

TVMS Newsletter

November 20, 2015

Important Dates

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

A Note From the Principal

Yesterday evening, we had over two hundred people attend our first Grow Strong Parent Night. Students, parents and staff came together to celebrate an evening that showcased student strengths. The student driven program highlighted how individual students utilize their strengths to be their best selves at TVMS. Some of the focus aspects included:

- ❖ Integrate common language within our school
- ❖ Capitalize on the areas in your life that generate energy
- ❖ Utilize strengths as a personal development tool

We are grateful for the support of our PTSA, the Josephine B. Scheffenacker Education Trust and Green Valley Marketplace. The evening is another example of what can be done when everyone in the TVMS family commits to grow strong together.

It was excellent seeing so many of you this week during American Education Week. The staff enjoyed having you visit, and we were pleased to see so many parents experience the excellent instruction and nurturing environment. We are proud of the connection we have created with students and families at TVMS.

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 through 25th. Please bring a copy of your conference schedule with you. When you enter the building, a staff member on duty will be glad to assist you and provide a map of the building.

Please note, today is the last day to register for conferences at HCPSS Connect.

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
410-313-8714
410-313-8091

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**

What can parents/guardians do to help their CARING student learn and grow through strengths development? "Catch" your student being helpful. Acknowledge and affirm his or her helpful actions. Tell them how his or her caring talents make the world a better place for everyone. Honor the power of caring. Talk with them about how helping is part of your own daily life. Share formal and informal ways you help in the workplace, home, school, or community. These conversations will spark his or her thinking about everyday ways to help. What are some classroom, school, club, community, or church projects that could use their caring talents? How could they actively help? Can you or another adult facilitate an opportunity to help? Brainstorm with him or her about these and other opportunities, including:

- tutoring another student
- volunteering at a nursing home
- helping to coach a younger sports team
- cleaning up a neighborhood park
- volunteering at the animal shelter
- taking part in a mitten, coat, or canned food drive

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

Federal Impact Aid Survey

Forms were distributed to students with report cards. Parents who are employed on federal property in Maryland or are active duty military personnel are encouraged to fill out a survey for each child in the household. HCPSS is eligible to receive federal funds based on the number of surveys returned.

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.

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.

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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](#).

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.

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Tips for School Success

Motivation

Most children say they want to do well in school, yet many still fail to complete the level of work necessary to succeed academically. The reason is often motivation. Tapping into your child's interests is a great way to get him geared to do well in school.

Tips to help motivate your child:

- Link school lessons to your child's life. If he's learning percentages, ask him to figure out the price of a discounted item next time you shop.
- Link your child's interests to academics. If he's passionate about music, give him books about musicians and show how music and foreign languages are connected.
- Give your child control and choices. With guidance, let him determine his study hours, organizing system or school project topics.
- Encourage your child to share his expertise. Regularly ask him about what he's learning in school.
- Congratulate your child, encourage him and celebrate all his successes.

Often what holds children back from trying is the fear of failure or the memory of a time they didn't do well. You can help break this cycle by celebrating your child's successes, no matter how small, and by giving him opportunities to succeed academically. For more tips on school success, please visit [the website](#).

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. 24

Egg Drop Strawbees Engineering Challenge

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