

### Upcoming Events:

October 9	Spirit Wear Orders Due
October 11	Watch D.O.G.S. Launch
October 12-13	MAP Testing (Reading)
October 12	Interims Issued
October 13	White Cane Day
October 18	Fall Picture Day
October 19	Denim and Diamonds Gala
October 19	Hispanic College & Career Readiness Night (7:00 – 8:30 p.m.)
November 1 – 3	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Education Field Trip

### A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

This is a busy time at TVMS. All HCPSS middle schools are administering the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP®) assessment to provide information on student instructional skill levels and growth over time. In order to gauge progress, MAP will be administered at TVMS to all students through math and reading classes in the Fall and then again in the Winter. Students completed the math portion today, and the reading portion will be administered on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. We ask that you try not to schedule appointments during your student's test time/day to avoid having to take your student from classes to make up the assessment. Also, please make sure your student gets a good night's rest, eats breakfast, and is ready to do their best on each testing day.

Middle school students enrolled in high school level courses (i.e., Algebra I, Algebra I GT, Geometry GT, and World Language in grade 8) may withdraw from the course until the published October 24<sup>th</sup> deadline date without receiving a "W" on their high school transcript. Students who withdraw after the date will receive a "W" on their high school transcript.

Reminder, interim reports will be issued on October 12<sup>th</sup>. As you discuss goals and areas of improvement with your student, please know your student's teachers are more than willing to discuss with you areas of concern. It is also a great time to help your middle school student get organized. We have included a Parent Corner in this newsletter edition with some suggestions to help your middle schooler in the area of organization.

The final three days of school are now early dismissal days for all levels. The Board made this change last week, and it differs from the printed calendars, which only have high schools ending 3 hours early on the second to last and third to last days. The HCPSS school calendar can be viewed at this [link](#).

Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders are in full preparation for the Outdoor Education field trip in November. I am truly grateful for the staff and parents who support the organization and implementation of our field trips. It is a community effort to make sure field trips are properly supported, so that students can truly be enriched and fully enjoy these activities. Parent support is vital to the success of all our programming.

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Hispanic Heritage month is celebrated September 15<sup>th</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to be celebrating the Hispanic heritage of our student population with a display in the Media Center featuring the many countries and nationalities that TVMS families represent. Information will also be shared on the morning news with students and staff.

The Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics has awarded the Mathematics Coach/Leader award to TVMS staff member, Melissa Waggoner. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Waggoner on this award.

TVMS is again highlighting "Pack Leaders of the Month" for each grade by discipline. TVMS acknowledges that all students display intrinsic strengths in multiple content areas, and these strengths need to be recognized. This recognition allows us to celebrate the individual strengths of thirty-nine students each month. We are excited to share the names with you in today's newsletter.

We are incredibly proud of all our TVMS students!

Regards,  
Shiney Ann John, Principal

### **Spirit Wear – Show Your TVMS Spirit – Due Monday, October 9th**

Students wishing to purchase spirit wear should return the order form and payment no later than Monday, October 9th to the front office. A copy of the order form is attached to this message.

### **Watch D.O.G.S. Launch – Pizza Night, October 11th**

Watch D.O.G.S.® is an innovative program focusing on education and safety in schools by using the positive influence of fathers and father-figures for a two-fold purpose:

- to provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating their presence that education is important
- to provide extra sets of eyes and ears to help provide a safe and nurturing environment for all students

On Wednesday, October 11, 2017, Thomas Viaduct Middle School will be hosting a launch party for the first annual "Watch D.O.G.S." Pizza Night. You are invited to meet in the school cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. for FREE pizza and refreshments. At 6:30 p.m., we will begin a presentation about our WATCH D.O.G.S.® (Dads Of Great Students) program.

Fathers, grandfathers, stepdads, father figures . . . this is your chance to spend a night with your student in a fun atmosphere at school! Come help us make a difference in your student's school life.

### **TVMS White Cane Day – October 13th**

On Friday, October 13th, the students and staff at TVMS will be celebrating White Cane Day by wearing white. National White Cane Day brings awareness for the blind community and their ability to travel independently.

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### **Picture Day – October 18th**

Reminder that Lifetouch Photography will be at TVMS to photograph students on **Tuesday, October 18th**. All students will need to be photographed for yearbook and administrative purposes, but only those submitting a completed order form to the photographer on picture day will receive a portrait package. Information on available packages and payment will be sent home with students on Tuesday, October 17th.

### **Hispanic Achievement: College & Career Readiness Presentation – October 19th**

A presentation will be conducted by José de la Mar, Hispanic Achievement Liaison, will be held on Thursday, October 19th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the TVMS Media Center. Letters with additional information will be sent home with students the week of October 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions, please contact Mr. de la Mar at 410-313-8912.

### **Denim and Dance Gala – October 19<sup>th</sup>**

The first dance of the year is around the corner. TVMS will be hosting the *Denim and Diamond Gala* on Thursday, October 19th. Permission slips went home with students last Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Students should return the permission form to their **1st period teacher** before morning announcements. There is no charge for the dance, but we do suggest a donation in support of the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. Suggested donation items are listed [here](#).

**Students will be able to turn in permission forms until 8:18 a.m. on October 19th.**

### **TVMS Food Drive to Benefit Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center**

Our timberwolves are howling back! Between October 2nd and November 22nd, students, staff, and families have the opportunity to participate in a food drive to benefit Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center.

Students may drop off food items in their first period teacher's classroom or in the front office. Parents may also bring food items to parent-teacher conferences in November. Requested items include canned foods (especially soup), sealed tea bags, sugar, coffee, powdered creamer, individual snack packs (for kid lunches), and cereal.

Thank you for your support.

### **Yearbooks Are on Sale – Discount Price Until January 31st**

Order the TVMS 2017-2018 yearbook featuring color photographs that highlights the students and events celebrated throughout the year! Soft cover yearbooks start at \$20; after January 31st, the price will increase to \$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](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com) (yearbook ID code: 12257818). Orders will also be accepted in the front office.

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## **TVMS Student Government Association**

Over the next few weeks, TVMS will begin the campaign process for the Student Government Association. Students are stepping up and participating in the election process by campaigning for SGA positions. We are very proud of all the students who ran for positions and showed everyone that they are true leaders. SGA is a place that showcases the strengths of students and focuses on elevating the student voice at TVMS. There are many opportunities for students to be involved in leadership and school activities at TVMS.

## **Student Delegate Opportunity**

Are you passionate about student leadership? Are you someone who wants to voice your opinions and make a difference? Do you want to be a part of making history? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are the right person to step up for the Student Delegate leadership opportunity.

This year, we are thrilled to introduce the first ever Student Member Convention where two candidates will be selected to run for the position of Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB). The SMOB serves alongside adult members of the Board of Education and advocates for the voice of the students. Your voice is needed!

Each middle and high school will select student delegates to attend the convention at Wilde Lake High School on April 18, 2018. Two candidates, who best amplify the voice of the students, will be selected to run for Student Member of the Board of Education.

To apply to be a delegate to represent our school, please let Mrs. John know you are interested in this leadership opportunity. All interested students must complete an application and ask two teachers to complete an evaluation form as part of the application package. Application packages may be found in the Front Office and are due to Mrs. John by November 30th, 2017. An application and evaluation sheet are attached to this message: [Application](#) and [Student Delegate Evaluation](#).

## **News from the Chorus Department**

Congratulations to Nicholas Dang, Jaylen McClinton, and Kaelyn Baggett! They will be representing Thomas Viaduct as part of the Howard County Middle School GT Chorus. Students must pass a rigorous audition process in order to be selected for this ensemble. The GT Chorus Performance will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, at Glenelg High School. All are invited to attend to show support for our students.

## **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 staff, 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](mailto:michelle_mackall@hcpss.org), or found online at the TVMS website, <http://tvms.hcpss.org/about/staff-award>.

Congratulations to our newest recipients:

Nikki Younger

Libbi Nixon

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## TVMS Chaperone / Volunteer Procedures

Thank you for your interest in volunteering within the Howard County School System! We value our volunteers and the contributions they make to our students and schools.

According to HCPSS Board Policy, all parent volunteers must complete a Confidentiality Training Course about protecting the privacy of our students, staff, and schools. Please complete this course before registering to volunteer at your child's school. The course takes about 5 minutes to complete.

To complete your training course and register with your child's school, please follow these three steps:

1. Complete the [Data Confidentiality Training](#).
2. Complete the [Child Abuse and Neglect Training for Parents](#).
3. Print and sign the [Parent Volunteer Verification Certificate](#)
  - Bring a printed and signed copy of the certificate to TVMS.

For more information, please see the [HCPSS website](#).

## 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.

This month we are highlighting: **DISCOVERER**

What can we do to help **DISCOVERERS** learn and grow through strengths' development? Discoverers are excited about exploring ideas and making connections. They are good at figuring out how things work. Questions are often in their minds: How does that work? Why did that happen?

In order to engage and encourage **DISCOVERERS**, ask your student questions:

- What is he or she working on in their classes?
- What is this person's favorite idea of the week?

Show interest in what this person is working on by watching, being inquisitive, or lending a "helping hand" when needed. *"We cannot teach people anything. We can only help them discover it within themselves."* - Galileo Galilei

Grow Strong makes 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!

## Safe School Zones Resolution

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At the September 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting, the Board of Education approved a [resolution](#) to support and protect the rights of all Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) students, regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

## PTSA

The next PTSA meeting is Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., in the Media Center. All are welcome, and we encourage your students to attend.

You can learn more about our PTSA at [www.tvmsptsa.org](http://www.tvmsptsa.org).

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

October - HCPSS Grading Policy Review Committee seeks student input on homework guidelines, class rank, use of pluses and minuses, percentage reporting of grades, and more. This is an opportunity for students to share their ideas and feedback directly with decision makers.

The next meeting is **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**. For more information please contact [cindy\\_drummond@hcpss.org](mailto:cindy_drummond@hcpss.org).

## Share Your Student Voice

All HCPSS students are invited to attend the Howard County Association of Student Councils' meetings every month, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, for 30 minutes before the meeting.

In addition, Howard County Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB), Anna Selbrede, will be holding an open forum at Homewood School on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. The forum is open to all HCPSS students to talk or to voice any questions or concerns. Refreshments will be provided!

For more information, email Anna Selbrede at [student\\_member@hcpss.org](mailto:student_member@hcpss.org).

## Winter Items Available For Families In Need

Howard County students and their families who are in need of winter coats and accessories will be able to obtain them on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the North Laurel Community Center and on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Long Reach High School.

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## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students: College & Career Opportunity Night: Empowerment Through Leadership**

The Black Student Achievement Program is offering a College & Career Opportunity Night on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m., at Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Road, Columbia, MD 21045. Omar Muhammad, Director of Entrepreneurial Development & Assistance Center, Morgan State University, will be the keynote speaker.

Highlights:

- College, Career, and Entrepreneur Representatives
- School Counselor One-to-One, 20-Minute Sessions
- Marching Band
- Focused Information Sessions

For updates, please visit [www.hcpss.org/schools/bsap/](http://www.hcpss.org/schools/bsap/).

## **Policy Corner - Discrimination (Policy 1010)**

The Board is committed to providing an educational and work environment that is free from discrimination, fosters equitable opportunities, and values diversity and commonality. To that end, the Board prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, physical or mental disability, age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation in its educational program, including co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and in the workplace.

Furthermore, the Board recognizes its responsibility to promote the worth and dignity of all individuals through curriculum, instruction, professional development, and resource selection. Employees and third parties share responsibility for the health, safety, and general welfare of students and for contributing to an environment free from discrimination.

It is a violation of this policy for any student, employee, or third party to engage in acts of discrimination in schools, school system offices, or at school-related activities. It is a violation of this policy to engage in retaliation with regard to allegations of discrimination. Violations of this policy are cumulative; subsequent offenses may affect the nature and severity of the consequences.

For a complete description of the policy, refer to the *Student & Parent Handbook 2017-18*.

## **Tips and Tools for Middle School Success - Organization**

Once your child reaches middle school, getting and staying organized becomes more important. Gone are the days of one classroom, one desk, and one teacher. Enter the world of changing classes, different teachers for each subject and having a locker for the first time.

The full article can be read [here](#) with tips and suggestions to help your student get organized in the following areas:

1. Lead By Example
2. Different Classes / Different Teachers
3. Learn to Use a Smartphone
4. Provide the Right Supplies
5. Find the Right Backpack
6. Organized Locker
7. Homework, Projects, Due Dates

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8. Extracurricular Activities

9. Monitor Results

### **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 September**

##### **8th Grade Students:**

ELA – Shashank Komakula  
Math – Kelsey-Jo Stephens  
Reading – Kiara Deleon  
Science – DeMario Drummond  
Social Studies – Nakya McNutt  
Art – Kaiya Wise  
FACS – Joey Polimeni  
Health – Laiba Bhatti  
Performing Arts – Flo Florentino  
Physical Education – Garrett Coleman  
Technology Education – Jordan Dehaven  
World Language – Sara Jones

##### **7th Grade Students:**

ELA – Rene Castro  
Math – Alixon Lopez-Martinez  
Reading – Savanna Velez  
Science – Juliana Dadurka  
Social Studies – Mackenzie Poole  
Art – Arshawn Pousti  
FACS – Landon Staruk  
Health – Nevaeh Toppins  
Performing Arts – Laiba Amer  
Physical Education – John Holden  
Technology Education – Travis Thompson  
World Language – Teresa Eru

##### **6th Grade Students:**

ELA – Ethan An  
Math – Glendys Florentino  
Reading – Jaide Keeling  
Science – Grace Adeyemi  
Social Studies – Anthony Cornejo  
Art – Lauren Kidd  
FACS – Elizabeth Marsh  
Health – Miriam Roy  
Performing Arts – Amma Atta-Poku  
Physical Education – James Clute  
Technology Education – Sofia Loveland  
World Language – Anthony Cornejo

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**Community News and Programs:** 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.

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