

TVMS WOLF PRIDE

Personal Responsibility | Respect | Integrity | Diligence | Excellence

Important Dates

- **2/16** Schools Closed
- **2/17** NAEP Testing - 8th Grade
- **2/18** TVMS Family Health and Wellness Night
- **3/2** Interim Progress Report
- **3/2, 3/3 & 3/10** PARCC Assessment for 8th graders
- **3/4, 3/5 & 3/10** PARCC Assessment for 7th graders
- **3/6, 3/9 & 3/10** PARCC Assessment for 6th graders
- **3/11** Spring Picture Day

From the Principal's Desk

Dear TVMS Families,

February has proven to be a very busy month. It is important that we acknowledge all students who have received 'honors' by earning their name on the honor roll, receiving student of the month recognition, and receiving positive accolades from staff. We also know that many of our students 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. Also, thank you to all the parents who participated in our parent conferences. Your collaboration with teachers is the key to your child's continued success.

We had a huge turn out at our parent information session on PARCC last week. Next month, we will administer the first part of the state mandated PARCC Assessment. Similar to MSAs, the test will be administered to students over the course of several days. The test sessions are computer based and students will have the opportunity to practice. In order to ensure the best possible testing experience for your child and maximize instructional time, I am requesting that all controllable absences be avoided during the full testing window. Specific dates for PARCC are detailed later in this newsletter.

This morning, 1100 positive comment sticky notes were waiting for students and staff as they entered the building. Notes were placed on each student locker and classroom door and the reaction on student faces was priceless. We are continuing to find ways to enhance the learning environment at TVMS and promote student engagement by capitalizing on student strengths and their goals.

Regards,
Shiney Ann John
Principal



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PARCC Assessment

Just a reminder that the new PARCC assessment is coming soon and your child will test on the following days in March:

March 2nd, 3rd & 10th	8th grade
March 4th, 5th & 10th	7th grade
March 6th, 9th and 10th	6th grade

It is essential that all students come to school on time on testing days. We ask that you schedule any appointments, outside of these testing dates.

Please encourage your child to eat a good breakfast on the days of the test, as well as get a good night's sleep before each testing day. Also, if your child wears eyeglasses or hearing aids, be sure that he/she comes to school with them during the days of testing. Testing can create mixed feelings in children. Please encourage your child to do their best and exude confidence during the test.

We hope you find today's PARCC link of the week valuable:
<http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC1-parents9-18-13.pdf>

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

We are pleased to notify you that Thomas Viaduct Middle School has been selected to represent schools across the nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subject areas. It is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from state assessments because it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results of NAEP are released as "The Nation's Report Card," which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public. **TVMS's NAEP assessment will be given on February 17.**

Policy Corner

Civility (Policy 1000)

The Board has set clear expectations for civil behavior that supports a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment on school property and at school-related activities.

Unacceptable behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Rude, insulting, or demeaning language and/or actions.
- Persistently unreasonable demands.
- Intrusive and/or interruptive behavior.
- Displays of temper.
- Harassment and intimidation.
- Threatening and/or abusive gestures and behavior.

Each individual is responsible for behaving in a civil manner and for cooperating in resolving incidents of uncivil behavior.

When resolution is not reached through cooperative agreement, either party involved may cite this policy and notify the other person that they are ending the conversation or the interaction and removing themselves from the situation by ending a phone call, walking out of the room, or requesting the other individual to leave the room.



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Tips for School Success

Schedule a Mid-Year Check In With the Teacher

Discuss your children's progress and how homework is going. And always reach out to teachers when important changes are happening in your family's life, such as the death of a relative, a move to a new home, or anything that might affect your children's behavior or performance at school—so the school staff can offer support as well. For more tips on school success, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/parents/countdown-success>.

Lost and Found

Please ask your student to check the lost and found on the cafeteria stage for missing items such as lunch bags, books, binders, and jackets. Parents are also welcome to check the table that will be set up during Student Conferences.

Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity on February 17th.

Message from Media

Encourage all students to return overdue media items.

Boxtops

TVMS PTSA will receive 10 cents for every box top that is submitted! A collection box is located in the cafeteria. Thank you for your support.

TVMS Family Health and Wellness Night

This is a Healthy Howard / Wellness Event for students, staff, and families to be held on Wednesday, February 18th, 6 - 7:30 p.m., in the TVMS gym and cafeteria. Enjoy healthy foods, games, and fitness. Mark your calendar now for this fun event!

Alpha Staff Members

Do not forget to nominate a favorite Thomas Viaduct Staff member for Alpha Staff. Eligible to be nominated are teachers, counselors, and office, custodial, and administrative staff. Staff can be nominated by students, parents, administrators, colleagues, or community members for excellence in the classroom and/or school community. Forms can be picked up in the Front Office, be requested via email, michelle_mackall@hcpss.org, or found online at the [TVMS website](#).

Congratulations to Our Newest Alpha Staff

Kelly McGrath

Catherine Ramis

Kathleen Quinn

Jessica Oburn

James Burns

Mike McMillion

Jennifer Nelson

Melanie Poknis

Yearbook

Be the first to order the TVMS Inaugural Yearbook full of beautiful color photos to celebrate the amazing year! Hundreds of photos will help preserve your memories of our 1st year together at TVMS. Simply click on the link below to check all of the available options (paperback, hardcover, personalizations, etc.) Save money by pre-ordering yours today online at ybpay.lifetouch.com (Yearbook ID Code 12257815).

If you order by March 6th, yearbooks are at a discounted price; after March 6th, the price will increase. Orders will also be accepted in the Front Office.





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Teen Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteer Opportunity from The Howard County Public Library Elkridge Branch Bookworm Around the World (in Spanish only)

Teen volunteers needed (must be 13 years old and a Howard County Public School student):

- Teen volunteers work with a Children's Instructor in classes at the Elkridge Branch
- Teen volunteers are never left alone with children

Your training includes how to:

- read a story in English, then the same story in Spanish to young children
- sing songs (about colors, counting and more) with young children
- play games in Spanish with colors, counting and more with children

Training sessions are individual to accommodate your schedule. How to apply:

For materials, training, and Student Service Learning Hours information contact the following at the Elkridge Branch:

- Deborah A. Bosilovich, Teen Instructor and Research Specialist 410 313-5092
- Carol Lundell, Children's Services Supervisor 410-313-5083

Thomas Viaduct Concert Choir

Students in the Thomas Viaduct Concert Choir had the opportunity to participate in the Hammond Choral Festival on Friday, January 30th. They sang with students from Patuxent Valley Middle School, Hammond Middle School, and Hammond High School. They also had the opportunity to speak with high school students about their experiences in music, as well as what other activities they enjoy in high school. The students were well-behaved and represented TVMS with Pride!!!

