

TVMS Newsletter

November 6, 2015

Important Dates

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| Nov. 9 | Report Cards Issued |
| Nov. 11 | Super Hero Day |
| Nov. 12 | Dental Clinic |
| Nov. 16 – 20 | American Education Week |
| Nov. 19 | “Grow Strong” Program |
| Nov. 23 – 25 | Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| Nov. 23 – 24 | Early Dismissal – Schools Close 3 Hours Early |
| Nov. 25 | School Closed for Students |
| Nov. 26 – 28 | Thanksgiving Break |
| Nov. 30 – Dec. 4 | Spirit Week at Chick-fil-A Arundel Mills |
| Dec. 12 | Fall Picture Make-Up Day |
| Dec. 14 | FluMist (Tentative Date) |

A Note From the Principal

November provides the perfect month to highlight the value of partnering with parents. Parent connection is one of the most valuable indicators of success in a student's life. We are looking forward to having many parents visit TVMS this month. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for November 23rd through 25th. We are also inviting parents to experience a day in the life of your middle school child by visiting some of your child's classes during American Education Week from November 16th through 20th. As always, thank you for being valuable partners in your child's academic success.

Report cards will be issued on Monday, November 9th. First quarter student progress provides a base to set future goals with your child and will help guide discussions with your child's teachers during conferences.

I also want to send out a special thank you to all our parent chaperones that helped with our grade-level fields trips during the first quarter. The help and support of our families allows us to open up many more real-world learning opportunities for our students.

Please help me welcome Ms. Kameron Clark to the TVMS family. Ms. Clark will be serving as a long-term sub in the Student Services Department. We are happy to have her join our team.

Regards,
Shiney Ann John, Principal

Parent/Teacher Conferences

We look forward to seeing many of you during the Parent/Teacher Conferences scheduled for November 23rd – 25th. When you enter the building, we will have a table set up with schedules for your conferences. The staff member on duty will be glad to assist you and provide a map of our building. Instructions to sign up for conferences can be found [here](#).

TVMS Phone Numbers

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

410-313-8711
410-313-8247
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American Education Week

Parents and guardians are invited to attend any of their student's classes during American Education Week, November 16 through 20. Please bring your I.D. with you to sign in using LobbyGuard. We look forward to your visit that week!

Federal Impact Aid Survey Forms

Federal Impact Aid Survey forms went home with students on Friday, October 30th. HCPSS will receive funds from the federal government to operate and maintain our schools and enrich our school programs for students enrolled in the HCPSS prior to the deadline and parents are employed on federally owned property in the State of Maryland or are an active duty member of the military anywhere in the world. If these criteria apply to your family, please complete the form and have your student return no later than November 13th.

Leadership Opportunity for Middle School Students

HCASC invites all middle and high school students interested in leadership with a purpose to participate in our unique student-run monthly meetings the second Wednesday of every month.

- Learn leadership skills and best practices
- Discuss current events impacting students in HCPSS
- Explore ways to make a difference in their schools and communities
- Have fun!

Come see what 100 student leaders, athletes, and artists, who meet each month, already know- HCASC is for students who want to get involved and work together to make their schools and HCPSS as strong as possible.

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 11th, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Homewood School, 10914 MD-108, Ellicott City, MD 21042. For more information, contact cindy_drummond@hcpss.org.

Naviance

Throughout the school year, students are learning about their strengths' themes and how to use their strengths towards personal success and goals. Although students have each of these strengths within themselves, certain themes have been identified as their top three strengths. Each month we will be highlighting one of 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: **CARING**

Students especially talented in the CARING theme enjoy helping others. They have a big heart. They feel good when they reach out and help people. They are the friend that includes others. When someone feels left out, they help him or her be part of their group. It is easy for them to encourage people, share with them, and help them learn. They know they have something to offer other people. Even the smallest kind deed is important in people's everyday lives. Whether they help in big or small ways, they can make a difference. People count on them to be kind, thoughtful, and caring.

We look forward to "GROWING STRONG" together this school year!

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Grow Strong

TVMS families are invited to join staff on Thursday, November 19, at Thomas Viaduct Middle School for our Grow Strong program. A pizza dinner will take place from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Following dinner, students will share how they put their unique strengths into action at school and in their daily lives. A flyer went home with students today with information and registration.

Spirit Week at Chick-fil-A

See which school REALLY has the most spirit. Come out and support Thomas Viaduct Middle School during Spirit Week! Twenty percent of net proceeds will go to the school. Be sure to tell your cashier! See you soon!

Chick-fil-A Calendar Fundraiser

Get your Chick-fil-A 2016 calendar for \$9.54 Enjoy the monthly treat. They make great gifts and support the TVMS Fundraiser. Please let the Front Office know if you would like to purchase one.

TVMS Pride Day – Superhero Day

Students are invited to dress as their favorite superhero on Wednesday, November 11th. It can be military, police, firefighter, or favorite animated hero.

Lost and Found

Please have your student check lost and found for missing items. Tables with items will also be set up at the Parent/Teacher Conferences. Any items not retrieved will be donated to a charity on Wednesday, November 25th.

News from the Health Room

Attention 6th grade Parents/Guardians

****IMPORTANT – NEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS****

The State of Maryland now requires 1 dose of Tdap vaccine and 1 dose of Meningococcal vaccine for **all students entering Grade 7.**

The vaccinations are now part of your child's 11-year-old well visit. Please contact your child's doctor to administer these required vaccinations, and send/fax an **updated** copy of your child's immunizations to the Health Room. Our fax # is 410-712-6050.

If you have questions, please call Thomas Viaduct Middle School at 410-313-8714 to speak to Stacy McLean, School Nurse.

Alpha Staff

Have a TVMS staff member who is making a difference? Please nominate them for Alpha Staff. Eligible to be nominated are teachers, counselors, office, custodial, and administrative staff. Students, parents, administrators, colleagues, or community members can nominate staff for their excellence in the classroom. Forms may be picked up in the Front Office, requested via email at michelle_mackall@hcpss.org, or found online at the TVMS [website](#).

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Pack Leaders of the Month

TVMS is approaching the traditional concept of Student of the Month differently. Students and families may not be familiar with this approach to recognizing student leadership, but TVMS realizes students display strengths in one or more of the academic areas and is focused on capitalizing on 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 October

8th Grade Students:

ELA – Caroline Willis
Math – Ryan Harris
Reading – Da Raw
Science – Au'Bria Clemons
Social Studies – Mallory Zeleznik
Art – Laila Carroll
FACS – Makayla Wagner
Health – Emily Polimeni
Performing Arts – Daivat Patel
Physical Education – Sophie Okoma
Technology Education – Caleb Ray
World Language – Kaylee Samuel

7th Grade Students:

ELA – Danielle Gilbert
Math – Mang Iang
Reading – Penelope Ta
Science – Rosemary Tuffour
Social Studies – Bawi Par
Art – Maya Morgan
FACS – Valentina Rico Cervant
Health – Hannah Watanabe
Performing Arts – Jessalyn Velazquez
Physical Education – Lynise Thompson
Technology Education – Dev Amin
World Language – Saim Rizvi

6th Grade Students:

ELA – Katelyn Denbow
Math – Reilly Williams
Reading – Nadia Aslam
Science – Jeffrey Gunthorpe
Social Studies – Jelani Omolade
Art – Jiselle Magana-Lopez
FACS – London Davis
Health – Briangela Strull
Performing Arts – Nikolas Masteller
Physical Education – Toby Moser
Technology Education – William Nichols
World Language – Jessica Ortiz-Cortes

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Policy Corner - Student Discipline (Policy 9200)

Effective July 1, 2014, Policy 9200 has been revised to reflect changes to the Code of Maryland Annotated Regulations as they relate to Student Discipline 13A.08.01.11. Updates to Policy 9200, Student Discipline, will be applied in the implementation of the Student Code of Conduct.

The Board of Education recognizes that student discipline regulations should reflect a continuum of progressive discipline and a rehabilitative discipline philosophy with the goals of fostering, teaching, and acknowledging positive behavior and should be designed to keep students connected to school so that they may graduate college and career ready.

Student behavior is the shared responsibility of the school, the student, and the home. The professional staff at a school has the responsibility for taking appropriate action when a student is involved in a situation that is not conducive to a safe, engaging, and orderly environment.

Disciplinary consequences should be progressive in nature and designed to change inappropriate behavior, encourage responsible actions, and promote the development of self-discipline. The student has the right to due process. The Board of Education has approved the following forms of discipline:

- **Alternative Educational Setting** – A setting outside of the home school designed to accommodate the needs of students who have demonstrated the need for significant academic or behavioral support.
- **Detention** – The placement of a student in a non-standard, supervised setting during the school day, before or after school or on Saturdays.
- **Restricted Access** – Limitation of a student's presence on school property.
- **Suspension** – The denial of a student's right to attend regular classes or school for a specified period of time for cause. Suspension includes extended suspension, in school suspension, short-term suspension, or long-term suspension.

For a complete description of the policy, refer to the *Student & Parent Handbook 2015-16*.

Tips for School Success

Parent-teacher conferences are not just for parents who have concerns about their child in the classroom. These meetings provide an opportunity for parents to partner with teachers in providing a good learning experience for children. Here's how to strengthen that partnership at your child's parent-teacher conference:

1. **Prepare for the conference.** Keep a folder with tests, papers, or any other topics you want to address. Do your research by talking to your child; find out how she is doing in class, where his/her strengths are and what areas they may need help in for the future.
2. **Be aware of the conference start and end times.** Be a few minutes early in order to maximize your conference time. Try to let the school know ahead of time if you will need to cancel or reschedule.
3. **Work together.** Purpose to partner with your teacher by being a team player. Celebrate areas of strength and approach areas of concern the teacher raises with the attitude of "We have to work together on this problem."

For more tips on school success, please visit the [website](#).

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Tween Club

Calling all tweens! There's a new club in town! Join us for fabulous activities that are sure to excite.

Howard County Library, Elkridge Branch
6540 Washington Boulevard, Elkridge, MD 21075
Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Ages 9-12

Nov. 10 Just Dance and other Wii Games
Nov. 24 Egg Drop Strawbees Engineering Challenge

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