

TVMS Newsletter

October 14, 2016

Important Dates

Oct. 16	HCPSS 5K / Fun Run
Oct. 21	Spirit Day – College Day (Support your favorite college or wear TVMS Spirit Wear)
Oct. 27	College & Career Readiness Presentation
Oct. 28	Spirit Day - “Pink Out” Day
Oct. 31	No School for Students
Nov. 1	Gifted and Talented Parent Information Night
Nov. 2 – 4	6 th Grade Outdoor Education Extended Field Trip
Nov. 4	End of Marking Period
Nov. 7	No School for Students
Nov. 8	School and Offices Closed
Nov. 11	Spirit Day: College Day
Nov. 15	Flu Shot Clinic
Nov. 21 – 23	Parent / Teacher Conferences
Nov. 24 – 25	Thanksgiving Break

A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

October continues to be a busy time at TVMS. We completed MAP testing this week and were very proud of our students' progress. It is hard to believe we are in the final few weeks of the first quarter. Please continue to encourage your student to strive towards excellence.

Please note that parent/teacher conferences will take place in November, but I encourage you to contact your child's teacher at any time to discuss areas of concern. The HCPSS Connect is your ticket to being an active participant in your student's academic progress. Connect is an online tool that allows you to monitor your student's progress in school. It gives you access to your student's grades and other information anytime and anywhere you have Internet access. Please create a routine for reviewing your student's grades regularly. This leaves little room for surprises and much room for accolades for a job well done. Each TVMS student also has access to his or her own account, which allows him or her the responsibility to monitor his or her own grades. This will truly help foster independence and ownership of their learning.

TVMS students and staff will enjoy the first Wolf Pride Celebration Day of the year on Friday, October 28th. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities. Students who have missing media books or referrals may be missing time from the activities.

In addition to the Wolf Pride Celebration, TVMS wants to be flooded in a sea of pink on October 28th in support of Susan G. Komen's mission to save lives and end breast cancer. We encourage all students and staff to dress in support of “Pink Out” Day.

We are still in need of the following missing items from some of our students: overdue media books, non-returned textbooks from last year, and completed Family Emergency Forms. If your child has to return any of these items, please encourage your child to bring them to school.

Regards,

Shiney Ann John, Principal

TVMS Phone Numbers – Hours 7:55 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Main Office
Student Services (Registration, Student Schedules, Guidance Counselors)
Health Room
Fax

410-313-8711
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College & Career Readiness Presentation

A presentation conducted by Elisa Montalvo, Hispanic Achievement Program Specialist, will be held on Thursday, October 27th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the TVMS Media Center. Letters with additional information were sent to families the week of September 26th. For a copy of the letter and flyer, we have attached to the email for your convenience.

Gifted and Talented Parent Night

Learn more about the Gifted and Talented Content classes, Curriculum Extension Units, and Instructional Seminars being offered at TVMS by attending the GT Parent Information night on Tuesday, November 1st, at 6:00 p.m. Allison Miller, our Gifted and Talented Resource Teacher, will share pertinent information and answer questions about current and future opportunities for TVMS students.

PTA's Reflections Arts Program

Thomas Viaduct Middle School and the TVMS PTSA are Excited to Participate!

This year's theme is "What Is Your Story?"

October is National Arts & Humanities Month, and we want to encourage your child to unleash their inner artist through the PTA's Reflections Arts Program!

Support your child's participation and increase their confidence. This year's theme, "**What Is Your Story?**", encourages students to think about who they are and what they want others to know about them.

Reflections Activity For Students

With your child/group of students, write a list of words and draw pictures of as many things that you think of that relate to one or more of the prompts below. Remember, there are no wrong answers. After five minutes, admire the list or pictures that you've created together, and use this as inspiration for your Reflections submission.

- Imagine you are having dinner with your favorite person of all time. What are all the things that you would want to share with this person about your life?
- Think about your first day of school. What did you tell your new classmates about yourself, or what didn't you tell them but wish they knew?
- Think about the most important day in your life. What does that day look like, sound like, smell like, feel like?

Looking for more information or need help getting started?

- For more info on how to participate, visit our new age <http://www.tvmsptsa.org/reflections/>.
- Contact Stephanie Cascone at tvmsptsa.vpr@gmail.com.
- Submission Due Date: **November 30, 2016**, in the TVMS Media Center.

TVMS School Spirit

TVMS students are invited to participate in Spirit Days and show their TVMS enthusiasm:

- October 21st College Spirit Day
- October 28th "Pink Out" Day

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HCPSS 5K / 1-Mile Fun Run

The Howard County Public School System presents "Let's Go HoCo - HCPSS Community 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run!" The event is on Sunday, October 16th, with an 8 a.m. start, for the 1-Mile Fun Run and an 8:15-8:17 a.m. start for the 5K at Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD.

This event brings together HCPSS students, families, and staff, as well as all members of our community, to celebrate a Healthy Howard County.

For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.hcpss5k.com/home.html>.

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, October 19th. For more information please contact cindy_drummond@hcpss.org.

PTSA

The next PTSA meeting is Tuesday, November 1st, at 6 p.m., in the Media Center. The PTSA is a great way to get involved in your student's school experience, learn what is happening at TVMS, discover great resources, help make positive changes, and be a role model for your child. Support for the PTSA fundraisers is greatly appreciated:

You can learn more about our PTSA at www.tvmsptsa.org. You can join the PTSA Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/gropus/tvmsptsa/> as well.

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>.

Howard County College Fair

On Sunday, October 16, from 1 to 3 p.m., Howard Community College will host a college fair in the Howard County Community College Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, 21044. Parents and students of **all** ages are invited to meet representatives from more than 150 colleges and universities from throughout the region and nation. Breakout sessions include financial aid, college essay writing, and the college application process.

Please go to the [website](#) for more information and to view participating colleges.

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Policy Corner - Civility (Policy 1000)

The Board has set clear expectations for civil behavior that supports a safe, engaging, and supportive 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

For a complete description of policies, refer to the *Student & Parent Handbook 2016-17*.

Tips for School Success - Civility

Practicing good manners relates to a student's personal behavior. Saying "please" and "thank you," letting others go first, and sharing when necessary are all examples of proper actions at the personal level.

Civility comes to life when we think beyond the personal and push outward to others. A few examples:

- Expecting students to show respect for others in the classroom and beyond.
- Being willing to listen to others as they share their views.
- Being considerate and practicing restraint when criticizing the beliefs and choices of other people.

Many people think civility applies only to behavior, but the word itself points to a larger meaning. Looking beyond your classroom, civility is important to teach as it speaks to the idea that we all belong to something larger than ourselves.

Instead of merely focusing on the idea of a child controlling their behavior to please their teachers, instead help the students see themselves as part of a greater good.

For more information, see 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.

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