

TVMS Newsletter

September 2, 2016

Important Dates

Sept. 5	Schools and Offices Closed – Happy Labor Day
Sept. 12	School Closed for Students
Sept. 14	Spirit Wear Order Deadline
Sept. 15	Back-to-School Night
Oct. 4	Fall Student Pictures
Oct. 16	HCPSS 5K / Fun Run

A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

Students and staff at TVMS have settled into the new school year comfortably. We have had the pleasure of welcoming 640 young timber wolves this week. We are dedicated to fulfilling the incredible responsibility of nurturing and encouraging your children so they reach their academic potential.

HCPSS Connect is your ticket to being an active participant in your child's academic progress. HCPSS Connect allows you to access the Canvas Learning System, an online tool that allows you to monitor your child's progress and update their Family Emergency Form. It gives you access to your child's grades, teacher emails, and other information anytime and anywhere you have Internet access. Please create a routine for looking at your child's grades regularly. Set academic goals and give accolades for a job well done.

In order to ensure the safety of all students and staff, TVMS requires parents and visitors to check in with the front office staff immediately upon entering the building. We will be very happy to help you and direct you to the resources you require. Please note, picture identification is required for early release of a student.

Collaborating with you ensures your child's success. We are truly partners in your child's academic future. The year is off to a great start, largely due to the strong collaboration we have with students and their families. Thank you, in advance, for all you do to promote your child's bright future.

We are fortunate to be supported by such a generous and dedicated PTSA. TVMS staff would like to thank the PTSA Sunshine Family, the Howards, family of students Jady and Morgan Howard, for the treats that awaited our staff this morning.

Regards,

Shiney Ann John, Principal

Back-to-School Night

Thomas Viaduct's Back-to-School Night will be held on Thursday, September 15th. Please plan on joining us for this informative night regarding the academic school year and upcoming events at TVMS. A schedule for the evening will be sent next week.

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
410-313-8247
410-313-8714
410-313-8091

HCPSS Family Emergency File Form – Please Complete

If you have not completed the Family Emergency File Form, we are asking you to make that a priority. **The Family Emergency Form must be completed each school year. Even if your child's emergency contact is the same as last year, we need you to go into your child's account and either update or confirm his/her emergency information.** Thank you to the families who have already updated/confirmed their child's emergency contact information in Family File.

Login to HCPSS Connect and select the Family File tab to review and, if needed, update your child's emergency contact, medical, arrival/departure information, and your preferences regarding data confidentiality.

User guides for HCPSS Connect account activation and password reset, as well as Family File can be found in Guides.

NOTE: You must have a valid HCPSS Connect username and password to access the Family File.

If parents/guardians forget their passwords, they can have HCPSS Connect email them a temporary password.

1. On the HCPSS Connect website, click the HCPSS Connect Login button.
2. Click the Parent/Guardian Forgot Password link.
3. Enter the email address used at the time of registration.
4. Click the Send Email button.
5. The parent/guardian will receive an email with a temporary password and a link to login.
6. The parent/guardian will click on that link and use the email address used at the time of registration and the temporary email to gain access.

If you have forgotten your username and password or if you experience any issues completing the Family File, please submit your issue using the Help feature on the HCPSS Connect page at: <http://www.hcpss.org/connect>.

Student Services

Our Student Services department consists of a school psychologist, pupil personnel worker, data clerk, secretary and two counselors. Our counselors are divided according to grade and/or student surname.

Please do not hesitate to contact them regarding schedules, registration, change of address, or student concerns.

Counselor, Ashley Harig – 6th Grade Students and 7th Grade Students (Last Names A – K)

Counselor, Nicole Raines – 8th Grade Students and 7th Grade Students (Last Names L – Z)

School Psychologist, Ann Marie Kasuda

Pupil Personnel Worker, Neil Gwinn

Secretary, Nicole Nicholson

Data Clerk, Katelyn Trinite

TVMS Spirit Wear

Support Thomas Viaduct Middle School and promote school spirit by purchasing spirit wear. Order forms will be accepted through Wednesday, September 14th. Clothing samples and hard copies of the order forms are in the front office.

Click <http://tvms.hcpss.org/messages/tvms-fall-spirit-wear> for more information and to access an order form.

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Bus Information

Each school year, it takes a week or two for bus arrival and departure times to be completely adjusted. Please bear with the Department of Transportation as they make changes and refine schedules. Please ensure your student arrives at their designated bus stop **10 minutes before their scheduled pick-up time.**

PTSA

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. You can learn more at the first PTSA meeting on Tuesday, September 6th, 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. You can join the PTSA Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/gropus/tvmsptsa/> as well.

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>.

Tips for School Success – Attendance

Good attendance benefits your child's education. Students who miss a day of school not only miss instruction but also must make up work and catch up with the new material at the same time. Try to schedule doctor and dentist appointments on early release days, school holidays, or at the beginning or end of the school day to limit missed instruction. If you learn there are reasons why your child does not want to come to school, please contact your school counselor so that the underlying issue can be addressed.

Policy Corner

HCPSS policies will be shared with students, parents, and staff through various forms of communication such as TVMS newsletters, announcements, and printed handouts. For a full review of policies, please refer to pages 23 through 30 in the Middle School Student Code of Conduct and Related Policies packet or the *Student and Parent Handbook 2016-17*, which were sent home with your youngest or only student on Monday, August 29th. You may also choose to click on the Handbook [link](#) on the HCPSS website.

Policy 9230, Alcohol, Other Drugs, Prescription Medication and Over the Counter Products, is highlighted in this newsletter.

The possession, use, or distribution of alcoholic beverages and other drugs on school premises or at school-related or school-sponsored activities is prohibited. Prescription medication and over-the-counter products require written medication orders and are to be administered in accordance with school system Health Services procedures. Legal searches and seizures related to this policy may be conducted on school property. Confidentiality is guaranteed for students who seek counseling for drug or alcohol abuse problems.

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For a first offense, a student found using or in possession of alcoholic beverages or other drugs will be suspended from school for not more than 30 school days and will be suspended from attendance at, participation in, and practice for, all extracurricular and school activities for 30 school days. Exclusion from commencement exercises is only applicable if it occurs during the suspension from school. The student will be referred for mandatory counseling in a licensed addictions program.

A second offense results in a suspension of up to 45 school days and suspension from attendance at, participation in, and practice for all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the current semester and the next consecutive semester. Exclusion from commencement exercises is only applicable if it occurs during the suspension from school. The student will be referred for mandatory counseling in a licensed addictions program.

A third violation results in expulsion.

Possession or use of prescription medication or over-the-counter products in the absence of, or inconsistent with, a written medication order, will result in a suspension of not more than 30 school days for a first offense. A school administrator may consider a lesser consequence than suspension under certain circumstances.

A second offense may result in suspension from school for not more than 30 school days and from attendance at, participation in, and the practice for, all extracurricular and school-related activities for 30 school days. The student may be referred for mandatory counseling in a licensed addictions program. A lesser consequence can be considered based on the consequence for the first offense.

A third offense may result in a suspension of not more than 45 school days and suspension from attendance at, participation in, and practice for all extracurricular and school-related activities for the remainder of the current semester and the next consecutive semester. The student may be referred for mandatory counseling in a licensed addictions program. Consequences for a third offense are also dependent on the consequences assigned for the first two offenses.

Students who distribute or intend to distribute alcohol or other drugs on school property will be suspended from school for not more than 45 school days or expelled. If suspended, the student also will be suspended from attendance at, participation in, and practice for all extracurricular and school-related activities for the remainder of the semester and the next consecutive semester. The student will be referred for mandatory counseling in a licensed addictions program.

A second violation results in expulsion.

A school administrator may consider a lesser consequence than suspension if the student distributes an over-the-counter product that can be clearly identified. If this condition is not met, the administrator will suspend the student for not more than 45 school days.

A second offense results in a suspension for not more than 45 school days and suspension from attendance at, participation in, and practice for all extracurricular and school-related activities for the remainder of the semester and the next consecutive semester. The student will be referred for mandatory counseling in a licensed addictions program.

Subsequent violations will result in suspension of not less than 45 school days or expulsion. If suspended, the student also will be suspended from attendance at, participation in, and practice for all extracurricular and school-related activities for the remainder of the semester and the next consecutive semester. The student will be referred for mandatory counseling in a licensed addictions program.

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