

# TVMS Newsletter

## December 4, 2015

### Important Dates

<b>Dec. 10</b>	Interim Report Cards Issued
<b>Dec. 14</b>	FluMist
<b>Dec. 17</b>	TVMS Winter Concerts at Hammond High School
<b>Dec. 18</b>	TVMS Pride Day: Winter Wear Day
<b>Dec. 23</b>	Spelling Bee
<b>Dec. 24 – Jan. 3</b>	Winter Break

### A Note From the Principal

The Howard County Board of Education requested Thomas Viaduct to present their infusion of “Grow Strong” and how student strengths are used to influence culture at TVMS. Ashley Harig, School Counselor, Becky McKirahan, TVMS President, and Darlene Kessie, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, spoke on behalf of “Grow Strong” and how they incorporate their strengths.

We live in a world surrounded by technology. We know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly depend on understanding how technology works. But only a tiny fraction of us are learning computer science, and fewer students are studying it compared to a decade ago.

Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, Lillian M. Lowery, has challenged all Maryland public schools to provide every student with a computer coding experience and to integrate computing into coursework to teach content in new and exciting ways. We are excited to share that TVMS students will participate in an Hour of Code in their math class on December 7, 8, or 9.

The Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify computer programming and show that anyone can learn the basics. The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries, and we are proud to host it at Thomas Viaduct. Please visit <https://code.org/learn> to learn more about it.

For our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, Articulation meetings for the 2016 school year have already started. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin working on their high school registrations in the next couple of weeks with teachers and counselors.

Regards,  
Shiney Ann John  
Principal

### TVMS Phone Numbers

Main Office  
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Health Room  
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## Leadership with a Purpose

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 it can be.

The next meeting, "Pay it Forward," is Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 toward 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: **COMPETING**

Students especially talented in the COMPETING theme enjoy measuring their performance against that of others and have a great desire to win. Winning first place is their goal in any contest they feel is worth their time. If there is no one to compete against, they compete against themselves to do more or accomplish a goal faster or better. They can be competing against someone else even when that person doesn't know it. Because they hate to lose, they might get angry, upset, or even cry. It does not matter if others think the contest is important. If they are doing it, they want to be number one. Others look to them for the motivation to win.

Stay tuned! In our next newsletter, we will provide COMPETING action items for adults. We look forward to "GROWING STRONG" together this school year!

## Hammond High Introduction Night

Attention all parents/guardians of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students attending Hammond High School in the 2016-2017 school year, learn about your child's transition to high school next year from Hammond High School's Administrative Team, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor, PTSA, Boosters, BSAP Liaison, Hispanic Achievement Liaison, International Liaison, student group sponsors, and current students. Topics include academics, support programs, and extracurricular activities.

There are two opportunities to attend.

- **Patuxent Valley Middle School** - Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- **Hammond Middle School** - Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

## Hammond High Scheduling Night

Please join us at Hammond High School on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., learn about high school academic requirements, the course selection process, and meet with teachers about specific courses.

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## **Military Information Night**

River Hill High School will be hosting a countywide Military Information Night on Thursday, March 17, 2016, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The program will take place in the cafeteria and media center. Representatives from the five United States Military Academies, private and state sponsored military colleges, enlistment recruiters, ROTC, and the Howard County JROTC programs at Atholton, Howard, and Oakland Mills will be present and will be manning tables to distribute information. In addition, representatives of Congressional offices will be on hand to discuss the nomination process for the Military Academies. We will also have representatives of the Military Academies discussing their application processes.

## **From the Music Department**

### **Upcoming Winter Concerts**

Please join us for our Winter Concerts to be held at Hammond High School on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy the talents of our students in chorus, band, and orchestra.

### **News and Recognition**

The Thomas Viaduct Concert Choir participated in the Hammond High School Choral Festival today. They joined Patuxent Valley Middle School, Hammond Middle School, and Hammond High School in a performance and workshop for the piece, *Carrickfergus*. The experience was a great opportunity for students to learn about high school music opportunities and to network with other students in the Hammond-cluster community.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Karina Joseph participated in the Howard County G/T Chorus at Wilde Lake High School. In addition, four students were nominated and will participate in the 6th grade Honors Chorus: Karley Wines, Leoul Zekarias, Trinity Key, and Arianna Smith. The Honors Chorus concert will be in February.

And we are proud to announce the following students have been selected by competitive audition for the All-County Ensembles:

- Jalen Geason, Howard County Middle School Gifted and Talented Band
- Nathan Howard, Howard County Middle School Honors Band
- David Liv, Howard County Middle School Honors Band
- Tristan Stepniak, Howard County Middle School Honors Band

## **From the Art Department**

### **Eighth Grade Art Showcase**

The HCPSS Eighth Grade Art Showcase will be on display at the Department of Education Gallery from December 7, 2015 through February 1, 2016 (the gallery is closed December 24th through January 1st and on January 18th). Six TVMS artists will be featured in this exhibition: Aziza Barry, Laila Carroll, Stevie Dolce, Maurine Kallon, Jeffrey Mejia Marroquin, and Sui Par have sculptures on display! Check it out!

### **Student's Artwork Displayed at the Walter's Art Museum**

Congratulations to Briyana Sanchez! Her artwork was displayed at the Walter's Art Museum in the HCPSS "Honoring the Process Exhibition." Briyana's magazine paper collage depicting a tropical bird was part of a selection of K-12th grade student artwork highlighting the creative problem solving, experimentation, and idea generation process of art making.

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## TVMS Fundraiser – Cold Stone Creamery

Following TVMS's Winter Concert at Hammond High School on December 17<sup>th</sup>, plan to enjoy some ice cream at Cold Stone Creamery, 7645 Arundel Mills Blvd., Hanover, MD (near the Arundel Mills Mall). Cold Stone will donate 15% from orders to TVMS. Just bring the concert program, place an order, and ENJOY!

## Toys for Tots

TVMS staff and students are invited to donate new and undamaged boy and girl toys for all ages, now through December 16<sup>th</sup>. Collection boxes will be placed in the front office, in the main lobby, and at the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade entrance doors. Please do not wrap gifts. Gifts will be delivered to children in need. Thank you for helping to make sure every child has a happy holiday!

## Alpha Staff

Is there a TVMS staff member who is making a difference in your student's life? Please nominate him/her 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](mailto:michelle_mackall@hcpss.org), or found online at the TVMS [website](#).

## Policy Corner – Students' Rights and Responsibilities (Policy 9020)

The rights and responsibilities of individuals are preserved through the protection and preservation of the rights of others. Students have a responsibility for their own learning, for their personal conduct, and for the manner in which they exercise their rights. Students must accept the consequences of their actions. Students have the responsibility to participate in the educational program offered by their schools and, in doing so, are bound by the policies of the Howard County Public School System. Students have specific responsibilities and rights related to school attendance, student expression, disciplinary action, due process, search and seizure, student records, student activities, use of school facilities, and non-discriminatory practices.

## Tips for School Success - Support Homework Expectations

During the middle school years, homework gets more intense, and the time spent will probably be longer than during the elementary years.

An important way to help is to make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit, distraction-free place to study that's stocked with supplies. Distraction-free means no phone, TV, or websites other than homework-related resources. And be sure to check in from time to time to make sure that your child hasn't gotten distracted.

Sit down with your child regularly to talk about class loads and make sure they're balanced. It's also a good idea to set a specific start time for homework each night. Helping preteens and teens establish a homework schedule sends a message that academics are a priority.

Encourage your child to ask for help when it's needed. Most teachers are available for extra help before or after school, and also might be able to recommend other resources. For more tips on school success, please visit the [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 – Charles Willis  
Math – Candace Mayers  
Reading – Raul Castro Parada  
Science – Jada Sanders  
Social Studies – Thrisha Vijay  
Art – Miguel Amaro  
FACS – Mikaleigh Rogers  
Health – Lacey Ramey  
Performing Arts – Noel Quijada  
Physical Education – Wesley Ma  
Technology Education – Rebekahlynn Zielin  
World Language – Marcus Magsayo

#### 7th Grade Students:

ELA – Oluwatomisin Akisan  
Math – Amir Mixon  
Reading – Zeena Osman  
Science – Jalen Geason  
Social Studies – Jevonne Beverly  
Art – Shiv Shah  
FACS – Faith Kandie  
Health – Gaspara Cole  
Performing Arts – Madison Barrett  
Physical Education – John Holmes  
Technology Education – Feben Aibly  
World Language – Emre Derin

#### 6th Grade Students:

ELA – Marlo Ibanez Sermeno  
Math – Jana Snyder  
Reading – Maureen Dankwa  
Science – Matthew Calajate  
Social Studies – Melanie Lied  
Art – Sean Miller  
FACS – Allyson Noche  
Health – Jade Osbourne  
Performing Arts – Kamryn Richmond  
Physical Education – Mariah Darbouze  
Technology Education – Jameelah Destry  
World Language – Lee Orders

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