call the student from their classroom for dismissal without interrupting closing procedures in the classroom. **After 2:48 p.m., we will call the classroom to let your student know to come to the front office after the dismissal bell.** This will allow a smooth transition at the end of the day for staff and students. Reminder, we do need to see your identification to release a student for any early dismissals.

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.

Each month, we will use the newsletter to highlight one of our TVMS Take 5. In this issue, we are pleased to highlight **Take 1, Follow Directions of Driver or Staff Member** – Listen respectfully when the bus driver speaks to you about safety, behavior, and seat assignments.

Seven buses earned a perfect score in the first round of our Take 5, demonstrating how to follow directions of the driver or staff member. We are proud of the respect they showed when the bus driver was speaking to them regarding safety, behavior, and seat assignments. **Congratulations to TVMS buses rolling with PRIDE: 127, 353, 767, 809, 863, 612, and 627.**

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

Grow Strong - Competing

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.

Ian Dailey, a student with the strength of competing, said, "I do not just try to win. I try to *better myself*." His words echo the attitudes of many people who have the strength of competing. People, especially talented in the competing strength, enjoy measuring their performance against that of others and have a great desire to win. However, like Ian expressed, winning doesn't always mean beating somebody else. Sometimes winning is just about being a better version of yourself and being better than you were yesterday.

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!

TVMS National History Day

The third annual Thomas Viaduct History Fair took place on Wednesday, February 8th. Students in Ms. Attridge's 8th grade GT U.S. History class presented their exhibits, papers, performances, documentaries, and websites to the judges. The students had been working since September with Ms. Attridge and Ms. Miller to research and create a National History Day project relating to this year's theme of "Taking a Stand in History." Participants did an outstanding job!

TVMS will be represented at the Howard County History Fair in March. Congratulations and all the best to the following students:

- **Individual Documentary:** Jalen Geason
- **Group Documentary:** Sasha Combellick, Siddharth Patil, Nathan Roy
- **Individual Exhibit:** Kristina McKirahan
- **Performance:** Rahul Sharma
- **Individual Website:** Marion Rochelle
- **Group Website:** Danielle Gilbert, Andrew Hardy, Jessica Rushe

News from the GT Film Institute

On Friday, February 16, 2017, thirty TVMS students attended a field trip to American University. These students represented Thomas Viaduct's Film Institute seminar.

The students met with American University professors and graduate students in small groups to present their ideas and receive feedback, as well and learn new filmmaking techniques. Following these sessions the students ate lunch in the University dining hall and took a tour of the campus.

The students had a great time and represented Thomas Viaduct Middle School well! Select films will be showcased at the Environmental Film Festival at AFI Theater in Silver Spring on Friday, April 22, 2017. These films will also be available to view at the Howling with PRIDE night on May 18, 2017.

Chorus News

On February 5th, five TVMS sixth grade students represented Thomas Viaduct as part of the Howard County Sixth Grade Honors Chorus. They joined sixth graders from across the County in presenting a fun and challenging concert at Centennial High School. We are proud of the diligence and hard work the students put forth since the fall in preparation for the concert. Please join me in congratulating the following students:

Kaelyn Baggett

Cameron Brewer

Brianna Burford

Nicholas Dang

Stephanie Okoma

PTA's Art Reflections

In October, students were encouraged to unleash their inner artist through the PTA's Reflections Arts Program theme, "What Is Your Story?"

Jordan Rumsey, 8th grade, and Yildiz Malik, 6th grade, were the winners in the Literature category. Yildiz Malik was also selected as the winner in the Visual Arts category. Both students were awarded gift cards for their entries and have advanced to the local PTA's Art Reflections competition. If selected on the local level, they will advance to the regional level of competition. We wish them the best of luck.

TVMS is proud of all our students who submitted an entry and grateful to Gina McGuinness for her efforts with the PTA's Reflections Arts Program.

PTSA News

TVMS PTSA meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., in the Media Center. Mark your calendar and plan to join us.

PTSA Quarter & Silent Auction: PTSA is holding their 3rd Annual Quarter and Silent Auction fundraiser event **on April 8th, 2017**. This is the most significant fundraising event for our school. Many of projects, events, and activities depend on this event's success.

Full details about the event can be found on the [PTSA Quarter Auction webpage](#). Donations are being sought based on themes and are needed at the school by March 15th. Donations may be given to the front office. Donation sign up can be found at <http://signup.com/go/RcRUyy>.

Please feel free to contact Becky at tvmsptsa.fundraising@gmail.com with any questions!

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

Future Hammond Football Players

There will be a parent and player meeting for rising Hammond Freshman who are interested in playing football at Hammond High School in the fall of 2017. We will be discussing off-season strength and conditioning, important dates, and answering any questions about the program. The meeting will be held in the Hammond High School Media Center at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22nd. We look forward to meeting the new members of the Hammond Football program!

For more information, contact Michael F. Lerner, Athletics and Activities Manager, at Hammond High School, 410.313.7605.

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>.

Congratulations to our newest recipient, Mr. Kyle Pottieger.

Maryland Leadership Workshops

Maryland Leadership Workshops presents "Journey," a week-long leadership experience designed especially to help young women in Howard County (currently in grades 7 or 8) with the transition to high school. Workshops and activities draw out innate leadership skills resulting in enhanced motivation and self-esteem. For more information, please visit www.mlw.org or join us at one of the information sessions at Hammond High School:

- Thursday, February 23rd at 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 25th at 1:30 p.m.

Scholarship funds are available.

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

Policy Corner - Grading and Reporting *(Policy 8010)*

1. Promotion

Students will be promoted from grade to grade based on successful achievement of the essential curriculum in the core subjects of English, reading, mathematics, social studies, and science. Successful achievement is measured by the grade level of "C" or better in these subjects in grades 3-8 and by a grade of "I" or "W" in grades 1-2. The principal may decide, upon recommendation of the school/grade level team, to promote students who have not achieved these grades in all core subjects.

2. Retention

1. Any K-8 student not on grade level in reading and mathematics will automatically be considered for retention.
2. Any student in grade 6 through grade 8 must meet the following requirements or automatically be considered for retention.
 1. Grade 6 to 7: A student must pass all courses and receive a final grade of not lower than "C" in the core subjects (English, social studies, reading, mathematics and science). A student who does not meet this requirement may be recommended to attend summer school.
 2. Grade 7 to 8: A student must pass all courses and receive a final grade of not lower than "C" in the core subjects (English, social studies, reading, mathematics and science). A student who does not meet this requirement may be recommended to attend summer school.

Grade 8 to 9:

1. A student must pass all courses and receive a final grade of not lower than "C" in the core subjects (English, social studies, reading, mathematics and science). A student who does not meet this requirement may be recommended to attend summer school.
2. Any student below grade level in reading and/or mathematics at the end of 8th grade (as shown on the student's report card) will be required to participate in appropriate interventions, based on academic need as determined by the middle school principal. Interventions may include summer school and/or designated reading and/or mathematics intervention courses in 9th grade.
3. A parent may request that a principal consider retention of a student based on factors that may not be evident in the grade level assessments.
4. The IEP team shall consider the possible retention of a diploma-bound special education student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
5. The provisions of this policy do not apply to a certificate-bound special education student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Tips for School Success – Tips for School Success: Review that Report Card

Pay careful attention to all progress reports, but particularly the first one—it will be coming soon if your child hasn't received it yet. You want to get help for any problem areas before your child falls too far behind. Ask your child's teacher how grades are determined and for suggestions on how your student can improve. Review grades and the teacher's comments with your child—always starting with something she's doing well, then pointing out areas that need attention, and ending with something positive again. For more tips on school success, please visit [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.