

TVMS Newsletter

December 18, 2015

Important Dates

Dec. 23	Spelling Bee
Dec. 24 – Jan. 3	Winter Break
Jan. 18	HCPSS Schools & Offices Closed
Jan. 22	3- Hour Dismissal
Jan. 22	End of Marking Period

A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

This week marked several events and celebrations at TVMS. The Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County honored one hundred and forty-nine of our students who have demonstrated exemplary academic performance. We were proud to be part of the academic evening of excellence and proud of the accolades our students received.

This week also marked our winter concert. Hammond High School was filled with families and staff who support our Performing Arts Programs. TVMS students shined at the Winter Concert. I am sure those in attendance were amazed by the talents of our chorus, orchestra, and band students. The concert was truly a moving experience. Our heartfelt congratulations go out to all of our students and to Mrs. Hairston, Ms. Ramis, Ms. Reichl, and Dr. Roberts, for their leadership and dedication.

It is hard to believe the winter break is almost here. I would like to take a moment to appreciate all the great things that have happened for our TVMS family over the first part of the year. As this year comes to a close, we have the opportunity to be grateful to be a part of this incredible community and look forward to the new year.

Best wishes for a safe, healthy, and rich holiday season! We look forward to seeing our students back on January 4th.

Regards,
Shiney Ann John
Principal

Student Service Learning Project

On December 7, TVMS eighth graders kicked off their Student Service Learning project. They will be working to preserve the school's namesake, the Thomas Viaduct. Mary Catherine Cochran, the executive director of Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG), and John Slater, the president of PHG, came to speak to the students about the history of the Thomas Viaduct, its current condition, and the need for its preservation. Throughout the rest of the year, the students will learn more about the Viaduct and will participate in a clean up.

TVMS Phone Numbers

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Health Room
Fax

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From Guidance

Hammond High News

Incoming Freshmen to Hammond High Scheduling Night

Learn about high school academic requirements, the course selection process, and meet with teachers about specific courses on January 12th at 7 p.m. in the Hammond High School auditorium.

Long Reach News

Incoming Freshmen to Long Reach Scheduling Night

Learn about the high school scheduling process on January 12th at 6:30 p.m. Parents of incoming freshmen will meet in the Long Reach auditorium.

Band-A-Thon 2016

Join Long Reach High Marching Band, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, and Alumni on January 9th in the Long Reach Atrium from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for their 6-hour fundraising music experience. This is a great opportunity for incoming freshmen and fun for the whole family.

High School Information

- **December 7 – January 15** – Open Date to Request JROTC Interviews with High School Instructor. Parents call high school to arrange interview date and time.
 - **Howard High Contact** – LTC (Retired) Patricia Marshall, 410-313-2878 or patricia_marshall@hcpss.org
 - Requirements for the Interview:
 - 4th quarter report card, School Year 2014-2015
 - 1st quarter report card, School Year 2015-2016
 - 2nd quarter progress report School Year 2015-2016
 - Up to 2 Letters of recommendation (optional)
 - Copy of your attendance and disciplinary file from your counselor in a sealed envelope
 - When available, students course request form for high school
 - Student and a parent must both attend the interview
- **January 14** - Career Academy Information Night, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at ARL.
- **January 28** - Career Academy Information Night 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Miller Branch Library.

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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**

What can parents/guardians do to help their COMPETING student learn and grow through strengths development?

Competitors may express strong emotions, win or lose. Affirm the feelings — happy or mad — by listening to the emotion. You may need to help them work through it. Understand that this emotion gives the competitor fuel. Arrange opportunities for them to measure progress or success. Introduce the concept of “personal bests” by tracking their best performance, score, or achievement to date. This could be something large or even an everyday activity, like the most minutes practicing the clarinet or the most pages read in a week.

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

Google Expedition at TVMS

On Tuesday, December 15, TVMS students were able to use a new app, Google Expeditions, being launched by Google this school year. Expeditions are virtual field trips that take students almost anywhere in the world - explore these links to learn more:

- [Google Expedition Video](#)
- [News story about Google Expedition](#)
- [Google Expedition Overview](#)

The goal was for all students at TVMS to experience an expedition. Each expedition session was approximately 25 minutes long and was part of Social Studies class.

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 Science Department

Mrs. Poknis' and Mrs. Perry's 7th grade science classes have "adopted" Pablo and Kimchi, two Adelle penguins that live in Antarctica. Please join us in following them and their nesting through this [website](#).

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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!

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, or found online at the TVMS [website](#).

Policy Corner – Weapons (Policy 9250)

The presence of weapons on school property poses a serious threat to the safety and well being of students and staff. It is unlawful for any person to carry or possess any rifle, gun, knife, or deadly weapon of any kind on any public school property in the state of Maryland. A weapon, as defined by school system policy, includes: any gun, dirk knife, bowie knife, switchblade knife, star knife, buck knife, hunting knife, throwing star, razor, metal knuckle, Nunchaku, explosive device, or any other object or implement intended to cause harm to another or used in such a way as to cause harm to another. Any student found in possession of a weapon on school property will be suspended and the police notified. Possession of a gun, or any implement possessed under a circumstance that would reasonably lead a person to believe it was a gun, will result in expulsion.

Tips for School Success – Family Calendar

Post a family calendar in a central place. Write down important school dates, including parent meetings, due dates for projects, and tests. Encourage your middle school student to add to the calendar and to check it daily.

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

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