

TVMS WOLF PRIDE

Personal Responsibility | Respect | Integrity | Diligence | Excellence

Important Dates

- **12/3-2/2** - 6th Grade Showcase Art Exhibition
- **12/5-9** Book Fair - order online
- **12/9** - 6th Grade Showcase Artist Reception
- **12/10** HCASC Meeting
- **12/12** Interim Progress Reports Issued
- **12/03-12/15** Toys for Tots
- **12/17** Chorus and Orchestra Winter Concert
- **12/18** Band Winter Concert
- **12/24-01/02** Winter Break
- **1/5** School Reopens
- **1/6** PTSA Meeting
- **1/19** Schools Closed

From the Principal's Desk

Dear TVMS Families,

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 than 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. That's why our entire school is joining in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 8-14). Every TVMS student will experience an hour of computer coding in his or her math class during the week. Fifteen million students tried computer science in one week last year. This year, we're joining schools worldwide to reach 100 million students!

"The Hour of Code" is a statement that Thomas Viaduct Middle School is ready to teach foundational 21st century skills. We want to make this Hour of Code just the beginning. We will continue to offer opportunities for students to engage in programming and computer-related activities and seminars in the future. Please ask your children about this experience and encourage them to investigate coding and computer science!

This is a chance to change the future of education in Howard County Maryland.

See <http://hourofcode.com/us> for details, and help spread the word.

Regards,
Shiney Ann John
Principal



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Toys for Tots

TVMS staff and students are invited to donate new and undamaged boy and girl toys for all ages, now through December 15th. Collection boxes will be placed at the 6th, 7th, and 8th 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 Member

Staff at Thomas Viaduct Middle School play an important role in the lives of young adults, families, and society. The Alpha Staff award is for commitment to our school vision tenets of connect, collaborate, and create.

Eligible to be nominated are teachers, counselors, and office, custodial, and administrative staff. Staff can be nominated by students, parents, administrators, colleagues, or community members for excellence in the classroom and/or school community.

A nomination form can be picked up in the front office, be requested via email, michelle_mackall@hcpss.org, or found online at the [TVMS website](#).

Forms should be returned to Mrs. Mackall by 8 a.m. on the 20th of each month.

6th Grade Showcase Features Artwork of TVMS Students

The following TVMS students have work in the HCPSS 6th Grade Showcase Art Exhibition at the Board of Education (BOE) Building:

Kofi Atta-Poku, Isaiah Liadi, Lyzander Marantal, Kristina McKirahan, Madelyn Morales, and Connor Schein.

Please check out their artwork if you are in the BOE building between December 3 and February 2. There will also be an artist reception on Tuesday, December 9th from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the BOE Art Gallery. You are welcome to attend.

Policy Corner

Safe School Environments (Policy 1040)

The Board of Education is committed to providing a nurturing, respectful educational and work environment where the worth and dignity of individuals is valued and their safety and rights protected. Behaviors that compromise this commitment, interfere with school operations, or are otherwise contrary to the basic mission of public schools will not be tolerated. Any behaviors that interfere with or threaten the physical, emotional, mental, or academic well-being of students or employees will be addressed through the application of the appropriate Board policy and the HCPSS Student Code of Conduct, even when they do not occur on school property or at a school-related activity. Students, employees and third parties engaging in these behaviors are subject to disciplinary and/or legal action. Students who violate this policy may also be subject to appropriate educational interventions and/or counseling.

Message From Media

Encourage all students to return overdue items. Thank you for your help!



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Tips for School Success

Concentration

Whether your child is practicing her second-grade spelling words or studying for a trigonometry test, it's important that she works on schoolwork in an area with limited distractions and interruptions.

Tips to help your child concentrate:

- Turn off access to email and games when your child works on the computer.
- Declare the phone and TV off-limits during homework time.
- Find space that fits the assignment. If your child is working on a science project, she may need lots of space; if she's studying for a Spanish test, she will need a well-lit desk.
- Help your child concentrate during homework time by separating her from her siblings.

For more tips on school success, please visit <http://www.greatschools.org/students/homework-help/60-five-skills-for-academic-success.gs?page=2>

Boxtops

TVMS PTSA will receive 10 cents for every box top that is submitted! A collection box is located in the cafeteria. Thank you for your support.

Book Fair

Did you miss the TVMS Book Fair? No worries; you can shop online until December 9th, and books will be shipped for free to the school. Please click [here](#) to begin your holiday shopping and support your school.

Upcoming Winter Concerts

Please join us for one or both Winter Concerts in mid-December.

Winter Concert I will take place on Wednesday, December 17th, from 6:30 p.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m. Performances will be given by the 6th grade Chorus, 7th/8th grade Concert Choir, 6th grade Orchestra, and 7th/8th grade Orchestra.

Winter Concert II will take place on Thursday, December 18th, from 6:30 p.m. to approximately 7:30 p.m. The Concert Band & Symphonic Band will perform that evening.

HCASC- General Assembly Meeting

Open to All Middle and High School Students Interested in Leadership - Wednesday, December 10th, 7-8:30 p.m. Board of Education, Clarksville Pike; Ellicott City

The Howard County Association of Student Councils brings together middle and high school students from all over the county on the second Wednesday of every month to:

- Develop leadership skills
- Network with student leaders from across the county
- Learn how to work with adult leaders
- Find out about opportunities to serve on school system committees and county boards

The focus of December's meeting will be "Giving Back." For more information, go to the HCASC website.