

TVMS Newsletter

March 17, 2017

Important Dates

- March 27-28** MISA Testing (8th Grade)
- March 29** 8th Grade Panoramic (rescheduled from March 15th)
- April 3-7** TVMS Spirit Week
- April 4** PTSA Meeting
- April 4** Spring Picture Day
- April 6** TVMS Spring Play: Alice @ Wonderland
- April 8-17** Spring Break
- April 27** TVMS Health and Wellness Night

A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

After an unseasonably warm winter, we had a surprise March snow day. As a result, our 8th grade panoramic photo is rescheduled for March 29th. We will keep you apprised of any additional date changes as well as the last school day for students once verified.

With spring assessments approaching later this month, I want to thank you for continuing to send your student to school on time, prepared to learn and do their best. The success of each student is truly a collaborative effort.

March is Music in the Schools Month. We are very proud of our vocal and instrumental music programs at Thomas Viaduct Middle School under the direction of Libbi Rivera, Chorus, Katie Hunt, Orchestra, and Courtney Niles, Band. All three provide our students with highly engaging programs. We are proud to announce our 7th and 8th grade orchestra students received a Superior rating for sight-reading and an Excellent rating for prepared music at their orchestra assessment on March 7th. Thank you to the entire school community for supporting our performing arts program at TVMS.

TVMS PRIDE will be on display in the days leading up to spring break. Students participating in Beyond the Wolf Den's play, *Alice @ Wonderland*, are in final preparation for opening night on April 6th. Students will also enjoy TVMS Spirit Week April 3 - 7 with a fun theme each day. More details will follow soon.

The year is advancing quickly and our students are meeting with personal success academically and behaviorally. As we move towards the last few months of the school year, please know how proud I am of the diligence and hard work our students show every day.

Regards,
Shiney Ann John, Principal

Yearbooks Are on Sale

Order the TVMS 2016-2017 yearbook featuring color photographs, which highlights the students and events celebrated throughout the year! Soft cover yearbooks start at \$25. Simply click on the link below to learn about all available options: paperback, hardcover, personalized, etc.

Preorder your yearbook today online at ybpay.lifetouch.com (yearbook ID code: 12257817). Orders will also be accepted in the front office.

Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA)

The Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA), replaces the MSA Science assessment from previous years for all eighth graders. Eighth grade students will test on the following days in March:

March 27 & 28 - (Periods 3, 4 & 5: 10:00 am – 12:45pm)

It is essential that all students come to school on time on testing days. We ask that you not schedule appointments or out of school visits on those days to limit the time your student is missing classes to make up the assessment(s) at a later date.

Please ensure your student receives a good breakfast on the days of the test as well as a good night's sleep the night before the assessment. Also, if your student wears eyeglasses or hearing aids, be sure they come to school with them during the days of testing. Encourage your student to feel relaxed and confident during the test.

As always, thank you for your support.

GT Course Placement Review Forms

Below, please find the new GT placement review forms, which will outline the process for parents to waive their child into a selected GT course(s). Please use the links below to access the forms. The links can be found on our school's website, and Student Services will also have hard copies available. All waiver forms should be returned by Monday, March 20, 2017.

[Rising 8th Grade Students](#)

[Rising 6th and 7th Graders](#)

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 expectations. In this issue, we are pleased to highlight “**Take 2, 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.

Ten buses demonstrated how to “Stay Seated” in the second round of our Take 5 initiative.

Congratulations to the following busses for rolling with PRIDE: 121, 127, 438, 612, 627, 729, 767, 863, 900, and 971.

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

TVMS Tech Corner: Latest News and Tips about Technology at TVMS and Beyond

This NEW addition to the TVMS newsletter is a place where you can find helpful tips and information about technology at school and in the hands of your student. Each installment will offer a different look at what our students encounter (and you as parents and guardians) in the ever-changing world of technology use.

TVMS staff know that it is important to educate our students about the world around them, especially in the digital world of social media, consumerism, and information in which they live. An excellent resource for parents and guardians who want more information about the latest issues and education surrounding all manners of technology is the website [Common Sense Media](#). Here you will find information, guidelines, and discussions on topics ranging from safe movies for kids to watch to the current research on the connection between screen time and your student's health. We will highlight issues from Common Sense Media from time to time as well as other useful sources.

Safe Online Talk

Safeguarding children from unwanted interactions and adult content in the digital world is a number one concern for most parents. While often the temptation is to block and/or filter content, there are effective communication and relationship strategies we have found as well that work for some families. Check out some tips from Common Sense Media [[Link](#)].

Tech Talk Thursdays

Do you need help accessing student academic information or communicating with staff using HCPSS technologies? Thomas Viaduct will now offer technology help sessions each month for parents/guardians and/or students who want assistance with HCPSS Connect, Canvas, Synergy, and other communication tools.

If your answer is yes, we want to welcome you to Tech Talk Thursdays on the following dates from 8:00 am to 8:30 am, and from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm:

March 23 rd	May 18th
April 20 th	June 8th

There is no need to call ahead, simply check in at the front office and come down to the Media Center. Tech Talk Thursdays will be run by Wendy McNeill (Media Specialist) and Keith Janelli (Instructional Technology Teacher) with assistance from Jose de la Mar, our Hispanic Achievement Liaison.

Looking forward to connecting with our families and creating a space to open up the conversation about HCPSS digital tools.

¿Necesita ayuda para acceder a la información académica del estudiante o para comunicarse con maestros usando las tecnologías de HCPSS? Thomas Viaduct ahora ofrecerá sesiones de ayuda tecnológica cada mes para padres, tutores y estudiantes que quieran ayuda con HCPSS Connect, Canvas, Synergy y otras herramientas de comunicación.

Si su respuesta es sí, queremos darle la bienvenida a Tech Talk los jueves en las siguientes fechas de 8:00am a 8:30am y de 3:00pm a 3:30pm:

23 de marzo	18 de mayo
20 de abril	8 de junio

No hay necesidad de llamar, simplemente ingrese a la oficina principal y luego vaya a la biblioteca de la escuela. Tech Talk será dirigido por Wendy McNeill (Especialista en Medios de Comunicación) y Keith Janelli (Profesor de Tecnología de Instrucción) con la asistencia de José de la Mar, nuestro Enlace para la Comunidad Hispana.

Esperamos conectarnos con nuestras familias y crear un espacio para abrir la conversación sobre las herramientas digitales de HCPSS.

Guidance Corner

Naviance

HCPSS middle and high school parents are invited to provide feedback on their use of the Naviance online college and career readiness system. All responses are voluntary, and the information collected will be shared with HCPSS school counselors. The survey is open until March 20th.

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

Grow Strong - Dependability

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 especially talented in the theme of dependability keep their promises and show a high level of responsibility. Seventh grade student, Chimaobi Chijioke, explained that having the strength of dependability, "allows people to trust me with anything." Similarly, his classmate, Jessica Annoh, said, "people depend on me to do the right thing." Friends and teachers of dependable students can always count on them to do all things with integrity.

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!

PTSA News - 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!

Howling with PRIDE – May 16th

Save the date! TVMS is proud to present our 2017 Howling with PRIDE night on Tuesday, May 16th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Please plan on joining us for this wonderful event that showcases outstanding student work completed this year. Throughout the evening, students will share highlights from the various activities done over the past year through exhibits, presentations, and interactive sessions. Come watch a live debate, view original student films, examine creative writing and photography, and much more. Come and see our talented students, stay connected to your student's school, and learn how your student can be involved.

This is designed as a family event; therefore, parents/guardians should plan to accompany their student. See the school [website](#) the week before the event for a complete schedule of activities.

News from the Health Room

Dental Clinic - The Chase Brexton Dental Clinic is scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 2017 at TVMS. Please contact Ms. Harris, TVMS Nurse, at 410-313-8714 or Cheryl_harris@hcpss.org with any questions.

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.

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.

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. Robert Stimmel**

Policy Corner – Student Dress Code (*Policy 9210*)

Student dress and appearance are the basic responsibility of students and their parents/guardians as long as they are consistent with the school system's responsibility to ensure that school environments are healthy, safe and conducive to student learning. It is a violation of this policy for any student to wear attire that interferes with the educational mission of the schools, is disruptive to the school environment, or that could endanger the health or safety of that student or others during school hours and school activities. This includes, but is not limited to, attire that:

- Unduly exposes or reveals skin or undergarments. This may include: tank tops; halter tops; top that are strapless, low cut, or expose the midriff; pants worn low or loose that expose skin or undergarments.
- Causes or is likely to cause a substantial or material disruption to school activities or the orderly operation of the school. This may include buttons, display bands, armbands, flags, decals or other badges of symbolic expression.
- Covers the head, including hats, sunglasses, bandanas, hoods and visors, or head coverings of any kind.
- Depicts profanity, obscenity, the use of weapons, or violence.
- Promotes use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal or harmful products.
- Promotes, implies or contains sexually suggestive messages.
- Depicts gang affiliation.
- Contains language or symbols that demean an identifiable person or group or infringe on the rights of others.
- Contains rude, disrespectful, or discourteous expressions inconsistent with civil discourse and behavior.
- May damage school property.

Attire worn for medical reasons or required in practicing a religious belief is permitted. Student attire will support a healthy and safe academic school environment.

Tips for School Success – Show Interest in Their Studies

Show interest in your child's studies by talking with them daily about what they are 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 information visit, the [website](#).

Building Resilience - Workshop for Parents on How to Support your Child's Emotional and Mental Health

Join local health professionals, community agencies, and guest speaker, child psychiatrist – Jeff Bostic, EdD, MD, for this incredible workshop for parents on Thursday, March 30, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd, Columbia, 21044.

Learn how youth and adolescents experience stress within today's culture and how to use resilience to support your child's social and emotional health and development. Attendees will receive mental health resources currently available within Howard County. Dinner, childcare, and interpretation services will be provided free of charge. Registration is required. For more information, see the [website](#).

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.